

**Mayor's Report  
For  
August 21, 2017 Assembly Meeting**

- 1. Seeking Letters of Interest:** The Borough is seeking letters of interest from Petersburg residents willing to serve our community by filling one vacant seat on the Hospital Board until the October 2017 Municipal Election.

Letters of interest may be addressed to the Borough Clerk and emailed to [dthompson@petersburgak.gov](mailto:dthompson@petersburgak.gov), mailed to PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833, or dropped off at the Borough Administration office at 12 S. Nordic Drive.

- 2. Historic Preservation Commission:** The Borough is seeking letters of interest for 3 vacant seats on the Historic Preservation Commission:

Seat 1 is reserved for an Archaeologist or At Large member, and the term of this seat ends 12/31/2017.

Seat 2 is reserved for an Assembly Member with a term ending 12/31/2019.

Seat 3 is reserved for a Planning Commissioner with a term ending 12/31/2018.

Letters of interest may be submitted to the Borough Clerk as outlined earlier in this report.

- 3. Municipal Elections:** Election Day is October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Individuals who wish to run for available seats may file for candidacy until 5:00 p.m. tomorrow, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please contact the clerk's office for more information. The last day to register to vote for this election is September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Voter registration forms are available at the front desk of the Borough offices.

- 4. Assembly / Hospital Board Work Session:** The Assembly and Hospital Board have scheduled a joint work session to be held in the Assembly Chambers on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

- 5. Alaska Municipal League Summer Legislative Conference:** Mayor Lagoudakis attended the AML Conference in Haines last week and has the following to share:

- Governor Walker is hoping to come to Petersburg soon to sign our Borough Land Selection bill. If he is able, we will host a public reception.
- A National League of Cities representative gave an update on the federal mission to implement a high-speed broadband nationwide wireless network dedicated to public safety, especially needed during large events or disasters. While this presents some opportunities, it also appears to establish a national communications monopoly. Mayors around the state have concerns about subscriber costs. The State must opt-in or they must develop an Alaska system according to "safety adoption targets", with financial penalties for non-compliance.
- The State budget and the need to raise revenues was a major topic of discussion. Fred Parady of DCCED outlined our fiscal situation. State revenues have declined by 80% and the State has been in a deficit since 2013. Since 2013, the State budget has also been reduced by 44%. Our state credit rating is now lower than

all states except Illinois and New Jersey. Flat budgets also mean you are eating the cost of inflation, leaving less for everything else. To date, however, the Legislature has failed to pass any bills to address revenue generation necessary to rebuild the State coffers.

- There was a lot of discussion about the Uber bill and its potential to create some cascading impacts for taxation. The bill took away the ability to manage these operators locally, and there is no mechanism for knowing if they are collecting and paying sales tax.
- A subcommittee was formed to develop a strategy for keeping pressure on the Legislature to address our fiscal issues in a more timely fashion.

**6. Penstock Clearing at Crystal Lake Hydro Facility:** Appreciation goes out to D&D Tree Service (Don Stevens Jr. and Sr.), Clearwater Cutting (George Rice), and Power & Light employees Sam Caulum and Bob Ziemke for their hard work in clearing trees from the path of the pipeline that supplies Crystal Lake water to the hydro at the bottom of the mountain. Crystal Lake Mountain is steep and the clearing was very labor intensive. Thank you for your efforts.