



**Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 16 December 2019**

It is that time of the year to remind ourselves we live in a very special place. I will hit a couple of highlights in my verbal report, but the entire list will be published in the Pilot.

- ❖ Jim - This year's accomplishment the Petersburg Police Department is most proud of is the continued community partnership/support. Over the past year the Petersburg Police Department has increased the community members wanting to make a difference and coming forward with information (tips) resulting in several crimes being solved.

This year I'm most thankful for the Police Department Employees working together and pulling together during our time of need. We were shorthanded but employees worked long hours and days off to accomplish the goal of public safety. I'm also thankful for the employee's families, working long hours and days off, taxes family life. Employees were able to pull through times like this with their supporting family behind them.

- ❖ Liz - Community & Economic Development is fortunate to be able to work with many residents who volunteer their time and energy to serve on various boards, commissions and working groups. We're thankful to work in a place where people care about their community and their neighbors.

As others have stated, I am most thankful for the Comdev staff. I certainly appreciate their willingness to take on tasks that fall outside their normal duties and their sense of humor when things don't go quite according to plan.

- ❖ Sandy - One accomplishment I am most proud of...
The ability of the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department Members to train and respond to emergencies. This has been a busy year for all branches of the Department. All branches have provided core classes in addition to their regularly scheduled drills. Fire is offering a Firefighter Recruit Class. EMS has offered an Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) Course and now an ETT to EMT Bridge Course. SAR offered a Wilderness First Responder Course. The Junior Firefighters are in the middle of another training cycle for high school students. All this training is valuable so that the Volunteers are well prepared to respond safely and efficiently to a variety of emergencies.

On work related issue I am most thank for...

The Volunteers that continue to dedicate their time to the Community. We ask a lot of these people, and yet they continue to make sacrifices in their personal lives to train and help other people in their time of need. We certainly couldn't do it without them.

PS – I am also thankful to the Assembly for finally allow us to fill the EMS Coordinator/FF position.

- ❖ From Tara - I'm most proud of the incredible staff. Their dedication to their work, creativity, and enthusiasm are unmatched. We're all very thankful for the remarkable level of involvement we see from

community members. It's a pleasure to serve such a supportive and engaged community.

- ❖ Shelyn - I know this is a repeat, but I am so proud of the team at the Manor and the exceptional care they provide for our resident's day in and day out. The residents are provided with excellent care by a staff that truly cares. This is work with meaning and isn't just a job... The heart of a caregiver is patient, kind, doesn't cut corners, goes the extra mile, and has to have strong teamwork and this team has it all!

This would definitely be the report put out by Robert Gundling from The Fox Group Consulting Group this past July. It's nerve-racking when you think you are doing your best but have the potential to find out otherwise. After Robert turned over every stone in Assisted Living, his bottom line was that "Mountain View Manor is an exemplary facility, with effective management systems, that has clearly earned its outstanding reputation. There are no recommendations made nor suggested steps to be taken that would noticeably improve the facility's current financial position." For this I am truly thankful!

- ❖ Debbie - The accomplishment this year that I am most proud of is obtaining the Certified Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

I am thankful the Assembly approved a wage and benefit compensation study for Borough positions so we will have an idea, using outside eyes, of where we sit compared to other communities in our region regarding wages and benefits for our employees. I am also extremely thankful for my dedicated co-workers and the team attitude we all share.

- ❖ Glo - The Harbor staff is proud of the partnership we have with our customers, harbor users and other Borough Departments. There are many instances when staff relies upon the community to assist in the overall operation and it comes back to mutual respect between everyone involved.

We are thankful for the opportunity to work with the USACE to move a needed project forward. These kinds of projects are significant in small communities and give a sense of inclusion in national relevance.

- ❖ Karl – PMPL

I'm very proud of the fact that PMPL staff handled the diesel support campaign last spring with professionalism and excellent service to the community. Extended 24/7 power plant runs are rare and the operators and other staff at Power and Light stepped up to make sure the lights stayed on and the cooperative efforts with SEAPA and Wrangell Light and Power achieved the goal of retaining Tyee Lake water levels in the midst of the severe drought in our region. Absolutely fantastic work last February and March by the PMPL staff.

I'm thankful for understanding and cooperation of many private property owners that agreed to place the safety and security of the power distribution system as a priority and grant permissions to remove trees that were encroaching on the power lines. I'm also thankful for rain!

- ❖ Karl – Water

I'm extremely proud of the staff's diligence in finding and assisting with the fixing of numerous, large water leaks in the water system this year. It takes many hours of research and field investigation to land on probable leaks in the system and the water staff kept at it until they located "the big one" on 12th Street. Narrowing down the dig area, especially when the water isn't "showing" on the surface of the ground is very difficult. The guys did an excellent job this year. The recent recognition as an ADEC Ursa Major Water Utility is well deserved and a reflection of the dedication of our local water operators.

I'm very thankful for the support and assistance received by many different Borough departments during

the repair of the biggest water leak on 12th Street. PW did the digging and handled the public service announcements and traffic control for the job. PMPL assisted by stabilizing a power pole next to the dig site. Mountain View Manor cooperated by letting us know the best time to do the work. The Fire department was helpful in assuring us that they would be able to respond to a fire even if the water was turned off to the neighborhood. This was a team effort through and through and the support that was received is appreciated!

Karl – Wastewater

I'm proud of the recognition recently received by EPA for the Scow Bay Pump Station 1 Upgrades project. This project has been a long time coming and to receive recognition of a project perfectly suited to the ADEC revolving loan program is an indication that we have our priorities in a good place. Recognition of this kind will help to fund more projects in the future.

I'm thankful for a staff that has a wide range of talents and skills and are happy to use their knowledge and abilities to better the utility, save money when possible and help other departments when asked.

- ❖ Chris - Public Works has experienced some particularly heavy challenges in the last year and accomplished a lot both individually and as a team.

Streets Dept & Motor Pool: Both of these departments were displaced by the catastrophic fire that heavily damaged the shop building, and they pulled together to keep the Motor Pool and Streets Depts functioning in the aftermath of the blaze – no small task considering many of their tools and supplies were either damaged or destroyed in the fire. The teamwork and “can do” attitude displayed by these depts made a huge difference and turned what was a tragic event into an opportunity to shine.

Chris - Sanitation Dept: Getting the new baler up and running was the highlight of our year at Sanitation. We couldn't have done that without the assistance of our dedicated staff throughout the process.

I am most thankful for all the support we've received throughout our various challenges this year: everyone from other Borough staff and departments to individual community members to former employees who stepped in to lend a hand when needed. The amount of support we've received has been truly inspiring. Thank you, Petersburg!

- ❖ Chandra – Parks & Rec.

Multiple community stakeholders have stepped forward to offer support and advice this year, resulting in many small accomplishments. A noteworthy accomplishment is our renewed partnership with Rotary to develop a new playground at Sandy Beach.

I too, am most thankful for the hardworking Parks and Recreation staff that have really dedicated their efforts this fall to produce great events, such as the Halloween Hustle and the upcoming Breakfast with Santa. The whole team is working together well and is doing whatever is needed to continue to provide services to the community.

- ❖ Jody - I am thankful for the outpouring of community that showed up to write letters, send emails and testify at our local LIO office this year in support of our community. I believe that the drastic cuts and shifting of costs to local communities were lessened from the original proposed governor's budget this year because of strong community involvement to help protect the place we all love and call home.

This year many Alaskan local governments have come together to start working towards the goal of online

sales tax implementation. This will benefit our local businesses by helping in leveling the playing field between buying local vs. online. This will also help bring in increased revenue to our town when State government has been looking to shift their expenses to local communities. This is just another example of great things we can accomplish when we all work together.

- ❖ Steve – I am thankful for the hard work and dedication of the people of Petersburg, and specifically the employees of the Borough. We often are the focus of criticism, and more often than not, undeserving. Because of these people, the lights turn on, high quality water flows, the toilets flush, our community is safe, the roads are plowed, the harbors maintained, our elders cared for, our community enjoys our parks, and our budgets are balanced, plus so much more. We do this at one of the lowest overall tax rates in the US, with the help and support of the community. Thank you to everyone.