



**Borough Manager's Report  
Assembly Meeting 17 August 2020**

- ❖ PMPL Staff has continued the Substation Refeed project. There has been additional cleanup of the dead-end pole in the PMPL parking area as well as removal of many abandoned conductors left over from the 2400 days.
- ❖ Mechanics for the 20-1 reseal project are on site. We anticipate the work being completed in about 10 days.
- ❖ Sandy will be taking over IC duties for the EOC in Karl's absence.
- ❖ The Alaska Travel Portal went live Aug 11<sup>th</sup>, which means everything at the airport is electronic. Big learning curve at the airport with travelers. Screeners are getting familiar with the Portal too. Thanks to everyone for helping put the tents back together on Sunday after the big wind/rainstorm.
- ❖ Emergency calls for Fire and EMS seem to be picking up.
  - ❖ Fire/EMS responders continue to respond to all calls wearing face coverings.
  - ❖ SAR is ready to help however they can. They had an "almost call", but it was resolved with USCG.
- ❖ Thanks to PMC for offering the second round of Asymptomatic COVID testing to First Responders and the Manor. The process was very quick and efficient. Test results came back in 3 days.
- ❖ Harbor activity is quiet. Though a fraction of the usual traffic coming through, we are starting to get a higher number of inquiries about over wintering here. All tour ships have cancelled for the 2020 season.
- ❖ The US CENSUS BUREAU announced it will be ending the census count on September 30, 2020, four weeks earlier than previously announced. As of 8/10, Petersburg's response rate is 50.2%. Alaska's response rate is 50%, which ranks second to last. The national response rate is 63.3%. The results of the census can have major effects on certain grant funding that are population based.
- ❖ Liz provided comments on basic ferry service needs for Petersburg at an AML meeting. Many coastal communities participated and stressed similar issues regarding need for service to support commerce, visitor industry, school activities, health needs, etc. The meeting was recorded and presented to the AMHS Reshaping Group in response to their request for information.
- ❖ Liz is fielding multiple questions per day on federal and state economic support programs.
- ❖ The borough's grant to the Sons of Norway will be matched by the Rasmuson Foundation. The Sons will receive an additional \$5,000. This is the third grant received under this program for a total of \$25,000. Thank you to Alaska Municipal League and the Rasmuson Foundation for their support of arts and culture organizations in Petersburg.
- ❖ Building Official tracking 35 active building projects and an additional 18 that are intermittently active.

**Borough Administration**

PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833 – Phone (907) 772-4519 Fax (907) 772-3759  
[www.ci.petersburg.ak.us](http://www.ci.petersburg.ak.us)

- ❖ AL/EH Fire “panel power supply card” replacement still not done. Johnson Controls ordered the parts and they have not arrived. We continue hourly fire checks in both buildings, documenting, and faxing to Fire Marshall.
- ❖ Petersburg Police Department has received several calls about bears getting into garbage cans and walking around town. Officers have been responding and deploying less-than-lethal rounds to scare them off. All bear incidents have been documented and reported to the Alaska State Wildlife Trooper and Alaska Department of Fish and Game Biologist. The Police Department is constantly assessing the bear situation for future actions. Residents are strongly encouraged to keep garbage inside if possible until pickup day. If garbage must be stored outside in the can, please secure the can lids with rope, bungee cords or a ratchet strap and make sure to remove these items when the can is set out for pickup.
- ❖ Borough Manager is working with staff to revise recruiting materials for Parks & Recreation Director. I still hope to have contracts or MOA’s revised with Viking Swim Club, the School, and other organizations prior to beginning the process. The pandemic has slowed this down considerably.
- ❖ Wet conditions continue to hamper our efforts to keep roads graded and potholes filled. The wet weather has allowed the crew to work on brushing and ditching projects that normally take a back seat to grading and dust control in the summer months.
- ❖ The Sanitation rate study has been distributed to the Assembly and the local press. It will also be posted to the Borough’s website for public access by anyone interested in reviewing the information.
- ❖ The solid waste baler has experienced several control-related outages in recent weeks. We are working with the equipment supplier to determine the cause.
- ❖ A technician was brought in to look at a carpenter ant infestation in the municipal building. Treatments have been applied and we are hopeful that the problem will be resolved without any additional measures in the future.
- ❖ Susan Harai at PIA has told us they have enough money available to do the full scope of the sidewalk project near the grocery store. Planned sidewalk improvements for this season include: the north side of 12<sup>th</sup> Street from Haugen to the PIA building; the north side of Howkan from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Streets, and the west side of 13<sup>th</sup> Street from Howkan to Gjoa. In 2021 – as long as the PIA Board approves the expenditure – they are planning to install sidewalk along the south side of 12<sup>th</sup> Street to the corner of Howkan, and along the south side of Howkan from 12<sup>th</sup> Street up to Hammer & Wikan.
- ❖ Reopening at P&R is going great! Excellent turnout in the pool with all swim sessions offered. Am hoping to open more times as our lifeguards return and school schedule permits. Intend to host another Lifeguard Class in mid-late September. The Fitness Center reopening is also booming, with most demand placed on weight room. High School weight room remains closed, although many have asked.
- ❖ Have had Adaptive Student Summer Swim Sessions for past 3 wks, going great - with a "Small Group" summer school pool party scheduled for tomorrow. Also, we had the opportunity for small blocks of time for PMC Physical Therapy use of Leisure Pool for patients.
- ❖ VSC Board reviewed Mitigation Plan last night and will be submitting their plan to EOC upon Board approval, as stated by Ben in phone call last week. This process is also continuing for the Ragnorak Rollers and the AAU Basketball contracts and mitigation plans.