



## Petersburg Medical Center

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January 30, 2017

The Honorable Mr. Mark Jensen and Members of the Borough Assembly  
Petersburg Borough  
PO Box 329  
Petersburg, AK 99833

Dear Mayor Jensen and Members of the Borough Assembly,

Petersburg Medical Center and Joy Janssen Clinic would like to encourage the discussion and consideration of a municipal power rate for Borough owned buildings, specifically the hospital building and school district buildings.

Petersburg Medical Center and the Joy Janssen Clinic contribute to the health and welfare of the community by providing acute, emergency, and routine health care. It employs over 100 community members with a majority in skilled or professional industries. Many of those same employees contribute greatly in the Borough in traditional means, taxes, local shopping, etc., but also through time by way of volunteering on committees and boards. The majority of our employees also have spouses and partners employed by other industries and employers in town. Their children attend the schools. We are woven into the community.

Recruiting our professional staff can be a challenge. As we all know Petersburg is a great place to live and work. Our wonderful schools and quality of life will only go so far. We must consider how we keep pace with the changing medical field and what is necessary to treat patients. It will become very difficult to attract and retain professional and skilled staff and continue to provide quality care if we are unable to advance with the changing times.

The hospital's ability to adjust and increase rates is limited. Medicaid reimbursement is currently frozen. The federal and state government continues to pass legislation but provide no funding to enact the additional requirements thus creating unfunded mandates. Staff is then stretched thinner and thinner to accomplish the requirements which can be anything from additional paperwork to equipment needs.

We make every effort to keep the Borough's building in compliance. But as the building ages those resources and time to keep it running occupy more of our budget. We realize the general fund, at this time, cannot provide or sustain a local contribution to the hospital.

However, a municipal rate could provide some relief. If adopted, our plan would be to set aside the savings and use it for capital improvements and energy efficiency upgrades.

We hope you will consider a discussion on the municipal rate and ultimately pass the rate change. It will provide an opportunity for the Borough to contribute to the hospital/clinic for the first time ever without affecting the general fund.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Woodyard". The script is cursive and fluid.

Elizabeth Woodyard, CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darlene Whitethorn". The script is cursive and elegant.

Darlene Whitethorn  
Hospital President