



**Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 20 July 2020**

- ❖ AL continues to be on lock down. No inside visitors other than essential individuals. Thank you to Dr. Hyer and Dr. Hess who continue to see patients routinely at AL.
- ❖ Residents and staff continue to be healthy. We continue to take daily temps on staff as well as residents and closely monitor all. Sick leave policies strictly enforced.
- ❖ Southeast Windows did their yearly 5 window replacement in the Elderly Housing apartments in June.
- ❖ North Harbor fire line feeder line blew off during a drill. Harbor staff is working with a diver to re-fasten the main line with new attachments.
- ❖ The library expanded open hours on July 6, current hours are Tues-Friday 11-6pm. We have now been open to the public for over a month and things have been going very well. Staff have found customers to be very respectful of the posted guidelines for use (face covering, social distancing, limiting time in the facility).
- ❖ Kari Petersen is doing library programming live on KFSK. Tune in Thursdays at 10am for story time and 10:30am for adult programs. We are also offering retirement finance classes via Zoom taught by Sara Hadad-Dembs, and Summer STREAM, the library's summer reading program, continues until Aug. 11.
- ❖ The Nonprofit & Childcare Stabilization Program disbursed \$260,000 to local nonprofits and licensed childcare providers. Three childcare providers received a total of \$45,000. In addition, sixteen nonprofits received \$215,000 to support their operations. Most indicated they would be using funds to adapt existing programs to align with Covid-19 guidance, provide basic food and housing support to residents in need, or to support operating costs of the organization.
- ❖ The SBA issued a report on Paycheck Protection Loans through June 30. Nearly 240 Petersburg-based businesses received funding through this program. Six businesses received loans more than \$150,000. An additional 233 business received loans of less than \$150,000 each, totaling \$4.425 million. Approximately \$2.2 million in loans were awarded to commercial fishing businesses. These loans are forgivable if spent according to program guidelines. Congress recently extended the application period to August 8.
- ❖ Sandy continues to work on COVID-19 related activities, including the Airport process for greeting/screening for State Travel Mandate 10, reviewing workforce mitigation plans for people/business who want to come to Petersburg for work, and coordinating with the Hospital on offering asymptomatic testing for First Responders.
- ❖ Reid Brothers Construction is progressing well on the Kisenno Street Sewer project. Main line and services are replaced from 3rd Street to 6th Street with one more block to go before wrapping up and developing punch list items for final completion.
- ❖ Staff has been chipping a lot of slash and limbs from various PMPL line clearing activities and from the drop off location at 14th Street. The department erected some signage at the 14th Street site to direct the public as to what

Borough Administration

PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833 – Phone (907) 772-4519 Fax (907) 772-3759

www.ci.petersburg.ak.us

materials are acceptable at the site. We ask that the public follow the rules and to take any unacceptable materials to the landfill.

- ❖ There was a SEAPA systemwide outage on the holiday this year at 3:30am. The July 4th outage was attributed to a likely bird strike in Ketchikan that resulted in a cascading failure event that brought down Ketchikan, Wrangell, and Petersburg. Power was restored in Petersburg within about an hour by PMPL staff.
- ❖ PMPL has been working on the Substation Refeed project to re-route the feed to 2nd Street so the rotten poles in the PMPL parking lot and in Hammer Slough can be eliminated. To date, the lines have been fed from 2nd Street and terminated at the substation. A new manual sectionalizing switch has been installed on Haugen Drive to break up the loads during restoration activities. Next phases will be to upgrade the feed to Hammer Slough Street, reprogram the Lumber Street Recloser and remove the lines and poles that cross Hammer Slough.
- ❖ Staff is seeking quotes for installation of a taller fence around the Main St Substation. This fence will be 16' tall and will include screening material so that it better protects the vital substation transformer.
- ❖ Hydro lakes are full. Crystal Lake is within 2' of spill, Tyee Lake is within 15' of spill and Swan Lake is about 6' up on the splash boards and within 10' of spill. Continued wet weather may cause spilling at all three reservoirs by the end of summer. Blind Slough has been generating at 1700KW for the last couple of weeks.
- ❖ SEAPA is negotiating with the top ranked proposer on the Submarine Cable Project. Sumitomo has an excellent reputation in the industry and should produce an extremely reliable submarine crossing for the agency. Final costs will not be known until negotiations are complete.
- ❖ With all the wet weather we have been having, street grading opportunities have been minimal. The crew is working to keep up with potholes and will start grading again when weather permits. On the positive side, there has been very little need for dust control measures so far this summer.
- ❖ The Motor Pool Shop Repair design consultant (WJE) was in town June 24-26. In addition to in-depth measurement and eval work on the building structure, they did some further evaluation on the overhead crane and determined that full replacement of that item is necessary. This resolves one key area of disagreement between the Borough and the insurance provider. WJE is now proceeding with design of building plans and specifications and we hope to get the project out to bid later this year.
- ❖ I have been working with Stephanie and the School to establish a schedule of when we can have public access at the Gym, workout rooms and the pool. There is general concern regarding the school kids and other facility users interacting to help reduce the potential spread of the virus. It appears Parks & Rec. will only have use of the majority of the facilities from 6 am to 7:30 am, and from 6:30 pm to close, M-F; and all day on Saturday. Once this schedule is confirmed by the School, the Assembly will need to approve a revised MOA and we can begin opening the facilities to the public.
- ❖ Thanks to everyone involved in the 4th of July planning and implementation.
- ❖ Parks & Rec is preparing for a lifeguard certification class this weekend.
- ❖ The HVAC system software upgrade for the school and the community center is now functioning correctly on the Borough's side. We are re-calibrating the chemical feeds and getting ready to put together a reopening plan with schedule once the temperatures and chemicals are in the proper ranges.