

Dr. Robert Thomason, Superintendent
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Imagine. Believe. Achieve.

June 11, 2014

Mayor Mark Jensen
Members of the Petersburg Borough Assembly
Petersburg Borough
P.O. Box 329
Petersburg, AK 99833-0329

Re: Community Recreation Facility and Gym HVAC Controls

Dear Mayor Jensen and Members of the Assembly,

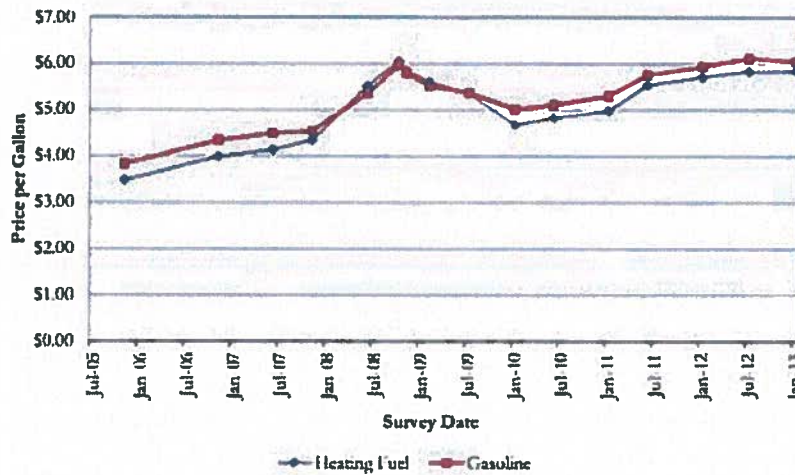
Upgrading and improvement of the HVAC (Heating Ventilation Air Control) systems shared by the Petersburg Recreation Department facility and the Petersburg School District has been a significant need and serious item of discussion for several years. Ryan McFarland (Recreation Department Director prior to Donnie Hayes) discussed the need for more efficient heat control systems with me in 2009, my first year with Petersburg School District.

School district boilers, pumps, and air handling units supply the heat for the Community Gym and related rooms. The Recreation Department has no viable way to efficiently or effectively regulate the delivery of heat. The delivery of heat is essentially "all or none". This leads to overheating and inefficient use of fuel oil. The fuel oil is purchased by the school district. The school HVAC system and the recreation department HVAC system cannot "talk" to each other.

The April 28, 2014 bid of \$137,538 from ACS (Alerton Control Systems) will update and upgrade essential system components and fully integrate facility controls with the existing Alerton DDC (Direct Digital Control) currently installed in the school system HVAC control center. The two systems will then be able to "talk" to each other allowing efficient regulation and distribution of heat. Currently, the pneumatic recreation department system and the digital school district system are incompatible. Significant savings are anticipated when the systems can communicate and the heat can be efficiently modulated.

As indicated in the chart below, from The Alaska Fuel Price Report (January 2013) the price of fuel oil will continue to incrementally increase.

Figure 2. Trend in Average Alaska Fuel Price



Anticipating significant savings in fuel consumption Petersburg School District supports reallocation of the 2014/2015 Borough Capital Improvement funds in the amount of \$50,000 previously allocated in the 2014/2015 budget to the school district for concrete replacement to be applied in support of the Recreation Department HVAC upgrade project.

The School District and the Recreation Department have the same overarching goal: "Provide outstanding services (educational or recreational) to the community of Petersburg". Should school district support for this upgrade lead anyone to believe the district has "extra" funds, it doesn't. This project simply presents an opportunity to save money later by investing in an efficient system now. Logically, HVAC control replacement and the saving of funds trumps concrete replacement when the concrete is serviceable for another year.

Sincerely,

Robert Thomason, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc. Karen Quitslund, Director of Finance
Dan Tate, Director of Maintenance
Jean Ellis, PSD Board of Education President
Cheryl File, PSD Board of Education Treasurer