



**Borough Manager's Report  
Assembly Meeting 4 January 2021**

- ❖ The \$900 billion COVID-19 relief bill passed by Congress has been signed into law. It will take some time for these provisions to be rolled out and implemented. Information on some of the key provisions, including a second round of PPP loans for businesses and extension of unemployment benefits, can be found on the borough web site. More info will be added in the coming days.
- ❖ DNR has indicated the Preliminary Decision for the initial 1,300-acre municipal land selection is almost ready to send out for public review.
- ❖ Seeing an end-of-year uptick in construction activity.
- ❖ The 2021 Volleyball registration is open! Register online or call in/come in for assistance! Our Coaches will be Jaime Cabral and Julie Olsen. This will be a COVID Conscious program, please see our PSA on Facebook or come get a printed copy at the facility.
- ❖ If we get some snow, Ski's, snowshoes, and accessories are ready for your outdoor recreation this winter! Thank you to the Petersburg Ski Club for your continued support to make this happen every year!
- ❖ I continue to work with the insurance providers and the contractors on coordinating formal and permanent repairs for the Aquatic Center. The scoping document is due in mid-January, and we are currently working get reimbursement for the temporary repair costs of about \$200,000.
- ❖ Sandy completed State of Alaska Ambulance Service Recertification, which is good for 2 years, and the Alaska Assessment Report.
- ❖ Thanks to the Fire/EMS/SAR Volunteers who put in extra time participating in training, responding to emergencies and to Jim and Theresa Stolpe for putting up Christmas Lights at the Fire Station. The season good cheer helps! Also, thanks to Sandy for spending time ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army.
- ❖ The Motor Pool Shop Repair project will be going out to bid in the next several weeks.
- ❖ A local business delivered a large number of used tires, which were baled. Disposal of tires is an ongoing problem for the department and for other communities in the region. The Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority (SEASWA) is looking into the purchase of a tire shredder that could be shared by the member communities. The unit would be paid for with grant funds and then shipped to the various communities as needed. A draft agreement has been sent out to further develop how the unit would potentially be shared and who would pay the costs of transporting and maintaining the equipment.
- ❖ Some additional rate study work is being undertaken by FCS Group to examine how rates would potential be restructured if the curbside recycling program was to be combined with a drop off program, or possibly

eliminated in favor of a drop off only program. The rate consultant will be presenting a draft of their findings to the dept. in mid-January. This information will be shared with the Assembly during the budget process as we continue the Sanitation rate discussion.

- ❖ Water Plant maintenance is ongoing with annual cleaning of chemical equipment and a once over on all process analyzers.
- ❖ Wastewater Staff is working to get the Scow Bay Pumpstation 1 back to pre-storm performance. Efficiency issues related to automatic priming of the pumps is a concern if we see high stormwater flows again. Will be very good to get the replacement project completed in 2021.
- ❖ Staff worked to identify deficiencies with the sewer mains on Ira II Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Street. There are several problems that are causing regular stoppages in the main. Director is working on putting together a plan to replace 4-5 blocks of this main in the spring.
- ❖ PMPL Staff working to source a replacement for a failed pump at Crystal Lake Dam. The backup pump is still working to pump most of the reservoir leakage into the penstock.
- ❖ Crystal Lake level is still quite good for this time of the year. Operators have been able to run the hydro at 1700kW for an extended period this winter. SEAPA lake levels are likewise the highest they have been at this time of the year.
- ❖ The public is encouraged to let PMPL know if you see any encroaching trees on a main power line so that they can be trimmed back or removed.
- ❖ Scott Newman has resigned from the Borough for personal reasons. With our apprentice lineman away at his last line school session, PMPL is now shorthanded and will need to take outages for some repair jobs where hot work would have been the norm with a full crew. The department will make every effort to notify any affected homes and businesses before outages are taken and to schedule outages at a time that is the least disruptive.
- ❖ The library's annual Winter Reading Challenge starts Jan 1. We are challenging the community to read 100,000 minutes in January. Gift certificates to local businesses will be awarded. Sponsored by the Friends of Petersburg's Libraries. More information at [www.psglib.org](http://www.psglib.org)
- ❖ The library is hosting three writing workshops taught by Orin Pierson via Zoom in January. The classes are sponsored by the library's Art Education Endowment.
- ❖ We will be launching our collection of Discovery Kits in early January. These are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) interactive learning kits available for check out. The kits were purchased with funding from the Friends of Petersburg's Libraries, Alaska Airlines, and Kris Norosz.
- ❖ Covid vaccines were given to a total of 20 staff and residents on December 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ❖ The Harbor impounded a couple of boats this month and working with Public Works & Sanitation to take one to the Baler to demo and the other is being prepped to auction off later this winter.
- ❖ Yearend things getting finalized and making new year permits available to customers. Drive Down Permits and parking permits available.