



Haines Borough Administration  
Robert Venables, Manager  
(907)766-2231 • Fax(907)766-2716  
rvenables@haines.ak.us

# Report

Date: February 12, 2008

## **Budget time**

The process has begun for developing the FY09 budget. The draft budget will be to the assembly on or before April 1. We are currently projecting no increase in sales tax revenue from FY08 but do expect a slight increase in property taxes.

## **MTAB**

I attended a MTAB meeting last week where a number of recommendations were made (attached). The top three recommendations were for funding of the vessel replacement fund, forward funding and a commitment to a 3-year summer schedule. We also asked that the design project for the shuttle ferries be resumed. AMHS provided a power point presentation that is on the borough's website.

## **Cruise Ship Revenue**

Representative Thomas has prepared an amendment to HB 347 that will insure Haines is eligible to receive cruise ship impact funds. He is also trying to send Haines approx. \$2 million of those funds that will pay off the cruise ship dock debt, make all the necessary repairs recommended by the engineers and make improvements to the parking area (paving) and sidewalks/pathways going toward Lookout Park.

## **Harbor Grant Update**

The borough submitted a grant for the small boat harbor and Letnikof Cove harbor to the State's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program. The Governor has \$10 million in her proposed budget for this program. None of the grants have been reviewed or scored but we have heard that the State only received 9 applications totaling \$7.4 million.

## **Secure Schools Funding**

President Bush is proposing to renew this program at a reduced rate (\$200M vs. \$740M) and phase it out. The Delegation will try to get more, and they believe the program can outlast the current administration.

## **Elementary School Proposals**

The borough received three proposals for future use of the former elementary school (in your yellow folders). It will likely be an agenda item for the next meeting for your public review. It may be appropriate to refer to committee or form a task force to best determine how that building is operated in the near to mid-term.

## **Wood Heat Feasibility Study**

The Preliminary Feasibility Assessment for the heating of the school facility has been issued and the findings seem promising. The study is being forwarded to the Energy Task Force. A public meeting is set for March 4<sup>th</sup> to meet with Dan Parrent, Wood Utilization Specialist with the Juneau Economic Development Council, to discuss the study findings and plan the next steps.

## **President's Day Holiday**

The borough offices will be closed on Monday, February 18 in observance of the President's Day holiday.

# Marine Transportation Advisory Board

February 7, 2008

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. After further discussion, upon motion duly made by JC Conley and seconded by Mike Korsmo the following recommendation was unanimously adopted:

**RECOMMENDATION:** that the members of the Marine Transportation Advisory Board request Chair Cathie Roemmich to request Governor Palin to have the current Marine Transportation Advisory Board be extended by executive order through the end of the 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.

2. Upon motion duly made by JC Conley and seconded by Mike Korsmo, the following recommendation was unanimously adopted :

**RECOMMENDATION:** that \$60 million be appropriated to the vessel replacement fund.

3. After further discussion, upon motion duly made by Murray Walsh and seconded by JC Conley the following recommendation was adopted with a 7 to 1 vote in favor:

**RECOMMENDATION:** that the Marine Transportation Advisory Board acknowledge and endorse the current May-September Alaska Marine Highway schedule, that this schedule be adopted for the next three years with careful monitoring for any needed improvements.

4. After further discussion, upon motion by Murray Walsh and seconded by Robert Venables, the following recommendation was unanimously adopted:

**RECOMMENDATION:** that Governor Palin direct the Director of the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation to prepare as soon as possible an Engineer's Report on upgrades to the terminal in Angoon to be able accommodate the m/v Fairweather.

5. After further discussion, upon motion by JC Conley and seconded by Murray Walsh, the following recommendation was adopted with 7 to 1 in favor:

**RECOMMENDATION: that work on the design phase of the Gateway and Lynn Canal shuttle ferries be restarted and continue in parallel to the development of the System Master Plan so that if at the conclusion of phase one of the System Master Plan the decision is made to proceed the shuttle ferries will be ready to go into the build phase.**

6. Upon motion duly made by Mike Korsmo and seconded by JC Conley, the following recommendation was unanimously adopted:

**RECOMMENDATION: that \$50 million be appropriated to the Alaska Marine Highway System Fund as forward funding for consistent and enhanced service.**

7. After further discussion, upon motion duly made by Shirley Marquardt and seconded by JC Conley, the following recommendation was unanimously adopted:

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Legislature recognize the rising costs of fuel and labor and PERs to provide services to the Alaska Marine Highway System that these need to be covered in the Operating Budget as to avoid the significant and negative impacts of reduced service that we are hearing about in our coastal communities.**

8. After further discussion, upon motion duly made by JC Conley and seconded by Mike Korsmo, the following recommendation was unanimously adopted:

**RECOMMENDATION: that Governor Palin seek an additional \$4.1 million in general funds and \$7.6 million in increased spending authority to allow the operation of the Kennebec year round.**



Cathie Roemmich, Marine Transportation Advisory Board Chair