



Haines Borough Administration
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Report

November 20, 2007

WRDA Passes!

Congress over-rode the presidential veto and passed a **WRDA bill** for the first time since 2000. This now authorizes Haines to seek \$11,232,00 in federal funding for the harbor project. We have just submitted a grant application to the Denali Commission for \$1 million to replace the entire float system. This is a long-shot as the Commission has \$8 million for water front development, \$13 million for roads and nearly 100 applications. We are also preparing an application to EDA for upland developments that will expand moorage and workspace in the harbor. The boat harbor advisory committee will continue to hold public meetings and guide the project's scope of work.

AML Conference

The Mayor, Assembly Member Vick and I attended the Alaska Municipal League conference in Fairbanks. The Clerk and Administrative Assistant both attended the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks Conference where Julie was installed as president of that organization (congratulations, Julie!). Major topics included revenue sharing, PERS/TERS and many other issues. A copy of the agenda, resolutions passed and policy statement is available in the clerk's office. The mayor and I were able to spend considerable time with the Army Corps representatives who were present and discuss the harbor project.

Kensington Update

Progress has been made in resolving the tailings disposal at Kensington (press release in packet). There is still a long way to go until it is fully resolved but Coeur is proceeding toward start-up and actively recruiting workers for the mine.

Project Updates

Road Repairs: The engineers were in town last week to develop a scope of work for the paving project (funded by the Legislature). Soon we will have cost estimates and a list of roads for prioritization.

Water Projects: We just received the final draft plans for the Young Road water line and tank replacement and are working with the Planning Commission before bid documents are prepared. We are reviewing the size and placement of the tank and will resubmit the plans at their next meeting.

Surveying is underway this week for the downtown water line replacement along portions of 1st Street, Mission and Willard. We are applying for a DEC loan for this project. This will be the last water line project needed downtown and should be done prior to any paving.

Sewer Project: We are reviewing the draft plans for the Beach Road Forcemain Project (funding was vetoed by the Governor). We are preparing a final request for restored funding but are also applying to DEC for a low-interest loan.

Mt. Riley Road Electrification

The first phase of the project is going well. AP&T has just hooked up the first household and plans to have all the residences electrified before winter.

Misc.

In addition to AML, I also teleconferenced into Southeast Conference committee meetings and attended a training course on Public Contracts and Procurement Regulations.

The Borough offices will be closed next Thursday and Friday (11/22 & 11/23) in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. **Happy Thanksgiving!**



Coeur Alaska and conservation groups will ask USFS to permit alternative site for tailings disposal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2007

The Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Lynn Canal Conservation, the Juneau Group of the Sierra Club, and Coeur Alaska announced today that they will ask the U.S. Forest Service to examine the use of a site near Comet Beach for disposal of the Kensington mine tailings. The site is essentially the same as the previously approved Dry Tailings Facility site, but Coeur is now proposing to store the tailings using paste technology instead of dry stacking. Based on the 1997 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for this site and the work of environmental consultant Dr. David Chambers, the Conservation Groups believe that the potential adverse environmental impacts of the Comet Beach site are less than the impacts of alternative sites that have been identified. If the Comet Beach site is approved, Lower Slate Lake would not be used in any way for tailings storage or disposal.

Any revised operations plan is subject to federal, state and local regulatory approval and permitting. The next step is for the parties to meet with the Forest Service to discuss the regulatory process that would be followed to evaluate the Comet Beach site. Development of a final plan of operations is expected to be an iterative process because both Coeur and the Conservation Groups expect that the regulatory process will help define further details of the disposal plan. All of the parties have pledged to cooperate and work with the regulators to complete evaluation of the proposed site in as timely a manner as possible. The parties have preserved all of their legal rights pending final permitting of the mine.

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Contact: Bruce Botelho, Mayor, 586-5240



Haines Borough Department Reports

Submitted 11-15-07

Ports & Harbors – Phil Benner, Harbormaster:

Small Boat Harbor –

- Turned off all water to harbor and ice house.
- Cleaned and dried out ice house for winter.
- Assigned all boats winter moorage
- Installed VHF radio in harbor boat, completed warranty work
- Night time patrols for live-a-boards

Lutak Dock –

- Received 4 freight barges, 2 fuel barges
- 2 explosive moves for AP&T
- Winter preparations of buildings and compressors
- Turned off all outside water and disconnected pipes
- Building a workshop and lumber rack.

Letnikof -

- Continued maintenance, including replacing cleats, rub rail boards, restroom maintenance.

Administration -

- Billing for annual and transient moorage
- Billing for AML, Holland, Chilkat Cruises, Delta and AP&T

Public Works – Bruce Smith, Superintendent:

- Completed water service to new PW
- Preparations for winter; gravel and sand stockpiles, post snow removal signs, clear snow storage areas, repair and prep tire chains, etc.
- Close and winterize borough public restrooms
- Road maintenance – brush/tree cutting for visibility, blade, potholes, ditch cleanup.
- Vehicle maintenance – prep of grader, loader, snow blades for winter use.

Volunteer Fire Department – Al Badgley, HVFD Training Officer:

Call Outs:

- 0 – fire
- 22 – ambulance

Training:

- Ambulance: treatment and victim movement.
- Fire: airpark rescue drills, buddy breathing system, confined space breathing
- Volunteer Hours – October 2007

Fire – 148 Ambulance – 130 SAR – 8

Additional Information:

- Fire prevention week was a huge success. Classes from preschool to 8th grade from Haines participated as well as students from Klukwan and Mosquito Lake. A presentation was also given to the Senior Citizens. The open house was attended by over 100 people. Activities included escape from a smoke filled room, using an escape ladder, use of a fire extinguisher, Jaws of Life demonstration, using a thermal imaging camera, blood pressure checks and fire truck rides.

Water & Sewer

- Beach Grant sampling is complete for this year. Second half testing will finish up during spring. Test results so far have shown very low number in coliform and bacteria.
- Completed OSHA correction/adjustments from inspection.
- Designs are being finished for the Young Road water line.
- Designs are being finalized for the sewer force main and other water line replacements; bids are anticipated to go out this winter.

Tourism – Lori Stepansky, Tourism Director:

- Statistics for October 2007 versus October 2006:

○ Vehicles:	2006 –2725	2007 – 2439	down 286
○ Visitors:	2006 – 234	2007 – 194	down 40
○ Phone inquiries:	2006 – 65	2007 – 24	down 41
○ Cruise Ship (passengers)	2006 - 31,278	2007 - 29,040	down 2,238
○ Cruise Ship (crew)	2006 – 13,446	2007 – 12,003	down 1,443
- During the fall conference of the TIA Yukon, 8 local businesses provided door prizes.
- Haines awarded the bid to host the 2008 TIA Yukon Spring Conference in April 2008
- During ATIA Convention in Juneau, Haines held a thank-you reception for the cruise lines. Approx. 15 representatives from the cruise lines attended.
- Attended the Visitors Benefit Alaska Executive Board meeting where tourism educational and awareness programs were discussed.
- Worked with TIA Yukon regarding their hosting the 2010 TIA Yukon Annual Convention. Haines will be included in a Golden Circle feature and may be offered some pre and post convention options.
- Attended Western Association of Convention and Visitors Bureau annual convention in Anchorage. Workshops focused on smaller bureaus and budgets and technology which may benefit Haines.
- Ad material and photos provided to Milepost and outside back cover ad for Haines. Due to our providing photos, etc, costs were decreased from \$500 to \$85.
- Haines Corridor Management Plan is done with copies provided to Assembly and TAB.
- One bulk mailing completed in October resulting in 214 pieces being mailed.

Lands – John Wurst, Lands Manager/Assessor:

- Planning and Zoning & Land Use
- Interviewed 4 candidates for P&Z job. New hire begin November 1, 2007
- 3 commercial remodel/addition permits were issued
- 1 conditional use request was issued for multi family in a commercial zone.
- 2 AP&T utility permits
- 1 lot line adjustment permit, 1 fence building permit
- 1 height variance request for height adjustment from 30 feet to 32 feet in height. Passed
- Attended 2 public meeting held by CIA for future planning in Haines Borough by CIA
- Sent 3rd quarter report to Alaska Dept. of Labor “New Housing Survey report”
- Reviewed easement request with Manager for Sebens residence in Cathedral View Sub.
- Submitted 3rd quarter Alaskan new housing survey to Alaska Dept. of Labor, FY07 Sec 309 Grant to CED, and ACMP quarter reports and Grant updates to CED.
- Land Management/Assessment
- Reviewed Lutak land acquisition values with DOT Right-of-Way Agent
- Working with realtor regarding Spruce Grove Rd extension ROW
- Reviewed Chilkat River (Riverboat Marina) with manager for assessment task
- Reviewed DNR issue of placement of dredged & or fill materials into water
- DNR about 309 Enhancement Funds
- Reviewed new CIA proposed subdivision with surveyor for potential issues
- Assisted Horan & Co. request for appraisal documents
- Provided a flood zone report to U.S. Dept. of HUD/ONAP for a lot
- Performed field inspection and sent written notice to property owner regarding building in ROW

Pool – RaeAnn Galasso

- October Monthly attendance: 1457 – average daily: 58
- The swim team has donated thermal swim shirts, due to fluctuation of facility temperatures causing uneven temperatures, these are being used daily.
- Working with project manager on turbid water (air bubbles) which causes low visibility in the water at the bottom of the pool. Two life guards are being used during swim team because of the low visibility at bottom of the pool.