



Haines Borough Administration
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Report

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Ferry System

The Fairweather will be out of service for a few weeks for unforeseen repairs. It is likely that the Chenega will be in the Lynn Canal very soon. The Marine Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB) met last week to discuss this and other issues including basic service levels, a 2-year schedule, shuttle ferries, etc.

Budget Time

Each of the departments are turning in their draft budgets this week. We have also sent out a call for community funding requests. The budget will be presented to the assembly by the first of April.

Tax Issues

The assembly asked for information on taxing alcohol and cigarettes. According to DCCED, a municipality may levy a sales tax on alcohol, but the rate cannot be more than the rate charged on other sales (5.5% in the TSA for a total of 11%). A municipality may also levy a sales tax on cigarettes. (Juneau has a \$0.30 per pack tax. Anchorage has a 15% tax)

Storm Damage

The Borough just received notice that the federal government has declined the application for disaster assistance for last November's storm. The State of Alaska will underwrite much of the costs for repairs needed for the storm damage that occurred.

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New Hires

Project Manager - The Oversight & Strategic Planning Committee has recommended the hire of Brian Lemcke as project manager for the school construction project. Brian has experience building schools in Unalaska and Klukwan.

Asst. W-S Operator - We had 12 applicants for the Assistant Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. Interviews begin this week.

Pool Custodian - Six individuals have applied for the Pool Custodian position. A hiring decision will be made soon.

Dignitary Visits

Governor Murkowski - The governor and his cabinet (and staff) had a reception on board the ferry that was well attended and very well received. About 40 residents went onboard to discuss Haines issues.

Brigadier General, Craig Christensen - The general and staff members stopped by the office to discuss the Alaska Army National Guard's plans and recruitment efforts in Haines.

Misc.

Eco Orca Appeal - The manager's decision that was sent back to the manager on remand was completed and sent back to Eco Orca. They have 15 days to appeal the decision to the assembly.

Tanani Bay Sewer Services - There is a need to discuss sewer services with the residents of the Tanani Bay Subdivision. The borough needs to assume management of the sewer system there and pass the operational costs on to the residents. If the Government Services committee would be willing to discuss the issue, we will invite all of the residents to attend.

Other projects - I worked several projects including the new school construction, ice house, boat launch ramp, and municipal land selections (Excursion Inlet). I also attended meetings of the Finance Committee, Boat Harbor Advisory Committee, and three Oversight & Strategic Planning Committee meetings.