



Haines Borough Administration
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Report

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New year's Resolution

Happy New Years! One of my biggest goals this year is to put together a maintenance plan for all departments and facilities and an inventory of all borough roads with needed improvements identified. We plan to have a first draft of those needs available with the FY'08 budget submittal.

FY08 Budget

It is that time of year again. Departments begin this month to put together the first draft of the 2008 fiscal year budget. At this time, there are two things to bring to your attention:

- Until Congress reauthorizes the Secure Schools bill, we are beginning the process with a federal fund shortfall of \$437,000 that usually goes to the school district.
- We normally begin to advertise for community funding requests during the month of January. Please advise if you would like a different community grant process this year.

Crystal Cathedral Utility

Last month the borough received a letter from residents served by the Crystal Cathedral Water and Sewer utility. They requested that the borough move to acquire the utility in the near future. This is a topic that was briefly looked into a few years ago. I am researching those files and will present the updated information for your consideration and direction.

Federal Priorities

Our lobbyist in DC will continue work on the priorities given to them this past year (Harbor Expansion and related upland developments, Ft Seward Improvements, Local Road repairs, Water & Sewer needs and historic Dalton Trail). They are also looking into opportunities for the borough to participate in alternative energy developments such as tidal and wave energy.

School Project

While most of the school construction crew took time off over the holidays, some workers continued through the break and finished installing the layer of 2" foam on the exterior of the building as well as the parapets. The roofing is in place on "C" block and the roofing crew will start on "B" block next. With the building closed in to a large degree, the carpenter crew will continue erecting metal stud partition walls throughout. The mechanical (plumbing) contractor will be on site this week to start on the above grade plumbing in "C" block and move along behind the carpenters as they finish partitions in the rest of the building. In a few weeks time, as the mechanical crew moves ahead, the electrician will follow with his work. We hope to see some windows showing up onsite within a few weeks and as they are placed the siding will come soon after. The school district has been in contact with several school furnishing suppliers and, along with the various committees involved, hope to have an order placed no later than the end of February.

Thanks to Road Crews

This has been a challenging month for our public works crew with the extraordinary snowfall. They have done an excellent job keeping the roads cleared. Thanks also to the state D.O.T. crews. There have been personnel working almost every day for the past month, including holidays.