



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

Report

December 13, 2005

Storm Damage Update

A steady flow of officials from the State have been through town surveying the damage with more personnel on the way. Two members from the homeland security section were here to assist in calculating the damage and preparing reports for the Governor's disaster policy cabinet which is scheduled to meet on December 20th. They were very impressed by the performance of the Borough's emergency response team, led by Scott Bradford, Roc Ahrens and Jim Studley. Many, many volunteer hours have been put into the emergency response effort.

Kudos to Public Works!

The storm damage to roads within the townsite was minimal compared to the damage to state roads. This is in large part due to the maintenance work done this fall by our public works crew.

D.O.T. Projects

The Department of Transportation held an open house at the Chilkat Center to discuss the Haines Highway project (from the airport to 25 mile). There was a good turn out and the general feeling was that it was very positive. Future funding for this project and the Lutak Road project have been lowered in priority in the STIP plan. I have met with the state regarding this and asked that funding be restored for these projects. Rep. Thomas is leading the charge on getting the projects re-prioritized.

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Ice House Update

As reported previously, the bids for the ice house project came in over-budget in the range of \$100-150K. At Southeast Conference, I found a possible grant source that could help close that gap and submitted an application to the Southeast Alaska Salmon Shelf Live Extension Program. The borough has just been notified that our project has been selected for a grant amounting to \$115,750! We will now be able to re-advertise the project and hopefully be back on schedule for the coming year.

Button Hearing

The appeal hearing before the manager concluded this past week. After receiving the last of the paperwork this week, I will issue my findings in writing, including options for either side to pursue appeals.

Other Projects

While the storm response has taken a lot of time the last two weeks, many other items have been worked on, including preparation for wage negotiations with the union (3 meetings), harbor committee and finance committee meetings and teleconferences with Southeast Conference and the Yukon Government's Port Access task force. I have also assisted the Tourism Advisory Board with the pavilion project and spent time on the school construction project. A number of personnel issues have required my attention, as well.

Schedule

The Borough offices will be closed on December 23rd and 26th for the holidays (and January 2nd). I will be taking vacation time during the weeks of the 19th and 26th and will not be here for the assembly meeting on the 27th. Happy Holidays to you all.