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To: Julie Cozzi  
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#### STIMULATING THE ECONOMY OF HAINES

When the citizenry of Haines looks at many houses and businesses that are still for sale with no buyers, looks at a questionable economic future fraught with rising costs for government, infrastructure, and goods, no real economic engine in sight, taxes due to rise as income goes down, many projects the community wants to see happen but no funding for any of it, one realizes that the future is anything but certain.

How can we stimulate our economy so that those who live here at least can make a living, if not, if fact, thrive at doing the things we like doing in the place where we like to live? Our valley is full of entrepreneurial people who are capable of starting and running small businesses, making things, giving tours, and providing services. How can we best make more business happen here, bringing in outside dollars, creating new jobs, and marketing what we have to offer? Sometimes it is up to the governing body to kick start the process.

Why not have the borough set aside some funds that would be earmarked for creating income and local jobs in the private and non-profit sector? Enough money needs to be set aside that it can truly become an effective economic stimulus. An economic enhancement committee could be formed and come up with a call for proposals to the community for projects that would create income. The type of projects that would be favored would be presented with the RFP's so that parameters would be established. When the RFP's come back with funding requests, the committee would choose which projects would be funded, and then help to make sure that they stayed on track. The committee make up could be a combination of the Chamber, assembly, and non-profit representatives.

Success would be measured by how much sales tax revenue increased, by how the town enjoyed the effort, how sustainable the projects are without further funding from the borough. This would help bring people out to work with others, and enjoy the fruits of their efforts; it could also help provide employment to young people, and provide good PR for us throughout Alaska and the world. Ideally if more business was starting to be generated here, the borough would be able to afford to do some of its priorities and more people would be motivated to move here.

#### STEPS IN THE PROCESS

Set aside 300,000 as a reserve fund for initiating projects

Establish group of decision makers that would decide on parameters of projects, choose the best projects, and oversee the development of the projects as well as assess the impact of the projects.

Group would report to the assembly monthly on projects progress.

Ideally projects would be oriented towards economic enhancement of current businesses, non-profits, overall community benefit, and creation of local jobs and small scale industry. Examples of project orientations would be: new festivals, conferences, conventions, marketing efforts, cottage industries, seafood product enhancement, physical attractions, local beautification, youth projects, and summertime education.