

# MANAGER'S REPORT

September 11 8:46 am EST – Moment of Silence – Patriot Day

DATE: September 7, 2022  
 TO: Mayor and Borough Assembly  
 FROM: Annette Kreitzer, Borough Manager

## Assembly Follow-up:

\*DOT/PF SPEED STUDY of Lutak and Haines Highway – spoke with DOT/PF Wednesday, September 7, 2022- results should be available soon, and I'll share in a Percolating Report and we'll post the results on the Borough website.

## Administration

- **HIRING:**
  - We successfully recruited for:
    - Temporary Assistant Pool Manager – Sydney Wray
  - We are recruiting for:
    - Emergency Communications Operator/Jailer I – Need one more person to be fully staffed.
    - Pool Custodian
    - Administrative Assistant (part-time 20 hours/week) to provide support for the Lands Department, the Clerk and the Manager in that order.
- **FINANCE:**
  - Following up with two lodges in Excursion Inlet which have not been paying sales or lodging tax and working with them to come into compliance.
  - Finance is working toward paperless utility bills. Customers will be able to opt in to a system of receiving their water/sewer bill by email. We'll provide more information as we get closer to rolling it out.
- **SENATOR MURKOWSKI VISIT:**
  - In addition to being a keynote speaker for the Alaska Outdoor Alliance Confluence gathering at the Chilkat Center, Senator Murkowski inspected the Public Safety Building and heard the many issues supporting the Borough's request for funding to replace the building. She reviewed the next phases of the Portage Cove Small Boat Harbor project and visited with the Chilkoot Indian Association and SAIL. On Friday, due to a flight delay, she was able to spend time visiting the Haines School. Our federal lobbyist Jay Sternes was here during the visit as well.
- **SHELDON MUSEUM:**
  - The Borough Manager is by Borough Code a member of the Sheldon Museum Board. I assisted the Board in reviewing applications and drafting questions for the Curator position that the Assembly funded in the FY23 budget, and participated in Zoom interviews with candidates.

## **Tourism**

- Alaska Fjordlines ceased seasonal operations September 6, and the Haines-Skagway Fast Ferry will cease seasonal operations coinciding with the last scheduled cruise ship of the season September 22.
- Because of outreach by Tourism Director Steven Auch, cruise company Silversea has decided to bring eight port visits to Haines without an inclusive Skagway rail trip. These passengers would stay in Haines for the duration of the port stop and engage in our economy rather than head over to Skagway.
- Director Auch and I visited the Chilkoot Lake State Park between 1:30-2:30 pm, August 30 after hearing concerns about bear/human/vehicle interactions. There were a number of people set up alongside the road, some impeding traffic, attempting to get photographs of the bears on the weir. There was no Park enforcement visible and vehicles were blocking outbound traffic while bear viewing.

## **Lands Department**

- Mayor Olerud, Planner Dave Long and I met with Darren Belisle, APT regarding snow storage agreements, and a potential emergency egress on the back side of Skyline Drive (powerline route).
- Site visit to Porcupine Rd. prior to predicted rainfall to observe flooding mitigation measures in place. Another site visit is scheduled for the week of September 12. Reviewed Borough property near proposed State timber sale and will likely need to survey the property to assess potential private landowner encroachment and define Borough boundaries.
- Federal funding comes with strings attached – one of those strings is attached to the Beach Road landslide. FEMA requires the Borough to either burn or send to a landfill, the wood in the landslide. We've had inquiries about using the wood, however, due to FEMA requirements and the agency's ability to require the Borough to repay FEMA funds if we don't follow its guidelines, we cannot allow harvesting of the wood.

## **Public Facilities/Public Works/Grants Administration**

- Porcupine Road has suffered several washouts since the last Assembly meeting. Public Facilities Director Ed Coffland and staff will make a site visit the week of September 12.
- Although generally going well, the Young Road project has had a few problems. Contributing to the normal issues of reasserting a right-of-way, switching to temporary water sources, etc., the lack of accurate mapping of old sewer and water lines causes pitfalls that then have to be corrected. Tuesday, September 6 was one of those incidents with four households issued boil water notices following a break in an unmarked sewer line, compounded by a water line breach resulting in water from the Tower Road tank filling a trench and flowing down to Lutak Road, which generated some concern from the public. As Haines has grown, it appears that the water/sewer lines added from time to time are not mapped or are mapped incorrectly. On the Young Road project, these lines will now be mapped correctly, and as each road project is accomplished, we'll have better mapping of these lines to avoid this kind of problem in the future.

## **Police and Fire Department**

- Police Chief Scott reported a fatal motorcycle accident that police and EMS responded to on Saturday, September 3.
- A Fairbanks murder suspect attempted to cross the border from Canada into the U.S. and was apprehended and held for Haines Police to escort to the Haines

Rural/Community Jail facility until transport to Lemon Creek Correctional Center in Juneau.

- Officers participated in Range qualification Wednesday, September 7.

### **Ports & Harbors**

- MARAD (U.S. Maritime Administration – the marine agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation) approved the Owner’s Advisor and Design-Build Team contracts so that these have been publicly released on the Borough website and in your packet.
- Although the public Lutak Dock tour on August 30 was recorded, the wind created some issues with the recording. We are having our IT consultants review the recording to see if they can pull any sound out of it so it can be provided to the public.