

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT DEC 23 General Meeting

- We received the 20K cheque from the Crossett Foundation for the playground equipment. That was a quick turnaround compared to some of the lengthy waits for hearing back from most grant applications. Thanks again to Jason and Margaret Custer for introducing us to the Crossett Committee and thank you to our school staff children, for participating in the process and to Mike for his work on procurement, installation RFQ, site selection and ongoing project management.
- While in Anchorage ADEC contacted me to say documents for our Solid Waste Planning Grant with Village Safe Water were ready to be executed. An ADEC representative brought the paperwork to the convention center so we could sign the appropriate documents. This is a USDA Rural Development Grant with 66K from USDA and 22K from state sources. The grant is to develop a preliminary engineering report evaluating alternatives for treatment of septage pumped from septic tanks. An Environmental Review for the preferred alternative is part of that work.
- Our scrap metal contamination issue has been somewhat resolved. Despite our understanding of a previously agreed upon process, when the NW Radiation Health Physicist arrived on scene the first time, the AML crew was not willing to help break down the pallet in question once he scanned for and identified the item location. As a result, we had to restore the pallet and dispatched Ian to go to the AML yard in Seattle to meet with the radiation contractor. Once Ian broke down the pallet, they found the source was from an old 3-inch diameter instrument gauge containing radium paint. Radiation levels were commensurate with the amount of material present and did not pose an immediate safety hazard to facility personnel. I have a complete report. If anyone is interested in a copy, I can e-mail it. The box containing the gauge and other items used in the removal process will require disposal at a facility that is able to accept radioactive material. I'm awaiting a recommendation and accompanying estimate for that process. It's a safe bet, it will be expensive.
- I continue to wade through the many funding opportunities by which Gustavus might benefit. Many agencies have a very convoluted pre-application process to even say you intend to apply and in many instances, there are plans that need to be in place to secure other project funds from grants. Some of them are competitive and require that they will have significant local or regional impact. RAISE, for example, may not be worth it to submit the Good River Bridge project as we may not score well. I continue to search for other opportunities.
- We are still awaiting news on Defending Alaska Communities from Wildfire through Community Wildfire Protection Planning grant. (AML) is seeking funding on our behalf to create or update Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) for AML member communities.
- Worked with Leah and others on a letter to be presented to Alaska Airlines at their advisory group meeting last week about the ever-shortened air service window and the economic impacts related to that issue.
- I attended both the AMMA and AML meetings last week and attended several sessions that could be of benefit.
 - Public Engagement and current processes
 - Artificial Intelligence for Local Government
(Should look at policies. Include in next RFQ for Managed IT Services)
 - Broadband – Draft Plan is available for comment.
 - Preparing for and Mitigating Environmental Impacts
 - Cybersecurity Planning and Implementation
 - A panel of experienced rural managers and mayors on operations with and additional discussion with federal officials
 - Legislative priorities, Governor's budget priorities
 - Implementing Effective Asset Management – Fundamental to achieving a sustainable community
(Putting natural assets on the balance sheet – Green infrastructure and its value. i.e., streams and ditches)
 - Transportation Financing Tools
 - AML Legislative Priorities document will be finalized and available if you want a copy or link

QUESTIONS?