

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT March 11, 2024, General Meeting

- Met with Aurah Landau of HDR in Juneau to discuss a contract to review our CIP and other projects and make recommendations for prioritizing and providing direction for funding sources. A draft scope is provided for your review. The cost associated with this work would be no more than \$8K. If we want to get a handle on the many funding opportunities and have access to subject matter experts for transportation and other infrastructure, this type of professional assistance is needed. A contract structure of time and materials terms would ensure that the City only pays for the portion of that cost that is used. I'm told we have enough funds in contractual right now, so an NCO is not necessary to get started.
- Airport Law Enforcement/TSA issue – I spoke with Christopher Goins, Southcoast Director ADOT about the LE issue. He has a meeting with DPS officials and Alaska Airlines to discuss securing retired LE officers who will fly over on the jet each day like they do in ADAK. He says he has 4 lined up so far. Problem is that is going to cost about 45K for the season and no one is sure yet where that funding is going to come from. I'm also waiting to hear from Senator Murkowski's Office on their meeting with DOI staff. Senator Kiehl is also working with ADOT and DPS to assist where they can, they are looking at funding options too. I anticipate an update from Mr. Goins this week.
- We signed the grant agreement with State Emergency Management to be part of a cybersecurity assessment. AML will be having a meeting soon with us and 3 other rural villages on the details of how this is going to move forward. Is procurement managed individually or with all of us jointly, next steps, and processes.
- Last Friday we put the finishing touches on the AFF grant narrative and application to FEMA for the water tender/tanker. Lexipole wrote the narrative, Shelley and I edited it a couple of times, and Sol entered all the other information, including data required by the application, pasted the narrative and uploaded it. Additionally, Sol participated in a webinar for AFF where they discussed prioritizing PPE this funding year rather than equipment. Too bad we were not aware of that information before undertaking this application process or at least evaluating whether to pursue it. But we are hopeful, nevertheless. Another reason to secure some professional help from HDR.
- Continued to work in concert with Mayor Owens, Council Member Taylor, GVA and various business members on borough petition and other lands issues. Many comments in opposition to the Xunaa Borough Petition were submitted to the LBC. We are still seeking additional information regarding PILT but are still somewhat in the dark and there has been no new information provided regarding the potential loss of revenue. It's unofficial at this time but Dennis Gray seems to be back peddling on the 1% seasonal sales tax boundary but only in response to an email query from a reporter. He hasn't sent anything official out that I am aware of. I'm waiting to see their response to the comments due by April 1st.
- I attended the Alaska Municipal League Winter Legislative Meeting in Juneau. Other than the agenda items with presentations from legislators, department heads, budget analysts, Congressional representatives, and others, I met with Senator Keihl and Representative Story while there and discussed our concerns, projects, funding requests, PFAS and additionally talked to some other legislators and staffers. At the end of one day, I attended the coastal meeting where the harbormasters presented and discussed some upcoming projects and funding streams for docks and harbors. On the hill, I brought around both our resolution opposing the Xunaa Borough Petition and our resolution in support of HB 279 regarding having a seat on the LBC to represent the unorganized borough. I testified at the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee hearing where testimony was being provided by Rural Alaska communities on issues and projects in their community or region. If you would like the agenda, I can email it to you or some of the presentations are available on the AML website: [Past Conferences - Alaska Municipal League \(akml.org\)](https://www.akml.org/Past-Conferences-Alaska)
- The FY 22-23 audit is complete with the exception of the submission of the auditor's final letter. At this point there are no negative findings and we only had to find a few documents that were not readily available. Big kudos

to Ben Sadler for a seamless audit. The letter and a review, if the auditors are available, will be provided at the next Council Work Session.

- Attended an informal meeting on the formulation of a lands committee, with conservation being the primary goal.
 - We continue to have discussions about how to prolong the gravel pit.
 - John Barry has submitted a permit to the Army Corps of Engineers for the ditch relocation at the DRC in preparation for the expansion project.
 - The Alaska Infrastructure Development Symposium is April 2-5 which I hope to attend.
 - **Saving the best for last** – The City of Gustavus, DRC - new recycling facility was included in one of six appropriations packages that Senator Murkowski was able to include several projects for Alaska communities. It was signed by President Biden on Saturday. I have included the email we received on this report.
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Hi, this is Kara from Senator Murkowski's office.

I'm emailing to let you know that your Congressionally Directed Spending Project was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which is on track to be passed very soon and heads to the President's desk to be signed into law. Senator Murkowski was able to secure \$3,027,000.00 in funds for your— City of Gustavus for Waste Management Improvements.

We'll be announcing all of our CDS projects in press releases over the next several days. If you would like to provide a quote to help Senator Murkowski share the news with Alaskans, please send it to press_office@murkowski.senate.gov by the **end of the day today**.

Next Steps

This is great news, but it can still take a long time to get these funds in hand, so please do not assume they will be available for the upcoming construction seasons or for any imminent funding needs.

- After the bill is signed into law, the agencies must implement the CDS programs, and it can take quite some time for them to get the funds out the door – sometimes up to a year post-enactment.
- In the coming months, you will hear from an agency official with information on the next steps for securing these funds – this can include filling out applications to verify eligibility and demonstrating you have completed all necessary permitting and regulatory requirements.

Applying for Additional Projects

I also wanted to let you know that Senator Murkowski's portal for FY25 project requests is **open now**, and will close on **March 22**. Please visit our website – murkowski.senate.gov – to learn more or submit a request.

- the portal is now accessible <https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/appropriations-and-cds-request-page>

Thanks!

Kara

- Other miscellaneous items? Council Questions?