

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT JUNE 2023 General Meeting

- An update to the latest NEWS group posting - Trevor Richards and his wife are due to arrive on Thursday's ferry and will start pumping households who have previously contacted Juneau Septic and also install the covers and filters. They plan to return to Juneau on Sunday. Additionally, not a done deal yet, but Bob Holmes will be able to bring the big tanker which holds about 4000 gallons on the Sunday ferry and turnaround to take septage out.
- Presented comments to the State Revolving Loan Fund on the scope of the current and proposed criteria for identifying disadvantaged communities. Gustavus is not considered as such since we are not at the 49 percent and below threshold. We asked that they consider other characteristics of rural communities whose unique financial circumstances pose a significant hardship in raising the revenue necessary to finance water and wastewater projects. We hope to use these same comments as other solicitations for comments are presented and if we have to defend our status for other grant applications. Thanks to Shelly Owens and Whitney Rapp for helping to organize our comments and in providing additional information.
- Had a debriefing meeting with DOT representatives on the scoring for our TAP (sidepath) , and Good River Bridge repair grants to look at weak areas and how to strengthen our application for other funding opportunities moving forward.
- Met with Senator Kiehl, Mayor Taylor and Council Member Owens to review issues pertinent to Gustavus and legislation that passed and didn't pass which could impact us. Mayor Taylor has more details on this meeting.
- Attended weekly "Office Hours meetings with Alaska Municipal League where they review various upcoming grants, particularly the infrastructure rollouts, they also host granting agency staff such as EPA, DOT or DOE to explain their upcoming funding opportunities. Additionally, we have the opportunity to hear about what other municipalities are doing - what works, what hasn't, where help is needed and other issues they are facing.
- Today I went to the Olympia Ford dealership to ask about fleet pricing options for vehicles and met with their fleet manager. I asked how we might qualify since we were so small. He gave me information on Municipal financing options. I haven't gotten into the details on it yet, but it seems very flexible and a good way to acquire essential equipment. If they have a low interest rate, and we are not funded to purchase under a grant, it may be more prudent for us to make payments if our AMLIP account is giving us good interest. Or we may get a good enough price that we can afford to buy something outright. Either way the salesperson has experience dealing with Alaskan municipalities and shipping to SE AK.
- This month was quite busy with being short staffed and having the Covid outbreak. We had to be closed for 2 days but some were able to still work behind closed doors till quarantine was over. We lost some time in that our Marine Facilities Coordinator was to start that week, and training was to happen for the City Clerk, but with folks out sick and people being quarantined, some of the training had to wait. Thanks to everyone for pitching in and cross covering for each other.
- The Marine Facilities Coordinator position has been filled by Larry Platt and he began his duties on June 5th. Ben is mentoring him, and Larry is getting into the swing of things related to his duties.
- Worked with Jason Shriber of Alaska Technical Solutions during his site visit to get the appropriate connectivity from HughesNet to Byte/Fibre. We still have HughesNet as a backup but are paying considerably less for less service but still able to operate if something goes down with Fibre. He looked at the hut on the dock again as an option for a cell booster and will send recommendations.

- After much ado, issued Notice to Proceed on the Library Shelter Project. GBC finished prepping the pad and the materials should arrive sometime during the first two weeks of July so the project can begin.
- We have received 3 payments from FEMA totaling approximately 220,000. We may be able to get a little more, but it will depend on identifying more invoices not previously identified for formerly paid projects. If that becomes too time consuming, and tedious, we may need to call it a done deal. And there is only about 2-3 K more to identify for the full amount.
- Special meeting date?

Any comments, questions, or suggestions?