

## **City of Gustavus Welcomes Kathy Leary as City Administrator**

**The City of Gustavus is pleased to announce Kathy Leary as our new City Administrator.**

At a special meeting Wednesday, May 25, the Gustavus City Council approved the hiring of Kathy Leary to the full-time position of City Administrator effective June 1, 2022. Kathy will report to the Mayor and will lead seven other permanent employees staffing the functions of City Clerk, Finance, Fire Department, Library, Disposal and Recycling Center, and Marine Facilities, plus temporary employees and volunteers supporting those activities. In addition to overseeing the staffed functions, the Administrator carries out the responsibilities of the functions for which we do not have employees, such as contracted road maintenance, planning, lands issues, city parks, grant applications, and public works project contracting and management. It's an important leadership job, essential to the delivery of quality services to our community.

Kathy was the unanimous recommendation of the recruitment and selection committee. I am grateful for the assistance of Tom Williams, Phoebe Vanselow, Tania Lewis, and Justin Marchbanks, for their service.

Kathy has a long history in Gustavus, having maintained a home here for decades. Before the city was formed, Kathy was instrumental in getting the funding and completing the construction of our public library. One reference commented that we probably wouldn't have our library but for Kathy's hard work. She was one of the first employees there, leaving just after the City incorporated. Since then, Kathy has been working for various agencies elsewhere in Alaska, most notably at Ilisagvik College in Utqiagvik where she managed the workforce development training program. Kathy has a network of contacts statewide and serves on several Alaska non-profit boards. Her previous jobs included a wide range of challenging responsibilities. Her understanding of how organizations function, and her interest in developing employees, make her a good fit to our City staff. We are especially pleased to hire a qualified person, already at home here, who knows and loves the community.

With the addition of Kathy as a full-time employee, City Hall will be open five days per week starting June 3.

Retiring City Administrator Tom Williams has kindly agreed to advise Kathy on a temporary part-time basis during the transition until July 31, 2022. Former Treasurer, Phoebe Vanselow has also agreed to continue to assist the City Administrator and Treasurer on similar basis until July 31. We are grateful for the service of both Tom and Phoebe in their past roles for the City and their willingness to help ensure continuity of services during the transition.

*Please join me in welcoming Kathy Leary as our new City Administrator for the City of Gustavus!*

Mike Taylor  
Mayor

