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## Denali Borough Mayor's Annual Report

August 22, 2017

Happy late summer to you and yours. Although summers always go by too fast, this heathy mix of sun and rain makes for my favorite kind of summer. I hope you have had an opportunity to soak it in, and enjoy the fall ahead.

I'll keep this report brief and direct those interested in more information to our website, where you can find past annual reports as well as monthly reports to the assembly under the mayor tab. Those reports, along with the monthly assembly meeting minutes and agendas provide a good snapshot of what the borough is working on.

Always feel free to call the office with any questions. This Home Rule Borough is your local government.

As with the past three year's reports, I'll structure this report in alignment with the powers bestowed by the people of the borough.

### **Taxation/Finance**

I am once again pleased to report that the Denali Borough remains in a strong and healthy financial position. This year's budget (Fiscal Year 2018) is available on the website under Finance. Included in the budget is a four page Budget Message as well as borough information and historical comparisons. While revenues from our primary source, the seven percent overnight accommodations tax, have increased, so have the requirements of governance and requests from funding recipients. I would like to applaud the Denali Borough Assembly, and the Finance Sub-Committee, for their stewardship of the borough treasury and for making difficult decisions regarding allocations. Also, our Borough Treasurer Annette Ziegman deserves special praise.

### **Education**

The mandatory contribution from the borough to the school district went up by **over \$300,000** due to a significant rise in our Full Value Determination, which is an assessment of property values in the borough. As property values in the borough increase, so does our mandatory contribution to the school district. The borough again demonstrated its' strong commitment to education by fully funding the request of the school district, which is the maximum allowable. Also, we are pleased to have jointly completed significant building improvements such as the Cantwell School Sprinkler Project and the Tri-Valley School Energy Upgrade.

## **Planning and Platting and Land Use Regulation**

Title 4

Land Use and Economic Development plan

Planning Commissioners

This past year, the borough undertook an extensive review of our land management code, with the goal of creating a more workable code that provides tools to better plan and manage over 47,000 acres of borough owned land for a variety of uses. The complete rewrite of Denali Borough Code Title 4 was amended and passed by the Planning Commission, and is now in front of the Borough Assembly for review and approval. Once completed, the next phases of planning for borough land will follow. Maps identifying borough lands are found under the Land Management tab on our website.

This past year the Planning Commission completed, and the Assembly adopted, a revision of the Denali Borough Comprehensive Plan. This plan is also available on the website under the Land Management tab.

### **Solid Waste**

Scrap metal

Re Permit

Kudos to staff

Enterprise operating on the balance

Operations are proceeding very well at the Denali Borough Landfill. We received a 99% score on our most recent regulatory inspection. Every year in the history of the Denali Borough Solid Waste Enterprise, we have operated at a net loss. Although the final numbers are still to come, projections are that FY16 may be the first year without a deficit. New this year, coal ash is accepted at the landfill at a steeply reduced rate - \$14/ton.

Please consider bringing your used motor oil, or even vegetable oil, to the landfill where it will help heat the shop building. Household hazardous waste, such as oil-based paints, solvents, and corrosives, from *residential* sources are accepted at the Denali Borough Landfill and Cantwell Transfer Station for no charge when segregated by product and in their original closed container.

The Native Village of Cantwell is operating a recycling center at Cantwell Transfer Station. They accept mixed paper, aluminum, and type #1 and #2 plastics. The borough is happy to host the center and is a proud partner in this effort to divert waste from the landfill. Projections are that we have about 30 years remaining in our currently permitted landfill footprint. Every diversion helps our landfill last longer. The borough is also a proud partner of the Subaru-Denali National Park Zero Landfill Initiative.

### **General Administration**

Shout out to VFDs/responders... RIP Rusty

CSA – Kris Capps

Thanks to Gail and welcome to Amber

Borough staff and officials

Healy Transfer Station

Passport/notary

Your limited local government works hard to serve the borough's needs. Many thanks to our dedicated staff!

Sincerely,



Clay Walker, Mayor

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