

## DENALI BOROUGH

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*Clay Walker, Mayor*

### **January 2023 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly**

This report speaks primarily to non-agenda items. Agenda items will be discussed in meeting.

#### **Street Addressing Project**

- The borough is currently accepting requests for official street addresses. Both residential and commercial business street address applications can be found on the Denali Borough website at <https://www.denaliborough.org/addressing>. Paper applications are also available both online and at the borough office.
- Staff is performing the field work necessary to put out two complete bid packages (one for the sign purchase and one for the installation of the signs) for the street sign project. Information regarding number of signs, specific locations/cross streets, heights of posts, existing signage, and more is being gathered and consolidated.
- The sign purchase and installation is paid for by a State Homeland Security Grant and a Rural Business Development Grant, which includes a borough match. We do not anticipate that the available funds will purchase and install all needed street signs in the borough, so we are prioritizing business development and emergency response installations.

#### **Replacement radios for all four borough Volunteer Fire Departments**

- This project replaces most of the mobile (in vehicle) radios and a portion of the portable (handheld) radios at the fire departments in the borough.
- An update to the statewide Alaska Land Mobile Radio system necessitates this radio upgrade. A State Homeland Security Grant, a borough grant, and fire department contributions, combine to pay for this \$131,873 upgrade to emergency communications.
- In this replacement, the four departments agreed to switch from Motorola to Kenwood radios, which were more affordable.

#### **Borough Financial Statements and Audit**

- Audit work for the year ending June 30, 2022 (Fiscal Year 2022) continues, with financial procedures, internal controls and grant compliance being audited currently.
- Our current financial statements reflect the tax receipts from the first quarter (July, August, September) of Fiscal Year 2023. These strong returns indicate that we will likely exceed our projected FY23 tax revenue.
- Strong tax receipts plus the federal ARPA-based assistance combine to help return the borough to its previous strong financial position.

### **State Public Assistance Reimbursement for Fire Recovery Expenses**

- After meeting regularly with State Division of Homeland Security staff, we are hopeful to be reimbursed nearly \$25,000 for the recovery expenses the borough incurred through the Clear Fire response. I plan to propose a re-capitalization of the Disaster Contingency Fund in the upcoming budget process.

### **Office renovation and expansion**

- At the Tri-Valley Community Center (TVCC) office, we are finalizing plans for the “old bank space” remodel and including a small upstairs addition, which will enhance the utility of the meeting space. These plans will receive TVCC (owner) approval and State Fire Marshall approval prior to going to bid for the work.

### **Rural Health Development Planning Grant**

- The borough did submit a federal grant application for the above-named project. The Assembly, at the December meeting, passed a resolution supporting this effort.
- The partners comprising this health network are: the Denali Borough, Interior Community Health Centers, Sidall Medical Services at Clear SFS, Horizon Medical at Canyon Clinic, Railbelt Mental Health and Addictions, and Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department.

### **Department of Transportation (DOT) Updates**

- The borough submitted our final match contribution toward construction of the Healy Spur Road Reconstruction project, which will include wide shoulders. Construction is scheduled for this coming summer.
- DOT is developing the scope, schedule and estimates for three potential grant projects, all of which were supported by the Community Outdoor Recreation Committee. These are:
  - A Community Transportation Program (CTP) application for reconstruction of Otto Lake Road.
  - A Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) application for Healy sidewalks, similar to what was submitted in 2019.
  - A Transportation Alternatives Program application for a separated bike path from Healy to the Antler Ridge Parking Lot.

### **Denali Borough Mayor’s Community Service Award**

- Please do consider taking the time to recognize friends or neighbors who give of themselves to make the Denali Borough a better place. Nomination forms for this annual award, found on the borough website, are due by January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Happy January, Happy New Year! As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions.

- Clay