

DENALI BOROUGH

P.O. Box 480 • Healy, Alaska 99743

Phone: (907) 683-1330 • Fax: (907) 683-1340

Email: dbgov@denaliborough.com

Website: www.denaliborough.org



Clay Walker, Mayor

June 2023 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

State Budget Review

- In many ways, the legislature's approved budget met many of the borough's legislative priorities. At this June 9 writing, the budget is not yet fully executed.
- The Community Assistance Program was re-capitalized. The PERS retirement system does not impose additional burden on municipalities. The Major School Maintenance Fund was capitalized to the tune of \$30 million. While that doesn't quite fund our next project, it does move the list forward.
- K-12 Education funding received a one-time increase equivalent to a \$680 Base Student Allocation increase. While this was not the statutory BSA increase sought, it is very helpful to the district this year.
- Our modest capital requests were not funded, but every other priority was addressed to a degree.

Borough Staff Update

- Please join me in thanking Finance Clerk Sherry Shorey for her service to the borough and wishing her well in her new Colorado home. Her last day with the borough is June 22nd.
- Administrative Clerk Nicole Dalton has been training in the duties of the Finance Clerk and is ready to step in and train her replacement.
- The borough received many great applications for the Administrative Clerk position. Following a team review and interview process, Salena Mirasole accepted the offer of the position. Welcome Salena to the team! She starts June 26th.
- I want to thank the applicants and interviewees for their interest in the position. We are blessed to have strong interest from qualified individuals.

Healy Transfer Station Hours of Operation

- Following consideration and input from staff and the public, we have decided to adjust the operating days of Healy Transfer Station from Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat to Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat. This adjustment will benefit the operation and will be effective July 1st. Operating hours remain the same: 3 pm -7pm on weekdays and 10 am -4 pm on Saturdays.

Landslide Disaster Tabletop Training Exercise

- State of Alaska Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management facilitated an emergency management tabletop training at the borough office on June 6th. The scenario used was increased ground fracturing and sliding at the existing slump near Denali Education Center.
- Participants included DHS&EM, the Denali Borough, the National Weather Service, Denali Education Center, and McKinley Volunteer Fire Department.
- Trainings like these are always valuable in building organizational understanding of structures, roles, and resources available. A sub-group, including borough representatives, will conduct a follow-up site visit next week.

City of Anderson Support and Meetings

- Following the May 12 call from the City of Anderson Mayor Thompson informing me that the city is in financial distress and that allegations of fraud are pending, the borough has taken several steps to support the city in their time of need.
- We committed many staff hours of Borough Emergency Manager Forest Shreeve, who previously served as clerk and treasurer for the City of Nenana. While his other projects were delayed, the city has appreciated his professionalism and knowledge in assisting their recovery.
- Attending a City Council meeting, I recommended additional internal financial control measures. The council formed a committee to work on that issue and Forest and I attended that committee meeting.
- With the City of Anderson emergency services department non-operational, the borough participated in a joint meeting with responding departments (including Tri-Valley and Nenana VFDs) and approved an agreed upon temporary change to dispatching protocols.
- With debt and professional bookkeeping needs and bills, Mayor Thompson requested the Denali Borough support by directly paying an invoice for about 100 hours of bookkeeping services totaling \$7,675. In the borough's FY23 budget, I've approved an intradepartmental transfer in accordance with Denali Borough Code 3.10.100 to pay this expense on behalf of the City of Anderson out of line item 4310 Contingency.

Updated re: Pretty Rock Bridge in Denali National Park

- Changes in the project schedule due to updated design work, excavation discoveries, and delays, result in new completion date for the project of July 2026.

Happy June, happy peak of the light cycle!

As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions.

- Clay