



Denali Borough
P.O. Box 480
Healy, AK 99743
683-1330
dbgovt@mtaonline.net
www.denaliborough.govoffice.com

The Denali Borough Mayor's Annual Report

January 17, 2014

Happy New Year and warm wishes to you and yours.

As we are now gaining light through this exceptionally mild winter, it is a natural time to both look back at 2013 and forward to 2014.

Denali Borough Code states that the Mayor shall "prepare and make available for public distribution a report of borough affairs." This report is not meant to be exhaustive, but a concise overview.



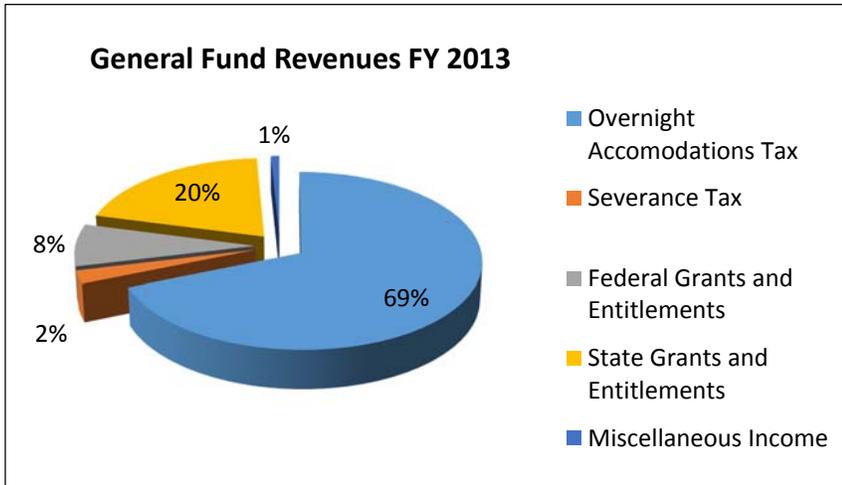
Clay Walker, Mayor

Finances

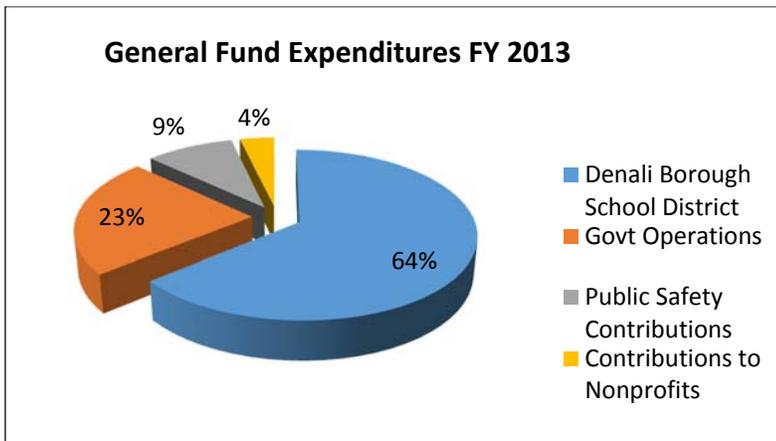
The annual audit of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 financial statement was recently presented to the Denali Borough Assembly, and showed the borough in a solid financial position. We are a forward funded government, which means that revenues collected in the previous year are spent the following year. At the end of the FY 2013, in addition to the ability to fully fund the FY 2014 budget, we held additional funds totaling 25% of that budget amount. This is an enviable, but not extravagant, position. A projected decrease in FY 2014 expenditures, combined with an upward revenue trend, result in expectations for continued funding of dedicated fund accounts for the purpose of capital projects, major school maintenance, capital improvements, and other needs.

The Denali Borough provided the maximum allowable contribution to the Denali Borough School District in FY 2013, financed capital projects, and supported record level funding to the fire departments and non-profits.

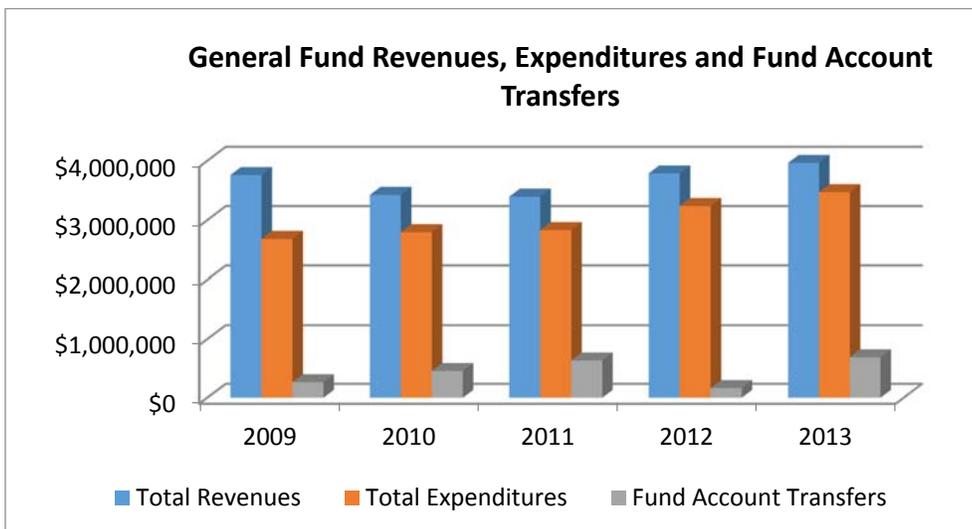
The following chart illustrates the revenue sources of the Denali Borough:



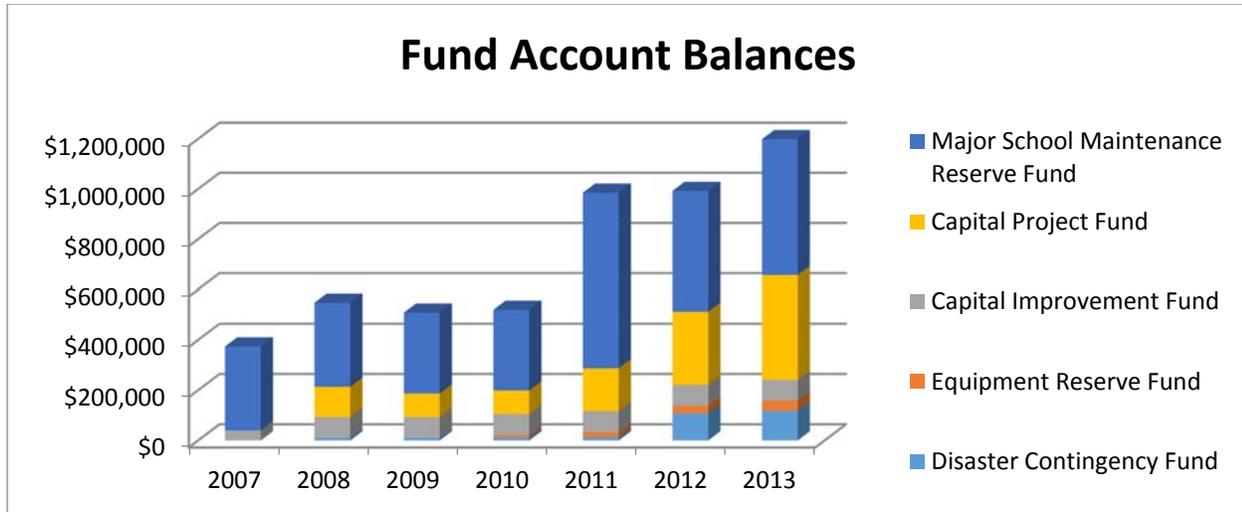
...and the expenditures:



Next, here is a view of revenues, expenditures and fund account transfers for the past five years:



Finally, here are the different fund accounts and their respective balances over time:



Today’s residents are indebted to those who served the borough in the past and helped bring us to the healthy position we hold today. On a final financial note, the borough office deserves high praise for such a clean audit, one in which not one material weakness was identified.

Next I’d like to update you on programs, some of which are new:

- Last March a flyer was mailed to every post office boxholder informing folks of a **Stove Change-Out Program**. Twenty-two Denali Borough residents worked through the program and received a \$2,500 reimbursement for a new clean burning wood or pellet stove. GVEA provided the grant monies, which can fund another twenty stoves, so look for another roll out of the program this spring.
- In an effort to better inform and engage the public, the Denali Borough developed, and the Assembly approved, a Social Media Policy. On the borough website, where you can find meeting minutes and agendas, you’ll also find a **Facebook Page** link. If you are a facebook user, “Like” the page to receive occasional updates regarding borough happenings. Borough notices will continue to be posted at the regular posting places throughout the borough.
- To honor and celebrate the spirit of service which plays such a big role in our small communities, we have a new annual award, the **Mayor’s Community Service Award**. This program was announced in December, with a nomination period from January 1 until February 1. A committee will review the nominations and select the first winner. The award will be announced at the Winterfest Chili Feed Saturday night, on February 23. Come out and enjoy community, games, and chili!

Finally, here are a few highlights from the four borough powers:

Education

Beyond funding School District operations, the borough has the responsibility of funding major school maintenance. In 2013, the Denali Borough closed out the Tri-Valley Gym and Locker Room Roof Replacement and the Cantwell School Repairs grants. Additionally, the borough managed the replacement of fuel tanks at the Anderson and Cantwell Schools as well as the heating control system upgrade at Tri-Valley School.

The 2013 Alaska State Legislature approved funding, requiring a borough match, for the Cantwell School Sprinkler and Fire Alarm Upgrade Project. We are currently working with a design firm on this major upgrade.

Planning and Platting

The Denali Borough Planning Commission is the planning body of the borough. They approve plats, work on land related code revisions, and provide planning direction, among other functions. At this time, there are two vacant seats on the nine-member body, with vacancies in Healy and Cantwell. This is a great way to serve your community and help steer its future direction.

The borough is currently inventorying and mapping all borough land. For more detail regarding planning and borough land see the “2014 Annual Work Plan” on the borough website, under Land Management. Also, maps of borough lands and subdivisions are posted at this location.

Solid Waste

The Denali Borough Landfill received a score of 99% on the 2013 Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) inspection. The landfill staff is commended for the many improvements made this year. Even with decreased operating expenses and increased income, the Solid Waste enterprise continues to operate at a net loss. The Borough Assembly in December approved the first increase in tipping fees since June 2008. Effective July 1, 2014, the tipping fee at the landfill will be \$115/ton. We are also looking at ways to improve efficiencies at the Cantwell Transfer Station.

General Administration

After a rather slim November ballot, I am pleased to report the Denali Borough Assembly is now a full, nine-member body, with a diverse composition. Meetings rotate through the four communities, so come out and participate, or just listen in, when we’re in your neighborhood.

Some services the borough office provides include passport services, notary services, document witnessing and copy/fax. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

There are a number of general administration topics in which the borough is engaged, ranging from tracking gas pipeline developments to working with the Department of Transportation regarding construction plans and planning for pedestrian safety, to the impacts of increased seasonal employees in the Healy community.

We are all fortunate to call Denali Borough home: a place of such outstanding natural beauty and bounty that it is a premier global destination, a place rich in natural resources, strategically located; wild and remote, yet also connected and modern. But above all, it is the people of the borough that make it a great place to be. Thanks to all those who have served our communities in one of many ways. It has been an honor to serve as your mayor the past year. Here is to a great 2014!

Sincerely,



Clay Walker

UPCOMING BOROUGH EVENTS

- Wednesday, February 12 at 6 p.m.
Denali Borough Assembly regular meeting at the McKinley Park Community Center
 - February 18-20
Denali Borough Mayor and two Assembly members travel to Juneau for Alaska Municipal League Legislative Conference and meetings with legislators.
 - Tuesday, February 18
Denali Borough Planning Commission meeting at Tri-Valley Community Center
Work session 6:15 p.m., public hearing at 7:15 with regular meeting to follow
 - Thursday, February 20
Denali Borough School District Board meeting at Cantwell School
Work session 6 p.m., public meeting at 7p.m.
 - February 21-23: Winterfest!
Look for upcoming full schedule
Saturday night Chili Feed and games at the Tri-Valley Community Center 5-7 p.m.
 - Sunday, February 23
Tri-Borough Meeting at 9 a.m.
Mat-Su Borough and Fairbanks North Star Borough will join the Denali Borough for a joint work session held at the Tri Valley Community Center. Topics include Interior energy and transportation issues.
 - Wednesday, March 12 at 6 p.m.
Denali Borough Assembly regular meeting at the Cantwell School gymnasium
- Check the borough website for other meeting times and places.

