

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

Monthly Assembly Report Mayor Clay Walker November 1, 2016

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

Past State of Alaska Grants

- **Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Designated Legislative Grants**
 - The fiscal year (FY) 2013 \$65,000 grant to install a fire suppression well and hydrant in the Nenana Canyon is in the process of being closed out. The borough, along with Tri-Valley and McKinley Village VFDs, partnered with Holland America Princess, who had a usable site and a pre-existing well. The well was developed for fire protection service to meet the grant requirements, and a joint agreement ensures well maintenance and guarantees site access. Two other allowable fire suppression projects were accomplished. McKinley Village VFD installed a new 12,000 gallon buried water tank at the Fire Hall. Tri-Valley VFD installed a high flow pump in their fire protection well. At the Community Center.
 - The FY 2015 designated legislative grant of \$169,160 in support of the Tri-Valley Elementary Wing Energy Efficiency Upgrade (also called the coal boiler tie-in project) is also closed out.
 - The only remaining grant is the \$50,000 for the landfill shop extension; a project which is fully underway and we expect to be closed out next summer.
- **Department of Education and Early Development Grants**
 - The Cantwell School Fire Alarm and Fire Suppression project is very close to completion and project close out.

2017 Legislative Priority List

- While the State's fiscal outlook remains unsettled and cash flow poor, any hope for a significant Capital Budget remains low. I met with Representative Talerico when we discussed the upcoming session and the borough's legislative priority list. Expect a resolution at the December meeting.

Potential Healy Transfer Station

- Further site investigations have been conducted and we expect to have a recommendation forthcoming of a preferred site from the three locations identified by the Planning Commission.
- This recommendation will be accompanied by the requested Best Estimate Financial Impact Statement.
- This project is listed on our Capital Improvement Program for next fiscal year (FY18).

Resolution 16-16 Update

- The October Assembly resolution requesting turn lane markings at the Parks Hwy – Healy Spur Road intersection was forwarded to DOT Northern Region. Very promptly, almost the next day, the contractor was marking and painting the left turn lane indicators; thereby limiting the risk of head on collisions.

City of Anderson Land Swap progress

- The City Council held a work session on this topic at their last meeting. They are no longer interested in the larger acreage swap first proposed (100 or 150 acres from the earlier resolutions), but just the area permitted as a septage facility, which includes a buffer. A rough estimate is that this may be around 17 acres. A Memorandum of Understanding which lays out how we will go about this exchange is being drafted.

Clear Air Station

- I also attended a celebration commemorating the Alaska National Guard's 10th anniversary of base duty at Clear Air Force Station.

School Visits

- I was invited to the Tri-Valley second grade class to come and talk about the borough. As I have done this sort of thing at Tri-Valley a number of times, I reached out to Cantwell and Anderson Schools and scheduled times to come visit their students and discuss borough government. Good times.

Administrative Assistant New Hire

- With the upcoming retirement of Teri Lewis, we received a number of well qualified application for the open position. We are pleased to announce that Connie MacMaster has been hired into the position and will start in short order. Connie brings experience in many of the pertinent admin duties. Please welcome Connie to the borough team!

Happy November; and as always, feel free to contact me with any question.

And remember on November 8th -- Get out and Vote and get your Vote Tote!

-Clay