



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645
Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669
john.moosey@matsugov.us

Date: March 24, 2020
To: Mayor and Assembly Members
From: John Moosey, Borough Manager
Subject: Borough Manager's Report

Monthly Activity Report January, February 2020

Animal Care & Regulation

January / February Monthly Statistics:

451 Animals brought into the shelter
260 Animals adopted and/or rescued
73 Animals returned to their families

Please Microchip your pets, it's a sure ticket home! Just \$30 at the shelter.

Shelter Events and Highlights:

The shelter staff hosted presentations and tours for 78 students and their parents. The students were from different schools including Grace Academy and CCS Early Learning. The staff also hosted an animal presentation at the Sutton Library; continued the "Pet of the Week" advertisements with the local radio station, Fred Meyers and Vagabonds and took animals to the senior centers, providing seniors the joy of visiting with a pet.

The shelter conducted a few adoption events at the shelter, including the "PawScar Awards". We held our regularly scheduled volunteer orientations and training, which all shelter volunteers attend and provided specialized cat training for some of the volunteers.

Volunteer and Foster Thank You:

We want to send out a big thank you note to our volunteers and foster families! In January and February, we had 9 foster families who have dedicated a total of 1560 hours. We also had 111 volunteers in January who dedicated a total of 748 hours and 115 volunteers providing 817 hours in February.

Thank you to all the volunteers for their dedicated service!

Enforcement:

Mat-Su Animal Care and Regulation operates under the Borough Code, Title 24. Four Animal Care Officers provide regulation and enforcement services to the entire Borough, with the exception of Palmer, Wasilla, and Houston city limits.

The officers closed out 247 cases, issuing 2 classification, 12 citations, 3 kennel/cattery/mushing licenses, and 22 warnings. The officer impounded 58 animals in the field.



Capital Projects

Project Management

Station 6-1 Improvements and Addition: A contract was awarded to Wolf Architecture to provide architectural and engineering services for improving station layout and operations to include new apparatus bays for Fire and EMS. A thorough design process was completed which included participation of Station 6-1 Fire and EMS personnel. This project is in the Purchasing Department to advertise for construction. It is anticipated to have construction completed within one year of contract award.

CMS Training Complex Improvements: An RFP to design improvements for the Central Mat-Su Fire Training Complex located at the site of Station 6-2 was solicited, with CRW Engineering Group being the highest scored proposer. Negotiations produced an acceptable fee that will be presented to the MSB Assembly for approval on March 3, 2020.

Station 3-2 Communication Tower: A communication tower at Station 3-2 was accepted as complete February 2020 to support emergency responder radio communications and to provide opportunities for future connectivity upgrades.

Talkeetna Public Safety Building Lighting Upgrades: Exterior lighting at both Stations 11-1 and 11-2 are in need of replacement. New energy efficient lighting will provide a safely lit area around the station and use less energy. Work was completed January 2020.

Station 6-3 Fire Pump Replacement: Station 6-3 experienced some flooding which damaged the fire pump equipment. This project replaced the pumps and associated controllers and was completed February 2020.

Iditarod Elementary 1% for Art: The Iditarod Art project is making progress with an Iditarod theme design. An installation and reveal event is tentatively scheduled for April 2020.

Palmer Pool Improvements: The pool has been filled with water and the contractor is busy with final details to complete the pool and commissioning facility mechanical and electrical systems. The pool heating and filtering purification systems are operational and are being fine-tuned to function as designed.



Above: Palmer Pool

Tommy Moe Electrical Upgrades: This project will provide additional electrical connectivity to charge emergency equipment so it's safe and reliable. Additional lighting will also be included to improve visibility for emergency personal.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Administration Building Carpet Replacement: Worn out carpet will be replaced in the Assessments section.

Central Landfill in Palmer Warm Storage Addition: An RFP is currently being advertised for design services for adding warm storage space.

Fireweed Building Abatement: This project will abate and replace flooring and insulation that contain asbestos.

Old Station 6-2 Sprinkler System: The old Station 6-2 does not have a sprinkler system and the new system will be tied into the new water storage tank underneath the new station 6-2. HZA Engineers has been selected to design this system.

DES Security Cameras: This project will install security systems at all Central Mat-Su Stations and will provide a security analysis, purchase, and installation of security cameras and other security system related equipment. Long Building Technologies has been awarded the design and installation contract.

New Willow Library: This project will construct a new library and install a fire suppression system in the community center. ECI Hyer has been awarded the design contract and several public meetings have been conducted for input to the design. Construction is expected to start early fall 2020.

Willow Log Cabin Renovation: This project will renovate the Willow Log Cabin adjacent to the community center. The goal is to make the building useable while retaining the historical appearance. An RFP to design and build the project was advertised with one proposal received. Negotiations with the proposer are in progress.

Houston Middle School: The structure has been inspected by the insurance company and the Borough's consultants. The primary insurance company has paid the MSB the full amount under the policy. The Borough is working with FEMA for reimbursement for costs to repair and rebuild the building. An RFP for design was advertised with BDS Architects being the highest scored architectural firm. On Jan 21, 2020, the Assembly approved a contract to repair the gymnasium and administrative wings and to reconstruct the classroom wing. The design process is underway, taking staff and community input for the design.

Pre-Design & Engineering

Alcantra Sports Complex & Trail System and West Butte Recreation Area, Parking Lot Lighting: The Alcantra bid package was advertised by the Purchasing Department in June 2019 and bids were opened July 10, 2019. With seven bidders, the base bid amount was over the available funding. Project was re-bid on August 16, 2019 with reduced scope to include just the lighting in the east parking lot; Nodak Electric & Construction was awarded the contract. As of October 25, 2019 the underground electrical work was complete and light poles were ordered. Lights were installed and operational on January 22, 2020 with project closed out in mid-February 2020.



New lights operational at Alcantra Sports Complex: East Parking Lot

Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA) Overflow Parking Lot: The design plans have been developed for a small overflow parking lot on the East side of Mountain Trails Drive that will add 47 parking places. This will relieve overcrowding during big events and provide separate parking for equestrian and mountain bike users. The cost estimate for construction is \$286,000 but funding has not been identified.

Big Lake Trail Bridges: These bridges are located across Fish Creek (100-foot long) and Groomer's Gully (50-foot long) on trail T6 of the Iron Dog Race Trail from Big Lake to the Big Susitna River. Project is complete and with close out anticipated in March 2020.

Fish Creek Bridge construction is complete as of February 21, 2020.



Fish Creek Bridge deck construction in early February 2020, then completion.

The Groomer Gully Bridge construction is complete as of February 5, 2020.



The Groomer Gully Bridge passes a load test with a Piston Bully trail groomer moving over the structure.

Big Lake Fish Viewing Platform Improvements: Two designs were provided to the Community Development Department for review. One option replaces the existing platform with all treated wood and a shorter design life. The second option, with a design life of 50 years, uses a treated wood substructure, aluminum decking, and a galvanized handrail system. Community Development is applying for a grant to help move the project forward with the 50-year design life option.

Leachate Treatment Facility: The design project was awarded to Clark Engineering, who completed the Preliminary Engineering Report in early 2018. Clark conducted a pilot study of the proposed filtration treatment system in September-October 2018 and results have been positive. A report summarizing the pilot test was submitted in January 2019, and the engineers submitted the 65% design documents. The project is at the 95% submittal level and DEC is conducting its engineering review. Construction is scheduled for summer 2020.

Felton Street Extension: This project will connect the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facility's (ADOT&PF) newly constructed Felton Street approach on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway by extending the street north to Bogard Road. Drafts of funding and maintenance agreements are currently being reviewed by ADOT&PF and the MSB and will be sent to the Borough Assembly for approval in March 2020.

Lake Louise Boat Launch and Parking Improvements: Project was awarded to low bidder Dirtworks in early 2019. Construction of the boat launch began July 9, 2019 after lake ice thawed and local July 4th events occurred. Construction occurred throughout July with completion of the double-ramp on August 8. Parking lot expansion construction began July 11, 2019, encountering permafrost during excavation. Design consultant engineers determined that the permafrost area should be stripped of overburden so melting could take place over a year's

time that will allow for re-starting the construction of the parking embankment on July 7, 2020. Deeper thawing than anticipated in fall of 2019 was reported by the consultant's geotechnical engineer. Additional thawing in spring of 2020 should provide the needed depth required to place fill, pave and complete the parking lot expansion improvements.

Landfill Cell 4 Construction: The ADEC Clean Water Program provided a \$7 million loan to the Borough to fund the project. HDR was awarded the design contract and the design is complete. The construction contract was awarded to Southcentral Construction and is substantially complete. Leachate lagoon and bottom liner installation is complete, along with a new high voltage power line. Final completion was achieved in summer 2019, and the project close-out legislation was submitted to the Borough Assembly on February 18, 2020.

Matanuska River Dike Reconstruction and Revetment Creation: Several of the multi-million dollar dikes constructed to protect the shoreline of the Matanuska River from eroding are in dire need of reconstruction and maintenance before the public investment is lost. Preliminary Design for the reconstruction work is complete. An RFP to complete design was issued in late 2019 and the proposals were evaluated. PND was selected to perform the engineering. The project is proceeding with a Hydraulic & Hydrologic study to facilitate grant request to FEMA for Hazardous Mitigation Grant funds.

Septage: A Preliminary Engineering Report is complete and recommends treating septage by combining it with solid waste organics as a waste-to-energy project. Septage treatment by anaerobic digestion is an option in conjunction with organic solid waste from the landfill. This could mitigate landfill costs associated with expansion, leachate, gas release, etc. for the municipal solid waste cells. We issued a Request for Expressions of Interest seeking interested potential private partners for a waste-to-energy facility, and received two responses that are considered potentially viable. A formal RFP was advertised for solicitation in February 2020. The Wastewater & Septage Advisory Board last met at 2 p.m. on February 27, 2020 in the Assembly chambers.

Willow Park Improvements: MSB PD&E is currently working on design for path extension/boardwalk to a wetlands pond within the park.

Seven Port MacKenzie Rail Extension (PMRE) Bridges Need Repair After 2018 Earthquake: FEMA funding was accepted and appropriated by the Borough Assembly on February 13, 2020 in the amount of \$2.1 million to repair seven rail bridges damaged by the 2018 earthquake. An RFP, which will include a structural engineering analysis and design for repairs, is being drafted and is expected to advertise in March 2020.

Trunk Road Connector (Katherine Drive): This project creates a connection between Trunk Road, Stringfield Drive, and Manhattan Drive. The purpose of this project is to relieve congestion at the intersections of the Palmer-Wasilla Highway and Stringfield Drive, and provide secondary access to Midtown Estates Subdivision. Clearing of the corridor was completed in January 2020. Construction of the approach road embankment off Stringfield Drive is complete.

Wasilla Creek Stormwater Analysis: In Spring 2018, the Borough received a \$30K grant from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to complete a stormwater assessment of the Wasilla Creek drainage, similar to previous stormwater studies. DOWL Engineers was awarded the consulting contract in July and conducted fieldwork in the fall and spring. A draft report was submitted in December 2018 and the final report was submitted in June 2019. The next step will be to present the report to the Planning Commission in 2020.

Wasilla Creek Headwaters Trail: Several meetings have occurred with state agencies including DNR and ADF&G, who co-manage the Moose Range and its trail system. Additional funding is available through the USFWS for stream bank restoration and through the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation for public involvement. A field trip was conducted in July 2019 with USFWS to further scope and discuss potential improvements. A public meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2020 at the Palmer Depot.

Seldon Road Extension: Phase II of this project is in ROW acquisition (currently at 90%). Design is at 95% complete. Construction funding is needed.

Yoder Road Riprap Replacement: Contractor JPC completed reconstruction of riprap embankment along the west side of Montana Creek. Project close-out legislation will be submitted to the Borough Assembly in March 2020.

2018 Road Bond Package: On October 2, 2018, the Mat-Su voters approved a \$23.8 million bond package containing 10 projects with the caveat that a 50% match must be found before the bonds will be sold and the projects developed. Resolutions of support from the City of Houston, the City of Wasilla, and the Meadow Lakes Community Council were received. The ten projects (in alphabetical order) consist of:

- Aspen Ridge Road Extension to Palmer Fishhook Road
- Cheri Lake Drive/Karen Drive/King Arthur Drive Corridor Improvements
- Hemmer Road Upgrade and Extension, P-W Highway north to Bogard Road
- Hermon Road Upgrade and Extension, Parks Highway to Palmer-Wasilla Highway
- MSB School District Pedestrian Safety projects
- Seldon Road Extension, Phase II
- Smith Road Upgrade
- Tex-Al Drive Upgrade and Extension
- Trunk Road Connector/Katherine Drive
- Trunk Road Extension South, Phase III

Funding for the 50% match is actively being sought. Nominations have been submitted to ADOT&PF for Community Transportation Program grants that could provide the match if scoring is high enough. The ADOT&PF Project Evaluation Board met in January 2020 and scored a statewide slate of projects. Results of which projects will be funded are anticipated to be announced in March 2020.

Survey Project Support: The PD&E Professional Surveyor provided survey support on three projects for Community Development, two projects for Code Compliance, one project for the Public Works O & M Division, one project for the Mayor (Shirley Towne Bridge), and two projects for Capital Projects during January and February, 2020.

Traffic Data Collection and Safety: The PD&E Traffic Data Technician completed the compilation and analysis of traffic data collected during the 2019 ice-free season (May to September). A map of the data collection sites with traffic volumes was created during January and February, 2020. The data spreadsheets are being finalized and will be uploaded to the Borough website in early March. The Traffic Data Technician also reviews and provides comments on all driveway applications and road networks within proposed subdivision plats as well as providing support for the Development Services ROW Coordinator by reviewing and approving traffic control plans submitted by contractors that are working within Borough right of ways.

Community Development Department

Land and Resource Management Division (LRMD)

Personal Use Firewood Areas (PUFA's): Four PUFAs are open including a new PUFA in the core area on Stringfield Road. Two Personal Use Areas are open for the harvest of Beetle Killed Spruce only. Two more locations will be open once access is available after snowmelt

Salvage Timber Sales: The Overland Travel Permit has been issued from DNR for the access to the six Salvage Timber along the Parks Highway north of the Talkeetna cut-off. These sales are available for purchase through an Over the Counter Sale. One Salvage Timber Sale was sold for as part of a Public use easement project on Stringfield Road. All timber has been removed and the sale is complete. Mapping and site evaluation for additional Salvages Sales to assist with the removal of Spruce Beetle damaged trees on MSB land is in work.

Commercial Timber Sales: The 2018 Commercial Timber Harvest in the Fish Creek NRMU and Point MacKenzie NRMU are available as over the counter sales.

Land Management:

Land Classifications: Staff identified Borough-owned land to be classified this spring for purpose of current and future public facility needs and inclusion in upcoming Borough land sales.

Land Conveyances: A 1.5 acre Borough-owned parcel was approved by the Assembly for a less-than-fair-market-value (LFMV) conveyance to Trapper Creek Community Services Association, Inc. for their community water project.

The Borough is working with the City of Wasilla for approval to convey a 5-acre Borough-owned parcel to the City at fair market value where the Fairview Territorial School is located. The Assembly authorized relocation of the school by the City in 2017, and now the City wishes to purchase the land as well. Legislation will be forthcoming in early spring.

Land Sales: A Competitive Sealed Bid Land Sale is scheduled for late spring, to include selected and nominated properties – both remote and/or accessible from borough roads/trails. An Over-The Counter (OTC) sale is proposed for late summer to include Borough-owned parcels and 10-year plus tax sale parcels which have been previously offered under sealed bid pursuant to MSB code. After ten years of receiving tax foreclosed parcels which have not sold, all re-purchase rights are thereby extinguished. Many parcels included in OTC sales have been offered numerous times in the past and by re-offering them, the right buyer can eventually be found.

Land sale proceeds provide funding for the Land Management Division and borough projects. Additionally, land sales return properties to the tax rolls, and provide private and economic opportunity for development of the land.

Land Acquisitions: Staff is in process of acquiring a 5.72-acres parcel off the Glenn Highway at the request of MSB Department of Emergency Services. The new parcel is being purchased at less than fair market value for a future Palmer Ambulance station when funding becomes available for construction. Funding for the land acquisition was approved by the Assembly under ORD 20-008. The existing ambulance facility is owned by the Borough, but is inadequate for serving the needs of three major areas: Sutton, Butte and Palmer.

Platting: Borough-owned lots in Windsong Subdivision not tied to private use by adjacent owners are in process of being re-platted to create standard size lots for future land sale to the public.

Stringfield Subdivision received preliminary plat approval to create two separate lots where Pioneer Peak Elementary is located off Stringfield Road (aka Old Trunk Road). The northern lot is slated for future school facility use such as relocation of Mat-Su Central and bus storage.

- Staff discussions with Alaska Department of Forestry (DOF) regarding collaborative projects involving the MSB, DOF, and other interested parties for the removal of Spruce Bark Beetle damaged trees are ongoing.
- Staff are looking at restricting vehicular access to curtail ongoing squatter issues and dumping on Borough land in the Butte area, near the Butte Transfer Site and Butte Elementary School.
- Staff performed annual inspection of the Fish Creek Conservation Area along with Great Land Trust and HDR representatives.
- Staff drafted a contract between the MSB and Knik Tribe for assistance completing a cultural resource survey along proposed trail alignments within Settlers Bay Coastal Park.
- Staff conducted a mid-term conservation easement compliance inspection at the Settlers Bay.
- Staff participated in public scoping meetings for the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan.

Permits, Access, Agreements and Easements:

Staff adjudicated a new land use permit for the Raven Wings LLC to continue commercial use of a floatplane dock site in Christiansen Lake Park.

Asset Management:

Agriculture Advisory Board: The Agricultural Advisory Board did not meet the month of February due to a winter storm. The month of February, staff reviewed several files from the former Title 13 agricultural sale programs that occurred in 1977, 1981, 1982, and 1983 to continue the effort of streamlining an owner's request by outlining the processes through policies and procedures established by the former code and adopted legislation. There are two openings on the board for Seat 1, Palmer Soils and Water Conservation and Seat 5, Palmer Center for Sustainable Living. Staff is working to seek applicants to fill the vacancies.

Lease Application: Staff is working with an applicant to lease borough land in the City of Houston for a solar utility facility. Staff started work on the draft lease and touring the applicants Willow solar project completed in 2019. The applicant is preparing for a site inspection to test the soils stability for the use. The property requires a re-zone to Light Industrial and the applicant started the process with the City of Houston the middle of February.

Hatcher Pass Survey (ASLS 2002-01): All Points North has made significant progress on the survey. The snow pack was good for January and the crew plans to make a final push on getting the rest of the monuments recovered and tied-in.

Hatcher Alpine Xperience (HAX) – Skeetawk Ski Area: The first of February, Skytrans delivered the chairlift on site. HAX has made great strides in constructing the ski lift the month of February with the hopes of capturing the end of the 2019/2020 ski season. The lease document is under review with HAX Board of Directors. The tentative schedule for legislation introduction and public hearing at an assembly meeting is May/June.

ADL Leases: Staff continues to monitor and manage 14 ADL leases for annual payments and bi-annual tax payments. All accounts are current with no delinquencies. In January, staff sent to the 14 lessees an information letter regarding the recent Policy and Procedure changes that clarified the appraisal process and the option to purchase the fee simple title without providing an as-built survey for a cash purchase. One lessee is in the process of buying the fee simple title of his leasehold interest and expected close by the end of March.

Tax Foreclosure:

Tax and LID Foreclosure Over-the-Counter Sale TS40: An over-the counter Tax and LID Foreclosure Sale is scheduled for Spring 2020. These parcels were deeded to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) by Clerk's Deed as a result of foreclosure of delinquent real property taxes and local improvement district special assessments (LID). These properties have been offered in a prior competitive or over-the counter tax and LID foreclosure sale.

Tax and LID Foreclosure Competitive Sale TS41: The next competitive Tax and LID Foreclosure Sale, TS41, is anticipated in the fall of 2020 and is moving ahead with 44 potential parcels. Staff will be sending legislation to the Assembly requesting two properties be retained for a public purpose.

Clerk's Deed Parcels: In 2019, twenty-one properties were repurchased by the former record owner, which put a total of tax assessed value of \$811,250 back on the tax rolls. In January and February of 2020 there were three parcels repurchased by the former record owner.

10 Year Plus Clerk's Deed Parcels: The ten year repurchase period on the 2006 & prior real property tax and 2007 & prior special assessment Clerk's Deed foreclosed parcels has ended. There was one parcel that was not repurchased, sold, or retained. The parcel was added to the Ten-Year Plus Clerk's Deed inventory.

Trails/GIS:

Plumley-Maud Trail: An easement with use type restrictions was approved by the Parks Recreation and Trails Advisory Board in December, and the Borough Assembly in January. The notice of public dedication for the multi-use trail was recorded January 30, 2020.

Matanuska River Trail North/South Bond Project: LRMD staff has applied for and received authorization from AK Department of Fish and Game, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers for trail work planned for this summer in the Matanuska River floodplain. An application to AK Department of Natural Resources was submitted, and that permit should be forthcoming.

Haessler-Norris Trails Bond Project: The clearing work for this project has been completed, which included winter trail brushing. Signs have been purchased for the trail system and some have been installed. Site visits were conducted by LRMD staff throughout January and February to inspect the clearing work and assist with sign placement.

Backcountry Horsemen of Alaska; Trail Care Agreement: An application has been processed to update the BCHA Trail Care Agreement, to include additional trails for BCHA to maintain on Borough lands. The revised application was sent to BCHA for review and LRMD staff has revised the agreement to incorporate the adopted trails preferred by this group.

Alaska Trails Initiative: LRMD staff has assisted with drafting trail descriptions for this effort, to help prioritize borough trail projects in the statewide investment strategy. Project partners include the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation, Alaska Trails, and Alaska State Parks.

Lands Information System Integration Project (Document Browser / LRIS): The updated LRIS system has been installed on staff computers in the LRMD. Land records are now being managed in the new system.

Trails GIS: LRMD staff have been working with GIS staff to update trail alignments and data using new imagery and resources to better evaluate and represent trails throughout the Borough. This work includes validation of trail legal statuses, development of a new database structure, and editing in GIS. Staff conducted a preliminary site walkthrough of a proposed winter trail at Talkeetna Library.

Staff evaluated trail connection options for a new groomer trail connection from Denali Nordic Ski Club property into Talkeetna Lakes Park. Staff worked with the Talkeetna Ridge Trail Committee to develop the scope of work for phase II of the Ridge Trail bond project.

Recreational Services Division

An architect was selected for the Willow Library Project and we began working with Willow Library Associates. There have been many meetings regarding the Willow Library Project held over the last month. A public meeting to present the work will be held on March 4th.

Mat Su Parks: The Alcantra Sports Complex security light system for the parking lot is complete and we met with the contractor to accept the completed project and have it officially turned over to the Mat Su Borough. In February, it started snowing and didn't stop. The park maintenance staff ran out of places to store the snow and plowing trailheads became the priority just so the public could get in. Packing and grooming the Nordic Ski Trails became a secondary task.

Mat Su Trails: The New Year brought very low temperatures and not much snow. The average temperature at the Jim Creek Parks Shop was -18 with some days showing as low as -28. We were still able to groom the trails weekly and plowed the parking lots promptly when we did receive snow. February was a very snowy month! Much of it was spent grooming the trails at least once a week and assisting with plowing out the trailheads. The snow was also finally deep enough to start grooming with the Piston Bully which does a much better job of grooming.

Parks Northern Region: The month of January was just cold, with a low of -28 for the month. We also had two wind events that resulted in 24 dead spruce trees falling on the ski and hiking trails. The trees were removed as quickly as staff time allowed.

The sustained low temperature caused some problems with our equipment and we frequently had to bring it in to thaw out. In January, the snow started accumulating in the Valley. Park maintenance staff were busy plowing trailheads and packing the Nordic Ski Trails. Now, with an adequate snow base on the trails, we are getting ready to start up the Piston Bully and lay down some excellent corduroy for the skiers to enjoy.

The month of February was snow, snow, and snow! We received some 42" of snow this month doubling the amount from last year. The majority of staff time was spent plowing parking areas so users could get to the trailheads. We also spent lots of time grooming the ski trails and multi-use trails.

Brett Memorial Ice Arena: The activities at the ice arena picked up quickly in January after the Christmas and New Year's holidays. All of our customers and user groups were ready to get back on the ice again.

The Wasilla Rotary Club helped get the New Year started by treating the community to their annual free public skate the first Saturday in January. This event, as well as our regular weekend public skate times, were well attended by the community.

The Wasilla high school hockey team ended their season in February, winning their Conference championship and placing third in the State tournament.

The weather in February created good conditions for the outdoor ice rink. Our efforts to keep it ready for skating has been greatly appreciated by both the parents and youth in the community. Almost every day after school kids gathered to hone their skating and hockey skills.

Mat Su Pools:

Wasilla Pool: Contractors have been tackling minor warranty issues including an automatic door control, carpet damage due to a leak from said door control, diving board anchor bolt repair and two outside building lights with photocells were replaced. We have had difficulty in coordinating the timing of on and off times of the parking

lot lights controlled by the school district. Staff training was held to practice rescue skills, team building challenges and relay races.

Palmer Pool: Two training sessions were held at the Palmer pool covering info on the transfer switch relating to the generator and for the lighting controls for the pool. We have been conducting interviews in preparation for the pending completion of the Palmer pool.

Libraries: Several of the libraries are being utilized by the Census to recruit employees and train workers. PFD and tax filings are very popular at all the libraries this time of year. The Willow Library project is in the design phase and several meetings have been held with the architect and stakeholders. There will be a public meeting on March 4th to present the drawings to the community.

Department of Emergency Services

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

January 2020: EMS Responses 933 (Average of 30 calls per day)

February 2020: EMS Responses 771 (Average of 28 calls per day)

EMS Summary:

- Completed hiring of three full time Emergency Medical Technicians.
- Interviewed new paramedics, full-time and on-call.
- Participated in disaster exercises and planning.
- Completed annual required equipment testing on the monitors.
- CPR/First Aid Instructor class can now perform internal training.
- COVID 19 preparations and education.

Fire Division

Rescue Calls:

343 Total Fire/Rescue calls in January

231 Total Fire/Rescue calls in February

Fire Code Office:

21 New Plan Reviews

21 Approved Plan Reviews

68 Building Inspections

13 Fire Investigations

33 Platting Comments

8 New Alarms Installed

DES Fleet Services:

180 New Work Orders

133 Completed Work Orders

531 Total Open Work Orders

Fleet Summary:

- Backlog repairs in progress.
- Ford powertrain systems training completed
- Ambulance chassis sent out for re-mount.

Fire Division Highlights:

- New pumper for Willow is being built at this time.
- New West-Lakes pumper arrived in January and is in service.
- Social media used to reach people on community risk reduction by West Lakes Fire Department.
- 26 smoke alarms and 12 CO monitors installed homes in West Lakes service area.
- Acquisition of a DOD surplus Brush Truck at no charge for Talkeetna Fire Department.
- Water Rescue Team operated successfully for pro-longed period at Willow Creek Flooding.

Training:

- Continued emphasis on Medical First Responder training for fire personnel following a successful pilot program in Central's area.
- Twelve firefighters tested and passed a Firefighter 1 course in Butte.
- West Lakes has six firefighters in a Firefighter 1 class currently.
- Water Rescue provided support for the Polar Plunge event.
- Water Rescue provided ice rescue related training for Houston Fire and MATSAR.
- Central Fire is starting Officer Development training.
- Fire Instructor I class completed in January.

Emergency Management

- Completed and graduated another CERT class.
- Functional Table Top Exercise for evacuation and wildfire to test interim Emergency Operations Center locations.
- COVID19 Coordination.
- Presented Disaster Preparedness to ~230 First Student bus drivers.
- Observed and evaluated a full-scale active shooter drill at Mat-Su Regional Medical Center

Telecoms

- Project planning and preparation for Swissphone integration to Dispatch.
- February 14th Telecom received notice that the New Sutton 3-2 tower permit was awarded.
- Preparations and planning for making New Sutton 3-2 an operational site.
- Planning and testing of change-out from old (non-supported) 4 wire circuits to IP circuits via our new network to Matcom.
- Updating and removing old equipment from Field Comm 1.

Finance Department

<u>Areawide</u>	<u>Annual Adopted</u>	<u>Annual Amended</u>	<u>Year to Date Rev./Exp./Enc.</u>
Revenues:			
Property Taxes	104,218,930	104,218,930	97,001,581
Marijuana Sales Tax	800,000	800,000	436,024
Excise Taxes	7,509,000	7,509,000	4,505,175
Federal Payments	3,000,000	3,000,000	92,581
State Grants & Shared Revenues	2,289,000	2,289,000	5,803,791
Fees	7,770,800	7,770,800	5,589,237
Interest Earnings & Other	525,000	525,000	681,697
Recoveries & Transfers	1,806,304	1,806,304	1,321,569
TOTAL AREAWIDE REVENUES	127,919,034	127,919,034	115,431,654
Expenditures:			
Non Departmental	87,886,235	88,259,735	53,870,184
Assembly	7,588,529	7,358,529	4,211,547
Mayor	82,197	82,197	42,860
Information Technology	5,566,388	5,435,232	3,647,054
Finance	8,219,463	8,451,801	4,882,670
Planning	4,379,866	4,278,684	2,332,396
Public Works	2,051,991	2,051,991	1,245,225
Public Safety	14,141,946	13,998,446	8,545,500
Community Development	4,665,659	4,665,659	2,646,089
Capital Projects	2,713,930	2,713,930	1,433,900
TOTAL AREAWIDE EXPENDITURES	137,296,204	137,296,204	82,857,425
	-9,377,170	-9,377,170	32,574,229
 <u>Non-Areawide</u>			
Revenues:			
Property Taxes	4,518,000	4,518,000	4,373,375
State Grants & Shared Revenues	845,000	845,000	36,250
Fees & Other Miscellaneous Income	253,100	253,100	217,228
Interest Earnings & Miscellaneous	11,500	11,500	42,901
Recoveries	0	0	31,223
TOTAL NON-AREAWIDE REVENUES	5,627,600	5,627,600	4,700,977
Expenditures:			
Non Departmental	836,400	856,400	846,034
Assembly	2,778,935	2,758,935	1,569,560
Information Technology	194,424	194,424	122,491
Finance	2,000	2,000	0
Public Works	0	0	133
Community Development	1,686,835	1,686,835	1,102,792
TOTAL NON-AREAWIDE EXPENDITURES	5,498,594	5,498,594	3,641,009
	129,006	129,006	1,059,968

Land Management

Revenues:			
Fees	71,000	71,000	11,543

Interest Earnings	38,000	38,000	38,035
Property Sales & Uses	870,000	870,000	641,542
Miscellaneous	1,500	1,500	2,000
Recoveries & Transfers	0	0	78,004
TOTAL LAND MANAGEMENT REVENUES	980,500	980,500	771,123
Expenditures:			
Non Departmental	200,000	3,750,000	3,750,000
Community Development	1,499,718	1,449,718	566,230
TOTAL LAND MGMT. EXPENDITURES	1,699,718	5,199,718	4,316,230
	-719,218	-4,219,218	-3,545,106
Budgeted Contribution to Permanent Fund	182,750	182,750	141,869
<u>Enhanced 911</u>			
Revenues	1,786,500	1,786,500	2,240,257
Expenditures	1,675,701	1,675,701	1,402,703
	110,799	110,799	837,554
<u>Fire Fleet Maintenance</u>			
Revenues	678,493	678,493	678,493
Expenditures	678,193	678,193	361,101
	300	300	317,392
<u>Caswell Lakes FSA</u>			
Revenues	351,540	351,540	362,118
Expenditures	443,720	443,720	281,104
	-92,180	-92,180	81,014
<u>West Lakes FSA</u>			
Revenues	3,395,802	3,395,802	3,300,000
Expenditures	3,661,698	3,661,698	2,425,781
	-265,896	-265,896	874,219
<u>Central Mat-Su FSA</u>			
Revenues	11,000,983	11,000,983	10,593,800
Expenditures	16,231,436	16,231,436	12,350,549
	-5,230,453	-5,230,453	-1,756,750
<u>Butte FSA</u>			
Revenues	958,870	958,870	932,891
Expenditures	1,468,840	1,468,840	1,188,589
	-509,970	-509,970	-255,698
<u>Sutton FSA</u>			
Revenues	238,500	238,500	308,666
Expenditures	285,620	285,620	165,618
	-47,120	-47,120	143,048
<u>Talkeetna FSA</u>			
Revenues	384,370	384,370	380,367
Expenditures	511,303	511,303	353,184
	-126,933	-126,933	27,182
<u>Willow FSA</u>			
Revenues	856,380	856,380	856,277
Expenditures	856,513	856,513	610,506
	-133	-133	245,771

Greater Palmer Consolidated FSA

Revenues	1,372,460	1,372,460	1,354,436
Expenditures	562,469	721,220	693,064
	809,991	651,240	661,372

Road Service Administration

Revenues	3,569,185	3,569,185	3,573,161
Expenditures	3,562,585	3,562,585	2,428,856
	6,600	6,600	1,144,306

Midway RSA

Revenues	1,907,450	1,907,450	1,661,519
Expenditures	2,084,073	2,084,073	1,909,539
	-176,623	-176,623	-248,020

Fairview RSA

Revenues	1,277,890	1,277,890	1,296,098
Expenditures	1,346,222	1,346,222	1,247,832
	-68,332	-68,332	48,266

Caswell Lakes RSA

Revenues	679,000	679,000	617,326
Expenditures	713,253	713,253	616,049
	-34,253	-34,253	1,277

South Colony RSA

Revenues	1,642,020	1,642,020	1,661,970
Expenditures	1,721,527	1,721,527	1,643,220
	-79,507	-79,507	18,750

Knik RSA

Revenues	3,053,540	3,053,540	3,023,107
Expenditures	3,122,698	3,122,698	2,998,707
	-69,158	-69,158	24,399

Lazy Mountain RSA

Revenues	260,060	260,060	256,958
Expenditures	299,545	299,545	213,389
	-39,485	-39,485	43,569

Greater Willow RSA

Revenues	972,690	972,690	972,828
Expenditures	1,083,198	1,083,198	940,199
	-110,508	-110,508	32,629

Big Lake RSA

Revenues	1,325,130	1,325,130	1,290,454
Expenditures	1,435,440	1,435,440	1,108,972
	-110,310	-110,310	181,482

North Colony RSA

Revenues	218,740	218,740	191,741
Expenditures	266,371	266,371	208,684
	-47,631	-47,631	-16,943

Bogard RSA

Revenues	1,906,120	1,906,120	1,879,995
Expenditures	2,029,396	2,029,396	1,762,555
	-123,276	-123,276	117,440

Greater Butte RSA

Revenues	1,003,310	1,003,310	979,654
Expenditures	1,162,458	1,162,458	1,061,863
	-159,148	-159,148	-82,209

Meadow Lakes RSA

Revenues	2,124,030	2,124,030	2,063,517
Expenditures	2,213,494	2,213,494	2,005,241
	-89,464	-89,464	58,276

Gold Trails RSA

Revenues	1,896,780	1,896,780	1,906,671
Expenditures	1,974,132	1,974,132	1,910,027
	-77,352	-77,352	-3,357

Greater Talkeetna RSA

Revenues	651,410	651,410	696,707
Expenditures	827,504	827,504	706,649
	-176,094	-176,094	-9,943

Trapper Creek RSA

Revenues	239,060	239,060	224,350
Expenditures	376,271	376,271	320,450
	-137,211	-137,211	-96,099

Alpine RSA

Revenues	266,700	266,700	254,786
Expenditures	323,788	323,788	199,081
	-57,088	-57,088	55,706

Talkeetna Flood Control Service Area

Revenues	31,730	31,730	28,701
Expenditures	53,680	53,680	27,761
	-21,950	-21,950	940

Point MacKenzie Service Area

Revenues	36,600	36,600	8,562
Expenditures	88,084	88,084	46,369
	-51,484	-51,484	-37,808

Talkeetna Water/Sewer Service Area

Revenues	1,280,000	1,280,000	753,675
Expenditures	787,951	1,287,951	1,152,584
	492,049	-7,951	-398,909

Freedom Hills Subd. RSA

Revenues	0	0	0
Expenditures	14,799	14,799	0
	-14,799	-14,799	0

Circle View / Stampede Est.

Revenues	21,600	21,600	19,244
Expenditures	5,240	5,240	0
	16,360	16,360	19,244

Chase Trail Service Area

Revenues	630	630	16,400
Expenditures	2,632	2,632	0
	-2,002	-2,002	16,400

Roads Outside Service Areas

Revenues	0	0	0
Expenditures	95	95	0
	-95	-95	0

Solid Waste

Revenues	10,707,326	10,707,326	5,237,275
Expenditures	10,041,271	10,081,271	7,172,463
	666,055	626,055	-1,935,188

Port

Revenues	909,970	909,970	863,007
Expenditures	2,026,010	2,026,010	579,774
	-1,116,040	-1,116,040	283,234

Contribution to Permanent Fund:

	YTD	ADOPTED
341.800 Land Mgmt Fees	5,000.00	10,000.00
343.360 Park Fees - Dshka	500.00	1,000.00
366.000 Wetland Bank	641,541.54	870,000.00
366.410 (Gravel Sale Royalties)	(79,563.64)	(150,000.00)
	567,477.90	731,000.00
	25%	25%
	141,869.48	182,750.00

Public Works Department

Operations and Maintenance Division (O&M)

Winter Maintenance:

The winter months are a busy time for the O&M crew and contractors out maintaining the roadways. In the northern Road Service Areas, around 100 inches of snow has fallen this season including some storms with 24” to 36” at a time clogging the road system. Clearing and storing this amount of snow becomes a difficult task. Contractors work around the clock to bring roads into compliance and keep access open and safe for the residents.

Maintenance contracts are carefully crafted in order to provide a level of maintenance service which the residents pay for with taxes through one of the sixteen local road service area contracts.

Road Improvement Projects:

O&M staff have been working on next season’s improvement projects. These tasks include design, permitting, budgeting, and planning what is needed for efficient construction operations. These duties are critical during the winter months due to Alaska’s short construction season.

Dozens of projects improving the road service area systems are in planning stages for the upcoming season. The projects will focus on improving drainage, materials, snow storage capacity, safety aspects, and overall function.

Solid Waste Division

Customers and Tonnages: 13,973 customers used the Central Landfill (CLF) location, 6,700 customers used the Transfer Station system, and 164 customers used the Hazardous Waste Reuse Program in January and February, bringing the total Solid Waste FY20 year-to-date customer count to 122,159.

Central Landfill accepted 8,906 tons of waste in January and February, which included 7,897 tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), 861 tons of Construction and Demolition material, 103 tons of Scrap Metal, 7 tons of Asbestos, 19 tons of Medical Waste and another 19 tons of other smaller classes of waste. The numbers include tonnage hauled to the CLF from the Transfer Stations and Remote Sites by our contractor, which required 113 trips in January and February.

Revenues: The division generated approximately \$1,240,845 in revenues during January and February, which includes gate fees and other sources of income such as gravel sales, bringing the total FY20 year-to-date revenue to \$6,463,197.

Central Landfill Operations:

Construction and Demolition Cell #2 Opening: February 2020 the cell was opened to receive construction and demolition debris. Alaska Sand and Gravel developed the new cell through gravel sales, at no cost to the Mat-Su Borough.

Environmental Operations:

Central Landfill: During a January 23rd monitoring event, landfill gas levels exceeded regulatory limits at Central Landfill Probe 3 (CLFP-3) which is one of six perimeter monitoring probes between the landfill and the residential neighborhood to the north.

Landfill gas vents atop Cell 2A became jammed with frost and ice on the inside of the vents where the warm gas meets cold air. When the vents plugged landfill gas migrated horizontally rather than vertically. The blockages in the vents were cleared and blowers were connected to CLFP-3 and Vent 2 to expedite gas movement out of the cell and surrounding area.

A letter was disseminated to all neighbors within one half mile of the landfill alerting them of the situation and also offering free, third-party air sampling at their homes. To date, the third party contractor has sampled 41 homes and facilities. Two structures had low-level concentrations of methane. Daily operation of blowers on CLFP-3 and Vent 2 continue with daily reports being provided to ADEC. Additional costs to date, approximately \$47,000.

Leachate Management: During the January-February period no leachate was hauled from the Central Landfill to the AWWU Turpin St. disposal facility. Leachate generation is directly correlated to precipitation, leachate generation and disposal requirements are heaviest during the fall rainy season and during the spring breakup season. Leachate lagoon capacity is approximately 550,000 gallons.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility Reuse Store: 164 customers visited the Household Hazardous Waste Facility Reuse Store during November and December. 213 gallons of paints, stains, herbicides, pesticides, automotive products, and other miscellaneous products were collected, sorted, and stocked into the reuse store.

Smith Ballfields: The Smith Ballfields site is undergoing an analysis to provide data to determine a course of corrective action for constituent (chemical) mitigation that may exceed the groundwater standards in the area

adjacent to the old landfill. The final of eight quarterly monitoring samples will be collected in March. A complete trend analysis will be performed after the March sampling event and submitted to ADEC in June 2020. This assessment is mandated by ADEC. Estimated additional cost over FY19 and FY20 amounts to approximately \$40,000. Mitigation costs may range anywhere between \$1.5 and \$24 million dollars.

Transfer Stations Operations:

Big Lake Security Issues: Big Lake continues to experience high rate of security related issues. Barriers, temporary fencing, and no trespass signs have been placed throughout the site and we are working with Guardian Security who has installed a security system with cameras and monitoring.

Community Clean Up and Recycling:

Recycling: Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) sold & shipped a total of 197.2 tons of recovered resources (recyclables) in January and February bringing the FY20 year-to-date total to 1,004.7 tons. A total of 203.3 tons of recovered resources is currently in inventory at VCRS. In January and February 15 tons of recyclables were sold and shipped to local businesses, while 182.2 tons were sold and shipped out of state. 5,085 customers (resident/business) used the VCRS drive thru drop off in January and February for an FY20 year-to-date total of 22,392 recycling customers.

Illegal Dump Sites: Six illegal dumpsites were cleaned in January and February resulting in a total of 0.59 tons of waste cleaned up by Solid Waste Division staff. This brings the FY20 year-to-date totals to 27 illegal dumpsites with 8.42 tons of waste and 2 cubic yards of waste cleaned up so far.

Community Cleanups: There were no community cleanups scheduled for January and one cleanup in February for 0.13 tons. This brings the FY20 year-to-date totals to six community cleanups with 5.71 tons of waste and 23 cubic yards of waste cleaned up so far. We expect this program to pick back up in the spring of 2020.

Abandoned Vehicles: Nine abandoned vehicles were tagged and towed by SWD staff in January and February, bringing the SWD FY20 year-to-date totals to 51 tagged vehicles and 41 towed vehicles.

Composting: Spring Compost Classes are scheduled on the following dates:

Backyard Composter

May 15, 1pm-3pm
May 16, 10a.m – noon
May 28, 1pm-3pm
June 6, 10am-noon

Vermi Composter

April 27, 10am – noon
May 8, 3pm-5pm
June 9, 10am noon

Master Composter

May 29th and 30th, 9am-5pm
September 26th and 27th 9am-5pm

Information Technology Department

eCommerce: As of January 6, 2020, 14,792 transactions for over \$1,131,946 have been processed since April 2017 on the eCommerce system. Ecommerce saves hours of Borough employee time.

The opportunity to move property tax payments from the older Point-n-Pay system to the newer eCommerce system and integration with Borough enterprise systems could save a high volume of Borough employee hours, and significantly reduce manual entry mistakes.

SharePoint / Intranet:

This is the Borough's Enterprise tool for the Borough Intranet, collaboration and system integration. This system supports the Intranet with collaboration, Portfolio & Project Management, Process Improvement, Strategic Planning and Training (4Ps), Project Plastic (eCommerce), financial transparency, etc.

- The Project Management site currently has 122 projects listed.

- The Finance Department is using a project management site to help Borough employees prepare the FY2021 budget.

Remote Site Network Upgrades:

Several locations now have new equipment configured and deployed. The remaining 46 routers have been received and configured and efforts are underway to place these devices in over 40 sites in the Borough. This effort removes ‘Technical Debt’ in this area of our infrastructure. It also allows us to use more advanced security software in all remote sites and guards against malicious or accident connection of non-Borough equipment to Borough networks.

Disaster Recovery Site:

After configuration and testing at the DSJ building, servers and storage have been deployed to our DR (Disaster Recovery) site at the MSBSD headquarters. This will allow for daily backups to an offsite location and, in the event of a disaster situation, provide access to critical data and systems.

Mpulse Fleet Database Migration To Cartegraph OMS:

The migration of the Fleet database from the Mpulse system to Cartegraph OMS has been completed. The Public Works staff has been trained and are actively using it. This project was an effort to consolidate Matsu enterprise systems for a cost savings and easier administration. There are future interests to migrate the remaining two databases from Mpulse into Cartegraph OMS. This will allow us to drop Mpulse altogether.

Govern Tax Billing and Upgrade:

Taxes are the Borough’s main source of revenue. We have hired a project manager, a team of business analysts, a screen developer and a database analyst to understand and document our current processes and assist in our migration to Open Forms.

- Most of the areas to be process mapped are complete and the documentation is under review.
- The project team is in negotiations with the vendor, Harris Govern, to bring in their Process Re-engineering expert to show us how to use the new version of the software most effectively.
- Once processes are re-engineered, the Harris Govern R&D team will training Borough personnel on administration and configuration of the new version of the software.
- Knowledge transfer sessions to smooth the transition from existing to new Govern support personnel will continue through May 2020.

Cyber Security AMP Device Isolation:

AMP is a tool used at the Borough to protect IT infrastructure from cyber attacks. A feature that is now available in AMP allows an administrator to manually isolate devices from the network if necessary for forensics or other purposes. The Cisco AMP for Endpoints status dialog will indicate if an endpoint is currently isolated.

Cyber Security Briefings:

We have continued to speak to several groups on Cyber Security to raise awareness and help protect our community and our partners from ever expanding Cyber Threats. Briefings to the following groups have been conducted in the past few months:

- Susitna Rotary, Oct 9, 2019
- Alaska CIO Council, panel discussion, Oct 16, 2019
- Alaska Judicial Conference, Oct 23, 2019
- Alaska Municiple Leage (AML), Alaska Govt Finance Officers Assoc (AGFOA), Nov 19, 2019
- Alaska Native Medical Center, Nov 20, 2019
- Wasilla Noon Rotary Club, Dec 18, 2019
- Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Jan 14, 2020

Upcoming events:

- Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), Jan 30, 2020
- Alaska CIO Council, Mar 5, 2020

Operations Division

Annual Workstation Refresh:

We received the first batch of twenty five computers and we are in the process of preparing them to be placed. When complete, nearly 135 end user workstations will have been replaced. We have also refreshed all of the laptops in the DSJ training room and machines that make up our loaner laptop pool.

Permit Reports:

The GIS staff have created online applications that allow Development Services employees to enter permits, complaints, and related inspection data. These apps have been a huge timesaver but the data being created is saved into a database which has made creating reports a cumbersome endeavor. The IT staff has created multiple SSRS reports to display the saved data into a more usable report format. This has saved many hours of work for the Development Services staff.

Service Desk Support Metrics:

November 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Received Tickets: 1443

Resolved Tickets: 1467

Phone Calls to Service Desk: Inbound calls 647, Total calls 1290

Mobile Device Placements/Replacements: 12

Planning and Land Use Department

Development Services (Code Compliance, Current Planning & Permitting):

Permit Center:

January and February 2020, we have accepted 1,002 Driveway Permits; last year, we took in 707 Driveway Permits for the entire year. Many residents are taking advantage of the permits at no charge for the existing, prior to 2011, driveways. The deadline for the permits at no charge ends on March 18, 2020. We have also accepted 32 Utility Permits this year.

Code Compliance Cases:

As of February 29th, Code Compliance has 765 open cases. Between January 1st and February 29th, 32 cases were closed.

Current Planning:

In the past 60 days, the following applications have been received for processing:

- Four Marijuana Retail Conditional Use Permits;
- Two Marijuana Cultivation Conditional Use Permits;
- Two Junkyard Conditional Use Permits;
- Eight Legal Nonconforming Determinations for a Structure;
- One Tall Structure Conditional Use Permit;
- Four Multifamily Development Permits;
- One Denali SpUD Conditional Use Permit;
- One Talkeetna SpUD Conditional Use Permit;
- Three Alcoholic Beverage Uses Conditional Use Permit;
- Two Special Event Permit;

- Two Variance to MSB 17.55;
- One Earth Materials Extraction Conditional Use Permit.

Floodplain Management and Hazard Reduction:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program acquisition along Matanuska River:

The Sutton HMGP project is nearly closed. In the Butte, we acquired the last property. It is a four-plex, which has tenants, and we are in the process of assisting with their moves. Currently, two of the four have moved. All tenants should be relocated by early April and we will begin the contracting process for the demolition. We anticipate a spring 2020 demolition and closeout by the fall of 2020.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Project:

The State of Alaska has funded a contractor to write the plan on the Borough's behalf. We have presented the rough draft to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for review and received comments through February 14, 2020. A revised draft has been developed. We will hold three in-person open house meetings in March and April. These are scheduled for March 18, 2020 at the Mat-Su Borough building in Palmer from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm; March 28, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Sutton Library; and April 4, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Talkeetna Library. Additionally, an online open house will be available for public participation and comment as well.

We will collect feedback and information, a mailer will go to all community councils to review the plan and allow them to provide comments, and it is on the MSB webpage. The current anticipated period of completion is late summer or early fall of 2020. This plan allows the MSB to be eligible for FEMA Mitigation funds, which can be valuable in protecting lives and property in the event of a natural disaster. There are currently multiple mitigation grant project submissions from the November 30, 2018 earthquake. These submissions are seeking funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program; these include many from the Mat-Su Borough School District to enhance our ability to bounce back from the next natural disaster.

Outdoor Shooting Facilities:

The Planning Department has developed a draft ordinance establishing a permit process for Outdoor Shooting Facilities. The draft ordinance was referred, by the Assembly, to the Planning Commission on February, 18th. A public hearing on the topic will be held at the March, 16th Planning Commission meeting.

Planning Division (Environmental, Comprehensive & Transportation Planning):

Air Quality:

We are pleased to note that our winter air quality season showed generally low levels of fine particulate matter readings despite cold snaps and inversions. On January 5th, the Butte air quality monitor showed a violation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for fine particulate matter violation (PM2.5). From January 6-12, the MSB issued an outdoor burn ban for the Greater Butte Air Quality District, given this violation and meteorological conditions favorable to forming atmospheric inversions and trapping fine particulate matter. No violations of the outdoor burning ban were reported.

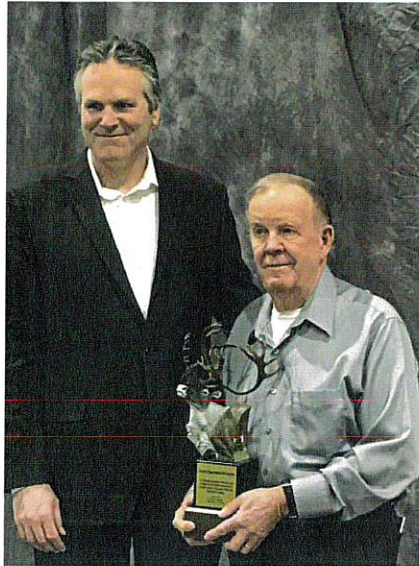


You can learn more about Mat-Su air quality at our new web URL, MatsuAir.com

Fish and Wildlife Commission:

The FWC had an intensive build-up and then a very successful result at the Upper Cook Inlet Finfish Board of Fisheries meeting in February. The FWC had several goals at the meeting in Anchorage and was successful in getting several proposals passed that will result in more salmon returning to Mat-Su waters this year. This success was a team effort involving the FWC, staff, public testimony, and political support. Fish on! <https://www.matsugov.us/fishhub>.

On February 29th, one of our long time FWC members, Larry Engel, received the Governor's Conservationist of the Year award at the Safari Club International banquet in Anchorage. Mr. Engel has had a long and honorable career working on conservation concerns for the people of the Mat-Su, especially fisheries, and was a key member behind our success at the state Board of Fisheries meeting. Congratulations to our very own Larry Engel!

**Transportation:**

The MOU between the MSB and ADOT and the two MOA's for MPO planning funding for FY20-21 and the Earmark funding for the transportation and corridor studies have been signed. We are currently working on developing the RFP's to seek contractors to assist us in completing the activities outlined in the scope of work.

The Coordinated Human Services Transportation project is still going very well. The MOA between the transit partners (Chickaloon, Sunshine, Valley Transit, and the Mat-Su Senior Services) has been finalized and will be before the Assembly on April 7th to be signed. We are still waiting for the Innovative Mobility Integration Grant award notice; we expect to hear sometime in March 2020.

We have completed the process for creating school walking plans with DOT and MSB School District and plan to meet monthly to complete plans for each school in the MSB. We are currently working on finalizing Machedanz and Knik Elementary by March 31st.

We are still waiting to hear the results of the ADOT Community Transportation Projects Committee for our priority road projects. We should know soon if all 8 of our priority projects were funded.

Youth Homelessness Coalition:

Planning has been invited to join a committee that meets monthly to develop solutions to end youth homelessness in the Mat-Su. The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is a federal grant program aimed at drastically reducing the number of youth experiencing homelessness. Funding allows for communities to propose innovative projects and test new approaches to address youth homelessness.

Members of the community, including staff from area social service agencies, are currently working collaboratively to develop a coordinated plan to end youth homelessness in Mat-Su as part of a statewide plan for Alaska.

This is an exciting youth-centered process. As part of this program, communities must convene Youth Action Boards, comprised of youth that have current or past lived experience of homelessness, to lead the planning and implementation of the YHDP. The MSB has been invited to participate on the committee. I believe it is a grant requirement to have the local government participate. Kim Sollien attended the February meeting and is planning to send someone from Planning Division to the following meetings on March 11th, April 8th, May 6th, and June 10th.

Borough-Wide Comprehensive Plan:

Planning is in the beginning stages of developing a plan to update of the MSB-wide Comprehensive Plan. The current plan was updated in 2005. Since that time, our population has almost doubled, and the current plan no longer reflects the vision, values, and needs of our growing community.

Capital Improvement Plan FY 2021 – 2022:

The CIP nomination period has closed. Staff is working on compiling the list of projects. Once completed, it will be provided to the Assembly for inclusion in the new budget document.

EPA Brownfields Redevelopment Grant Program:

The project is complete, and staff has submitted all the final documents to the EPA.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4):

Planning staff are researching the MS4 permit and mandates that will be required after the Census is certified.

Wasilla Creek Airpark Aviation Overlay Request:

The MSB Assembly voted against the Wasilla Creek Airpark (WCA) being included into the MSB code. Staff will revisit the code and look for a way to streamline the process and convert it to an administrative process instead of a legislative.

Historical Preservation Commission:

There are currently two vacancies on the Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) - learn more at the [HPC web page](#).

The HPC is close to finalizing recommendations for revisions to their enabling code section, MSB 4.46 Historical Preservation Commission. These recommendations will be presented to the Assembly for consideration; and are meant to clarify the commission's responsibilities and help the commission to function more efficiently.

On January 16, 2020, The HPC passed HPC Resolution 20-01 in support of the Alaska State Fair's grant application to the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors. This grant is to fund interior restoration of The Rebarchek Farmhouse, a historic property listed in the National Register of Historic Places and associated with the Matanuska Colony Project.

Platting Division:

PLATTING ACTIVITY 2020

