



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Borough Manager

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### **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: February 24, 2021  
TO: Mayor and Assembly  
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

**Statewide Tax Comparisons:** As a follow-up to the February 16 Assembly Special Meeting on School Funding, a question was asked about how Mat-Su taxes compare to other municipalities in Alaska. Here is a link to the State of Alaska's Taxable 2020 Municipal Taxation Rates and Policies Report.

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/4/pub/OSA/Official%20Alaska%20Taxable%202020.pdf?ver=2021-02-01-094707-703>

**School District Unassigned Fund Balance:** As a follow-up to the February 16 Assembly Special Meeting on School Funding, a question was asked about the Mat-Su Borough School District's fund balance. As of the end of fiscal year 2020, the District's ending unassigned fund balance was \$23,625,155. On average over the past five years, the District's ending unassigned fund balance has increased by approximately 20% annually.

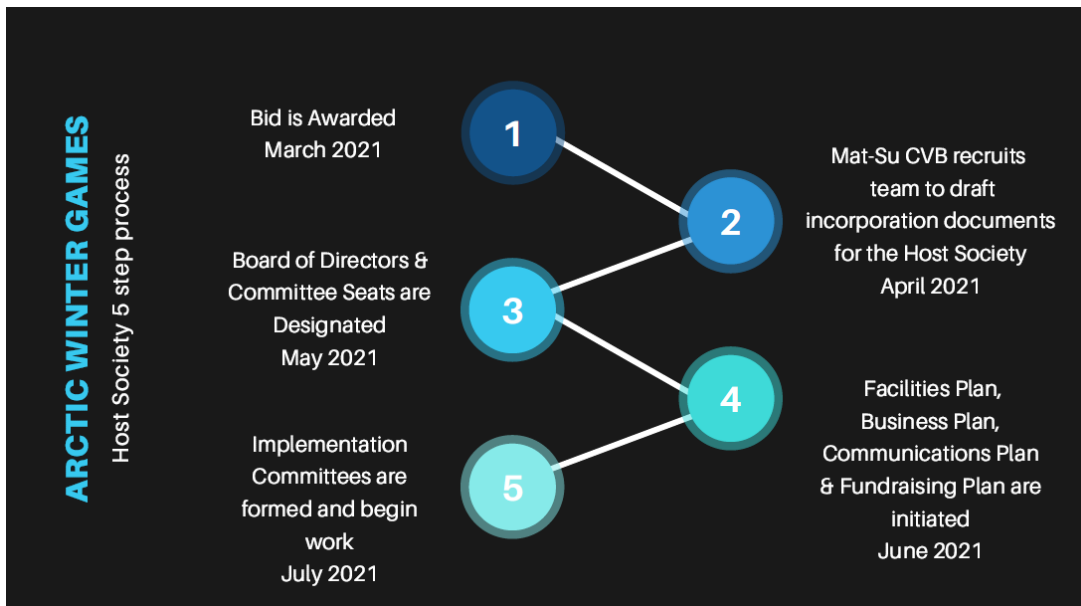
During the meeting, it was mentioned that the District may be receiving additional COVID-19 related Federal funding from the December 2020 authorization. The District has been allocated \$15.8 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) funds. This funding was made available under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act through the State of Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. The grant funds can be used through September 30, 2023. Subject to School Board approval, funds will be utilized to address learning loss, replacing classroom technology, and supporting building and custodial needs. In addition, all charter schools will be entitled to their per pupil allocation consistent with State law. The District developed the following website, <https://sites.google.com/apps.matsuk12.us/esserfunds>, to inform the public of these emergency relief funds and to seek input on its proposed spending plan.

**2024 Arctic Winter Games Bid Submission Update:** On February 19, the Borough transmitted its official bid to host the AWGI in 2024. To view a copy of the bid please visit:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:d9669562-3b05-4a71-acad-73c41e93ef96>

The Borough Core Leadership team comprised of MSB Purchasing Officer Russ Krafft, MSB Planning Director Alex Strawn, MSB Planning Services Manager Kim Sollien, with the support of Planning Division Administrative Specialist Leda Borys, will work to answer any questions brought forth by the Arctic Winter Games International Committee.

It is the Borough's intention to be prepared to host a virtual tour of the facilities and venues in the proposal, by the end of March.



While the bid review is taking place, preliminary work is being done with the Mat-Su Convention and Visitor Bureau, laying the framework for establishing the Host Society non-profit.

With support from the Matanuska–Susitna Borough School Board, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce, Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce, City of Palmer, City of Wasilla, Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau, Mat-Su Ski Club, Skeetawk Ski Hill, Glenn Massay Theater, Premier Alaska Tours and CurlAK we are already seeing strong support and a rising tide of interest in the games.

**Vaccination Weekly Update:** Last week at the Fairgrounds there were 1,529 vaccines administered.

Currently the following phases are open for vaccinations:

- Phase 1a, all Tiers
  - People 65 and above regardless of health issues
- Phase 1b Tier 2
  - Ages 50 and over, with high risk medical conditions, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, etc.
  - Education Staff regardless of age, K-12<sup>th</sup> grades, child care workers and support staff, indigenous language and cultural bearers
  - Limited pandemic response staff

*Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community*

- Frontline essential workers aged 50 and over who work within 6 feet of others (Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Food Workers, Transportation Workers)
- People living or working in congregate settings like jails, API, group homes, homeless and domestic violence shelters, substance treatment facilities, transitional living homes

Follow this link for this information:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/VaccineAvailability.aspx#checker>

The website for making appointments is <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/COVID-19/vaccine.aspx>. The phone number for assistance and making appointments is (907) 646-3322.

### **Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

#### **Arctic Winter Games**

- Borough Press Release: Bid for 2024 AWG submitted  
<https://www.matsugov.us/news/msb-bids-on-2024-arctic-winter-games>
- KTNA: Borough Submits bid to host 2024 AWG  
<https://ktna.org/2021/02/borough-submits-bid-to-host-2024-arctic-winter-games/>  
Must Read Alaska: Borough throws name in hat for AWG  
<https://mustreadalaska.com/mat-su-throws-name-in-hat-for-arctic-winter-games/>
- KTUU: Mat-Su Borough Bids to host 2024 Arctic Winter Games  
<https://www.alaskasnewsresource.com/2021/02/23/mat-su-borough-bids-to-host-2024-arctic-winter-games/>
- The Seattle Times/Associated Press: Mat-Su Borough applies to host 2024 AWG  
<https://www.alaskapublic.org/2021/02/24/mat-su-borough-applies-to-host-2024-arctic-winter-games/>
- Anchorage Press: Hosting games a great goal for the MSB  
[https://www.anchoragepress.com/sports\\_and\\_outdoors/hosting-the-arctic-winter-games-a-great-goal-for-the-msb/article\\_2c057846-67e8-11eb-b4eb-fbc2f630904f.html](https://www.anchoragepress.com/sports_and_outdoors/hosting-the-arctic-winter-games-a-great-goal-for-the-msb/article_2c057846-67e8-11eb-b4eb-fbc2f630904f.html)

#### **Mayor/Assembly Actions**

- Alcohol licensing resolution  
[https://www.frontiersman.com/news/local-control-for-alcohol-licensing-resolution-popular-with-wasilla-leaders/article\\_f8a9e98a-71c6-11eb-a704-8b2d8d265d3a.html](https://www.frontiersman.com/news/local-control-for-alcohol-licensing-resolution-popular-with-wasilla-leaders/article_f8a9e98a-71c6-11eb-a704-8b2d8d265d3a.html)
- Marijuana facility regulation  
[https://www.frontiersman.com/news/assembly-postpones-marijuana-facility-regulation/article\\_0e0ed388-71c4-11eb-a128-a7afb913a64b.html](https://www.frontiersman.com/news/assembly-postpones-marijuana-facility-regulation/article_0e0ed388-71c4-11eb-a128-a7afb913a64b.html)

#### **COVID**

- Statewide total cases decrease, increase in Mat-Su  
<https://ktna.org/2021/02/statewide-total-covid-cases-decrease-statewide-increase-in-the-mat-su/>

- School Board discusses return to normalcy timeline  
[https://www.frontiersman.com/news/school-board-discusses-return-to-normalcy-timeline/article\\_af016f42-7293-11eb-a355-d7a9a7f1567c.html](https://www.frontiersman.com/news/school-board-discusses-return-to-normalcy-timeline/article_af016f42-7293-11eb-a355-d7a9a7f1567c.html)

### **Fisheries**

- Governor Dunleavy selects executive for fisheries commission  
<https://www.alaskapublic.org/2021/02/18/dunleavy-taps-real-estate-executive-for-fisheries-commission/>

### **Resource Development**

- Mining industry a major economic driver for Alaska  
[http://www.newsminer.com/business/mining-s-impact-industry-a-major-economic-driver-for-alaska/article\\_9b7d4c0c-73c9-11eb-8246-8bafa451a6be.html](http://www.newsminer.com/business/mining-s-impact-industry-a-major-economic-driver-for-alaska/article_9b7d4c0c-73c9-11eb-8246-8bafa451a6be.html)
- Residents protest short comment period on Donlin permits  
[http://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska\\_news/residents-15-day-comment-period-on-donlin-permits-too-short/article\\_a51002c6-74ca-11eb-8fd3-535aa1074cba.html](http://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska_news/residents-15-day-comment-period-on-donlin-permits-too-short/article_a51002c6-74ca-11eb-8fd3-535aa1074cba.html)

### **Athletic Events**

- Ski Meet held at Government Peak Recreation Area  
[https://www.frontiersman.com/sports/mat-su-to-host-state-ski-meet/article\\_c8f65bc8-75b9-11eb-9c78-2b5c9740477d.html](https://www.frontiersman.com/sports/mat-su-to-host-state-ski-meet/article_c8f65bc8-75b9-11eb-9c78-2b5c9740477d.html)