



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Borough Manager

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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 10, 2023  
TO: Mayor and Assembly  
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

**Mat-Su Borough School District Library Book Review:** The below message was sent to School District families last week. The School Board plans to discuss the library committee process during the May 24, 2023 meeting. This process will likely continue into the spring and summer months.

Dear Parents, Community Members and Staff:

Ensuring that only age-appropriate materials are available in our public school libraries continues to be a topic generating a lot of press in Mat-Su and nationally. On April 13, a message was distributed to the community acknowledging concerns and inviting people to apply to be part of a MSBSD District-Wide Library Committee to review 56 book titles for reconsideration. That is, the committee would be tasked with reading and reviewing all 56 titles to determine if they are appropriate for our public school libraries.

At this time, MSBSD leadership is awaiting direction from school board members on how the committee should be formed out of the 300+ people who applied. The next update on MSBSD District-Wide Library Committee processes will be a topic of conversation at the Wednesday, May 24 regularly scheduled school board meeting.

Every school board meeting is livestreamed via the MSBSD App, or you can tune in online [https://out.smores.com/e/zdwqu/-9GM7K? \\$u](https://out.smores.com/e/zdwqu/-9GM7K? $u) starting at 6PM on May 24. Library Committee information will continue to be updated via the Library Committee website, as well.

A Frequently Asked Questions sheet concerning MSBSD Libraries is linked here: [https://out.smores.com/e/zdwqu/2uKl1p? \\$u](https://out.smores.com/e/zdwqu/2uKl1p? $u). You can access the Mat-Su School District Library Resources (the online database of our book collection) is always available to the public.

**Planning Major Milestones:**

Assembly Directed Code Changes			
Code	Description	Sponsor	Assembly Public Hearing
17.55	Setback Amendments	Yundt/Tew	July 18, 2023
15.24	Lake management plan implementation process update	Yundt	June 6, 2023
17.30	Gravel Amendments	Tew	May 16, 2023
17.73	Overhaul of multi-family code	Yundt	TBD
17.05	Essential Services Utilities Standards	Yundt/Hale	August 1, 2023
17.59	Standardize definitions for lake management regulations	Yundt/Hale	TBD
Title 23	Agricultural Conveyances (Land Management)	Manager	2024
8.55	Remote Exemption	Bernier	June 20, 2023

**Sealed Bid vs. Outcry Auction:** The Land and Resource Management Division currently uses sealed bids and outcry auctions to dispose of Borough-owned properties. For tax and LID foreclosures, we first go through a sealed bid process, and those properties that do not receive bids go to the outcry auction. We often receive numerous sealed bids for a single property, so the process has been competitive. Because of this, we have not considered going solely to the outcry method. We could go to an ‘outcry only’ auction to dispose of the properties with some tweaks to the system. We do not necessarily believe an outcry method would generate significant additional funds for the Borough. One reason is that the former record owner has the right to claim any excess proceeds, and if they claim the excess, then lien holders can step in to claim the funds as well.

We are exploring taking land auctions online, allowing people to bid on a property remotely. We have some issues to work out with Finance and IT to bring this option forward, but this may be the most efficient and effective way to dispose of land moving forward.

**Port MacKenzie Website Update:** The following is a link to our newly revamped Port MacKenzie website. The Port Commission has been involved with staff in updating the website and ensuring we have relevant documents and information that are easily accessible. See the website here: <https://portmackenzie.matsugov.us/>.

**Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

**MSBSD**

- [Health insurance, pay at heart of ongoing negotiations at MSBSD](#)  
Frontiersman

- [Wasilla High School upgrading library for the first time in four decades](#)  
Frontiersman

#### **Tourism**

- [Visit Mat-Su and get a taste of everything that's magic about Alaska](#)  
ADN

#### **Forestry**

- [Six additional human caused fires over the weekend](#)  
Alaska Wildland Fire Information

#### **Road infrastructure**

- [Bradley Road Bridge design to begin this summer](#)  
KTNA

#### **Fisheries**

- [Changes in 2023 Fishing Regulations will present unprecedented Sport fishing restrictions for sport fishing](#)  
ADN
- [Opponents line up to condemn lawsuit shuttering valuable Alaska Salmon fishery](#)  
INTRAFISH

#### **Future Events:**

Mat-Su "Needs Assessment" Determination for Distribution of \$2.3M in Opioid Settlement Funds:

- Thurs., May 18, 2023, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Willow Community Center
- Thurs., May 25, 2023, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Menard Center