



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 9, 2025
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

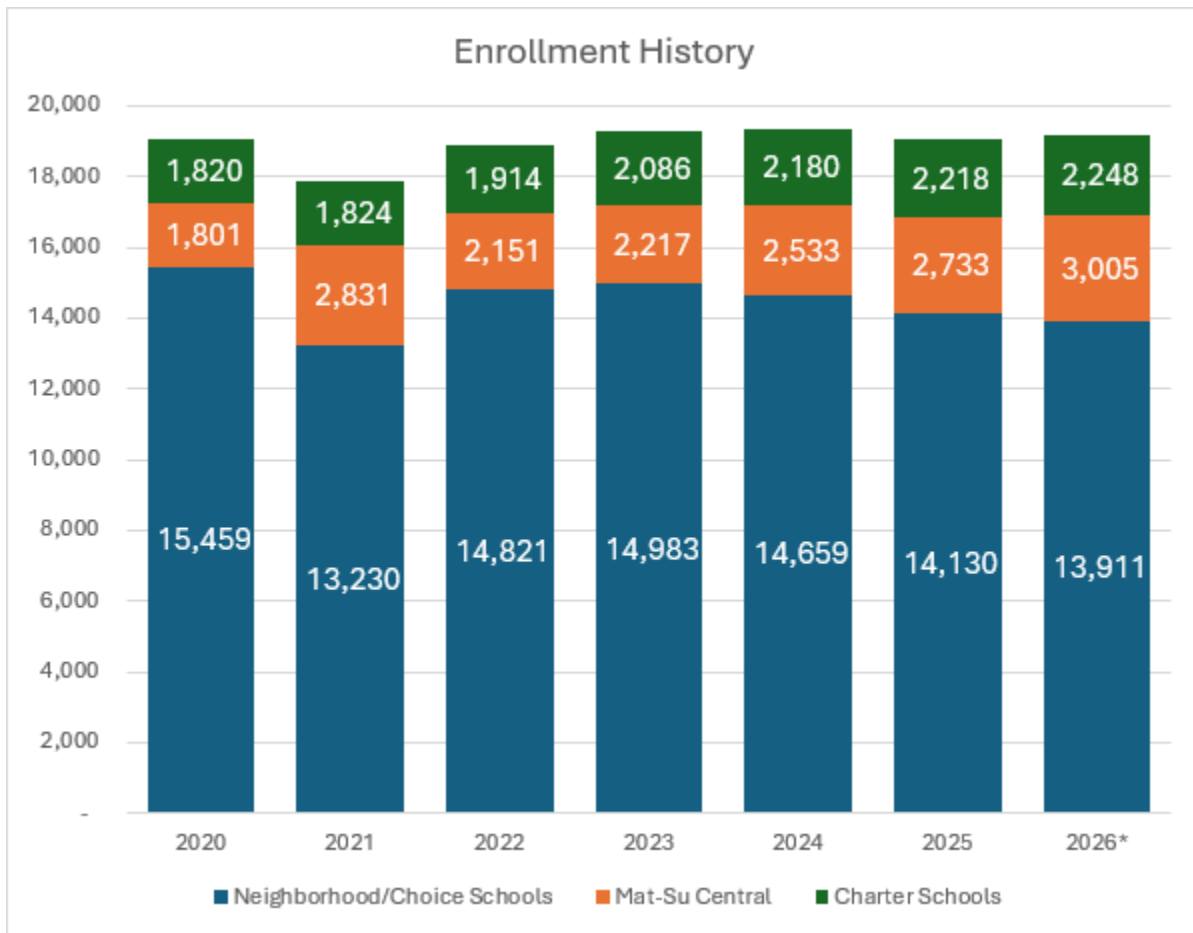
Road Service Area (RSA) Maintenance Contract Update: The Borough recently opened bids for nine RSA annual maintenance contracts. The contracts follow the same format as last year and include routine maintenance (i.e., plowing, ditching, grading, brushing), periodic maintenance (i.e., crack sealing, striping, etc.), and public construction, previously known as additional maintenance. One addition to this cycle's contract required contractors to provide their own sand and chips for traction control. This was added to make the most efficient use of the material instead of having Borough provided material with no incentive to use other traction control methods.

On average, we received more than three bids per RSA from 11 individual bidders, including five new RSA bidders (contractors who had not previously held an RSA contract). The average cost per mile placed under contract in the previous year was \$12,590. The average anticipated cost to be placed under contract this year is expected to be approximately \$10,755. This maintains the 12-inch berm standard for driveways. Of the 29 bids received, zero were rejected due to submission errors. Purchasing did not field any questions or concerns regarding submitting a bid or notice of an inability to submit a bid.

Awards for the new contracts are anticipated to be presented at the May 6 and 20 Assembly meetings. Also, for clarification, the State of Alaska has established the requirement to pay "Davis-Bacon" wages, which only applies to public construction activities, not routine or periodic maintenance activities, in these contracts.

Assessment Appeals Update: The following is a quick update on appeals as of Monday, April 7. The Borough received 137 appeals, and we now have 56 appeals remaining. Seven of those appeals were commercial, with four currently active. The first day for appeals to be heard was Tuesday, April 8. The appeals are currently scheduled through May 7.

School District Budget Information follow-up from Joint Meeting in March: Enrollment trends over the last five years: Mat-Su Enrollment has been relatively stable over the last seven years. You can see in the below graph that total enrollment was \$19,080 in FY 2020 and \$19,081 in FY 2025. However, enrollment within these figures is shifting, as students and families are moving to correspondence schools. Mat-Su Central School has grown by 67% and charter school enrollment has increased by 24%, primarily due to increases at Twindly Bridge Charter School and Knik Charter School.



5 year budget look back: The below budget look back shows the revenues and expenditures for the general fund over the last five years. This information does not include any federal COVID relief funds in addition to excluding the state on behalf payments. This information was requested by an Assemblymember.

Revenue	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Borough Appropriation	60,665,932	62,310,148	76,091,806	68,929,199	71,389,589
Other Local Funding	376,216	630,111	369,051	368,397	560,699
State Funding**	174,212,997	173,649,125	173,008,326	181,056,554	181,530,025
Federal Reimbursements	1,579,895	2,131,704	2,374,165	1,875,656	1,654,449
Use of Fund Balance	-	212,086	-	3,710,537	-
Total Revenue	236,835,040	238,933,173	251,843,348	255,940,343	255,134,762

Expenditures					
Salaries & Benefits**	189,924,475	199,887,718	188,725,247	197,775,190	205,552,923
Non-Personnel	16,606,431	19,028,946	18,032,392	23,518,550	23,343,856
District Managed Contracts	6,038,934	7,247,785	7,901,891	19,632,383	10,640,147
Utilities	7,804,172	6,550,572	6,862,810	7,296,844	7,691,513
Expenditures	220,374,012	232,715,021	221,522,340	248,222,967	247,228,439
Transfers to Other Funds*	10,895,014	6,218,152	13,788,682	7,717,376	7,048,192
Total Expenditures	231,269,026	238,933,173	235,311,022	255,940,343	254,276,631

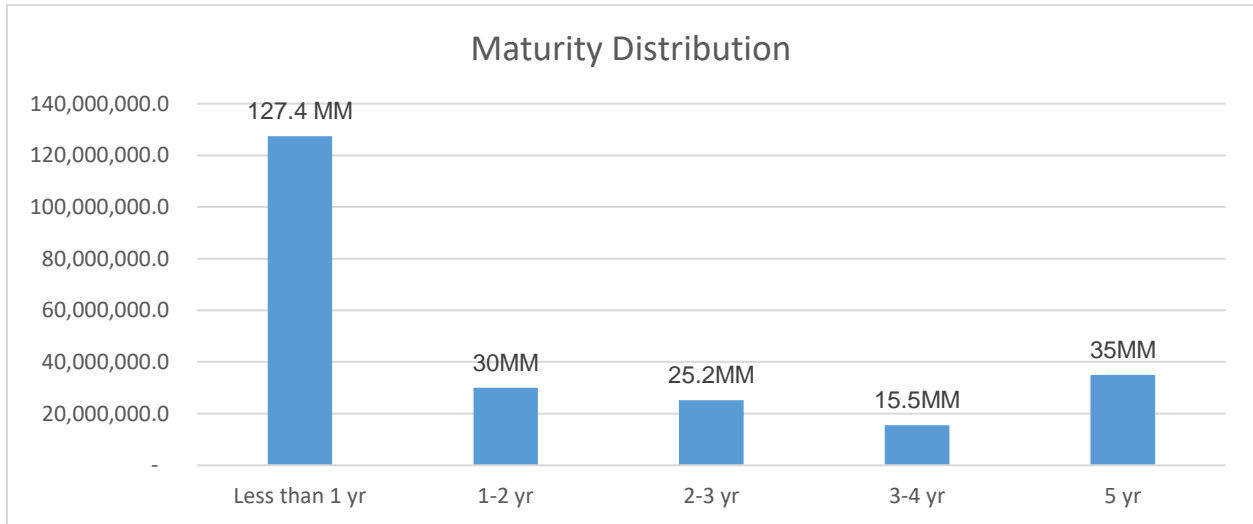
Additional information is also available on the school district website, this link will take you to the budget department page. The [Budget Handbook](#) and the [Budget Tables](#) are also linked and available to the public.

1st Quarter 2025 Fish & Wildlife Commission Report: During the first quarter of 2025, the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) held meetings on January 9, February 13, and March 13. The commission welcomed new commissioners, Michael Bowles and Marty Van Diest in February. Elections were conducted, resulting in Peter Probasco being named Chair and Andy Couch as Vice Chair. The commission actively participated in providing comments on proposals to the Board of Game. From March 11 to March 13, Gabe Kitter and Jim Sykes traveled to Juneau to advocate for CAPSIS project funding. The commission passed a resolution supporting the Wasilla Creek Tributary at Bonnie Drive Fish Passage Culvert Replacement Project. They also passed a resolution recommending that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Assembly classify MSB-owned parcels on the Deshka River as watershed lands to safeguard salmon populations. Additionally, the FWC submitted comments to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council regarding the Cook Inlet Salmon Amendment 16. The commission continued to be represented on the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board with Kendra Zamzow as a member. The FWC is compiling questions and planning a Game Special Meeting scheduled for May.

1st Quarter 2025 Wetland Mitigation Bank Report: We had no sales in the First Quarter of 2025.

Investment Summary 01/01/2025-03/31/2025:

- Total return for the last quarter was 0.11% with interest received of \$722,131.
- Average market value for our portfolio was \$226,884,364.
- This quarter there was \$25MM Purchased.
- This quarter there was \$20.2MM in Maturities and \$5MM that was Called.
- 36% of the portfolio consists of Callable Bonds.



Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Fisheries

- Gone Kings
Craig Medred

Wildland Fire

- First 2025 Alaska wildfire ignites
AK Fire Info

Port MacKenzie

- Kevin McCabe: Port MacKenzie Rail Extension politics
Must Read Alaska

Assembly

- Upper Susitna Valley RSA Boards remain three members
KTNA

Borough Business

- Trash coupons are available now
KTNA
- Borough gravel pit will supply culvert project
KTNA

Aviation

- Major upgrade of lighting at Palmer's Airport awaits approval of Federal funds
Frontiersman

Education

- [AK Senate committee advances school funding bill, \\$1000 per student](#)
Frontiersman
- [Cuts and displacements: A waiting game in Southcentral for education funding](#)
Alaska's News Source
- [Mat-Su Central building opens for homeschool family use](#)
Alaska's News Source
- [Education and Sharing Day begins this week](#)
Frontiersman

Business

- [Credit Union 1 opens Wasilla branch](#)
AK Business
- [Alaska Legislature approves bill allowing teenage alcohol servers at restaurants, breweries](#)
Frontiersman

Roads

- [New borough road safety plan up for public review](#)
Frontiersman
- [Mat-Su expands 2 Road Service boards despite area-wide volunteer shortages](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Top MSB Facebook Posts

- [Mat-Su Central - Video](#)
12k views
- [Mat-Su Central - Photos](#)
40k views

Future Events:

- Fri., Apr. 11, 2025 at 2pm, **Gateway Visitor Center Groundbreaking**, 4653 S. Glenn Highway
- Sat., Apr. 12, 2025 at 1pm, **Mat-Su YMCA Annual Shoots & Ladders Fundraiser**, Wasilla High School, 701 E Bogard Rd, Wasilla