



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Mike.Brown@matsugov.us

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 20, 2021
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

State Agency Engagements:

The Borough Manager and select staff met with the Commissioner of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Commissioner of Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Central Region Director for the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) this past week. The meetings were used to communicate the Assembly's FY2022 State Legislative Priorities adopted in November 2020. Specific topics included: DNR - wildfire mitigation, Jonesville Public Use Area, and the Comsat Quarry; DPS - State Trooper staffing/challenges and dispatch; and DOT - a future Municipal Planning Organization (MPO), specific road projects including Knik-Goose Bay, Seward-Meridian, and Bogard/Engstrom Roads as well as a DOT office in the valley. Administration and staff will continue to develop these issues and provide future updates as necessary. The Manager can provide more detailed information if desired.

State Redistricting and Borough Assembly Reapportionment:

Every 10 years, following the Decennial Census, the US Census Bureau provides States and Local Governments with Census Data for the purposes of Redistricting. This occurs nationwide as a method of ensuring fair and equal representation.

The State of Alaska Redistricting Board was formed for the purpose of redistricting the State House of Representatives and the State Senate. No later than ninety days after receipt of the official reporting of the decennial census of the United States, the State Redistricting Board shall adopt a final redistricting plan and issue a proclamation of redistricting. The final plan shall set out boundaries of house and senate districts and shall be effective for the election of members of the Legislature until after the official reporting of the next decennial census of the United States.

At the local level, the process of reapportioning Assembly districts will begin as soon as the final State Redistricting Plan is adopted. In anticipation of this process, borough staff are evaluating updated software, and developing an informational webpage about redistricting and reapportionment. The reapportionment team has created a rough timetable that is included for your information. The new Assembly district boundaries will need to be voted on at an election. Depending on how fast or slow things move, it could go on the November ballot or at a special election.

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

NOTE: The timeline below is based on the census numbers being provided timely to the State.

Potential Time Table for State Redistricting and Borough Reapportionment		
Based on Census 2020		
Dates	Task	Authority
Every 10 years (decennial)	Census is conducted	United States Constitution
September 2020	By this time appointments to the State's Redistricting Board must be made	Alaska Constitution, Article VI, Section 8
January 2021	Census Data provided to President	
March - April 2021	By April 1, Census data should be provided to the State	
April - July 2021	State Redistricting Board must within 30 days of the official reporting of decennial census adopt one or more proposed plans. Public hearings are held on the proposed plan(s). The final redistricting plan must be adopted by the Board within 90 days after the official reporting of the decennial census.	Alaska Constitution, Article VI, Section 10
	Any challenge to the State's plan must be filed within 30 days of the adoption of the plan (jurisdiction of the superior court).	Alaska Constitution, Article VI, Section 11
April - July 2021	MSB Grants Coordinator in coordination with GIS staff will follow the state redistricting board process. An IM will be prepared reporting on the status of the State process and providing potential impacts to the borough representation for the various options.	Local Practice
	If directed, the Grants Coordinator and GIS staff will develop a State Redistricting map for presentation to the state redistricting board by the Borough Assembly.	Local Practice
	The MSB Grants Coordinator and GIS Staff will start mapping the decennial census information for the recommendation to the Assembly with regards to whether the Borough is malapportioned.	Local Practice

Potential Time Table for State Redistricting and Borough Reapportionment Based on Census 2020		
Dates	Task	Authority
May - August 2021	<p>Staff will prepare legislation for the assembly declaring the borough malapportioned and outlining the Assembly's reapportionment options:</p> <p>#1: Complete the reapportionment plan themselves;</p> <p>#2: Direct the Clerk to work with the Grants Coordinator and GIS to develop a reapportionment plan - as was done after the 2010 census</p> <p>#3: Form an Assembly Reapportionment Committee and direct them to prepare a reapportionment plan - as was done after the 2020 Census.</p> <p>All Choices will result in the Assembly forwarding a plan to the voters for approval of the new districts.</p>	2.12.015 REAPPORTIONMENT OF ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS.
	Following the adoption of the FINAL State Redistricting plan the Division of Elections will develop new precincts.	
	Staff will work on incorporating the mapping of the State's FINAL redistricting plan and Division of Elections New precinct plan to help with the reapportionment. The use of these items will help prevent split precincts.	AS 29.20.080(a)
August-October 2021	Within six months after the assembly determines that the Borough is malapportioned an ordinance shall be adopted providing for reapportionment and form of representation to go forward to the voters. (The election needs to take place within the 6 month time period once the Assembly determines the Borough is malapportioned.)	
	Introduction of ordinance providing for reapportionment and placing it on the ballot for the November election for submission to voters.	

Potential Time Table for State Redistricting and Borough Reapportionment		
Based on Census 2020		
Dates	Task	Authority
	Public hearing on the ordinance providing for reapportionment and setting a special election.	AS 29.20.080(e) and MSB 25.05.040
November 2, 2021	Suggested Election Day (must be within 6 months of the Assembly determining that the Borough is malapportioned)	

IF, DUE TO STATE REDISTRICTING PLAN LAWSUITS, THERE ARE DELAYS TO OUR PROCESS, THE FOLLOWING MAY APPLY

September - November 2021	Introduction of ordinance providing for reapportionment and setting a special election for submission to voters.	
	Special meeting to conduct the public hearing on the ordinance providing for reapportionment and setting a special election. To meet the 6 month requirement to the voters and to meet the 75 days to call a special election the legislation must be adopted by November 1st. (Another meeting date may be requested at the time of introduction to make sure the ordinance is adopted timely)	AS 29.20.080(e) and MSB 25.05.040
As soon as possible	Suggested Election Day (must be within 6 months of the Assembly determining that the Borough is malapportioned and must be called at least 75 days prior)	

Technical Support for Reapportionment and Redistricting:

It is Borough Administration’s intent to engage with eTerra for their technical support of the mapping through the reapportionment process. We bring this to your attention as the owner is a former Assembly member. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Manager directly.

Borough Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Update:

All EOC staff work stations are permanently housed at the EOC. The EOC is functioning at a higher level now than it has in the last decade. The following features will really put us into a “HOT” state:

- Large screen displays are mounted and operational.
- Five of the 12 call center phones are operational, with a purchase requisition out for remainder.
- Conference tables are on-order and will arrive in five to six weeks.
- Front door access control is installed.
- 10 computers are on-order for command tables.

Borough Directors met in the new EOC facility for an introductory meeting last week.



Next Steps for Supplemental Wetlands Mitigation Ordinance (SWMO):

Based on public and Assembly comments, staff has given the SWMO an overhaul to ensure that it is easier to understand and administer. By February 1, 2021 a new comment period will be initiated for the new draft. The draft will be placed on the Borough website, social media and individually sent to stakeholders that have expressed interest in the ordinance. The tentative public process schedule is as follows and may be adjusted depending on budget meetings and deliberations:

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| March 18 | Fish & Wildlife Commission Public Hearing |
| April 5 | Planning Commission Public Hearing |
| May 17 | Assembly Public Hearing |

Vaccination Weekly Update:

Department of Emergency Services (DES) received its vaccine order for January 18th and is preparing for the possibility that it may become increasingly difficult to reliably order both doses moving forward. Regardless, staff are on track to administer the 80 DES boosters this week, along with 25 new vaccinations for DES personnel. When the boosters are completed for the 25 new DES personnel, the total will be 155 DES vaccinations department-wide. This will complete everyone on the DES surveys who have indicated they want the vaccine. We will continue polling in the coming months, as well as anytime we are preparing to place an order for upcoming tiers.

Public Vaccinations by State of Alaska through Point of Distribution at State Fairgrounds -

- Tuesday, January 12 - **245** doses given
- Thursday, January 14 - **580** doses given
- Tuesday, January 19 - **800** doses were scheduled to be administered
- Thursday, January 21 - **800** doses are scheduled to be administered

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Arctic Winter Games discussed at Palmer City Council - https://www.frontiersman.com/news/palmer-council-discusses-zoning/article_e88dad6a-5656-11eb-b0e3-1f3c5d76951e.html

Vaccination doses successfully administered at Raven Hall last week - https://www.frontiersman.com/news/nearly-1-000-covid-19-vaccine-doses-administered-at-raven-hall-this-week/article_4505834a-562c-11eb-bcb9-73404e833d4b.html

Alaska's News Source (KTUU) Coverage of Vaccinations at Raven Hall - <https://www.alaskasnewsSource.com/2021/01/09/4-day-covid-19-vaccination-clinic-to-take-place-in-mat-su-beginning-jan-12/>