



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 2021
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Solid Waste Division Annual Disposal Coupon: Following the discussion at the February 2, 2021 Assembly meeting re: IM 21-027, the Solid Waste Division will issue an annual disposal coupon for 2021. The coupon mailing for 2021 will be accomplished in the same manner as previous years. In order to save on printing and postage costs for future years the coupon will be included in the annual tax assessment mailing beginning in 2022.

Meadow Lakes Community Council Request for a Portion of MSB Land: The Meadow Lakes Community Council (MLCC) submitted an application to acquire 50 acres from 120.6-acre Borough parcel, Tax ID 17N02W02C003. This parcel is located between the Colaska gravel pit at the end of Vine Road and the Meadow Lakes Recreation Facility and Senior Housing. The Community is requesting a portion of the property to use as a buffer to minimize the disturbances from the gravel mining. The proposed use is for public recreation, open space and trails.

An evaluation of the earth material potential indicates 96.9 acres of the Borough parcel are potentially suitable for gravel extraction, based on its proximity to the existing gravel pit, available soil data, and topography. The royalty value of the earth materials on the parcel, at the standard \$3/cubic yard, is estimated at \$12.9M.

The Community Development Department proposed a smaller portion of the property to be sold at less than fair market value to the MLCC if they support the Borough's application for a gravel Conditional Use Permit. The premise is the Community benefits from the additional land set aside for open space, trails, and recreation infrastructure and the Borough is able to generate revenue by selling gravel. One condition included in the negotiation is the land where gravel is extracted should be returned in useable condition for future public use.

An IM will be forthcoming to inform the Assembly should MLCC and the Borough reach a tentative agreement. Legislation will be presented to the Assembly laying out the details of the tentative agreement for consideration.

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

Fiscal Year 2022 Funding to the School District: In accordance with Borough code 3.04.046, Local Education Funding, we have notified the School District of the Fiscal Year 2022 amount the Borough will budget. Based upon the January 18, 2021 preliminary assessment role, the estimated full and true value of taxable real and personal property is \$10,451,080,316. As mandated by code at 6.30 mills, the local education funding will be \$65,841,806 for Fiscal Year 2022. This is a 5.67% increase over the fiscal year 2021 amount of \$62,310,148.

Landfill Gas Collection System: The landfill gas collection system is nearing completion with the arrival of the flare skid on Friday, January 29. The skid was manufactured in Missouri and shipped as the last component of the system. The flare is shielded so the flame will not produce visible light that may disturb our neighbors. The system will pull methane containing gasses from our landfill cells to prevent them from migrating off the landfill property during the winter when they cannot naturally vent through porous soils into the atmosphere. We did not expect to need a collection system for about 10 more years when we will be required to have an operating permit issued under Title V of the Clean Air Act, which is triggered by total tonnage far above what we currently have placed in our existing cells. However, methane escaping from the landfill property last winter violated our landfill operating permit and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) directed an early installation of the collection system.



There will be significant work involved in commissioning the system including balancing the vacuum in the various collection wells so landfill gas is collected and burned but oxygen rich air is not pulled into the cells. We expect work to be complete by the end of February. Operating and maintaining this system will increase the cost of waste disposal. We will have more data on

those costs after we operate it for a few months however, we are expecting no more than \$1-\$2 per ton as the collection system is expanded with the growing waste pile. Construction cost is approximately \$2.1 million.

Vaccination Weekly Update: There are no new updates on the number of public vaccination this last week. The second round of vaccinations at the Fairgrounds with Public Health Nurses starts Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

We have been coordinating with the State Public Health Nurses and State Fish and Game to use the ultra-cold freezer in Palmer to establish a mini-dispensary for local providers using the Pfizer vaccine. This should be up and operational the week of February 8, if all goes according to plan. We are expecting about 3,900 new first round doses to be allocated throughout the Borough in February for local providers to dispense, as well as the second round doses of just over 2,300.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

COVID-19

- Senior Week - Assisting Senior Sign-up for Vaccine
<https://www.facebook.com/alaska.dhss/photos/a.432516619928/10158852077909929/>
- Vaccine eligibility site
http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/COVID-19/vaccine.aspx?fbclid=IwAR1EbVP8SPIFW0Pk_hbMwRLw2nxSN8lBKkpKizrG7KNRGP5MVYcbEhEkpg
- Non-Alaskan Residents entering Alaska protocol
<https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/>
- New Federal Notice and Order: Requirements for persons to wear masks while travelling
https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC_GMTF_01-29-21-p.pdf

Fisheries

- Coffee Table (Kenai- POD-CAST) - United Cook Inlet Drift Assoc. working with Cook Inlet Keeper against Governor. Former Board of Fish member believes recent actions taken by State is an attack on Lower Cook Inlet Fisheries. Wants Governor to reconsider position on closure.
<https://www.kbbi.org/post/coffee-table-jan-27-2021-oil-and-gas-and-fish-cook-inlet#stream/0>

Mat-Su Trails

- 2 People arrested in connection to thefts at trailheads
<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/crime-courts/2021/02/01/2-people-arrested-in-connection-to-massive-amount-of-thefts-at-mat-su-trailheads-troopers-say/>