



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 26, 2022
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

February Assembly Meeting Preview: At the February 1, 2022 Assembly meeting, MEA will be providing an update on the Fishhook to Pittman Transmission Line Routing and Substation Siting Study.

Borough Property Assessments: Assessment values were set as of January 1, 2022 and notices to property owners are being mailed out today, January 26. The first day of the informal appeal period is January 27, 2022, and February 25, 2022 is the last day to file a formal appeal. Board of Equalization hearings will begin in April and the Assessment Roll will be certified by June 1, 2022.

Each notice has an account number, taxable value, Assessment phone number and the appeal date printed on the front. The back of the assessment notice gives instructions to contact the Assessment office to report errors or omissions. This also gives instruction if a property owner wants to make a formal appeal to the Board of Equalization through forms available in the office or on the Borough website.

If property owners have concerns about the accuracy of their property record card, or a reason why their home would not be worth the assessed value, they should call **Assessments at (907) 861-8642**.

NOTE: Wind damage and assessed value must be kept separate. In accordance with Alaska State Statute 29.45.110 sec (a) the assessor shall assess property at its full and true value as of January 1 of the assessment year, except as provided in this section AS 29.45.060 and AS 29.45.230.

AS 29.45.230 allows the Borough to adjust property values affected by a disaster. MSB 3.15.077 Tax Adjustment On Property Affected By Disaster is the borough's ordinance granting relief to properties affected by a disaster. To apply for relief from the wind event on January 3, 2022 persons will need a Disaster Relief Form from Assessments, available in the office or from the Borough website: <https://www.matsugov.us/document/disaster-relief-form> filled out and returned to the assessment office within 120 days of the event, for a reassessment for tax relief.

West Susitna Access Road Public Engagement Plan: See <https://matsugov.us/docs/general/22295/West-Susitna-Access-Public-Involvement-Plan-1-25-2022.pdf> to view the West Susitna Access Road Public Involvement Plan that will be utilized to engage with the public and solicit feedback on this project. The Borough contracted with Yehle and Associates to support this effort over the next few months.

Animal Care Facility Completed Black Mold Remediation: Several months ago a discussion occurred with the Assembly regarding black mold concerns at the Animal Shelter. Since then, staff have completed remediation. The mold testing was conducted by the Satori Group on August 15, 2021. The test results were received on August 31, 2021. The only place they found black mold growth was in the garage area. The remediation work went out for bid. That process was completed and the bids came through on October 26, 2021. JGH Plumbing was awarded the contract and completed the project on December 17, 2021. They were efficient and provided good work.

Fourth Quarter Manager's Report: To access the Manager's Report for the fourth quarter of 2021 (October through December 2021) go here: <https://matsugov.us/docs/general/22299/Managers-Report-4th-Quarter-2021.pdf>

Standard & Poor and Fitch Ratings: On December 15 and December 20, 2021, the Borough Manager and Finance Director made presentations to both Fitch, and Standard and Poor's Rating Agencies. In January 2022, the Borough was notified that they each agency reaffirmed our current rating (AA+ from S & P and AA from Fitch). Some of the reasons cited were as follows: 1) our growing population compared to the rest of the State; 2) strong financial management including stable fund balance and maintenance of reserves (both agencies specifically pointed out that we are growing reserves and have not reduced the minimum fund balance); 3) liquidity; and 4) continued growth in the property valuations.

Windstorm Disaster Recovery Update: Individual assistance: 1,039 claims reported to the State that includes 795 reported through the Borough. Public assistance: 46 claims. Commercial infrastructure: 72 claims currently.

The schedule for the Disaster Assistance Center that opens at 8am on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at the Menard Center is:

- Thursday, January 27 through Saturday, January 29 - 8am to 4pm
- Monday, January 31 through Thursday, February 3 - 8am to 4pm

Public Assistance is working with MEA and Borough Public Works to get debris information to update our dashboard. No word yet on a Small Business Administration declaration. No word yet on State of Alaska Public Assistance applicants briefing.

Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau (MSCVB): See MSCVB's Winter "Bureau Bulletin" here: https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/mat-su/Winter_2021_Newsletter_44371e67-7582-4fb8-ac72-ba0013b95a1d.pdf.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Fish and Wildlife

- Canadians claim Alaskan commercial nets plundering BC bound salmon – Craig Medred
- Work underway on new Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Plan – Frontiersman
- Groups prod feds to act on plan to save Cook Inlet beluga whales – Frontiersman
- Where do most of Alaska's commercial fisherman live and other commercial fishing facts – ADN

State Government

- State redistricting trial begins today (Jan. 21, 2022) – The Skagway News

Resource Development

- State prepping to approve broad Susitna gas exploration licenses – AK Journal of Commerce
- Oil Prices are up, are the good times back – Frontiersman

Arctic Winter Games

- State prepping to approve broad Susitna gas exploration licenses – Frontiersman

MSB Facebook

- Mayor DeVries – Mayors Minute – Discusses last week's Animal Care Adoption

Future Events:

Ceremonial Signing of the Arctic Winter Games Hosting Agreement – Jan. 28, 2022 at 9am, Chambers