



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Borough Manager

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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 7, 2022  
TO: Mayor and Assembly  
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

**FY2021 Citizens' Financial Report:** Borough Finance staff have completed the Citizens' Financial Report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021. To view the report go here: <https://matsugov.us/docs/general/22651/MSB-FY21-Citizens-Financial-Report.pdf>

**Mat-Su Central School Funding:** The Borough is requesting the School Board's consideration on a proposal to construct Mat-Su Central School without taking on additional debt service obligations. With recent one-time monies from the State of Alaska, there is an opportunity to forward fund the \$24 million construction of this school and avoid a 20-year debt repayment.

The Borough's proposal is to utilize the following funding:

- \$10.5 million from the District originally programmed for Houston High School construction. More recently, this funding was discussed as being utilized to assist in funding the Borough's Transportation 21 package in exchange for the Borough bringing forward a ballot proposition for Mat-Su Central bond funding. The Borough Assembly is considering another option for funding the transportation package in order to allow this funding to remain with schools.
- The Borough will provide \$5.8 million toward the project.
- The School District received one-time funding of approximately \$7.7 million in the FY2023 State budget and we are requesting consideration for an allocation of \$3.0 million to Mat-Su Central.
- The School District would be responsible for the estimated \$1.3 million for furnishings, fixtures and equipment (FF&E).
- The Borough would provide \$3.4 million as a loan from the School Debt Service Fund. Repayment to the Borough will occur over 5 years after occupancy using the existing lease payments for the school. The District will retain these funds after the 5-year pay back.

This proposal constructs a permanent, Borough-owned facility that averts an annual debt service payment of approximately \$1.8 million over 20 years. Following repayment of the \$3.4 million, the District retains funding for its current lease payments of approximately \$600,000 annually.

## **Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan and Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan:**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has initiated a concurrent planning process to:

1. Update the Matanuska Valley Moose Range (Moose Range) Management Plan.
2. Create a management plan for the Jonesville Public Use Area (JPUA), which is entirely within the Moose Range.

Through this process, DNR will work to find alternatives with the greatest benefits for all Alaskans. Public involvement is essential to ensure that future actions are not only consistent with the agency mission and the enabling legislation of JPUA and the Moose Range, but also present a shared vision for the future for both. Visit the project website for more information and how to participate in the plan process: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/jonesville-moose-range/>

**Natural Gas Extension to the Port MacKenzie District:** At the September 6 Assembly meeting, an Assembly member asked about the potential for extending natural gas to the Port district. Borough staff asked Enstar Natural Gas for an estimate in November 2021. The basis of the estimate is a smaller pipeline to the port from the existing Beluga Pipeline, with the intent of only providing heating load to businesses that might choose to operate in that area, and no industrial load is anticipated. Enstar would be able to provide sufficient supply for local business heating load via a 6-inch transmission line branching off the Beluga Pipeline on Ayrshire Road, heading south approximately 14.2 miles along the W. Point MacKenzie Road corridor to the port area. In November 2021, Enstar provided a high level cost estimate for this line of \$14 million which would also include a station to regulate distribution pressure for end users. Costs for the low pressure distribution lines and meters at the end were not included in this estimate.

**Borough Capital Improvement Program (CIP):** The Borough CIP process has been updated and the program has now gone through its first round of accepting nominations under the new process. There were five project nominations for the 2022 CIP and four projects met the new criteria to be considered a valid capital improvement for the MSB. Projects were scored by a committee made up of staff from five MSB Departments: Finance, Emergency Services, Planning & Land Use, Community Development, and Public Works. Planning staff has developed a document that provides an overview of the updated process and shows the ranked project list that will be presented to the Planning Commission in October, and to the Assembly in December. The 2022 CIP nominations and the results can be viewed online here: <https://my.visme.co/v/epgo4om1-zrq9vy>. Staff contact for the CIP is Kelsey Anderson, 907-861-8525.

## **Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

### **Flooding**

- [Governor issues disaster declaration for Mat-Su flooding - KWCH](#)  
KTUU

### **Development**

- [Gov. Dunleavy, state and local legislators attend 7th Summit Shooting Park Groundbreaking](#)  
Frontiersman

### **Agriculture**

- [Mini grants for small agriculture projects made to enhance food security](#)  
Frontiersman

## **Community**

- [Borough Issues Decision on Benka Lake Access - KTNA 88.9 FM](#)  
KTNA

## **Emergency Response**

- [Fire at Alaska's largest prison near Wasilla quickly brought under control, officials say](#)  
ADN

## **Resource Development**

- [AK LNG project gains support from Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan](#)  
Peninsulaclarion.com

## **Future Events:**

- Sat., Sept. 24, 2022 from 10am to 3pm – 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Mat-Su Emergency Preparedness Expo, Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, 1001 S. Clapp Street, Wasilla.
- Thurs., Oct. 20, 2022 from 3pm to 7pm, Mat-Su Transportation Fair, Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, 1001 S. Clapp Street, Wasilla.