



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 2023
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Budget Awards: GFOA presented Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for its Annual Budgets for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 (FY22) and July 1, 2022 (FY23). In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide, and as a communications device.

Wetland Mitigation Bank Quarterly Report: No sales were executed in Quarter 4 of 2022.

Central Landfill Clearing: This is follow-up to a question by an Assembly member regarding the clearing contract at the Landfill. The areas we are clearing have steep terrain and there is no vehicular access leading to limited accessibility and safety concerns if we allowed residents to collect firewood where it would lay after just felling trees. In order to make firewood collection feasible, the logs would have to be limbed and stacked at an accessible area, which was included in the bid. The difference in cost for this service was upwards of \$80,000.

Our resource manager estimates there are approximately 170 cords of mixed birch, spruce, and aspen/cottonwood within the clearing area for this project. Potential revenue through selling permits if the timber was stacked is about \$4,250 at \$25/cord. In general, the timber in these areas is low quality firewood / cottonwood and has little value on the market. All trees are to be chipped, burned, or removed per the contract specifications – whichever the contractor elects.

Per Acre Analysis for Clearing Contract & Land Surveyor License: This is follow-up to questions by two Assembly members regarding the clearing contract change order. The first task order is complete and the second task order is what the Assembly approved on January 17, 2023. The unit pricing is locked in for the duration of the three-year contract at \$4,500 per acre.

Presently, staff estimate is about \$6,500-\$7,000 per acre for clearing services based on recent ADOT&PF bid tabs over the past two years averaging \$6,700 per acre and approximately \$6,500 per acre for MSB contracts over the past five years. After task order 2 is complete, we will be entering, pending Assembly approval this spring, our second year in our three-year option for this contract.

Surveying requirements are covered in the contract language and require a Professional Land Surveyor licensed in-state to oversee survey work. Western subcontracts that to Edge Surveying and Design.

The purpose of this contract is to prepare project sites for utility relocations prior to letting out bids for the associated construction contracts. This alleviates schedule delays and risks we sometimes assume when bidding construction contracts before utility work is completed.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

School District

- Valley school bus workers' contract dispute remains unsettled
Alaska News Source
- Scholarship opportunities aplenty for Mat-Su students, residents
Alaska News Source
- MSBSD receives Keeping Schools Safe report
Frontiersman

Economy

- Hilcorp signs deal with Fairbanks gas utility to truck liquefied natural gas to Prudhoe Bay
Anchorage Press

Fisheries

- Mat-Su fall, winter, spring fish size
Frontiersman

State

- House chooses Mat-Su Republican for speaker
Daily News Miner
- Mat-Su legislators score big in the new Republican-led State House
Frontiersman
- Wasilla's Cathy Tilton chosen to be Speaker of the House
Anchorage Press

Conservation

- A conservation proposal could save a part of the Mat-Su Greenbelt from gravel digging
Frontiersman