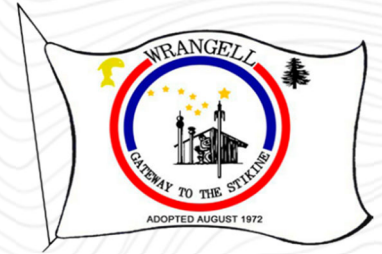


CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Tuesday, May 28th, 2024



**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL**

FROM: MASON F. VILLARMA, *BOROUGH MANAGER*

Borough Hiring Status

The Borough continues to attract candidates to open positions in the Borough.

- Police Chief - Interviews in process
- ~~Fire Chief - Hired~~
- Harbor Maintenance and Security - Hired
- Finance Director - 1 candidate
- Borough Controller - 2 candidates
- ~~Public Works Foreman - Hired~~
- Maintenance Specialist I, II, and III - Awaiting applications
- Facilities Maintenance Specialist - Awaiting applications

In addition to an employment application, cover letter, and resume, applicants will be required to submit three references and pass a background check. For information about any of the above positions, please visit www.wrangel.com/jobs.

FEMA Public Assistance Reimbursement

The Borough continues to work through the FEMA reimbursement process. Approximately \$900k was incurred by the Borough in response to the Zimovia Highway landslide. The Borough will first submit its CAT B projects as they are the most material. Reimbursement is expected to take 3-6 months.

IBEW Petition to Unionize the Police Department

The Borough has retained labor counsel for the purpose of addressing the petition by the IBEW to unionize the Wrangell Police Department. The petition would effectively add 12 employees to the union that already consists of 26 employees. If the petition is granted, there would be 38 union employees of the 67 total employees of the Borough.

The Borough is working on an agreement to accommodate both parties' best interests. If an agreement cannot be reached, an objection will be filed by the Borough no later than the last day of the month.

Budget Meetings and Path to Adoption

- Mill Rate Adoption and Certification of Assessment Roll- May 28th
- Budget Presentation Work Session - June 5th @6pm
- Budget Revision Work Session - June 20th @6pm
- Budget Adoption - June 25th

Meeting w/ Huna Totem Corporation

The Borough has received interest from Huna Totem Corporation in developing the mill property. On Monday, May 20th, the Economic Development Director, and I flew up to Huna Totem Corporations headquarters in Juneau to provide more information on the property.

The Borough continues to entertain and explore options in all industries for the mill property. If an offer is made, that will be brought to the Assembly and the public for consideration. The Borough remains committed to representing the public's best interest through open dialogue and transparency.

Property Tax Revenue Comparison

FY 2025

\$2,105,481 - Projected Property Tax Revenue for FY 2025

\$228,613,784 - Total Taxable Property

FY 2024

\$2,095,519 - Tax Revenue Recognized in FY 2024

\$224,907,306- Total Taxable Property

Year-over-year, there was a slight increase in taxable property as outside service area parcel values increased. Overall property tax revenue remains stagnant in FY 2025. A breakdown of the mill rate will be represented in the budget work session.

Municipal Entitlement Lands

The Borough will be engaging a forest engineer to stratify the Borough's entitlement lands and other properties suitable for timber harvest. Once the properties are stratified, the lands will be assessed for suitability and a timber cruise will be conducted.

The Economic Development Director is exploring the true meaning of "management authority" from the perspective of State of Alaska - DNR. The Borough will have to survey and zone each property as it is accepted into inventory.

Borough Administration's goal is to quantify the potential value of timber on all entitlement lands and create and solicit bids for a long-term harvest agreement whereby a sustainable amount of board feet is sold each year from inventory. A work session will be scheduled in the fall to present findings and a proposed path forward.

Legal Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Borough Assembly made it a goal to solicit proposals for expiring professional service contracts 6-months in advance of expiration. As such, the Borough has posted the legal RFP. The formal RFP can be found at <https://www.wrangell.com/rfps>.

We will provide the Assembly with the review process as the deadline for proposals nears.

As always, I am at the Assembly's disposal. I look forward to continuing the meaningful progress we are making.

Sincerely,

Mason F. Villarma

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Borough Manager