

MANAGERS REPORT
November 26, 2012

TO: MAYOR HORNADAY / HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: WALT WREDE

UPDATES / FOLLOW-UP

1. MOA with Borough / Garbage Collection: The Port and Harbor contracts for garbage collection on the Spit and it pays for up to twenty, five yard dumpsters at 11 different locations during the year. This costs the Enterprise Fund about \$50,000 per year. It is estimated that about 10 percent of all garbage that winds up in dumpsters there is either garbage from people residing on the South Side of the Bay or local residents who find it more convenient to dump their garbage on the Spit than drive up to the dump on Baycrest Hill. The dumpsters at Ramp 4 and the Fishing Lagoon are hotspots for local residents and the dumpsters at Ramp 6 are a favorite for those residing across the Bay. Harbor users pay for garbage collection through their slip fees and Borough taxes. It is unfair to ask them to cover the cost associated with dumping by others. The Spit is in effect functioning like a transfer facility for the Borough. The Borough has recognized this in effect by placing a recycle dumpster there and by reimbursing the Enterprise Fund \$ 875 per year for one dumpster that is tipped five times. Clearly not enough. All Borough residents pay for garbage collection through their taxes. Since the Spit is functioning like a transfer station, it seems reasonable that the City should receive more than \$875 per year from the Borough. We are hoping for some discussion on the topic and for permission to negotiate a new arrangement with the Borough.
2. H.S. Football Field Upgrade: As you know, the School District is hoping to obtain funding this legislative session for new artificial turf at the High School Football field. Attached is a proposed project description and budget. I had several conversations with Dr. Gee this past week about the project. The District would like to obtain some level of support from the City. The range of possibilities include a resolution, placement on the City CIP List, and appropriating local matching funds. The District is currently working on getting the project on the Borough and School Board CIP Lists. Dr. Gee may request to speak with the Council as a visitor at an upcoming meeting.
3. Proposed Capital Budget Amendment: Attached is a proposed budget amendment submitted by the Public Works Department. This proposed expenditure was submitted too late to make the draft budget, however, it has emerged as a priority for PW. The money would come from the sewer reserves. This project has to do with upgrading the telemetry which automatically feeds staff data about the system and sends alarms if there are problems. At this point it would be up to Council to amend the budget to add this appropriation if it sees fit. We hope that you will.
4. Homer Hockey Tournament: The City received a big thank you letter this week from Homer Hockey Association for its recent contribution to the purchase of

- zamboni batteries. The Association pointed out that City support helps it provide a great recreational opportunity for local residents. The rink also provides a big boost to the local economy. This weekend the Association hosted the End of the Road Shoot Out Tournament which includes teams from many Alaska communities. Please see the attached tournament schedule. I thanked the Association but informed them that I could not accept the season pass. I attended part of the tournament and the Mariners played terrific.
5. Dredged Spoils: At the time this report was written, the dredging project at the fishing lagoon was just about complete. The materials that came from the lagoon are of high quality. We plan to RFP this material separately from the other dredged materials and use the proceeds to replenish the Fishing Lagoon Maintenance Fund.
 6. Jail Position: Chief Robl has 4 temporary, part time staff that he uses to cover shifts at the jail. This has worked out well in the past because it gives him some flexibility in terms of scheduling and because he has been able to hire mostly retired, experienced personnel. The problem for us is that the number of hours we are able to use part time employees is limited by PERS rules. Due to a variety of circumstances, these folks have been working many hours and we need to cut them back or face penalties. The solution to this problem is to eliminate several of these part time positions and hire one full time position. Finance has run the numbers and it appears that we could make this move without budgeting any additional funds. Please see the attached budget request. However, doing this would be adding another authorized, full-time, position with full benefits. This would require action in the form of a motion to amend the budget. No additional funds would be required but we do need a full time position authorized. We hope you will do so. Mark, Regina, and Andrea will all be available to answer questions you may have.
 7. Fender Failure and Dolphin Damage: This agenda contains resolutions awarding contracts to repair a dolphin at the Pioneer Dock and to remove damaged fenders at the Deep Water Dock. The damage at the Pioneer Dock was caused by the ferry and the State of Alaska will pay the cost of the repairs. The damaged fenders on the Deep Water Dock were scheduled to be removed anyway next Spring as part of the Cruise Ship grant project, so the grant will pay for this work. The fenders need to be removed now because they are a safety hazard.
 8. Employee Wellness Program: The Employee Committee reports that approximately 80% of all employees have now signed up for the wellness program. Folks are really getting into it. The Committee is working to inform employees about the self insurance health care plan and steps they can take to save the plan money. It is hoped that a well informed and healthy work force will use the plan less and reduce costs in the process.
 9. Natural Gas Update: The three scheduled community meetings have taken place and I believe that for the most part, they went pretty well. The certified mailing containing the improvement plan and the objection forms went out on November 1st. That was a monumental effort and I believe the Post Office is still upset with us for all the congestion this caused there! It looked like Christmas came early. I am currently working with Enstar on a draft construction contract that we can

make available for public review. Between now and January we will make ourselves available to any organization that would like a presentation on the HSAD.

10. Deferred Assessments for Seniors: One of the questions we have received most often about the proposed natural gas HSAD is whether deferred assessments will be available. Our answer is unsatisfactory to most people. The answer is maybe. The code as currently written would allow for deferred assessments. However, the Council would have to approve them on a case by case basis. The Council would also have to identify a funding source to pay for the deferred assessments. This issue warrants discussion and I think it would be beneficial to definitely answer it soon, before the late January end of the objection period. Tom Klinkner advises that if the Council does not wish to provide deferred assessments in this case, it could make that clear by either making a motion as part of the budget approval process or adopting an ordinance amending the code, or both. The staff is working to see if it can get a reasonable estimate on how many seniors might be eligible for the deferment so we have a better sense of how much money we are talking about.
11. Main St. / Sterling Highway: Last month I visited DOT/PF in Anchorage and I was informed that their application for funding for the Sterling Highway/Main Street intersection under the Highway Safety Intersection Program (HSIP) was funded. DOT/PF is approved for \$2.8 Million to do either a roundabout or a traffic signal. Design and some permitting and ROW work will begin next year. A four way stop and blinking light, similar to the one currently at Pioneer and Lake is also funded. So, the City will need to make a final decision about how it wants to use the \$2 Million that it has. The sooner the better so that it can be integrated into the larger project.
12. Deep Water Dock MOU: After years of lobbying and negotiation, I am happy to say that we now have a draft MOU for the dock expansion feasibility work. We are reviewing it now and hope to be ready for Council action in the near future. Recall that the City has \$2 Million in a federal appropriation and \$1 Million in a state appropriation to do feasibility studies and some design and permitting work. The studies would look at lengthening the dock face and strengthening the trestle.
13. MAP 21: While I was at DOT/PF, I received a briefing on the recently passed federal transportation bill, known as Map 21. Information is attached. It appears that cities in Alaska will have to again pay more attention to the STIP process in order to get projects funded. Earmarks cannot be counted on as they have been in the past.

ATTACHMENTS

1. H.S. Football Field Improvement Plan
2. Proposed Capital Budget Amendment / SCADA Equipment Upgrade
3. Letter from Homer Hockey
4. Proposed Jail Position