Memorandum 21-046

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
FROM: Janette Keiser, Director of Public Works
DATE: March 8, 2021
SUBJECT: East Hill Road Betterments

Issue:
The AK DOT/PF will be repaving East Hill Road, possibly this summer. They will be adjusting City-owned manholes and water valves and paying for this work as part of their construction. A number of these utility appurtenances need more serious repair. The purpose of this memo is to request an appropriation to pay for what would be “betterments” to the State’s East Hill Road Project.

Background:
East Hill Road contains City-owned water and sewer lines, which will be impacted by the State’s East Hill Road repaving project. Some of the impacts will be paid for by the State, such as adjusting the elevation of existing sewer manholes and water valves. Anything beyond this simple adjustment would be considered a “betterment” to the project and would be the City’s responsibility to pay for.

A number of the sewer manholes and water valves need more serious repair. The attached illustration demonstrates representative work. For example, the drawing entitled the “Manhole Cone Adjustment” shows the cross-section of a typical concrete manhole. Sometimes the concrete “cone sections” or “grade rings” become broken over time/traffic and need to be replaced. Adjusting existing grade rings to the new road elevation is part of the road project and the State will pay for this. Replacing broken grade rings or broken cone sections is a betterment, which the City is responsible for. Likewise, sometimes the “valve boxes” break or lean or the water “valve stem” breaks. Simple adjustment of the valve box is part of the road project. Replacing broken valve stems is a betterment, which the City is responsible for.

It is in the City’s best interests to repair these units, while the East Hill Road Project is under construction. The approximate cost of the “betterments” is $98,000.

Funding is available:
The Pie Charts demonstrate that there is available funding in the Water and Sewer CARMA Funds.
Recommendation:

That the City Council appropriate $98,000, to be split equally between the Water CARMA Fund and the Sewer CARMA Fund.