

Introduced by: Dan Leinberger, Council Member
Date: February 13, 2006
Action: Passed
Vote: 5-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution # 06-04

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION OF AN UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL TO THE ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY FOR UP TO \$200,000 TO FUND A WIND TURBINE FOUNDATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT IN BETHEL

WHEREAS, the Alaska Energy Authority prepared its first draft of the Wind Resource Assessment for Bethel, Alaska, in which it analyzed wind data collected from December 2004 through December 2005 to reveal that Bethel's wind resource is commercially viable: wind speeds averaged 14.5 miles per hour at a height of 30 meters, Wind Power Class 4 out of 7;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Energy Authority expressed interest in having Bethel serve as a wind energy hub that could help share its wind energy project experience, host training sessions, deliver technical expertise, and distribute parts and supplies to villages in the Kuskokwim River area actively engaged in wind power development;

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council passed Resolution #05-31 on August 9, 2005 supporting wind power development in Bethel as a way to reduce/eliminate the cost of electricity to the City, other profit- and not-for-profit entities, and/or the community as a whole;

WHEREAS, the Alternative Energy Committee, a volunteer administrative committee for the City of Bethel, is pursuing its short-term goal of installing and operating a small commercial wind turbine as a demonstration project and its long-term goal of owning and operating a commercial wind farm that would have the potential to lower the cost of electricity for Bethel residents;

WHEREAS, the Alternative Energy Committee made a formal recommendation to the City Manager on February 6, 2006 that the Bethel City Council approve a resolution to submit an unsolicited proposal to the Alaska Energy Authority for up to \$200,000 to fund a wind turbine foundation demonstration project in Bethel.

WHEREAS, the high cost of wind turbine tower foundations constructed in rural Alaska represent the single largest impediment to wind power development in the state;

WHEREAS, the proposed project would include an historical overview of foundation data, costs, and resource commitments for existing Alaska wind turbine foundations, site

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selection, soils analysis, foundation installation and testing, and a design evaluation report;

WHEREAS, the project is expected to offer the City the following benefits: (1) short-term infusion of money to support local employment, (2) soils test results, (3) pertinent information useful for grant applications to support a wind farm, and (4) experience working with three engineering firms dedicated to wind power development in Alaska;

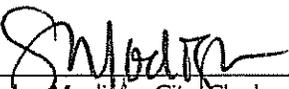
WHEREAS, the proposal will contain a 25% match, shared equally among project partners KAE Engineering, Duane Miller and Associates, and Minner and Associates, of which the City of Bethel's will be in-kind only (no cash match);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council supports the submission of an unsolicited proposal to the Alaska Energy Authority for up to \$200,000 to fund a wind turbine foundation demonstration project in Bethel;

ENACTED THIS 13th DAY OF February 2006 BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.


R. Thor Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sandra Modigh, City Clerk