

Introduced by: Wally Baird, City Manager
Date: December 4, 2007
Action: Passed
Vote: 4-1

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 07-35

A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL SETTING FIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2009 STATE OF ALASKA LEGISLATIVE FUNDING CYCLE

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council is a seven-member body elected by resident voters of Bethel to act in the best interest of the community;

WHEREAS, the Council annually sets priorities and communicates those priorities to the Governor and Alaska State Legislators;

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council determined that the following five priorities should receive funding in the FY 2009 Alaska State Budget: (1) Community Dividend or Revenue Sharing arrangement, (2) Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and Teachers Retirement System (TRS), (3) Bethel Fire Station Roof Repair, (4) Regional Law Enforcement Center; and (5) Multi-use Recreation Center;

1. Community Dividend or Revenue Sharing

WHEREAS, a Community Dividend or Revenue Sharing arrangement is needed to provide financial assistance to all communities in Alaska, especially rural villages that lack a tax base and many of the revenue-generating alternatives found in hub communities;

WHEREAS, the Council supports the efforts of the Alaska Municipal League to instill a Community Dividend or Revenue Sharing program;

2. Public Employees Retirement System and Teachers Retirement System

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel offers the Public Employees Retirement System as a benefit to its employees and has a vested interest in its sustainability;

WHEREAS, the Council supports the efforts of the Alaska Municipal League to improve the Public Employees Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System with one or more permanent solutions;

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3. Bethel Fire Station Roof Repair

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station roof needs to be replaced at an expected cost of \$1,200,000;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station as a base of operations for all emergency and non-emergency services it provides;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds to 1,000 calls for assistance a year, of which about 800 are for emergency services and up to 200 are fire-related;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds to a real fire an average of once a week;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as a regional training facility and Bethel's Emergency Operations Center;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department assists regional villages when requested by supplying trained personnel, equipment, and supplies—in 2006, Bethel sent three Firefighter/EMTs to the Hooper Bay fire;

4. Regional Law Enforcement Center

WHEREAS, a Regional Law Enforcement Center is needed in Bethel to serve the 6,000 residents of Bethel and the 26,000 residents living in surrounding Yukon-Kuskokwim villages;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Troopers and Bethel Police Department would be the primary occupants in the Regional Law Enforcement Center;

WHEREAS, the Law Enforcement Center would serve as a regional training facility for Village Public Safety Officers;

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies that share a building will be able to achieve economies of scale in resource utilization, cooperate with each other on criminal investigations, arrests, and prosecutions, and more effectively assist each other during mutual response calls;

WHEREAS, the design phase for a Law Enforcement Center is expected to cost \$1,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2009 State of Alaska Budget for the City of Bethel;

WHEREAS, due to age and construction the current police department building is not suitable for major remodel and renovation;

WHEREAS, the condition of the current Bethel Police Department building has deteriorated to the point where it's affecting the moral of the employees of the Bethel Police Department;

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5. Multi-use Recreation Center

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility that includes a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consulting in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one facility voted on by community members to include in the recreation center;

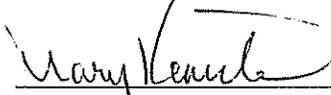
WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents do not know how to swim, rescue individuals from the water, or perform essential resuscitation exercises;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel passed an ordinance allocating a minimum of \$500,000 to support the operation and maintenance of a multi-use recreation center for 20 years;

WHEREAS, the design phase for a Multi-Use Recreation Center is expected to cost \$2,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2009 State of Alaska Budget for the City of Bethel.

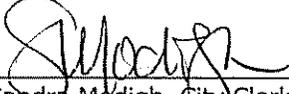
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council hereby sets five priorities for the FY 2009 Alaska State Legislative funding cycle and encourages the Governor and Legislature to approve this funding request.

ENACTED THIS 4th DAY OF December 2007 BY A VOTE OF 4 IN FAVOR AND 1 OPPOSED.



Mary Kenick, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra Modigh, City Clerk