

## *CITY OF BETHEL*

### **Resolution # 09-34**

#### **CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2011 STATE OF ALASKA CAPITAL BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, the City plans to hire a construction company to complete each project, creating a short-term demand for architects, engineers, and laborers in the construction, electrical, and mechanical trades;

**WHEREAS**, the City intends to exhibit transparency, oversight, and accountability for all funds awarded through this request;

**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 priorities established herein are rank-ordered and vital to the well-being of the community and municipality of Bethel;

**WHEREAS**, a summary of the City of Bethel's priorities and requested funding amounts are listed in the following table:

	<b>State Contribution Requested</b>
<b>Top Three Priorities</b>	
1. Bethel Fire Station (new construction)	\$7,000,000
2. Bethel Public Safety Building (new construction) to contain City of Bethel Police Department and Alaska State Troopers – Bethel Post	\$10,000,000
3. Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center (new construction)	\$2,000,000
Total	\$19,000,000

## **1. Bethel Fire Station Replacement**

**Whereas**, Tanya Bratslavsky, a certified structural engineer and President of Bratslavsky Consulting engineers, Inc., evaluated the condition of the Bethel Fire Station and declared in her official report that **"the structure is in a state of imminent danger of collapse, is unsafe for occupancy, and is a significant threat to life and safety, not only for occupants of the building, but also for the public. There is also a risk to high-dollar-value fire vehicles and equipment;**

**Whereas**, temporary, double-layer shoring was installed in the vehicle bays and in the living areas to prevent further evidence of deterioration and collapsing, Tanya Bratslavsky, a certified structural engineer and President of Bratslavsky Consulting Engineers, Inc. has reported that **while the temporary shoring might serve as an emergency support system for the failing building framing, it is not sufficient, or capable, of supporting snow loads that would cause buckling of the posts and failure of the roof;**

**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 an average of once a week to a real fire emergency;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel Fire Department assists regional villages when requested by supplying trained personnel, equipment, and supplies, (e.g., in 2006, Bethel Fire Department responded to the Hooper Bay fire and was immediately given the command role);

**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 Station serves as a regional training facility that offers courses in fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, national incident management system, first aid/CPR, and equipment use;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station to protect its fire trucks, ambulances, communication equipment, hazardous materials response equipment, life-saving search and rescue equipment, computers, medical supplies, and full-time and volunteer Firefighter/EMTs some of whom occupy the building 24 hours a day;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel Fire Station serves as the Emergency Operations Center for the community of Bethel and contains high-tech communication equipment, laptop computers, planning room, bunk beds, and apartment;

**WHEREAS**, the essential nature of the Bethel Fire Station is compromised by its failing structural condition, including rotten top wall plates, damaged siding/plywood, wall studs damaged at bottom (most over 60%), roof trusses and sheathing, rotten beams under the four-bay garage foundation, and water-damaged electrical fixtures;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel was awarded \$1,200,000 in 2008 from the State Legislature to repair or replace the fire station roof and would like to use this money to help pay for a new building;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel is confident that it can construct a new fire station for an estimated \$8,200,000 and requests that the State of Alaska provide \$7,000,000 to the City of Bethel in its FY 2011 Capital Budget;

## **2. Bethel Public Safety Building**

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel Police Station is outdated, in poor condition, and in need of replacement;

**WHEREAS**, a regional law enforcement center could serve the 5,665 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 a regional law enforcement center;

**WHEREAS**, a regional law enforcement center could serve as a regional training center for Village Public Safety Officers, Village Police Officers, Tribal Police Officers, Bethel Police Officers, Community Service Officers and 911 dispatchers;

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, the Bethel Police Department received 15,688 calls for service and is currently working 1,262 cases;

**WHEREAS**, Eleven sworn officers, four dispatchers, one community service officer, and one administrative assistant are compelled to serve the community of 6,000 from a makeshift grouping of three 30-year old buildings, called the Bethel Police Station, that is cold, cramped, and reeks of sewage, and has mold accumulating;

**WHEREAS**, exit interviews completed between October 2004 and March 2005 revealed that the insufficient condition of the police facility was the number one reason why Bethel police officers and dispatchers resigned from their positions, contributing to the Bethel Police Department's high turnover rate;

**WHEREAS**, according to Resolution #05-02, passed on June 6, 2005, the Bethel Police Station needs a larger evidence room, better building security, greater armory storage capacity, interview and training rooms, holding cells, office space, exercise room with lockers, heated garage bays for vehicles, and evidence gathering area;

**WHEREAS**, to achieve economies of scale and stretch out State of Alaska dollars, the City of Bethel will combine the need for a new Police Station with the need for a new Alaska State Troopers headquarters by designing and constructing a new Bethel Public Safety Building;

**WHEREAS**, when first responders share common areas of a building, camaraderie develops that can be invaluable when deploying assets, utilizing resources, cooperating with each other, and more effectively assisting each other during mutual response calls;

**WHEREAS**, the City has land ideally suited to construction of a new public safety building—it is located in the center of town on a high point outside the flood zone;

**WHEREAS**, the essential nature of the emergency service provided by occupants of the Bethel Police Station and the Alaska State Troopers – Bethel Post building require that \$10,000,000 be included in the FY 2011 State of Alaska Capital Budget to assist in funding a new Public Safety Building in Bethel;

### **3. Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents and visitors live near the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, engage in boating and water play activities, do not know how to swim, do not know how to rescue individuals from the water, and do not know how to resuscitate victims;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consultants in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one activity voted on by community members to include in the Aquatic Training and Health Center;

**WHEREAS**, the pool in the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center would provide the following benefits to any of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide courses to certify lifeguards, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, reduce the onset of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems, provide a venue for physical therapy, and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center Sub-Committee within the Parks and Recreation Committee is a group of concerned citizens that meet twice a month to assist in the development of the multi-use recreation center, make recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Committee to be submitted to the City Council for

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager  
Date: August 25, 2009  
Action: Passed  
Passed: 7-0

consideration, and assure that the project design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs are affordable;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel signed a contract with Architects Alaska, Inc. in January 2009 and agreed to pay \$390,933 for the architects to complete the 35% schematic design by July 31, 2009, which has been accomplished;

**WHEREAS**, with Bethel City Council approval, Architects Alaska, Inc. will complete the 65% design development portion, and 100% construction-ready documents in fulfillment of the contract at a cost of \$1,052,025 – a cost borne entirely by the City through a sales tax voted by the citizens of Bethel;

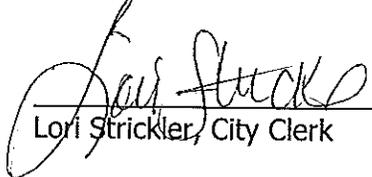
**WHEREAS**, the City requests that \$2,000,000 be put in the FY 2011 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel to assist in paying for the first phase of construction of the new Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community of Bethel, hereby set and affirm three funding priorities for the FY 2011 State of Alaska Capital Budget: **1) Bethel Fire Station (new construction), 2) Public Safety Building (new construction), and 3) Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center (new construction-Phase 1).**

**ENACTED THIS 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2009 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.**

  
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Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Lori Strickler, City Clerk