

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 09-35

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2011 STATE OF ALASKA OPERATING BUDGET

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 considered many important City projects and selected the top three that need funding from the FY 2011 legislative funding;

WHEREAS, the priorities established herein are deemed to be of equal value and vital to the well-being of the community and municipality of Bethel;

WHEREAS, a summary of the City of Bethel's priorities and amounts of funds requested for each priority is listed in the following table:

Top Four Priorities	Request
1. Community Dividend or Revenue Sharing	Based on formula
2. Expanding Power Cost Equalization Program	Based on formula
3. Public Employees Retirement System and Teachers Retirement System	SUPPORT
4. Energy Efficiency Improvements and Alternatives	\$714,719

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. Expanding Power Cost Equalization Program

WHEREAS, according to the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) guide, "the PCE program was established to assist rural residents at the same time state funds were used to construct major energy projects to assist more urban areas;"

WHEREAS, in general, rural areas experience a higher cost of electricity relative to their urban counterparts;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: September 8, 2009
Action: Passed
Passed: 7-0

WHEREAS, if PCE were expanded to include businesses which provide goods and services to rural areas, the businesses would have an incentive to pass on energy savings to consumers in the form of lower prices;

3. 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;

4. Energy Efficiency Improvements and Alternatives

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel owns and uses 20 buildings to provide its services to the public, many of which are 30 years old, were constructed without regard to energy efficiencies, have been severely battered by the weather, and have suffered damage as a result of shifting and sinking due to thawing permafrost;

WHEREAS, the City's Public Works building needs styrofoam insulation sprayed underneath the floor of the building, CDX plywood applied to cover the insulation, and the exterior completely covered with tyvek installation;

WHEREAS, the cost for insulating the City's Public Works building is \$300,000;

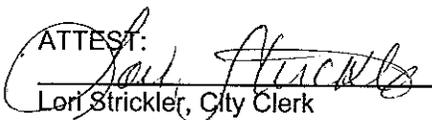
WHEREAS, the cost to provide energy efficient LED street lights throughout the City is estimated to be \$250,000;

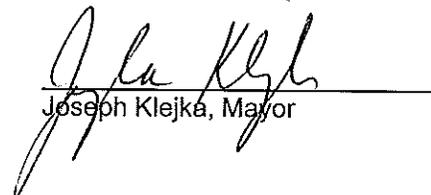
WHEREAS, the City of Bethel's Property Maintenance Division is funded annually and will be responsible for maintaining the buildings, once the energy improvements are made;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel needs \$164,719 to operate and maintain the four 100 kW wind turbines it will purchase and install with the grant money awarded by the Alaska Energy Authority and Denali Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community of Bethel, established the City's priorities for the FY 2011 State of Alaska Operating Budget, and urge the State Legislature to approve this request in its entirety;

ENACTED THIS 25th DAY OF AUGUST 2009 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk


Joseph Klejka, Mayor