

Introduced by: Dan Leinberger, Council Member  
Date: January 29, 2008  
Action: Passed  
Vote: 7-0

## *CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA*

### **Resolution # 08-02**

#### **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY AND DENALI COMMISSION FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF ONE OR MORE LARGE COMMERCIAL WIND TURBINES**

**WHEREAS**, the Wind Resource Assessment for Bethel, Alaska report completed in February 2006, indicates that Bethel has "good" wind energy development potential (Wind Power Class 4);

**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 Alaska Energy Authority and Denali Commission are soliciting alternative energy projects by the February 12, 2008 deadline;

**WHEREAS**, the Denali Commission is offering \$4 million in grant funds for alternative energy projects that serve rural Alaska and the Alaska Energy Authority is offering up to \$1 million in grant funds for alternative energy projects that serve any community in Alaska;

**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 large 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 recommended on December 2, 2005 that the City Manager prepare and submit a proposal to the Alaska Energy Authority requesting grant funds to purchase and install a large commercial wind turbine as a way to reduce energy costs associated with one City building;

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**WHEREAS**, the RFP requires the City of Bethel, as a prospective independent power producer, to obtain formal endorsement of the project from the electric utility's governing board, and the City requested this endorsement in a letter dated January 16, 2008;

**WHEREAS**, the purchase and installation of one or more large commercial wind turbines like the one proposed herein offers major benefits to the City, community, and other entities considering similar projects: (1) actual cost figures from the purchase, installation, operation, and maintenance of the turbines, (2) results on wind characteristics (intensity, duration, frequency, direction) for a location in city limits, (3) City and Alternative Energy Committee experience in the preparation and submission of wind energy grants; (4) jobs for residents to transport, install, operate, and maintain the wind turbine(s); (5) increased potential for Bethel to serve as a wind energy hub community, supplying parts, labor, and training to surrounding villages; and (6) a true test in western Alaska of a municipality working with a private utility so the municipality could own and operate one or more wind turbines connected to the utility grid;

**WHEREAS**, grant funds from AEA and DC will provide 50% of approved project costs, requiring the remaining funds to be provided by the City and/or other sources;

**WHEREAS**, the community of Bethel qualifies as an "extremely high energy cost community" and is therefore eligible to apply for a *High Energy Cost Grant* sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development;

**WHEREAS**, City intends to apply for a 2008 High Energy Cost Grant by the March 28, 2008 deadline to cover the full match required for the alternative energy project mentioned herein, thereby requiring no cash match from the City;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council supports the preparation and submission of a grant application to the Alaska Energy Authority and Denali Commission to fund the purchase and installation of one or more large commercial wind turbine for use on one of its city buildings;

**ENACTED THIS 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2008 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.**

  
Eric Middlebrook, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Sandra Modigh, City Clerk