

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 11-30

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2013 STATE OF ALASKA CAPITAL 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 City intends to exhibit transparency, oversight, and accountability for all funds awarded through this request;

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:

Top Three Priorities	Request
1. Bethel Small Boat Harbor Dredging and Ramp Replacement	\$4,000,000
2. New Public Works Building Floor	\$1,500,000
3. Pumper/Tender Fire Truck	\$350,000
Total	\$5,850,000

#1 Bethel Small Boat Harbor Dredging and Ramp Replacement
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WHEREAS, residents who live along the Kuskokwim River depend on the Bethel Small Boat Harbor to moor their boats in order to visit Bethel and purchase goods, access government, educational, and medical opportunities, meet family members and friends, engage in subsistence activities, and return home to their village;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Small Boat Harbor is used extensively by subsistence hunters and fishers as they exercise their rights to harvest fish and wildlife from the Kuskokwim River and adjoining streams, rivers, ponds, and riverbank access points;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers considers the Bethel Small Boat Harbor a "harbor of refuge" for boaters caught on the Kuskokwim River during storms, natural disasters, or other life-threatening events;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel sells boat slip permits annually in the small boat harbor in an effort to provide sufficient space for personal watercraft on its eight floating docks;

WHEREAS, the north and south cement boat launch ramps at the harbor are crumbling, pulling apart, and failing to achieve the purpose for which they were designed and constructed;

WHEREAS, a hydrographic survey completed by WH Pacific in 2010 revealed a zero footage depth at the deepest part of the Bethel Small Boat Harbor at the mean low low water mark, representing scientific evidence of the need to dredge the harbor because navigability is nearly impossible;

WHEREAS, over the last thirteen years, the small boat harbor and channel approach have experienced severe bank destabilization and infilling through runoff and river current deposits;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, is administering a \$500,000 grant from the Denali Commission on behalf of the City of Bethel to design the needed dredging, ramps, and bank stabilization project at the Bethel Small Boat Harbor;

WHEREAS, completion of the dredging design, permitting, and right-of-way acquisitions will prepare the City for construction dredging, making this State legislative funding request timely and appropriate;

WHEREAS, the lack of maintenance dredging by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the last 13 years has created a situation in which the amount of material to be removed from the Bethel Small Boat Harbor basin and entrance channel qualify this project as a capital construction project;

WHEREAS, dredging of the Small Boat Harbor in its entirety, scouring the north and south ramps, and replacement of the south ramp will cost approximately \$4,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2013 State Capital Budget so the City of Bethel can complete this important project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and city of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide \$4,000,000 in the FY2013 Alaska Capital Budget for Bethel Small Boat Harbor dredging, ramp scouring, and ramp replacement.

#2 New Public Works Building Floor

WHEREAS, the Public Works building is an invaluable asset to the City, providing a two-story building that accommodates nearly all Public Works divisions and the Planning Office;

WHEREAS, the utility maintenance division, located in the Public Works building, fills a valuable health and safety need by providing water deliveries and sewer evacuations as needed to 1,260 buildings six days per week;

WHEREAS, certified mechanics work in the Public Works building to maintain and service emergency response vehicles for the police and fire departments, water and sewer trucks for the utility maintenance division, heavy equipment and dump trucks used for road work, transit system buses, and cars and trucks for City staff;

WHEREAS, the City's Property Maintenance Division uses a wood/metal workshop, offices, and store room in the Public Works building to help them maintain 30 City structures, boilers, generators, parks, boardwalks, and special projects;

WHEREAS, leaks in the steel floor and drain failures over the last 29 years contributed to the dry-rot and wholesale decay of floor supports;

WHEREAS, four drains in the floor are inoperable, allowing water to run out onto the sand pad below and cold air to enter the building unabated;

WHEREAS, the City needs to remove and replace 90% of the Public Works building floor, including the steel sheets forming the top, and underneath: floor joists, insulation, sheathing, and weather guard;

WHEREAS, the City needs to replace all drains and associated plumbing to ensure proper water drainage;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel funded the repair and replacement of 10% of the floor in 2008, but needs the State to fund the repair and replacement of the other 90%;

WHEREAS, funding for a new floor will allow the City to remove and replace the existing floor and associated drains with a new floor using half-inch steel sheets, treated floor joists, insulation and outer envelope, and new drains and pipes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide \$1,500,000 in its FY 2013 Capital Budget for removal and replacement of the existing Public Works building floor and construction of a new floor with new drains and pipes;

#3 Pumper/Tender Fire Truck

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department is comprised of seven full-time paid Firefighter/EMTs and 20 volunteer Firefighter/EMTs;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department serves the 6,080 residents of Bethel and has assisted neighboring villages in need (e.g., Hooper Bay in 2006) by protecting lives, reducing injuries, and safeguarding property or minimizing property damage from fire, flood, and other forms of destruction;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department has a 39-year old first-line pumper/tanker this is unsafe to operate, unreliable, and in need of a new engine;

WHEREAS, the Fire Department's pumper/tender was out of commission during 2010 due to mechanical breakdowns and the associated time needed to diagnose problems, find parts, and make repairs;

WHEREAS, the pumper/tender has an open cab, which is no longer manufactured because it is less safe than an enclosed cab;

WHEREAS, the pumper/tanker's stick-shift transmission slows its response time and its tank capacity and pump rate are increasingly inadequate for Bethel's size, frequency of fires, and lack of fire hydrants;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Chief and Fire Captain have determined that the safety and well-being of Bethel residents require a new pumper/tanker with an automatic transmission capable of carrying 120% more water and pumping 50% faster;

WHEREAS, the new pumper/tender would meet all National Fire Protection Association standards for safety, reliability, and use;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide \$350,000.00 in its FY 2013 Capital Budget for the purchase of a new pumper/tender that will be placed in service by the Bethel Fire Department;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, hereby set and affirm the three funding priorities for the FY 2013 State of Alaska Capital Budget as: 1) Bethel Small Boat Harbor Dredging and Ramp Replacement, 2) New Public Works Building Floor, and 3) Pumper/Tender Fire Truck.

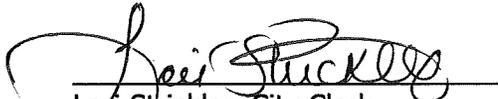
Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: September 13, 2011
Action: Passed
Passed:5-2

**ENACTED THIS 13th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2011 BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 2
OPPOSED.**



Eric Middlebrook, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk