

Introduced by: City Manager Foley
Date: October 8, 2013
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 13-17

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2015 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 and 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:

| Twelve Priorities | Request |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Dredge | \$12,000,000 |
| 2. City Dock Repair and New Port Office | \$6,350,000 |
| 3. Alternative Road Around H-Marker Lake | \$4,000,000 |
| 4. Dust Control Measures, Gravel, and Calcium Chloride | \$3,000,000 |
| 5. Institutional Corridor, Final Phase | \$7,000,000 |
| Total | \$32,350,000 |

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| #1 | Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Dredge | \$12,000,000 |
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel provides hauled sewage service to 1,297 buildings and piped sewage service to 448 buildings;

WHEREAS, all sewage is deposited into the City's sewer lagoon, which is divided into two cells that occupy 61.7 acres;

WHEREAS, the lagoon capacity is steadily shrinking every year as solids settle on the bottom;

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WHEREAS, the City is given an administrative extension from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation each year to discharge effluent into the Kuskokwim River with the understanding that the City is actively pursuing lagoon remediation efforts;

WHEREAS, the City must discharge 220 million gallons of raw effluent into the Kuskokwim River every year in order to lower lagoon volume and avoid a cataclysmic breach or overflow situation;

WHEREAS, the fact that a portion of the upper lagoon cell wall breached in 2005, causing the discharge of thousands of gallons of effluent onto open tundra, underscores the need for rehabilitation;

WHEREAS, professional engineering firm, Larsen Consulting Group, LLC, completed a preliminary engineering report in 2010 in which they described the poor condition of the lagoon and made recommendations for improvement;

WHEREAS, recommendations from Larsen Consulting comprise the majority of this project: construction of a new third 30-acre holding cell, construction of a 20-acre treatment area, purchase a dredge to remove sludge from the bottom of the lagoon and increase capacity, use of 80 geobags to contain the sludge removed from the lagoon and help it dewater and decompose, replacement of curtains, and complete overhaul of the sewer truck discharge area;

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 \$12,000,000 in the FY 2015 Alaska Capital Budget for Bethel to fund the Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Dredge project.

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| #2 | City Dock Repair and New Port Office | \$6,350,000 |
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City Dock Repair

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Dock receives ocean-going barges from Seattle and Anchorage from May 28 to October 5 every year;

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Dock serves as the receiving and transshipment center for 28 villages on and around the Kuskokwim River region for essential goods, materials, equipment, vehicles, and buildings;

WHEREAS, the East side of the City Dock running along Brown's Slough contains an East Timber Wall section made of creosote-soaked timbers that have jacked out of the ground to become a hazard;

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WHEREAS, the poor structural condition of the East Timber Wall renders useless its upland dock area (375 feet by 50 feet) and renders its Brown's Slough water space unusable for moorage;

WHEREAS, the City Dock East Timber Wall must be replaced with an open cell sheet pile wall with fenders, bull rail, bollards, and lighting in order to put the upland area near the wall to productive Port use;

WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers—Alaska District is completing the design of the East Timber Wall with \$200,000 from the City's Denali Commission grant award and \$50,000 from the City of Bethel;

WHEREAS, repairing the East Timber Wall is essential to enable the City Dock to serve the growing population of the Yukon-Kuskokwim region and hub community of Bethel, coupled with the prospect of large-scale economic development projects coming online, like Donlin Gold Mine;

New Port Office

WHEREAS, the Port of Bethel is a regional medium draft port receiving thousands of tons of cargo for Bethel and surrounding villages from barges emanating from Seattle and Anchorage;

WHEREAS, the Port of Bethel is responsible for overseeing the City Dock facility, Petroleum Port, Bethel Small Boat Harbor, Seawall Moorings, and Float Plane Landing Area and is responsible for maintaining the seawall and adjacent uplands;

WHEREAS, the Port of Bethel stands ready to respond to hazardous material spills and boat fires in the river, serves barge captains and coast guard buoy tenders through radio contact, and helps secure cargo and protect vessels;

WHEREAS, the Port of Bethel operates out of a small one-room office building that is too small to serve the needs of its barge customers, commercial enterprises with which it does business, the Bethel and Village public, U.S. Coast Guard, its Commission, and its staff members;

WHEREAS, the wiring in the 30-year old makeshift port office does not meet the requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI);

WHEREAS, the restrooms and front door are not ADA-accessible;

WHEREAS, VHF radios, all-hazard radios, video camera equipment, tide gauge, and other essential gear requiring wire and wireless capability sit congested in one corner of the building and part of the bathroom due to a shortage of space;

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WHEREAS, the Port of Bethel needs a new Port Office approximately 1,800 to 2,000 square feet in size with closed-door offices for the Port Director and Operations Manager so that they can conduct business in a private and confidential manner;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel paid architects for a new office concept design that includes private offices, a server room, mechanical room, conference room, and bathroom;

WHEREAS, the proposed new port office building would be wired with CAT5e or CAT6 cable, be ADA-accessible, ANSI-approved, and meet the needs of the Fire Marshal's office for public buildings;

WHEREAS, commercial construction rates in Bethel reveal that a new port office building can be constructed for \$500,000;

WHEREAS, the City currently has \$150,000 in the Port Office Fund to contribute to this project and needs only \$350,000 from the State in order to construct the new office building;

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 \$6,350,000 in its FY 2015 Capital Budget to fund replacement of the City Dock East Timber Wall and construction of a new port office building;

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| #3 | Alternative Road Around H-Marker Lake | \$4,000,000 |
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WHEREAS, the community of Bethel has been severely hampered by the closure of Tundra Ridge Road in 2008 because it broke the circuit, causing all traffic to flow in a "U" pattern from the State Highway to Ptarmigan Street;

WHEREAS, the City worked diligently with the State and private landowners to re-open the road, but after five years, the impasse remains steadfast;

WHEREAS, the community continues to suffer in terms of increased response time for emergency response vehicles to reach the Tundra Ridge Subdivision and residents of the subdivision are enduring additional time and cost to get to work, to the store, to the airport, and other places;

WHEREAS, the City's proposed solution is to construct a new gravel road around H-Marker Lake to connect the public part of Tundra Ridge Road with Ptarmigan Street, that will complete the circuit again;

WHEREAS, the new road will follow the shortest route from existing road to existing road;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is willing and able to provide sand, heavy equipment, and personnel to assist in the development of the new road;

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WHEREAS, a new road between the state highway and Ptarmigan Street is expected to save lives and reduce injuries as a result of faster emergency vehicle response times, lessen drive time to town, lower fuel cost, and reduce vehicle maintenance cost;

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 \$4,000,000 in its FY 2015 Capital Budget to fund the Alternative Road Around H-Marker Lake project;

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| #4 | Dust Control Measures, Gravel, and Calcium Chloride | \$3,000,000 |
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WHEREAS, the community of Bethel is plagued by airborne dust and the ill-health effects associated with its inhalation, ingestion, and contact with eyes, ears, and skin;

WHEREAS, the City learned over its 55-year existence that purchasing and applying gravel, calcium chloride, and hydroseeding road slopes are effective dust control techniques;

WHEREAS, the City will purchase one new water spray truck with project funds so that it can apply water to the dusty streets throughout the summer;

WHEREAS, the City plans to purchase gravel and other materials in bulk quantities and use them in subdivisions, which are currently underserved because the City must focus its efforts on major thoroughfares;

WHEREAS, the City has the heavy equipment, trained personnel, and operating costs in its budget to apply gravel, calcium chloride, and hydroseed to the City's roads as needed;

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 \$3,000,000 in its FY 2015 Capital Budget to fund the Dust Control Measures, Gravel, and Calcium Chloride project;

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| #5 | Institutional Corridor, Final Phase | \$7,000,000 |
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WHEREAS, the State of Alaska provided the City of Bethel with \$7,000,000 in FY 2014 to complete the initial phase of the Institutional Corridor project;

WHEREAS, the City is currently working with engineers to design the initial phase of the Institutional Corridor project that will connect the State adult correctional facility, youth correctional facility, and regional hospital and health corporation administration building;

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WHEREAS, the final phase of the project will connect all major institutional users on a section of Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel owns and operates the City Subdivision Water Treatment Plant that has sufficient capacity to provide water to all institutional users along the corridor;

WHEREAS, the City expects to receive an increase in revenue over the cost of providing piped water services to the institutions along the corridor — a rare occurrence for a water and sewer system subsidized at a cost of \$623,000 per year;

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 \$7,000,000 in its FY 2015 Capital Budget to fund the Final Phase of the Institutional Corridor Project;

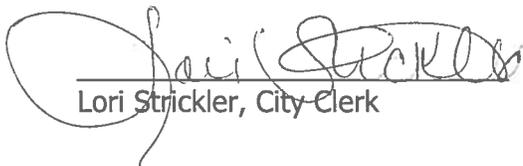
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, hereby set and affirm the following five projects for the City's FY 2015 State of Alaska Capital Budget funding request: (1) Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Dredge, (2) City Dock Repair and New Port Office, (3) Alternative Road Around H-Marker Lake, (4) Dust Control Measures, Gravel, & Calcium Chloride, and (5) Institutional Corridor, Final Phase.

ENACTED THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER 2013 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.



Joseph A. Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk