MEMORANDUM

DATE: 06.30.2022
TO: Peter Williams, City Manager
FROM: Bill Arnold, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Manager’s Report – Public Works Department

The old bus barn contracted part of the project has been completed. The city will continue to work on the building through out the rest of the summer and into the fall.

Court House Water project is under way and about 50% complete at this time.

Programs/Divisions

Hauled Utilities: This department is still critically short on personnel, if one employee is on PTO this causes other crew members double upon their work loads, people are mentally and physically tired. Hauled utilities personnel are working long hours to provide water and sewer services to the community. A pay range increase from a range 4 to a range 5 is merited. I was hired at a range 4 in 2001 and in 2022, the hauled utility drivers are still a range 4 on the City’s pay scale. Negotiations are taking place now, the city is in a position to make this happen. Hiring and annual bonuses would be nice also.

Utility Maintenance: 9alarms on residential lift stations were responded to. Multiple issues with grinder pumps, and float systems.
- Monthly meter reading and service connections were completed
- Clean up and organization of shops and vehicles.
- 9 residential lift station repairs.
- Tundra Center lift station still in dire need of repairs/ replacement. Currently, lift station is not functioning at full capacity/ has required creativity to modify pump to continue to operate.
- Mixing up main lift station by hand with soap to prevent matt build up
- Brush cutting and leveling activities on low-flow and plugged sewer lines
- The few flushing activities that have required longer than 16 hours of work have been handled by rotating men on rest.
- Daily safety meetings were held.
- Start of the lagoon pump
- Bethel Heights in summer mode
- Shut off Lagoon pump
- Water sampling for SGS

Property Maintenance:
Temporary positions posted since early 2022. Hired 1 of 2 on 6/30/2022
Vacant FTE positions still posted. Hired 1 of 2 FTE on 6/30/2022
Currently short staffed. 4 of 7 total employees.
Summer building projects and maintenance tasks are beginning
Parks problems and vandalism and graffiti on the rise. Park temporary worker getting caught
up on daily weekday park rounds and trash clean up. Fences repaired on one day is destroyed
the following day. Employee reports Trash cans that are emptied one day are filled the
following day. Loose trash strewn about in most parks daily. Kids continue to move park
benches and tables to use as climbing aids or as methods of destruction. Anchored several
picnic tables down into the ground and children have removed the anchors. Boardwalk side
rails are broken off and thrown into tundra.
Boiler system and post summer pump maintenance in the works.

Road Maintenance:
Streets and Roads haul with dump trucks, D-1 gravel to Napakiak Drive in City
Subdivision starting from Mission Drive to Akiak Drive, graded it and compacted
it.
Streets and Roads laid down more Calcium on Ptarmigan St, Housing, BIA Road,
Boat Harbor Road, and Noel Polty Blvd. These roads were done two and three
times due to heavy traffic and due to no rain, the road is drier this year.
Street and Roads has been pushing road sand as we have time at the city sand pit
with the D-8 cat dozer four times in June.
Street and Roads replaced culvert that cross 1113 Naun Raq Road in Uivuq
subdivision.
Streets and Road taking out the beaver dams in culverts on Ptarmigan Street in
two area where Brown’s slough crosses the roads.

Vehicles and Equipment:  V&E has been serving and repairing vehicles and
equipment as needed.

Transit System:  Bethel Transit System’s rider consisted of 1,611 Seniors, 56
Youth, 1,729 Adults, 205 Disabled, and 1,774 Pass Riders. Since the fares went
into effect, Transit made $1,845.00 from Month and Day Pass purchases and
$1,866.00 Regular fares, totaling $3,711.00 for the month of June. Bus 440 logged
7,788.7 miles and pumped in 885.591 gallons of fuel.
Landfill:

Worked with Art Guild allowing them to paint 8 dumpsters. We had a lot of construction trash this month. The new shredder arrived and was used extensively, however with anything new the kinks need to be worked out and that is in progress. Two employees were sent to CDL training in Kenia. One is just getting back and will go to hauled water and sewer. The other one just left and when he gets back, he will remain at the landfill.

Staffing Issues/Concerns/Training:
Staffing is still a major issue the PWD has 51 full time positions at this time there is 15 open, 6 temporary and 5 open.