

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Bethel

Project Title:

Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition

Bethel - New Bethel Police Station

State Funding Requested: \$3,000,000

House District: 38 / S

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Construct new Bethel Police Station adjacent to current building in the center of town. New building will have holding cell, secured interview room,

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$3,000,000

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Federal Funds	\$0		\$0		\$0	
State Funds	\$0				\$0	
Denali Commission	\$0		\$0		\$0	
Rasmuson Foundation	\$0		\$0		\$0	
Local Funds	\$0		\$0		\$0	
Other Funds	\$0		\$0		\$0	
Total						

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This project entails the construction of a new Bethel Police Station across the street from its current location. The new building would be constructed inside a steel shell measuring 80 feet by 100 feet. The amount of interior space would be 7,200 square feet.

The proposed site for this project is on 1.52 acres of City land adjacent to the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway, in the center of town. This location gives direct access to the main street through town, allowing quick and easy access to any location within the community. The proposed site overlooks the river.

Construct new Bethel Police Station on-site of current police station. New police station would include private interview rooms, warm storage for evidence, private offices, equipment storage, armory, larger dispatch center that can accommodate two to three dispatchers, two sallyports and three holding cells for vehicles. The new police station will incorporate energy efficient building technology and be wired for internet and global communications. A safer parking lot will be constructed.

\$3,000,000
Approved

Project Timeline:

May 19, 2010 - Grants announced.

July 15, 2010 - Grant agreement signed by City and State.

August 10, 2010 - City issues Request for Proposals for design/build construction of new building.

September 10-20, 2010 - Evaluate proposals, select one proposer to do the work.

October 10, 2010 - Have contract signed with construction company for the work on the new building to begin in spring 2011. Company will order materials and prepare for construction.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Bethel. City has a Property Maintenance Division in its Public Works Department.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: John Sargent

Address: 300 State Highway
Bethel, AK 99559

Phone Number: (907)543-1386

Email: jsargent@cityofbethel.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 10-15

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

WHEREAS, the City plans to hire a construction company to complete each project, creating a short-term demand for architects, engineers, and laborers in the construction, electrical, and mechanical trades;

WHEREAS, the City intends to exhibit transparency, oversight, and accountability for all funds awarded through this request;

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 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 Fire Station (repairs)	\$1,000,000
2. Bethel Police Station (new construction)	\$3,000,000
3. Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center (new construction)	\$4,000,000
Total	\$8,000,000

#1 Bethel Fire Station

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station is more than 28 years old and has deteriorated over time due to water intrusion, a faulty roof design that allowed no ventilation in the roof cavity, and the use of sprayed foam insulation instead of fiberglass insulation as required in the original building plans;

WHEREAS, the station's failing structural condition that includes roof trusses and sheeting, rotted top wall plates, delaminated siding/plywood, decayed wall studs and disintegrating

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

beams, while temporarily mitigated through emergency repairs, has not been sufficient to extend the operational life of the facility;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel was awarded \$1,200,000.00 in a Legislative Grant from the State of Alaska to repair, or replace the fire station roof, and plans to use the funds requested herein, if approved, to effect the additional repairs necessary to extend the life expectancy of the building;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as a regional emergency assistance hub for fire and emergency medical services, search and rescue support, and as the Emergency Operations Center for the community of Bethel;

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 \$1,000,000.00 in its FY 2011 Capital Budget to be used in repairing the fire station.

#2 New Bethel Police Station

WHEREAS, the current Bethel Police Station is more than 30 years old and was constructed by combining 3 mismatched smaller structures that are incapable of supporting the twelve sworn officers, five dispatchers, and one administrative assistant who provide public safety needs for a community of approximately 6,000 souls in bush Alaska;

WHEREAS, the current facility is almost impossible to heat, is cramped to the point of seriously restricting internal performance duties, projects a consistently offensive odor that cannot be eliminated, has mold buildup in the walls, no protection for police vehicles in periods of extreme inhospitable weather, and no place to interview victims, or suspects;

WHEREAS, the deplorable conditions stated herein have had a negative impact on recruitment and retention of police officers and dispatchers;

WHEREAS, if this request is approved, the City intends to construct the new facility so as to minimize impact on current operations and ability to serve the public;

WHEREAS, the essential nature of the emergency services provided by Bethel Police Department personnel require that a new, improved, and healthy environment be created by constructing a totally new police station;

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 \$3,000,000.00 in its FY 2011 Capital Budget to be used for constructing a new police station.

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Passed: 7-0

3 Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility that included a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents and visitors live near the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, engage in boating and water play activities, do not know how to swim, do not know how to rescue individuals from the water, and do not know how to resuscitate victims;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consultants in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one activity voted on by community members to include in the Aquatic Training and Health Center;

WHEREAS, the pool in the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center would provide the following benefits to any of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide courses to certify lifeguards, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, reduce the onset of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems, provide a venue for physical therapy, and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center Committee is a group of concerned citizens formed in November 2007 that meet twice a month to assist in the development of the multi-use recreation center, make recommendations to the City Manager, and assure that the project design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs are affordable;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel signed a contract with Architects Alaska, Inc. in January 2009 and agreed to pay \$390,933 for the architects to complete the 35% schematic design by July 31, 2009, which has been accomplished;

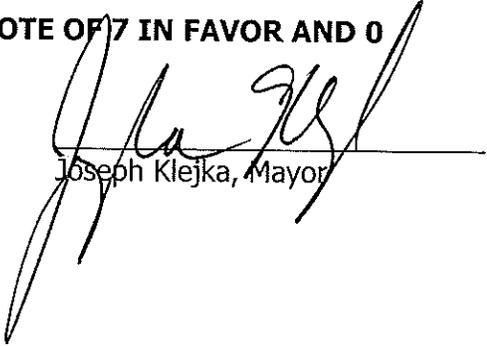
WHEREAS, the City requests that \$4,000,000 be put in the FY 2011 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel to pay for the first phase of construction of the new Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Passed: 7-0

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 \$4,000,000.00 in its FY 2011 Capital Budget to be matched with other designated and approved funding sources to construct a new Aquatic Training and Health Center.

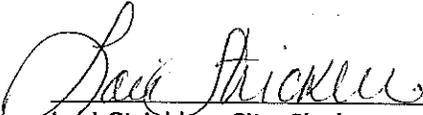
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and city of Bethel, hereby set and reaffirm the three funding priorities for the FY 2011 State of Alaska Capital Budget as: 1) Bethel Fire Station, 2) Bethel Police Station, and 3) Bethel Aquatic Training and health Center.

ENACTED THIS 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2010 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.



Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk

City of Bethel

New Bethel Police Station

FY 2011 State of Alaska Capital Budget Request

Contact Person

John Sargent, Grant Development Manager
City of Bethel
P.O. Box 1388
Bethel, AK 99559
907-543-1386 tel. / 907-543-1388 fax
jsargent@cityofbethel.net

1. Summary Statement

The City of Bethel requests that **\$3,000,000** be put in the FY 2011 State Capital Budget to fund a new Bethel Police Station. The new building would be located on City land in the Center of town along the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway. The new building would consist of a prefabricated steel shell shipped to Alaska from the Lower 48 and two floors of rooms constructed on-site. Two sallyports, garages with doors on two ends, would be part of the building.

The current Police Station is a combination of three separate small buildings attached in makeshift fashion. There is insufficient room for officer desks, for processing rape victims in private, for storing evidence, holding meetings, classroom training, and efficient use of the 911 Dispatch Center. The Department is fully staffed at 24 police officers, 4 community service officers, 1 administrative assistant, and 5 dispatchers and desperately needs sufficient space to effectively perform their duties.

The new Bethel Police Station would satisfy nearly all problems associated with the current building. The new station would allow more officer desk space, private interview rooms, secured holding cells, sallyports for warm vehicle storage, larger warm evidence storage space, larger armory, exercise room, and a dormitory that can sleep eight. The new building would be able to account for the modest growth in department personnel needed to serve Bethel.

2. Brief Community Profile

Physical Environment

The community of Bethel is located alongside the Kuskokwim River, the second largest river in Alaska. Isolated from the road network of Alaska, the city is four hundred air miles from Anchorage and forty air miles from the Bering Sea. The City encompasses approximately 44 square miles in Southwest Alaska, including six miles of Kuskokwim River that encompasses 21 miles of shoreline due to islands and river bank formations. The Kuskokwim River becomes a frozen road in the winter, connecting Bethel to many villages along the river.

The average annual snowfall in Bethel is 53 inches. The average annual precipitation is 16 inches. The mean summer temperature is 53°F and fluctuates between 42°F and 62°F. The mean winter temperature is 11° and fluctuates between -2°F and 19°F.

Bethel is located in a treeless sub-arctic tundra that remains moist in the summertime and frozen in the wintertime. The land in and around Bethel is nearly all permafrost, except for some land surrounding lakes and ponds.

Regional Hub

Bethel is a hub community for 56 Yukon-Kuskokwim villages in the region. Bethel is home to the third busiest airport in the state of Alaska, due largely to its cargo shipments, and home to the largest medium draft port in the state in terms of tonnage off-loaded. Goods destined for Kuskokwim River villages land in Bethel first and then are repackaged and taken to villages by plane, river barge, automobile, four-wheeler, boat, or snowmobile. Petroleum products are handled the same way, off-loaded in Bethel to smaller river fuel barges that transport the fuel villages upriver and downriver.

Many of the 20,000 residents who live in the 55 villages around Bethel come to Bethel to shop, access government services, satisfy health care needs, attend college or trade school courses, visit friends and relatives, and work. Bethel attracts a continual influx of people because it typically has 100 or more available jobs, private property for sale, businesses for sale, and a variety of places to spend money, including restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, and specialty shops (e.g., hardware, auto parts, party supplies, sporting goods).

Government

The City of Bethel was incorporated in 1957 while Alaska was still a territory and has since evolved to become a second-class city with a Council-Manager form of government. The seven elected City Council members hire and direct the City Manager, who oversees nine departments: Administration, Finance, Fire, Police, Port, Planning, Parks and Recreation, Technology, and Public Works. Bethel is a municipal government in the unorganized borough area of western Alaska and contains no other cities within its boundaries.

The Bethel City Council develops its annual budget by June 15 for the following fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. The total budget is approximately \$14 million.

Population

Bethel is the eighth largest town in Alaska with a population of 5,803 (Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development website, 2010). According to the Bethel Chamber of Commerce, the number of people in Bethel on a given day could be 6,400 or higher.

The average annual rate of increase for Bethel's population between 1990 and 2000 was 1.6% (U.S. Census 1990; U.S. Census 2000). The Alaska Department of Labor reported that the rate of increase in Bethel's population between 2000 and 2009 was .69%.

Need for Financial Resources

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area has been dependent on the commercial salmon industry to contribute a summer boon to the economy. The collapse of the commercial salmon fishery has crippled the Bethel economy, resulting in a severe decrease in sales tax revenues to the City. Despite the fact that the federal government declared the Bethel fishery a disaster in the mid 1990s, state support to rural Alaska has been limited, forcing local governments to operate with fewer funds. The Bethel City Council passed one resolution each year from 2001 to present certifying that the city suffered significantly from the lack of fisheries business activities that occurred in the Lower Kuskokwim Fisheries Management Area.

According to the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (2004), 67.4% of residents in Bethel Census Area villages are in the low to moderate income category. A substantial percent of people living in Bethel are in the low to moderate income category (42.2%). According to the September 2009 edition of the *Alaska Economic Trends* publication put out by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the current unemployment rate in the Bethel Census Area is 16%.

3. Justification and Level of Need

The City of Bethel is responsible for providing law enforcement and public safety services to the residents and visitors of Bethel through its Police Department. The Police Station occupies a building on the east side of City Hall, in the center of town along Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway.

The Bethel Police Department (BPD) currently has 12 sworn officers, including the Chief of Police and Lieutenant, four Community Service Officers/Community Service Patrol Officers, five dispatchers, and one Administrative Assistant. Grant funding from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services will allow the hiring of three Community Service Patrol men and women who will focus on finding and transporting inebriants to a sleep-off center.

The Bethel Police Department provides the following services, some of which are related to national security:

Bethel Police Department

- Bethel Police Department uses its 911 Dispatch capability to receive VHF radio calls for service and reaction to riverine emergencies with its boat.
- Bethel Police Department routinely engages in search and rescue operations with the Civil Air Patrol, Alaska State Troopers, and Bethel Search and Rescue. Police Department has a response boat, two four-wheelers, snowmobiles, and motor vehicles to assist in the search.
- Bethel Police Department is largest enforcement agency in western Alaska that is able to assist in national emergencies. Bethel Police Department assisted the federal government by closing the airport during 9/11 incident.
- Performs background checks with internal records for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.
- Bethel Police Department coordinates with U.S. Army National Guard on national security issues. During 9/11 incident, Bethel Police Department stored National Guard weapons to insure they would not fall into enemy hands.

- The Bethel Police Department has been given temporary jurisdiction to investigate criminal acts on federal government property in Bethel.
- Regional 911 Center for Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta provides enhanced E911 services.

High Call Volume

The City of Bethel Police Department typically experiences a high call for service volume, receiving 16,672 calls for service in 2009. These calls resulted in 1,247 case reports. The most common crimes were assaults and sexual assaults.

A high call volume puts pressure on the officers to respond rapidly many times throughout their shift, follow proper procedures at the scene and afterward, and complete paperwork in a timely manner. The more work demanded of the officers, the more they will benefit from an organized facility with a sufficient amount of space for each person to perform his or her duties, and the more they will benefit from every piece of equipment, supply, material, and form having its own place.

Current Police Station

The Bethel Police Station was built by cobbling three building pieces together in the early 1980s. There is no room for personal, one-on-one interviews (e.g., sexual assault victim interviews), no garage to keep vehicles warm in subzero temperatures, no classroom space, shortage of dispatch room space, insufficient evidence storage space, and lack of office space for responders. The sewer system pump station located underneath the kitchen routinely backs up and transmits a rank odor throughout station.

Storage Space

Homicide and sexual assault crimes require that law enforcement agencies retain all evidence for each case forever. First degree assault cases require the retention of all related evidence for the length of time the perpetrators serve a prison sentence. Depending on the nature of evidence, it might have to be frozen, refrigerated, or stored in a heated room. This evidence rule, coupled with the increase in what qualifies as evidence today, the propensity to collect a greater quantity of evidence, point to the need for all law enforcement agencies to continually add evidence storage space. The Bethel Police Department desperately needs evidence storage space.

Benefits of Funding a New Bethel Police Station

Designing and constructing a new Bethel Police Station in Bethel will assist the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in its efforts to increase the capacity of the City to prevent, deter, respond to, mitigate, and recover from natural disasters and terrorism events. Common natural disasters in and around Bethel are flooding, severe winter storms, and fires and to a lesser extent, earthquakes.

The United States Army National Guard is able to rely on the Bethel Police Department for assistance during national, regional, and local emergencies.

The new Bethel Police Station would be situated on high ground owned by the City. The building would be in the center of town, above the Kuskokwim River, affording a view of the river and easy access to the Bethel Police Department's river rescue boat.

The best justification for the Bethel Police Station is the fact that the budget to sustain it is already in place: the Bethel Police Department annual operating budgets. A slight increase or decrease might occur in the operating budget, but the money will continue to be allocated every year to fund the law enforcement agency.

4. Project Description

This project entails the construction of a new Bethel Police Station across the street from its current location. The new building would be constructed inside a steel shell measuring 80 feet by 100 feet. The amount of interior space would be 7,200 square feet.

The proposed site for this project is on 1.52 acres of City land adjacent to the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway, in the center of town. This location gives direct access to the main street through town, allowing quick and easy access to any location within the community. The proposed site overlooks the river.

The City of Bethel will donate the land to build the facility. The City of Bethel will move the old “bus barn,” search and rescue building, and police annex to other suitable locations in the community to make room for the new station.

The new building will have all of the space needed, including two sallyport bays to keep emergency response vehicles warm and dry in winter and ready for deployment. One sallyport would be used to escort suspects to holding cells, and one would be used to keep police vehicles, snowmobiles, and four-wheelers ready for immediate service.

The Bethel Police Department recently held its first-ever joint training of Village Patrol Safety Officers and Bethel Police Officers at its annex. This type of collaborative training is anticipated to continue in the future, making the training room an invaluable asset to the new building.

5. Budget

The City of Bethel plans to purchase a prefabricated steel building and have it barged to Bethel to be assembled on-site. The steel building will be off-loaded by the City’s Port of Bethel and brought to the new police station site. The off-loading and transportation of the steel shell to the site represent an in-kind contribution by the City to this project.

Site preparation includes ground leveling, sand deposits, and ground compaction. Treated timbers will be used in the construction of the post-and-pad foundation. The building will be assembled and erected on the foundation. Walls and doors will be installed.

Interior weatherguard sheeting, wall studs, insulation, and vapor barrier will be constructed inside the steel exterior. All first and second floor rooms will be constructed. Adequate accommodation will be made in the walls for heating, air circulation, plumbing, electrical, fire suppression, and security system. A contractor with one or more subcontractors will be held to contract terms to complete the work required.

Commercial construction costs in Bethel range from \$350 to \$500 per square foot. In September, 2009, Harry Faulkner with Faulknew-Walsh Constructors in Bethel, said his company could build a commercial building for approximately \$400 per square foot. In February, 2010, Velson Kuqo with Kuqo Construction, believed he could construct a new Bethel Police Station as proposed for a cost between \$2.3 million and \$3 million. See Kuqo Construction quote attached. The City is confident it can construct a new Bethel Police Station for the \$3 million requested.

Building codes require that a public safety building be built to a higher standard than most commercial buildings, especially with the installation of state-of-the-art security features and the overnight sleeping components. These higher standards raise the cost of construction.

6. Operation and Maintenance

The Police Department and Alaska State Trooper-Bethel Post will operate in their new building with improved effectiveness and efficiency. The Police Department will be in a position to grow its workforce, having lost several positions in the City's last two years of budget cuts. The City will also have office space for Community Service Patrol personnel, individuals hired to escort inebriants off the street to safe place where they can be held until they sober up.

The City of Bethel Public Works Department, Property Maintenance Division, will be responsible for maintaining the new Regional Public Safety Building. The Division is funded annually in the City Budget and has all the necessary tools, materials, supplies, and shop space to maintain the building. The staff of the Division has vast experience in the construction, electrical, and plumbing fields.

7. What if no State Capital Funds are provided?

The Bethel Police Department operates in a cramped, heat deprived work space. The building contains mold, dust, and oscillates in heavy winds. Several parts of previous buildings have been cobbled together to form the current building. The Police Department desperately wants to move into to a new building. If no funding is forthcoming from the State Capital Fund, out of necessity, the City will continue to work out of the existing police station. Employee morale will be low, recruitment and retention will continue to be difficult, and there will likely be a high absentee rate due to indoor sickness.

8. What if State Capital Funds are provided?

If the City of Bethel receives \$3,000,000 to fund the cost of constructing the Bethel Police Station, employee morale will improve, less employees will call in sick from mold and dust exposure, recruitment and retention will increase, and the staff will be more productive. The effectiveness and efficiency of the officers, dispatchers, administrative assistants, Community Service Officers, and Community Safety Patrol officers will be increased because everyone in the building will have sufficient space to perform their duties and sufficient storage space for equipment, evidence, arms, and gear. Officers will have vehicles in a garage ready to respond to

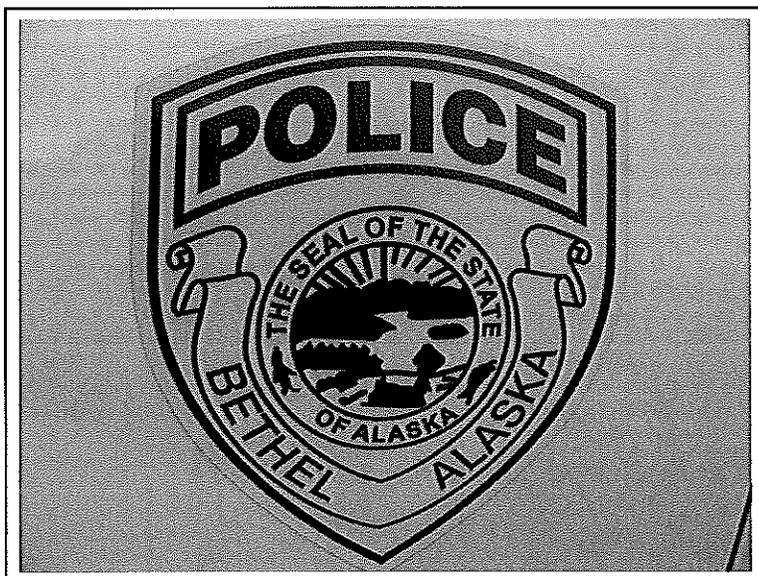
calls for service. Training and meetings can be done in the building, saving time, money, and convenience.

A state-of-the-art Bethel Police Station will help the Bethel Police Department personnel accomplish the following:

- Recruit and retain high caliber qualified officers, administrative assistants, and dispatchers to work in Bethel.
- Solve crimes and close cases as a result of information flowing from collegial law enforcement professionals.
- Respond more effectively and efficiently to incidents in Bethel due to increased operating efficiencies fostered by the new building.
- Save money on yearly building repairs, renovations, and maintenance expenses.
- Collect and store evidence as required by law without worry about space limitations.
- Use the internet to its fullest extent and maximize multimedia capability resulting in better communication of ideas in visual presentations, reports, emails, and websites.

Community Support

City of Bethel



New Bethel Police Station

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 10-17

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FFY 2011 UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING CYCLE

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council annually reviews its congressional funding priorities and approves a resolution identifying those priorities for use by the President of the United States of America and United States Congress in development of the federal budget;

WHEREAS, the City carefully evaluated and selected the most essential and obligatory projects and ranked them herein according to the City's federal funding needs;

WHEREAS, Alaska's congressional delegates, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Mark Begich, and Congressman Don Young, will accept funding requests from municipalities, like the City of Bethel, if received on or before February 16 and 19, 2010;

WHEREAS, a summary of the City of Bethel's requisite priorities and requested funding amounts are listed in the following table:

Top Six Priorities	Request
1. River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2	\$3,000,000
2. Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center (new construction)	\$4,000,000
3. Dredging of Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach	\$3,000,000
4. Reconnaissance Study of Kuskokwim River Navigation	\$100,000
5. Bethel Fire Station	\$1,000,000
6. Bethel Police Station	\$3,000,000
Total	\$14,100,000

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

#1 River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2

WHEREAS, Port of Bethel projects requiring assistance, oversight, and direction from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, must receive funding from a congressional appropriation in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers greatly assisted the community of Bethel when it constructed the Eastern Addition Seawall, a 1,200 linear foot wall protecting residents and property, including the Small Boat Harbor;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed Phase 1 of the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project in 2007, when it deposited basketball sized rocks at the base of the seawall to reduce scour and hold the pipe piles in place;

WHEREAS, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 entails the replacement of tiebacks, steel rods that are welded to a group of ten pipe piles as a set and anchored 54 feet back to “deadmen,” frozen in the permafrost;

WHEREAS, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 is vital to repair a section of seawall that protects people, homes, personal and commercial property, and the Small Boat Harbor from the ravages of the river: floods, erosion, and floating debris;

WHEREAS, the Eastern Addition Seawall serves to support a portion of the City Dock and the mooring of large vessels at the behest of the Port of Bethel;

WHEREAS, the Eastern Addition Seawall serves the City Cargo Dock and the Cargo Dock serves approximately 25,000 people in 54 villages that occupy 57,826 square miles in the Yukon-Kuskokwim River drainage;

WHEREAS, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 is expected to cost \$4,000,000 with a useful life of fifty (50) years, according to Corps projections;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is committed to provide 25% of the project costs, or an expected \$1,000,000, to the project from its dedicated seawall maintenance account, per the funding requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs \$3,000,000 in the FY 2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill to complete the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2, a construction project in Bethel, Alaska;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

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 Federal Government provide \$3,000,000.00 in the FY 2011 United States Congressional Funding Cycle to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that will be dedicated to completion of Phase 2 of the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project.

#2 Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility that included a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents and visitors live near the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, engage in boating and water play activities, do not know how to swim, do not know how to rescue individuals from the water, and do not know how to resuscitate victims;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consultants in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one need voted by community members to include in the Aquatic Training and Health Center;

WHEREAS, the pool in the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center would provide the following benefits to all of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide courses to certify lifeguards, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, aid in the reduction of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems, provide a venue for physical therapy, and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

WHEREAS, the City's Parks and Recreation Committee is a group of volunteer community members that meet once a month to assist in the development of the multi-use recreation center, make recommendations to the City Council in an effort to ensure that the project design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs are affordable;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center is on track to be the first pool in Alaska to achieve silver LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel signed a contract with Architects Alaska, Inc. in January 2009 and agreed to pay \$390,933 for the architects to complete the 35% schematic design by July 31, 2009, which has been accomplished;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, Architects Alaska, Inc. will complete the 65% design development portion and 100% construction-ready documents in fulfillment of the contract at a cost of approximately \$1,300,000 – a cost borne entirely by the City;

WHEREAS, the City requests that \$4,000,000 be put in the FY 2011 Capital Budget of the United States of America for the City of Bethel to pay for the first phase of construction of the new Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center;

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 U.S. Government provide \$4,000,000.00 in the FY 2011 United States Congressional Funding Cycle to aid in the new construction of the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center.

#3 Dredging of Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach
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WHEREAS, Port of Bethel projects requiring assistance, oversight, and direction from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, must receive funding from a congressional appropriation in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act;

WHEREAS, residents who live along the Kuskokwim River visit Bethel by boat to purchase goods and services, access government services, participate in educational opportunities, meet family members and friends, and return to their village by boat;

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 Bethel Small Boat Harbor is 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, 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 water mark, representing scientific evidence of the need to dredge the harbor because navigability is impractical and nearly impossible;

WHEREAS, in January 2010, the grant review committee for the Denali Commission's Transportation Program recommended that the City of Bethel's dredging design project be funded;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, the dredging design will include the entrance channel, identify the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' area of dredging responsibility, and the City's dredging responsibility;

WHEREAS, completion of the dredging design and permitting will prepare the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction dredging, making this congressional funding request timely and appropriate;

WHEREAS, the lack of maintenance dredging by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the last 12 years has created a situation in which the amount of dredging required at the Bethel Small Boat Harbor basin and entrance channel qualify this project as a capital construction project;

WHEREAS, over the last twelve years, the Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach have experienced severe erosion and fill through runoff and river current deposits;

WHEREAS, dredging of the Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach will cost approximately \$3,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act in the Construction section so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can oversee completion of the 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 U.S. Government provide \$3,000,000.00 in the FY2011 U. S. Congressional Funding Cycle for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use as dedicated funding in dredging the Bethel Small Boat Harbor and it's channel approach.

#4 Reconnaissance Study of Kuskokwim River Navigation

WHEREAS, the Kuskokwim River is the largest river in the State of Alaska along which 23 villages and towns are located;

WHEREAS, the community of Bethel, with a population of approximately 6,000 people, is the largest town located along the Kuskokwim River and serves as the river transportation hub for Kuskokwim River villages in the southwest quadrant of Alaska, an area that encompasses slightly more than 57,000 square miles;

WHEREAS, the city of Bethel is home to the only medium draft port in western Alaska, providing a regional maritime transportation corridor that is absolutely essential in a roadless and isolated area;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for ensuring that the Kuskokwim River remains a viable navigable waterway;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, the Bethel Cargo Dock and Petro Port can only moor two vessels over 300 feet at a time, requiring vessels to moor and anchor in the river at large;

WHEREAS, barges, pilot boats, and large vessels over 300 feet long are finding it impossible or severely difficult to moor and anchor safely in the wide section of the Kuskokwim River in front of Bethel due to changing river characteristics, increased river traffic, and use of the river by larger vessels over the years;

WHEREAS, the amount of goods, supplies, equipment, vehicles, housing units, and fuel being shipped up the Kuskokwim River to Bethel, villages, and the Donlin Creek mine site have increased markedly over the last ten years as the Delta populations and economic activity have increased;

WHEREAS, City of Bethel administrators and Port of Bethel continually hear complaints about the lack of navigability of the Kuskokwim River from commercial fishers, subsistence users, sport fishers and hunters, and commercial boating operators;

WHEREAS, a reconnaissance study of Kuskokwim River navigability will cost approximately \$100,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act in the Investigations section so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can oversee completion of the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and city of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$100,000.00 in the FY 2011 U.S. Congressional Funding Cycle to be used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete this critical Reconnaissance Study of Kuskokwim River Navigability.

5 Bethel Fire Station Repairs

WHEREAS, the Bethel fire station is more than 28 years old and has deteriorated over time due to water intrusion, a faulty roof design that allowed no ventilation in the roof cavity, and the use of sprayed foam insulation instead of fiberglass insulation as required in the original building plans;

WHEREAS, the station's failing structural condition that includes roof trusses and sheeting, rotted top wall plates, delaminated siding/plywood, decayed wall studs and disintegrating beams, while temporarily mitigated through emergency repairs, has not been sufficient to extend the operational life of the facility;

WHEREAS, since starting the first emergency repairs to the Bethel Fire Station in the fall of 2006, the City has spent a total of \$424,439.97 of its own money in a failing effort to salvage and retain the current structure;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel was awarded \$1,200,000 in a Legislative Grant from the State of Alaska to repair, or replace, the fire station roof, and plans to use the funds

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

requested herein, if approved, to affect the additional repairs necessary to sustain the facility and extend its life expectancy;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as a regional emergency assistance hub for fire and emergency medical services, search and rescue support throughout a remote and isolated area encompassing more than 57,000 square miles, and as the Emergency Operations Center for the community of Bethel, Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives for the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$1,000,000 in the FY 2011 U. S. Congressional Funding Cycle to assist in implementing and completing repairs to the current fire station that will extend its operational life expectancy.

#6 New Bethel Police Station

WHEREAS, the current Bethel Police Station is more than 30 years old and was constructed by combining three mismatched smaller structures that are incapable of supporting the twelve sworn officers, five dispatchers, and one administrative assistant who provide public safety needs for a roadless, isolated community of approximately 6,000 residents in the southwest quadrant of western Alaska;

WHEREAS, the present facility is almost impossible to heat, is cramped to the point of seriously restricting internal performance duties, projects a consistently offensive odor that cannot be eliminated, has mold buildup in the walls, no protection for police vehicles in periods of extreme inhospitable weather, and no place to interview victims or crime suspects;

WHEREAS, the deplorable conditions stated herein have had a negative impact on recruitment and retention of police officers and dispatchers;

WHEREAS, if this request is approved, the City intends to construct the new facility so as to minimize impact on current operations and the department's ability to serve the public;

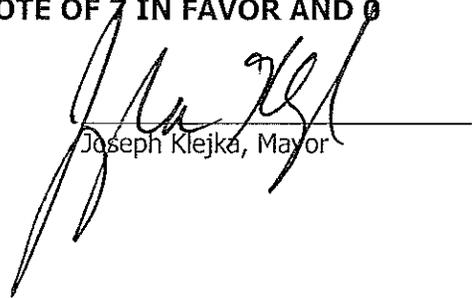
WHEREAS, the essential nature of the emergency services that are provided to this remote section of Alaska by Bethel Police department personnel require that a new, improved, and healthy environment be created by constructing a totally new police station;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community of Bethel, Alaska do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$3,000,000.00 in the FY 2011 U.S. Congressional Funding Cycle to be used by the City of Bethel for construction of a new police station.

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

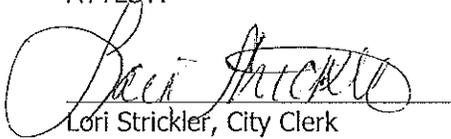
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, hereby set and affirm that these six critically needed projects are prioritized according to the needs of the community.

ENACTED THIS 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2010 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.



Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 09-34

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

WHEREAS, the City plans to hire a construction company to complete each project, creating a short-term demand for architects, engineers, and laborers in the construction, electrical, and mechanical trades;

WHEREAS, the City intends to exhibit transparency, oversight, and accountability for all funds awarded through this request;

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 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:

	State Contribution Requested
Top Three Priorities	
1. Bethel Fire Station (new construction)	\$7,000,000
2. Bethel Public Safety Building (new construction) to contain City of Bethel Police Department and Alaska State Troopers – Bethel Post	\$10,000,000
3. Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center (new construction)	\$2,000,000
Total	\$19,000,000

1. Bethel Fire Station Replacement

Whereas, Tanya Bratslavsky, a certified structural engineer and President of Bratslavsky Consulting engineers, Inc., evaluated the condition of the Bethel Fire Station and declared in her official report that **"the structure is in a state of imminent danger of collapse, is unsafe for occupancy, and is a significant threat to life and safety, not only for occupants of the building, but also for the public. There is also a risk to high-dollar-value fire vehicles and equipment;**

Whereas, temporary, double-layer shoring was installed in the vehicle bays and in the living areas to prevent further evidence of deterioration and collapsing, Tanya Bratslavsky, a certified structural engineer and President of Bratslavsky Consulting Engineers, Inc. has reported that **while the temporary shoring might serve as an emergency support system for the failing building framing, it is not sufficient, or capable, of supporting snow loads that would cause buckling of the posts and failure of the roof;**

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds to 1,000 calls for assistance a year, of which about 800 are for emergency services and up to 200 are fire-related;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds an average of once a week to a real fire emergency;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department assists regional villages when requested by supplying trained personnel, equipment, and supplies, (e.g., in 2006, Bethel Fire Department responded to the Hooper Bay fire and was immediately given the command role);

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station as a base of operations for all emergency and non-emergency services it provides;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as a regional training facility that offers courses in fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, national incident management system, first aid/CPR, and equipment use;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station to protect its fire trucks, ambulances, communication equipment, hazardous materials response equipment, life-saving search and rescue equipment, computers, medical supplies, and full-time and volunteer Firefighter/EMTs some of whom occupy the building 24 hours a day;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as the Emergency Operations Center for the community of Bethel and contains high-tech communication equipment, laptop computers, planning room, bunk beds, and apartment;

WHEREAS, the essential nature of the Bethel Fire Station is compromised by its failing structural condition, including rotten top wall plates, damaged siding/plywood, wall studs damaged at bottom (most over 60%), roof trusses and sheathing, rotten beams under the four-bay garage foundation, and water-damaged electrical fixtures;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel was awarded \$1,200,000 in 2008 from the State Legislature to repair or replace the fire station roof and would like to use this money to help pay for a new building;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is confident that it can construct a new fire station for an estimated \$8,200,000 and requests that the State of Alaska provide \$7,000,000 to the City of Bethel in its FY 2011 Capital Budget;

2. Bethel Public Safety Building

WHEREAS, the Bethel Police Station is outdated, in poor condition, and in need of replacement;

WHEREAS, a regional law enforcement center could serve the 5,665 residents of Bethel and the 26,000 residents living in surrounding Yukon-Kuskokwim villages;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Troopers and Bethel Police Department would be the primary occupants in a regional law enforcement center;

WHEREAS, a regional law enforcement center could serve as a regional training center for Village Public Safety Officers, Village Police Officers, Tribal Police Officers, Bethel Police Officers, Community Service Officers and 911 dispatchers;

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Bethel Police Department received 15,688 calls for service and is currently working 1,262 cases;

WHEREAS, Eleven sworn officers, four dispatchers, one community service officer, and one administrative assistant are compelled to serve the community of 6,000 from a makeshift grouping of three 30-year old buildings, called the Bethel Police Station, that is cold, cramped, and reeks of sewage, and has mold accumulating;

WHEREAS, exit interviews completed between October 2004 and March 2005 revealed that the insufficient condition of the police facility was the number one reason why Bethel police officers and dispatchers resigned from their positions, contributing to the Bethel Police Department's high turnover rate;

WHEREAS, according to Resolution #05-02, passed on June 6, 2005, the Bethel Police Station needs a larger evidence room, better building security, greater armory storage capacity, interview and training rooms, holding cells, office space, exercise room with lockers, heated garage bays for vehicles, and evidence gathering area;

WHEREAS, to achieve economies of scale and stretch out State of Alaska dollars, the City of Bethel will combine the need for a new Police Station with the need for a new Alaska State Troopers headquarters by designing and constructing a new Bethel Public Safety Building;

WHEREAS, when first responders share common areas of a building, camaraderie develops that can be invaluable when deploying assets, utilizing resources, cooperating with each other, and more effectively assisting each other during mutual response calls;

WHEREAS, the City has land ideally suited to construction of a new public safety building—it is located in the center of town on a high point outside the flood zone;

WHEREAS, the essential nature of the emergency service provided by occupants of the Bethel Police Station and the Alaska State Troopers – Bethel Post building require that \$10,000,000 be included in the FY 2011 State of Alaska Capital Budget to assist in funding a new Public Safety Building in Bethel;

3. Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility that included a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents and visitors live near the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, engage in boating and water play activities, do not know how to swim, do not know how to rescue individuals from the water, and do not know how to resuscitate victims;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consultants in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one activity voted on by community members to include in the Aquatic Training and Health Center;

WHEREAS, the pool in the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center would provide the following benefits to any of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide courses to certify lifeguards, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, reduce the onset of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems, provide a venue for physical therapy, and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center Sub-Committee within the Parks and Recreation Committee is a group of concerned citizens that meet twice a month to assist in the development of the multi-use recreation center, make recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Committee to be submitted to the City Council for

consideration, and assure that the project design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs are affordable;

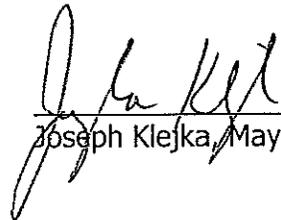
WHEREAS, the City of Bethel signed a contract with Architects Alaska, Inc. in January 2009 and agreed to pay \$390,933 for the architects to complete the 35% schematic design by July 31, 2009, which has been accomplished;

WHEREAS, with Bethel City Council approval, Architects Alaska, Inc. will complete the 65% design development portion, and 100% construction-ready documents in fulfillment of the contract at a cost of \$1,052,025 – a cost borne entirely by the City through a sales tax voted by the citizens of Bethel;

WHEREAS, the City requests that \$2,000,000 be put in the FY 2011 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel to assist in paying for the first phase of construction of the new Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community of Bethel, hereby set and affirm three funding priorities for the FY 2011 State of Alaska Capital Budget: **1) Bethel Fire Station (new construction), 2) Public Safety Building (new construction), and 3) Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center (new construction-Phase 1).**

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



Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: January 13, 2009
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-1

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 09-03

CITY OF BETHEL READDRESSSED PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2010 STATE OF ALASKA LEGISLATIVE FUNDING CYCLE

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 annually sets state legislative priorities and communicates those priorities to the Governor and Alaska State legislators in its effort to secure funding for important projects;

WHEREAS, in light of the current economic environment and relative low price of oil per barrel, two Bethel District legislators recommended that the Bethel City Council readdress Resolution #08-13 that set FY 2010 City of Bethel State legislative priorities and develop an updated resolution that contains combinations of cost-effective projects that cost less in total;

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 amount of funding requested for each priority is given in the following table:

Priority	Request
1. Bethel Public Safety Building – Police and Fire Departments	\$14,994,000
2. Multi-Use Recreation Center	\$1,052,025
3. Dust Control	\$300,000
4. Energy Improvements and Upgrades	\$359,375
5. Bethel Wind Power Project	\$199,888
6. Community Dividend or Revenue Sharing	SUPPORT
7. Public Employees Retirement System and Teachers Retirement System	SUPPORT
8. Expanding Power Cost Equalization Program	SUPPORT
Total	\$16,905,288

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: January 13, 2009
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-1

1. Bethel Public Safety Building – Police and Fire Departments

Fire Station

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds to 1,000 calls for assistance a year, of which about 800 are for emergency services and up to 200 are fire-related;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds once a week to a real fire emergency;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department assists regional villages when requested by supplying trained personnel, equipment, and supplies, e.g., in 2006, Bethel responded to the Hooper Bay fire and was immediately given the command role;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station as a base of operations for all emergency and non-emergency services it provides;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as a regional training facility that offers courses in fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, national incident management system, first aid/CPR, and equipment use;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station to protect its fire trucks, ambulances, communication equipment, hazardous materials response equipment, life-saving search and rescue equipment, computers, medical supplies, and full-time and volunteer Firefighter/EMTs who occupy the building 24 hours a day;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as the Emergency Operations Center for the community of Bethel and contains high-tech communication equipment, laptop computers, planning room, bunk beds, and apartment;

WHEREAS, two engineers, four construction companies, and one certified building inspector have examined the Bethel Fire Station and determined that a new building may be warranted due to rotting beams under the four-bay garage foundation, weakened walls due to moisture intrusion, and rotting roof trusses and sheeting, broken sheetrock, and water-damaged electrical fixtures;

Police Station

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Bethel Police Department received 15,688 calls for service and is currently working 1,262 cases;

WHEREAS, fourteen sworn officers, five dispatchers, and one administrative assistant are compelled to serve the community of 6,000 from a makeshift conglomeration of three 30-year old buildings, called the Bethel Police Station, that is cold, cramped, and smells of sewer;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: January 13, 2009
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-1

WHEREAS, exit interviews completed between October 2004 and March 2005 revealed that the insufficient condition of the police facility was the number one reason why Bethel police officers and dispatchers resigned from their positions, contributing to the Bethel Police Department's high turn over rate;

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Transportation Commission recognizes that the Bethel Police Station needs a larger evidence room, better building security, greater armory storage capacity, interview and training rooms, holding cells, office space, exercise room with lockers, heated garage bays for vehicles, and evidence gathering area;

Bethel Public Safety Building

WHEREAS, to achieve economies of scale and stretch out State of Alaska dollars, the City of Bethel will combine the need for a new Fire Station with the need for a new Police Station and design and construct the Bethel Public Safety Building;

WHEREAS, when first responders share common areas of a building, camaraderie develops that can be invaluable when deploying assets, utilizing resources, cooperating with each other, and more effectively assisting each other during mutual response calls;

WHEREAS, the City has land ideally suited to construction of a new public safety building—it is located in the center of town on a high point outside the flood zone;

WHEREAS, the essential nature of the Bethel Fire Station and Bethel Police Station and the services the emergency responders provide require that \$14,994,000 be included in the FY 2010 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel to fund its new Public Safety Building;

2. Multi-Use Recreation Center

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility that includes a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents and visitors live near the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, engage in boating and water play activities, do not know how to swim, do not know how to rescue individuals from the water, and do not know how to resuscitate victims;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consulting in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one facility voted on by community members to include in the recreation center;

WHEREAS, the pool in the Multi-Use Recreation Center would provide the following benefits to any of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide courses to certify lifeguards, provide a place where families and

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: January 13, 2009
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-1

friends come together to recreate and exercise, reduce the onset of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems, and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

WHEREAS, the Recreation Center Committee is a group of 12 concerned citizens formed in November 2007 that meets twice a month to assist in the development of the multi-use recreation center, make recommendations to the City Manager, and assure that the project design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs are affordable;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel signed a contract with Architects Alaska, Inc. in January 2009 and agreed to pay \$390,933 for the architects to complete the 35% schematic design by July 31, 2009;

WHEREAS, with Bethel City Council approval, Architects Alaska, Inc. will complete the 65% design development portion and 100% construction-ready documents in fulfillment of the contract at a cost of \$1,052,025;

WHEREAS, the City requests that \$1,052,025 be put in the FY 2010 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel to use to accomplish the 65% and 100% portions of the architectural design and engineering services needed for the project to be construction-ready;

3. Dust Control

WHEREAS, the community of Bethel lies 330 miles downriver from the source of the Kuskokwim River and sits on land composed of a thin layer of top soil and tundra vegetation, and thousands of feet of sand, silt, and sandy silt;

WHEREAS, airborne dust emanates from all of Bethel's sixteen miles of dirt roads and road shoulders between the months of April to September;

WHEREAS, airborne dust rises from all of Bethel's seventeen miles of paved roads because light sand blows onto the road from the dirt shoulders and surrounding area and one study revealed that airborne dust from pavement is finer than dust from dirt roads, and therefore potentially more dangerous to humans, because car wheels act to grind down the particles;

WHEREAS, airborne dust causes, aggravates, and perpetuates severe health problems, including asthma, sinusitis, bronchitis, and can scar the lungs and reduce their capacity to take in and let out air;

WHEREAS, individuals have moved to Bethel only to experience life-threatening respiratory ailments triggered by dust inhalation and had to be "medivaced" to Anchorage and relocated to safer communities;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: January 13, 2009
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-1

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel actively manages dust on its dirt roads to the best of its ability by hydroseeding roadsides, applying calcium chloride and sodium chloride to dirt roads, and depositing gravel, but cannot solve the problem on a city-wide basis without financial assistance;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel needs \$300,000 for the purchase of calcium chloride, sodium chloride, hydroseed, and gravel to continue its efforts to reduce dust in the community of Bethel and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel;

4. Energy Improvements and Upgrades

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;

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

WHEREAS, the City's Recycling Center building needs a new foundation comprised of foam, gravel, and sand, and must be placed on top of that foundation;

WHEREAS, the cost for constructing a new foundation for the Recycling Center and leveling the building on its new foundation will cost \$59,375;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel requests \$359,375 to make energy improvements and upgrades to the City Shop and Recycling Center buildings,

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

5. Bethel Wind Power Project

WHEREAS, Bethel is the largest community in western Alaska and is the economic hub for 26,000 people living in 56 surrounding villages;

WHEREAS, Bethel Utilities Corporation is a privately-held utility in Bethel that provides electricity to residents through the use of 30-year old diesel generators that produce approximately 13 kilowatt hours per gallon of fuel consumed;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: January 13, 2009
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-1

WHEREAS, the cost of electricity to Bethel consumers continues to rise as the price of diesel fuel rises and is crippling Bethel's economy;

WHEREAS, A wind data study completed by the Alaska Energy Authority for Bethel in 2006 revealed that Bethel has a viable Class 4 wind resource, making it suitable for wind energy development;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel, on behalf of the community, actively sought solutions to its high energy costs when it applied for and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$400,000 grant from the Alaska Energy Authority and Denali Commission to fund 50% of the cost to purchase, install, and operate a 100 kW wind turbine;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel pledged \$200,000 toward the wind turbine or 25% of total costs;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel requests that the remaining \$200,000 (25%) be included in the FY 2010 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel;

6. 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;

7. 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;

8. 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;"

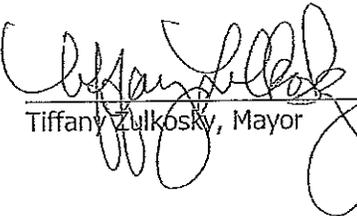
WHEREAS, in general, rural areas experience a higher cost of electricity relative to their urban counterparts;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: January 13, 2009
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-1

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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community of Bethel, readdressed Resolution #08-13 that first established the City's FY 2010 priorities, and decided on the priorities and funding requests contained herein for the FY 2010 Alaska State Legislative funding cycle and encourage the Governor and State legislators to approve this funding request in its entirety;

ENACTED THIS 13th DAY OF JANUARY 2009 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 1 OPPOSED.


Tiffany Zulkosky, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 08-14

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FFY 2010 UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING CYCLE

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 carefully selected its priorities and intends to communicate those priorities to the President of the United States and United States Congress in its effort to secure funding for important projects;

WHEREAS, each priority project is needed by the City and community of Bethel, the City carefully evaluated each project and ranked them according to the City's funding needs;

1. Bethel Fire Station Repair/Replacement

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds to 1,000 calls for assistance a year, of which about 800 are for emergency services and up to 200 are fire-related;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds once a week to a real fire emergency;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department assists regional villages when requested by supplying trained personnel, equipment, and supplies, e.g., in 2006, Bethel responded to the Hooper Bay fire and was immediately given the command role;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station as a base of operations for all emergency and non-emergency services it provides;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as a regional training facility that offers courses in fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, national incident management system, first aid/CPR, and equipment use;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station to protect its fire trucks, ambulances, communication equipment, hazardous materials response equipment, life-saving search and rescue equipment, computers, medical supplies, and full-time and volunteer Firefighter/EMTs who occupy the building 24 hours a day;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as the Emergency Operations Center for the community of Bethel and contains high-tech communication equipment, laptop computers, planning room, bunk beds, and apartment;

WHEREAS, two engineers, four construction companies, and one certified building inspector have examined the Bethel Fire Station and determined that a new building may be warranted due to rotting beams under the four-bay garage foundation, weakened walls due to moisture intrusion, and rotting roof trusses and sheeting, broken sheetrock, and water-damaged electrical fixtures;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station needs emergency repairs or to be replaced at an expected cost of \$5,200,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

2. Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase II

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers greatly assisted the community of Bethel when it constructed the Eastern Addition Seawall, a 1,200 linear foot wall protecting residents and property, including the Small Boat Harbor;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed Phase I of the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project in 2007 when it deposited basketball sized rocks at the base of the seawall to reduce scour and hold the pipe piles in place;

WHEREAS, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase II is the replacement of tiebacks, steel rods that are welded to a group of ten pipe piles as a set and anchored 54 feet back to "deadmen," frozen in the permafrost;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is committed to provide 25% of the project costs, as it did for the completion of Phase I, per the requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs \$1,607,550 in the 2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill to complete the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase II, a construction project in Bethel, Alaska, and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

WHEREAS, Andrea Elconin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager spearheading the project, publicly stated that upon completion, the project has a useful life of fifty (50) years;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

3. Regional Law Enforcement Center or Bethel Police Station Repair /Replacement

WHEREAS, the Bethel Police Station is outdated, in poor condition, and in need of major renovation or replacement;

WHEREAS, a regional law enforcement center could serve the 5,650 residents of Bethel and the 26,000 residents living in surrounding Yukon-Kuskokwim villages;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Troopers and Bethel Police Department would be the primary occupants in a regional law enforcement center;

WHEREAS, a regional law enforcement center would serve as a regional training facility for Village Public Safety Officers, Bethel Police Officers, Community Service Officers, and 911 dispatchers;

WHEREAS, law enforcement agency personnel that share a building will be able to achieve economies of scale in resource utilization, cooperate with each other on criminal investigations, arrests, and prosecutions, and more effectively assist each other during mutual response calls;

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Bethel Police Department received 15,688 calls for service and is currently working 1,262 cases;

WHEREAS, exit interviews completed between October 2004 and March 2005 revealed that the insufficient condition of the police facility was the number one reason why Bethel police officers and dispatchers resigned from their positions, contributing to the Bethel Police Department's high turn over rate;

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Transportation Commission recognizes that the Bethel Police Station needs a larger evidence room, better building security, greater armory storage capacity, interview and training rooms, holding cells, office space, exercise room with lockers, heated garage bays for vehicles, and evidence gathering area;

WHEREAS, the City has land ideally suited to construction of a new regional law enforcement center—it is located on a high point outside the flood zone in the center of town;

WHEREAS, the design phase for a new law enforcement center or new Bethel Police Station is expected to cost \$1,500,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 State of Alaska Budget for the City of Bethel;

4. Multi-Use Recreation Center

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility that includes a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents and visitors live near the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, engage in boating and water play activities, do not know how to swim, do not know how to rescue individuals from the water, and do not know how to resuscitate victims;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consulting in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one facility voted on by community members to include in the recreation center;

WHEREAS, the Recreation Center Committee is a group of 12 concerned citizens formed in November 2007 that meets twice a month to assist in the development of the multi-use recreation center, make recommendations to the City Manager, and assure that the project design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs are affordable;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel will pay an architect to design the facility by July 31, 2009;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel passed an ordinance allocating one percent of sales tax collected or approximately \$1,050,000 each year for two years and half percent or approximately \$525,000 each year for eighteen years to support the operation and maintenance of a multi-use recreation center;

WHEREAS, the pool in the Multi-Use Recreation Center would provide the following benefits to any of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide courses to certify lifeguards, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, reduce the onset of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems; and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

WHEREAS, the initial construction phase for a Multi-Use Recreation Center is expected to cost \$2,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

5. Dust Control

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

WHEREAS, the community of Bethel lies 330 miles downriver from the source of the Kuskokwim River and sits on land composed of a thin layer of top soil and tundra vegetation, and thousands of feet of sand, silt, and sandy silt;

WHEREAS, dust emanates from all of Bethel's sixteen miles of roads and road shoulders that are composed of sand and gravel;

WHEREAS, airborne dust is stirred from all of Bethel's seventeen miles of paved roads in Bethel because light sand blows onto the road from the dirt shoulders and surrounding area;

WHEREAS, airborne dust causes, aggravates, and perpetuates severe health problems, including asthma, sinusitis, bronchitis, and can scar the lungs and reduce their capacity to take in and let out air;

WHEREAS, individuals have moved to Bethel only to experience life-threatening respiratory ailments triggered by dust inhalation and had to be "medivaced" to Anchorage and relocated to safer communities;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel actively manages dust on its dirt roads to the best of its ability by hydroseeding roadsides, applying calcium chloride and sodium chloride to dirt roads, and depositing gravel, but cannot solve the problem on a city-wide basis without financial assistance;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel needs \$300,000 for the purchase of calcium chloride, sodium chloride, hydroseed, and gravel to continue its efforts to reduce dust in the community of Bethel and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

6. Energy Improvements and Upgrades

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, and have been severely battered by the weather, and have suffered damage as a result of shifting and sinking due to thawing permafrost;

WHEREAS, Bethel Utilities Corporation stopped providing the City with waste heat in December 2006, causing the City to have to purchase heating oil for three buildings at a 25% premium to its cost for waste heat;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel needs \$500,000 to make energy improvements to its buildings, including the application of siding, exterior sheathing, insulation, vapor barriers, and

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

sheetrock to reduce its heating costs, and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

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

7. Bethel Seawall Repairs and Upgrades

WHEREAS, the Bethel Seawall is comprised of 40-foot long steel pipe piles placed upright, welded together, and supported at riverside base by loose rocks and secured at the top by steel rod tiebacks buried and anchored by "deadmen;"

WHEREAS, the Bethel Seawall is continually being degraded by Mother Nature as the river eats away at the bottom, overflow, seepage, and rain rot out the tiebacks, and winter ice floes cause dents, loosening, and removal of caps and safety fencing;

WHEREAS, as part of its annual maintenance efforts, the City stationed life rings at strategic locations along the riverbank and welded ladders to riverside of the seawall in hopes that more people will be rescued and be able to save themselves, and less will drown;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Seawall needs significant repairs above and beyond what the City is able to provide in its annual seawall maintenance fund;

WHEREAS, repairs to the Bethel Seawall include replacing caps on the pipe piles, welding, depositing rocks, replacing tiebacks; constructing new "deadmen," securing ladders to the outside of the wall; and signage;

WHEREAS, the cost of essential Bethel Seawall repairs and upgrades will cost the City of Bethel \$1,500,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

8. Dredging of Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach

WHEREAS, residents who live along the Kuskokwim River will visit Bethel by boat to purchase goods and services, access government services, participate in educational opportunities, see family members and friends, and return to their village by boat;

WHEREAS, the 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 City of Bethel sells out of boat slips annually as it works to provide sufficient space for personal watercraft on its five floating docks;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

WHEREAS, over the last ten years, the Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach have experienced normal erosion and fill through runoff and deposits left by river currents;

WHEREAS, the increased demand on the Small Boat Harbor by local residents and villagers visiting Bethel necessitate dredging of the harbor and channel approach to insure that adequate room exists for users to operate safely, users do not run aground, damage their prop in shallow water, or at worse case become unusable;

WHEREAS, dredging of the Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach will cost the City \$2,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

9. Alternative Energy

WHEREAS, Bethel is the largest community in western Alaska and is the economic hub for 26,000 people living in 56 surrounding villages;

WHEREAS, Bethel Utilities Corporation is a privately-held utility in Bethel that provides electricity to residents through the use of 30-year old diesel generators that produce approximately 13 kilowatt hours per gallon of fuel consumed;

WHEREAS, the cost of electricity to Bethel consumers rises as the price of diesel fuel rises;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel, on behalf of the community, is actively seeking solutions to its high energy costs and recently succeeded in securing \$400,000 from the Alaska Energy Authority to purchase, install, and operate a 100 kW wind turbine;

WHEREAS, Electric Power Systems, a wind energy consulting engineering firm, estimates that the City could purchase and install 1,500 kW worth of wind power without causing harm to the equipment, distribution system, or power-producing generators operated by Bethel Utilities Corporation;

WHEREAS, By the time the FY 09 State of Alaska capital budget is finalized, the City will have completed a milestone in its effort to be an independent power producer and be in a position to capitalize on its wind energy development experience with a privately held electric utility;

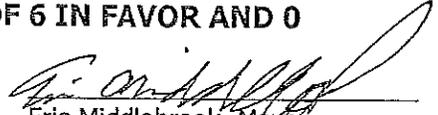
WHEREAS, the City of Bethel needs \$3,350,667 to purchase and install 600 kW of additional wind turbine capacity to further its role as an independent power producer and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community of Bethel, do hereby establish priorities for the FY 2010

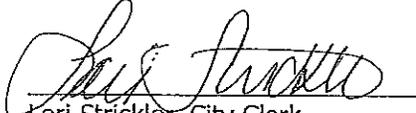
Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

United States congressional funding cycle and encourage the President of the United States and United States Congress to approve this funding request in its entirety;

**ENACTED THIS 19th DAY OF AUGUST 2008 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0
OPPOSED.**


Eric Middlebrook, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 08-13

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2010 STATE OF ALASKA LEGISLATIVE FUNDING CYCLE

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 annually sets state legislative priorities and communicates those priorities to the Governor and Alaska State Legislators in its effort to secure funding for important projects;

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;

1. Bethel Fire Station Repair/Replacement

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds to 1,000 calls for assistance a year, of which about 800 are for emergency services and up to 200 are fire-related;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds once a week to a real fire emergency;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department assists regional villages when requested by supplying trained personnel, equipment, and supplies, e.g., in 2006, Bethel responded to the Hooper Bay fire and was immediately given the command role;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station as a base of operations for all emergency and non-emergency services it provides;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as a regional training facility that offers courses in fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, national incident management system, first aid/CPR, and equipment use;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station to protect its fire trucks, ambulances, communication equipment, hazardous materials response equipment, life-saving search and rescue equipment, computers, medical supplies, and full-time and volunteer Firefighter/EMTs who occupy the building 24 hours a day;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as the Emergency Operations Center for the community of Bethel and contains high-tech communication equipment, laptop computers, planning room, bunk beds, and apartment;

WHEREAS, two engineers, four construction companies, and one certified building inspector have examined the Bethel Fire Station and determined that a new building may be warranted due to rotting beams under the four-bay garage foundation, weakened walls due to moisture intrusion, and rotting roof trusses and sheeting, broken sheetrock, and water-damaged electrical fixtures;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station needs emergency repairs or to be replaced at an expected cost of \$5,200,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2009 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel;

2. Regional Law Enforcement Center or Bethel Police Station Repair /Replacement

WHEREAS, the Bethel Police Station is outdated, in poor condition, and in need of major renovation or replacement;

WHEREAS, a regional law enforcement center could serve the 5,650 residents of Bethel and the 26,000 residents living in surrounding Yukon-Kuskokwim villages;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Troopers and Bethel Police Department would be the primary occupants in a regional law enforcement center;

WHEREAS, a regional law enforcement center would serve as a regional training facility for Village Public Safety Officers, Bethel Police Officers, Community Service Officers, and 911 dispatchers;

WHEREAS, law enforcement agency personnel that share a building will be able to achieve economies of scale in resource utilization, cooperate with each other on criminal investigations, arrests, and prosecutions, and more effectively assist each other during mutual response calls;

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Bethel Police Department received 15,688 calls for service and is currently working 1,262 cases;

WHEREAS, exit interviews completed between October 2004 and March 2005 revealed that the insufficient condition of the police facility was the number one reason why Bethel police officers and dispatchers resigned from their positions, contributing to the Bethel Police Department's high turn over rate;

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Transportation Commission recognizes that the Bethel Police Station needs a larger evidence room, better building security, greater armory storage capacity, interview and training rooms, holding cells, office space, exercise room with lockers, heated garage bays for vehicles, and evidence gathering area;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

WHEREAS, the City has land ideally suited to construction of a new regional law enforcement center—it is located on a high point outside the flood zone in the center of town;

WHEREAS, the design phase for a new law enforcement center or new Bethel Police Station is expected to cost \$1,500,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 State of Alaska Budget for the City of Bethel;

3. Multi-Use Recreation Center

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility that includes a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents and visitors live near the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, engage in boating and water play activities, do not know how to swim, do not know how to rescue individuals from the water, and do not know how to resuscitate victims;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consulting in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one facility voted on by community members to include in the recreation center;

WHEREAS, the Recreation Center Committee is a group of 12 concerned citizens formed in November 2007 that meets twice a month to assist in the development of the multi-use recreation center, make recommendations to the City Manager, and assure that the project design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs are affordable;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel will pay an architect to design the facility by July 31, 2009;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel passed an ordinance allocating one percent of sales tax collected or approximately \$1,050,000 each year for two years and half percent or approximately \$525,000 each year for eighteen years to support the operation and maintenance of a multi-use recreation center;

WHEREAS, the pool in the Multi-Use Recreation Center would provide the following benefits to any of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide courses to certify lifeguards, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, reduce the onset of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems, and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

WHEREAS, the initial construction phase for a Multi-Use Recreation Center is expected to cost \$2,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

4. Energy Improvements and Upgrades

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, Bethel Utilities Corporation stopped providing the City with waste heat in December 2006, causing the City to have to purchase heating oil for three buildings at a 25% premium to its cost for waste heat;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel needs \$500,000 to make energy improvements to its buildings, including the application of siding, exterior sheathing, insulation, vapor barriers, and sheetrock to reduce its heating costs, and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel;

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

5. Alternative Energy

WHEREAS, Bethel is the largest community in western Alaska and is the economic hub for 26,000 people living in 56 surrounding villages;

WHEREAS, Bethel Utilities Corporation is a privately-held utility in Bethel that provides electricity to residents through the use of 30-year old diesel generators that produce approximately 13 kilowatt hours per gallon of fuel consumed;

WHEREAS, the cost of electricity to Bethel consumers continues to rise as the price of diesel fuel rises;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel, on behalf of the community, is actively seeking solutions to its high energy costs and recently succeeded in securing \$400,000 from the Alaska Energy Authority to purchase, install, and operate a 100 kW wind turbine;

WHEREAS, Electric Power Systems, a wind energy consulting engineering firm, estimates that the City could purchase and install 1,500 kW worth of wind power without causing harm to the equipment, distribution system, or power-producing generators operated by Bethel Utilities Corporation;

WHEREAS, By the time the FY 2010 State of Alaska capital budget is finalized, the City will have completed a milestone in its effort to be an independent power producer and be in a position to capitalize on its wind energy development experience with a privately held electric utility;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel needs \$3,350,667 to purchase and install 600 kW of additional wind turbine capacity to further its role as an independent power producer and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel;

6. Dust Control

WHEREAS, the community of Bethel lies 330 miles downriver from the source of the Kuskokwim River and sits on land composed of a thin layer of top soil and tundra vegetation, and thousands of feet of sand, silt, and sandy silt;

WHEREAS, dust emanates from all of Bethel's sixteen miles of roads and road shoulders that are composed of sand and gravel;

WHEREAS, airborne dust is stirred from all of Bethel's seventeen miles of paved roads in Bethel because light sand blows onto the road from the dirt shoulders and surrounding area;

WHEREAS, airborne dust causes, aggravates, and perpetuates severe health problems, including asthma, sinusitis, bronchitis, and can scar the lungs and reduce their capacity to take in and let out air;

WHEREAS, individuals have moved to Bethel only to experience life-threatening respiratory ailments triggered by dust inhalation and had to be "medivaced" to Anchorage and relocated to safer communities;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel actively manages dust on its dirt roads to the best of its ability by hydroseeding roadsides, applying calcium chloride and sodium chloride to dirt roads, and depositing gravel, but cannot solve the problem on a city-wide basis without financial assistance;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel needs \$300,000 for the purchase of calcium chloride, sodium chloride, hydroseed, and gravel to continue its efforts to reduce dust in the community of Bethel and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 State of Alaska Capital Budget for the City of Bethel;

7. 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;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

8. 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;

9. Expanding Power Cost Equalization Program

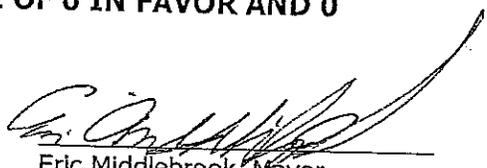
WHEREAS, according to the PCE program guide, "the PCE program was established to assist rural residents at the same time state funds were used to construct major energy projects to assist more urban areas";

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

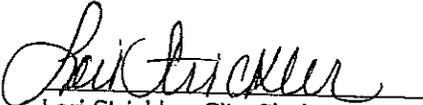
WHEREAS, if PCE were expanded to include businesses which provide goods and services to rural areas, the businesses would have an incentive to pass on energy savings to consumers in the form of lower prices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community of Bethel, do hereby establish priorities for the FY 2010 Alaska State Legislative funding cycle and encourage the Governor and Legislature to approve this funding request in its entirety;

ENACTED THIS 18th DAY OF AUGUST 2008 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.


Eric Middlebrook, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk

Introduced by: Wally Baird, City Manager
Date: December 4, 2007
Action: Passed
Vote: 4-1

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 07-35

A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL SETTING FIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2009 STATE OF ALASKA LEGISLATIVE FUNDING CYCLE

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 annually sets priorities and communicates those priorities to the Governor and Alaska State Legislators;

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council determined that the following five priorities should receive funding in the FY 2009 Alaska State Budget: (1) Community Dividend or Revenue Sharing arrangement, (2) Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and Teachers Retirement System (TRS), (3) Bethel Fire Station Roof Repair, (4) Regional Law Enforcement Center; and (5) Multi-use Recreation Center;

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. 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;

Introduced by: Wally Baird, City Manager
Date: December 4, 2007
Action: Passed
Vote: 4-1

3. Bethel Fire Station Roof Repair

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station roof needs to be replaced at an expected cost of \$1,200,000;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station as a base of operations for all emergency and non-emergency services it provides;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds to 1,000 calls for assistance a year, of which about 800 are for emergency services and up to 200 are fire-related;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds to a real fire an average of once a week;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as a regional training facility and Bethel's Emergency Operations Center;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department assists regional villages when requested by supplying trained personnel, equipment, and supplies—in 2006, Bethel sent three Firefighter/EMTs to the Hooper Bay fire;

4. Regional Law Enforcement Center

WHEREAS, a Regional Law Enforcement Center is needed in Bethel to serve the 6,000 residents of Bethel and the 26,000 residents living in surrounding Yukon-Kuskokwim villages;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Troopers and Bethel Police Department would be the primary occupants in the Regional Law Enforcement Center;

WHEREAS, the Law Enforcement Center would serve as a regional training facility for Village Public Safety Officers;

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies that share a building will be able to achieve economies of scale in resource utilization, cooperate with each other on criminal investigations, arrests, and prosecutions, and more effectively assist each other during mutual response calls;

WHEREAS, the design phase for a Law Enforcement Center is expected to cost \$1,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2009 State of Alaska Budget for the City of Bethel;

WHEREAS, due to age and construction the current police department building is not suitable for major remodel and renovation;

WHEREAS, the condition of the current Bethel Police Department building has deteriorated to the point where it's affecting the moral of the employees of the Bethel Police Department;

Introduced by: Wally Baird, City Manager
Date: December 4, 2007
Action: Passed
Vote: 4-1

5. Multi-use Recreation Center

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility that includes a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consulting in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one facility voted on by community members to include in the recreation center;

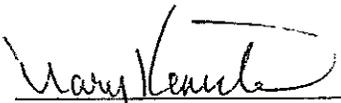
WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents do not know how to swim, rescue individuals from the water, or perform essential resuscitation exercises;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel passed an ordinance allocating a minimum of \$500,000 to support the operation and maintenance of a multi-use recreation center for 20 years;

WHEREAS, the design phase for a Multi-Use Recreation Center is expected to cost \$2,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2009 State of Alaska Budget for the City of Bethel.

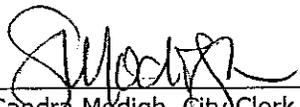
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council hereby sets five priorities for the FY 2009 Alaska State Legislative funding cycle and encourages the Governor and Legislature to approve this funding request.

ENACTED THIS 4th DAY OF December 2007 BY A VOTE OF 4 IN FAVOR AND 1 OPPOSED.



Mary Kentck, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra Modigh, City Clerk

Kuqo Construction

5410 Noel Polty Blvd.

P.O.Box 2927

Bethel, AK 99559

907-543-2836

February 12, 2010

Police Chief Elarton

City of Bethel

P.O. Box 1388

Bethel, AK 99559

Dear Chief Elarton:

Thank you for allowing me and my associates to review your building plans for the proposed new Bethel Police Station. I understand that you plan to purchase a prefabricated steel building shell measuring 80 feet by 100 feet and ship it to Bethel in pieces by barge. The steel shell would then be assembled on City land across from the Lion's Club building near the highway. Large steel red beams would support the structure. The foundation would be post and pad unless an inexpensive piling configuration can be developed.

I reviewed the preliminary drawings you showed me on how you want the first and second floors constructed inside the steel exterior. The interior of the building would be constructed with standard building materials (2 x 4s, sheetrock, mudding, taping) and the plumbing and electrical components contained therein. Doors, windows, insulation, and other building components would be energy efficient and high quality.

Based on my review of the new Bethel Police Station project, I believe Kuqo Construction could build the facility for \$2.3 million to \$3 million. Our construction effort would be nearly turnkey and include the foundation, steel building assembly on-site, construction of all interior walls, floors, ceilings, and the plumbing, electrical, heating, and air circulation systems. It would also include all of the fixtures, cabinets, and permanent shelving.

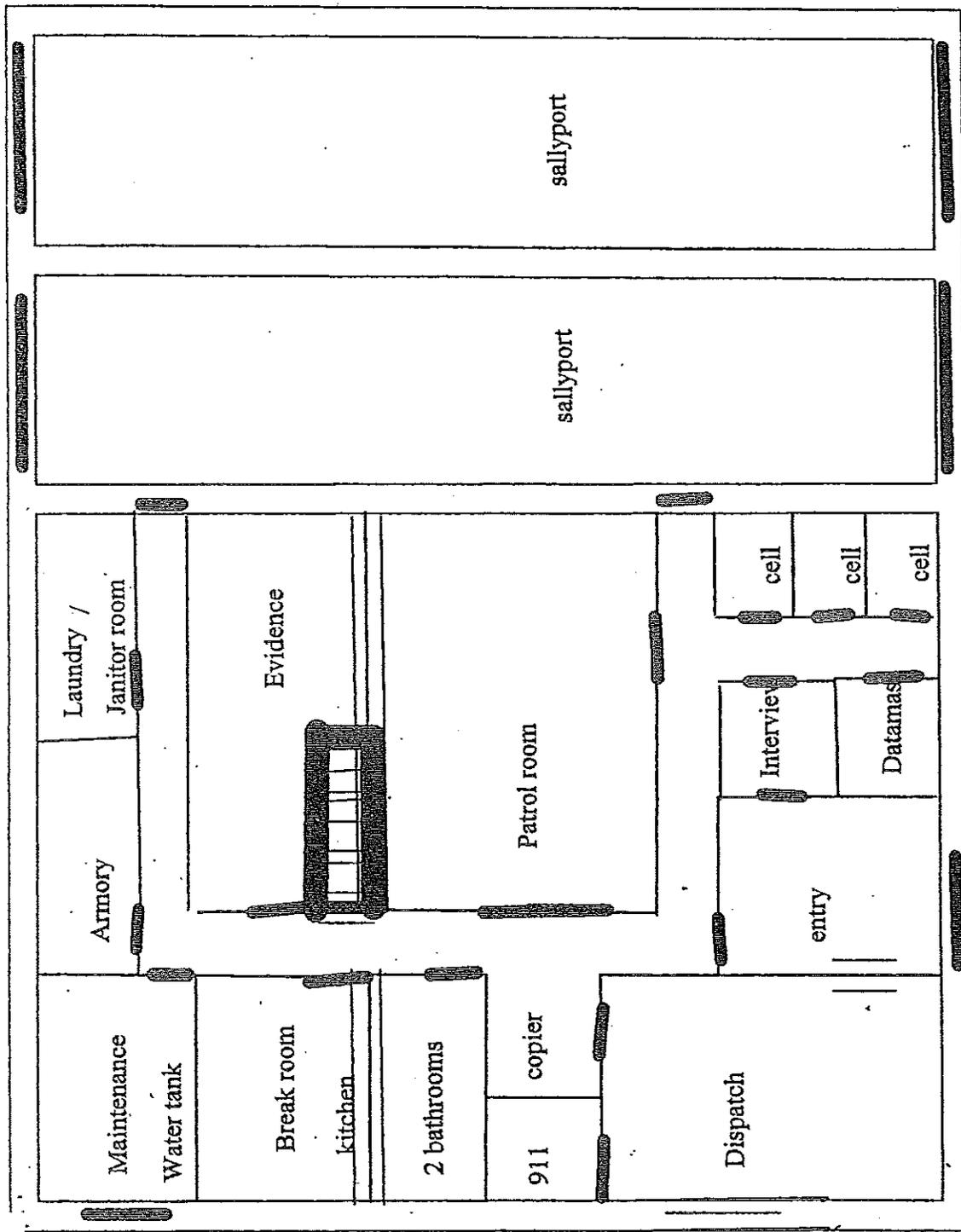
I understand the City of Bethel must go out to bid on this project. Please consider this estimate a guideline only and not a promise or contract offer. We at Kuqo Construction look forward to working with the City and bidding on this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Velson Kuqo
Construction Manager

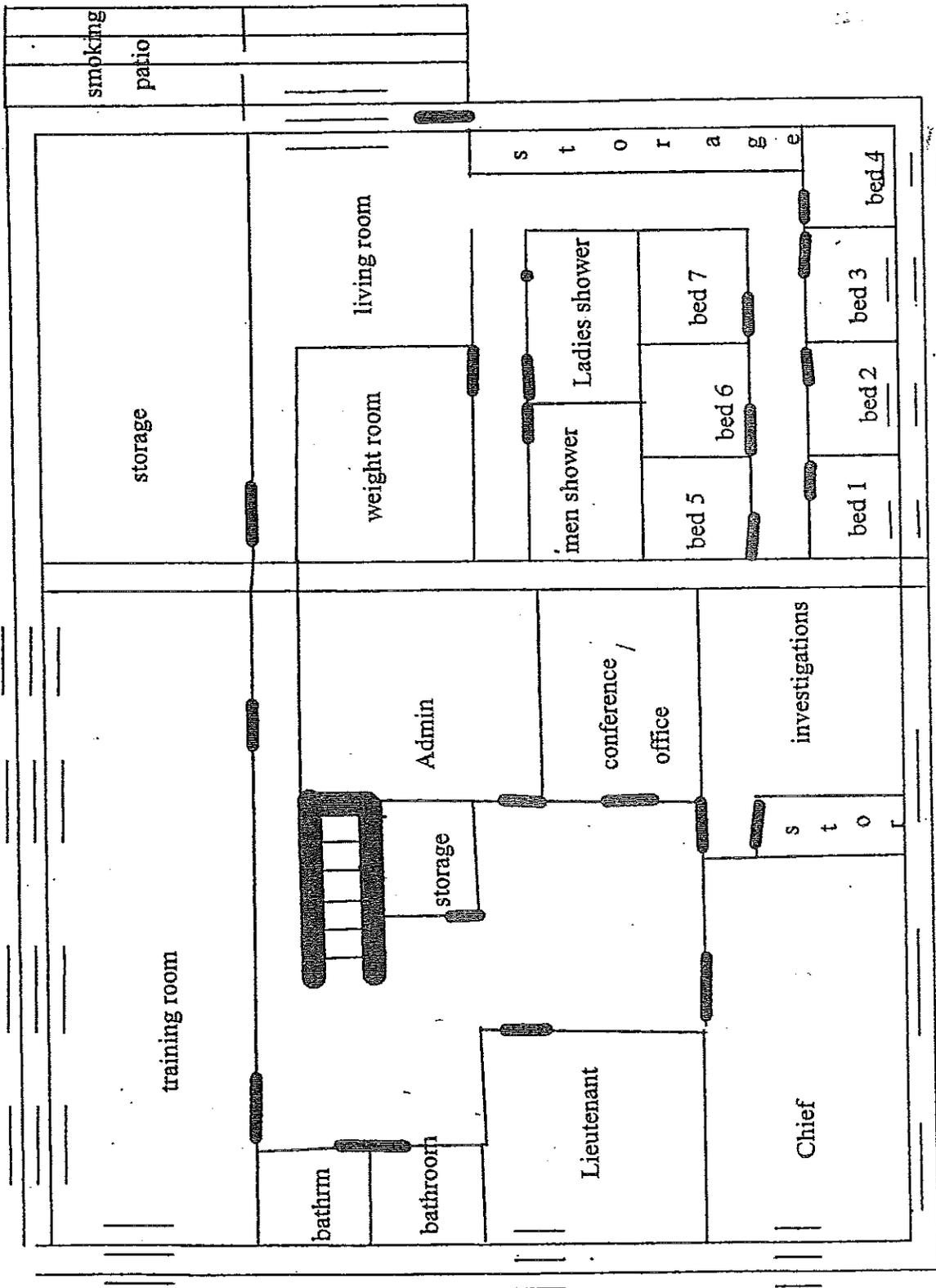
New Bethel Police Station Floor Plan



1st floor

Drawn by Chief of Police Larry Elarton and Lieutenant Andre Achee

New Bethel Police Station Floor Plan



2nd floor

Drawn by Chief of Police Larry Elarton and Lieutenant Andre Achee

Bethel Police in need of a new home

Page 4

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

INSIDE BETHEL NEWS

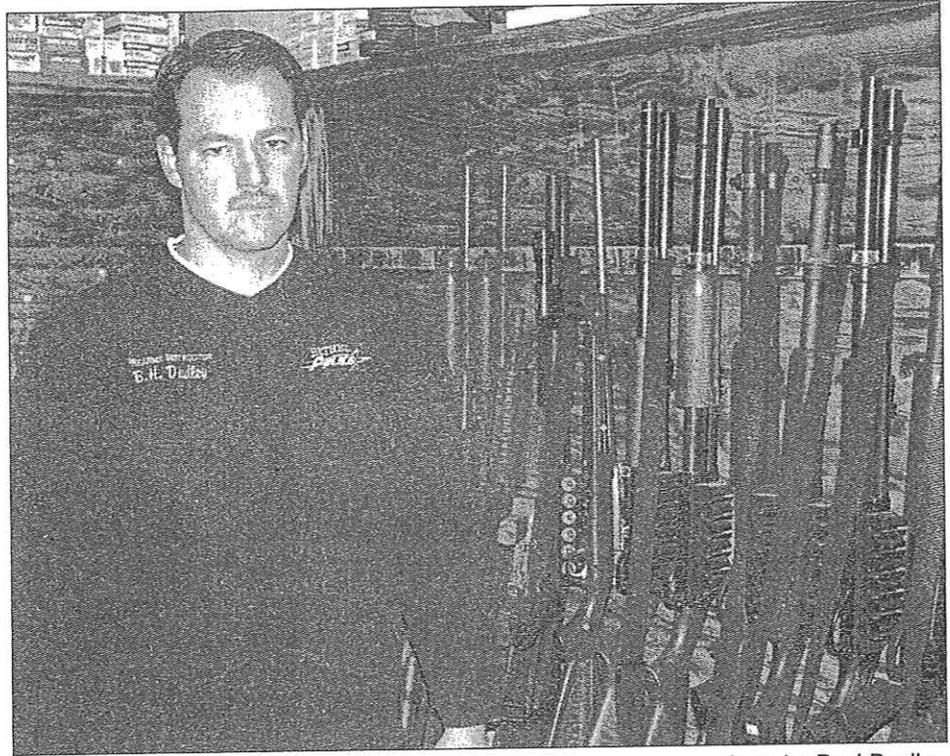


photo by Paul Basile

Police Chief Ben Dudley crowds into the Bethel Police Department's armory closet. Insufficient storage is just one of the reasons Dudley says the current police building is inadequate.

by Paul Basile

Times are tough for the Bethel Police Department. The force is once again faced with serious staffing problems and struggling to cope with a desperately inadequate police facility.

The current home of the Bethel Police Department began its life as a city jail over 30 years ago. As the police force grew over the years, the building grew too. What exists now looks like a patched-together jumble of flimsy looking boxes. What's inside is worse.

Police Chief Benjamin Dudley said that the building is far from adequate. There is no holding cell, interview room or sufficient meeting space.

"If we need to have a full department meeting, we have to call the Fire Department or use the City Hall to meet," said Dudley.

Dudley explained that these days, the investigators' office, which has no security system besides a lock on the door, doubles as the interview room.

"You can't leave someone alone in here," he said. "We should be able to

leave an individual in here and watch them through a double window or video monitor."

"I know this wouldn't meet any standards," said Dudley.

Storage is another problem for the Bethel Police Department; storage of anything. Current evidence is jammed into a small, unventilated, inadequately secured room. It is a loosely organized mess of booze bottles, firearms and boxes upon boxes. Evidence from serious crimes, such as any involving a death, must be stored indefinitely. Articles of evidence from unsolved crimes must be kept for ten years.

To accommodate the backlog of debris, the department employs two 20' connexes that provide no heat and only relative cover from the elements. Other supplies and files are scattered throughout the building. Nearly every room serves two or three purposes (i.e., the boiler room/communications center).

For an armory, the Bethel Police use a small closet with a rickety wooden door.

continued on page 21

Station . . .

From page 4

the judge and jury the whole perception of what is going on. We need an interview room that is soundproof. Right now, just as an officer is getting into intimate details that affect a person's life, someone will walk by or cause a distraction by virtue of being in the same room.

court when the judge or jury can see a person's demeanor on the screen. The ability to play back an audio/video recording gives

These distractions disrupt the flow of the interview. We need one-way glass so that other officers and experts can monitor the interview and glean insight from how the suspect carries himself or herself. A sound proof interview room with one-way glass would also allow us to do line-ups. We can't do line-ups right now. We have to use pictures. Using photos doesn't have the same power as a live line-up.

The Bethel police station is currently limited on space available to store evidence. Our indoor evidence room is full. Over a weekend, all of our evidence lockers can be filled up. If we lose the chain of custody on our evidence for a case, we can lose the court case. It is crucial that we be given enough space to store our evidence — and in Bethel, we gather a lot of evidence. Our evidence room is full of guns, knives, ammunition, and booze.

We have evidence from old cases that we have to store out in the shed because we don't have the space inside the building. The evidence stored outside gets musty and moldy and has

degraded in quality and usefulness.

Our dispatch center needs improvement. It is very crowded in there. The dispatchers are vulnerable when they are in the building alone. We have had some very upset people come into our entryway and scream obscenities, but so far we have been fortunate to have not had an incident with a weapon. Many dispatch centers have cinder block walls and bullet-proof windows. We should be providing that level of security to our dispatchers.

The Bethel Fire Department has a garage bay for vehicles. The police department does not. We must keep our vehicles running outside in the wintertime to keep them warm and ready for use. Keeping a vehicle running outside in the wintertime means that each of us needs two sets of car keys, one to keep in the ignition while the car is running, and one to keep on our person to open the locked door and access the vehicle. When we share vehicles, a particular automobile could be running 24 hours a day.

Our vehicle maintenance cost and vehicle replacement cost is high due to the heavy demands we put on the vehicles. Another

problem that we experience now is that when our vehicles are soiled by blood, vomit, stool and other biohazards from people we pick up, there is no place to clean the vehicles. We desperately need a heated garage to clean our vehicles and keep them in top condition.

Last year, someone on the shore of the Kuskokwim River told us that there was an injured person in a boat endangering himself and others on the river. It took us at least 15 minutes to get our boat on the trailer, hook it up to a vehicle's tow hitch, tow it to the small boat harbor, and then launch it. Time is of the essence when we get calls to respond to an incident. Every life is valuable and we need to be able to respond immediately with our police boat. We need to have our boat in the water, ready to go in a moment's notice. This would be possible if the new police station were built with river access. At a minimum, we could store the boat in a heated garage and shave some minutes off of our response time.

— *Charlie Seidl is an investigator for the Bethel Police Department.*

Viewpoints

Page 6

April 21, 2005

The Tundra Drums

New police station needed

by Charlie Seidl
For the Drums

I am an investigator with the Bethel Police Department and have been for three and half years. I am 28 years old. I grew up in Koliganek and Dillingham, so I have an understanding of what rural law enforcement is all about.

We need a new police station in Bethel. A new police station will improve police officer morale and contribute to much-needed professionalism in the police ranks. Folks walk into our police station now and often don't view us as professionals because of our working envi-

COMMENTARY

ronment.

The design of the current station is inefficient for the modern police work that we do. The building suffers from old age. It is hard to keep clean. We need to clean it constantly. Our computers and electronic equipment are sensitive to dust and airborne contaminants.

The temperature in our building in the summertime gets too hot. When you factor in the gear that we wear as police officers (uniform shirt, pants, boots, ballistic vest and duty belt), it is very uncomfortable to work in

the building. For every arrest we make on the streets, we have to spend about 40 minutes typing up reports and completing other paperwork. There are many types of paperwork that must be completed, copied and filed, including search warrants, affidavits, criminal complaints, and reports. We must spend time in the office. It's part of our jobs. We need a pleasant, temperature-controlled work environment.

Our sewer system is horrible. On occasions, the sewer system has backed up so much that it has almost made me vomit. It is disgusting! The stink comes in through the floor. There is a wooden trap door with just duct tape used to seal the cracks. And it's right in the middle of our "kitchen." I shouldn't have to smell sewage when I come to work.

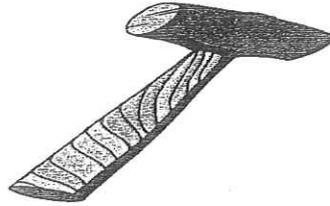
We need a room to process DUIs. The room should have a rubber-type of floor like other police stations have to protect the inebriated individuals being processed. We have a hard, tile floor now. We also need a camera for recording the processing event. The camera would help insure the safety of the individuals being processed and help us document the behaviors exhibited in the processing room. We process DUIs in the squad room now. Our squad room consists of a small hallway with four cubicles - a less-than-ideal setting for DUI processing.

We need a designated interview room that is set up to record interviews with the latest digital audio and video technology. It is important to record the interviews to serve as documentation for evidence in court. When it is your word against his, it makes a big difference in

See Station, page 6

**GUARDIAN SERVICES FOR Y-K
DELTA**

OFFICE OF R. THOR WILLIAMS



P.O. Box 1986
Bethel, AK 99559

Phone: 907-543-1571
Fax: 907-543-1571
Email: sissawil@unicom-alaska.com

April 26, 2005

Karen Bitzer
Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission
121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 240
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Written testimony for ARJLEC hearing held in Bethel, AK on April 6, 2005

Dear Ms. Bitzer:

My name is Thor Williams. I serve my community of Bethel as an elected City Council Member and a Guardian Ad Litem. Please enter the contents of this letter into the Commission's record for the Bethel hearing held on April 6, 2005.

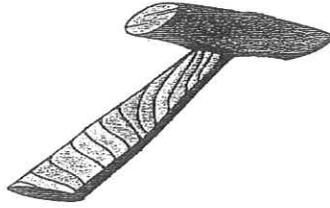
The City of Bethel desperately needs a new police station. Ours is over 30 years old, in such dire need of repair that it is more practical to invest in a new building than it is to continue to pour money into the building we have now. Our current building is four separate pieces fitted together over the years. It looks like several trailers connected in a series of after-thoughts. The outside appearance of the building reduces the ability of the Police Department personnel to command the respect they deserve from community members and their children.

The Bethel Police Department has seven police officer vacancies, representing 50% of the total number of officers we need to be fully staffed. The inability to recruit and retain qualified officers is magnified by the dilapidated condition of the Bethel Police Department. A brand new facility on the opposite side of the street over-looking the river would be ideal. This new police facility could house Alaska State Troopers, probation officers, and other law enforcement personnel.

According to Census 2000 information, the community of Bethel is 68% Alaska Native and Native American. The Bethel Police Department needs to be able to serve our 2/3 majority Yup'ik Eskimo population and the visitors from the 56 surrounding villages with the best resources possible. The City needs a new police station so that our police force can be brought up to full force and serve the 6,000 residents and 25,000 people in the surrounding 56 villages.

**GUARDIAN SERVICES FOR Y-K
DELTA**

OFFICE OF R. THOR WILLIAMS



P.O. Box 1986
Bethel, AK 99559

Phone: 907-543-1571
Fax: 907-543-1571
Email: sissawil@unicom-alaska.com

Bethel is a hub community with 13 air passenger and air cargo companies operating out of the Bethel Airport. Bethel is typically the third busiest airport in the state because of the number of people coming and going and the amount of freight that moves through our town. The Bethel Police Department must respond to crimes committed by anyone who visits, relocates, or resides in Bethel. A large number of crimes are committed in Bethel by those who live in other villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area. The need for a new police station in Bethel is a regional issue. We need money to help us design and construct a new police facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Thor Williams'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R. Thor Williams
Bethel City Council Member & Guardian Ad Litem

The Tundra Drums

The Beat of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta



Welcome
to Cama-i.
Inside this issue!



Volume 33, Number 4

75¢

online at www.kusko.net

Bethel, Alaska

Thursday, April 7, 2005

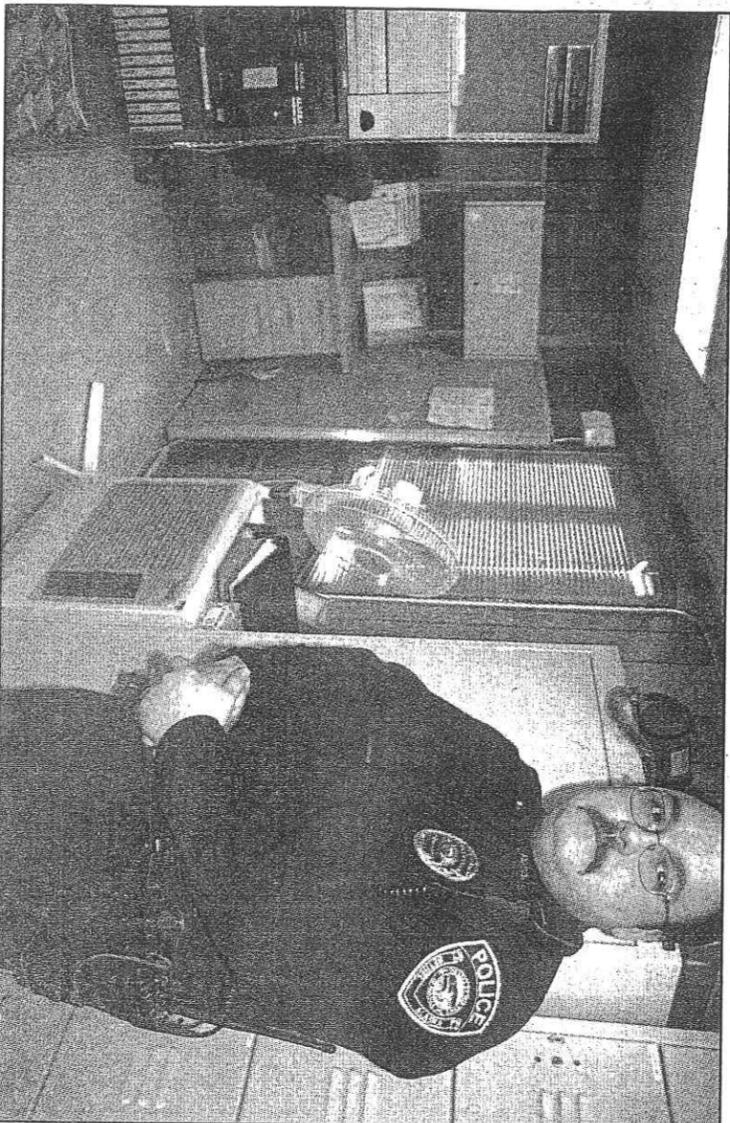


Photo by Naomi Klouda/Tundra Drums
Bethel's police station has served more than 30 years but not very adequately, said veteran officer Lt. Andre Achee. Its squad room must serve four officers to a single desk.

Police too close for comfort in makeshift squad station

By Naomi Klouda
Tundra Drums

Picture a squad room — that place police officers go to sit at a desk, write their reports and answer calls — as the size of a small trailer house. Now, assign four officers to share a single desk and put 12 officers in the squad room.

That's how unmanageable much of the space is at the Bethel Police Department, which has endured more than 30 years in a boxy trailer-linked-to-trailer structure.

Police Chief Ben Dudley is appealing for a new building, like his predecessors. This time, he hopes the public and policy makers are listening. Police "critically need" a bigger, more usable evidence room, better building security, an adequate armory, interview rooms, training room, holding cells, more general office space, exer-

cise/locker room, garage bays for vehicles, Dudley said.

It will cost \$10-\$12 million to build a new police station. The loss of revenue sharing and lack of money in the budget to spend on a new one means the city has to look for grants. But the state may have more obligation to help fund it now that a new mandate requires all the villages in the region have 911 access. That would have to be based in Bethel, as dispatchers at BPD serve both city and state needs now.

"The goal is not only to have a new police station, but a complete public safety facility including the Alaska State Troopers, district attorney's office, attorney generals office, adult probation, FBI, TSA, etc.," Dudley said. "This will accomplish many needs, including better communication and relationships between all of these agen-

See Police, page 8

Police ...

From page 1

cies, and more money available to build the facility.”

Mayors and city councils have long known the current building isn't a good permanent space.

Over time, even the Occupational Safety and Health Administration took the city to task for a bad working environment.

Once it was for not having a shower to let officers exposed to crime scenes wash off. Another time, OSHA cited the city for not supplying a washing machine for uniforms exposed to hazardous substances. The city fixed both problems.

“The current station is about four buildings slapped together over time,” said Lt. Andre Achee, who has been on the force 15 years. “Before it was a station it was a jail. We've put bandages on it through the years, we've had mini-electrical fires, and we've had times when our dispatchers had to wear their parkas and gloves in order to answer trooper calls at night when the heat went out.”

Achee said generations of Bethel city councils promised a new building. One time he even attended a ground-breaking ceremony for one that seemed to be in the works. He's seen three or four architectural drawings of a new building — all paid for but no construction followed.

Now there are new hopes with the city's investment in its first-ever grant-development manager, John Sargent.

“I'm communicating the needs and getting people to talk to each other so that it takes on a life of its own — this needs to be a city effort,” Sargent said. “I'm making this my number one priority.”

The problem goes beyond fire hazards and faulty heating — the building's poor space means it's hard for police officers to do their work. It's also difficult to attract much-needed new officers to a poorly ventilated, inadequate working environment, Achee said.

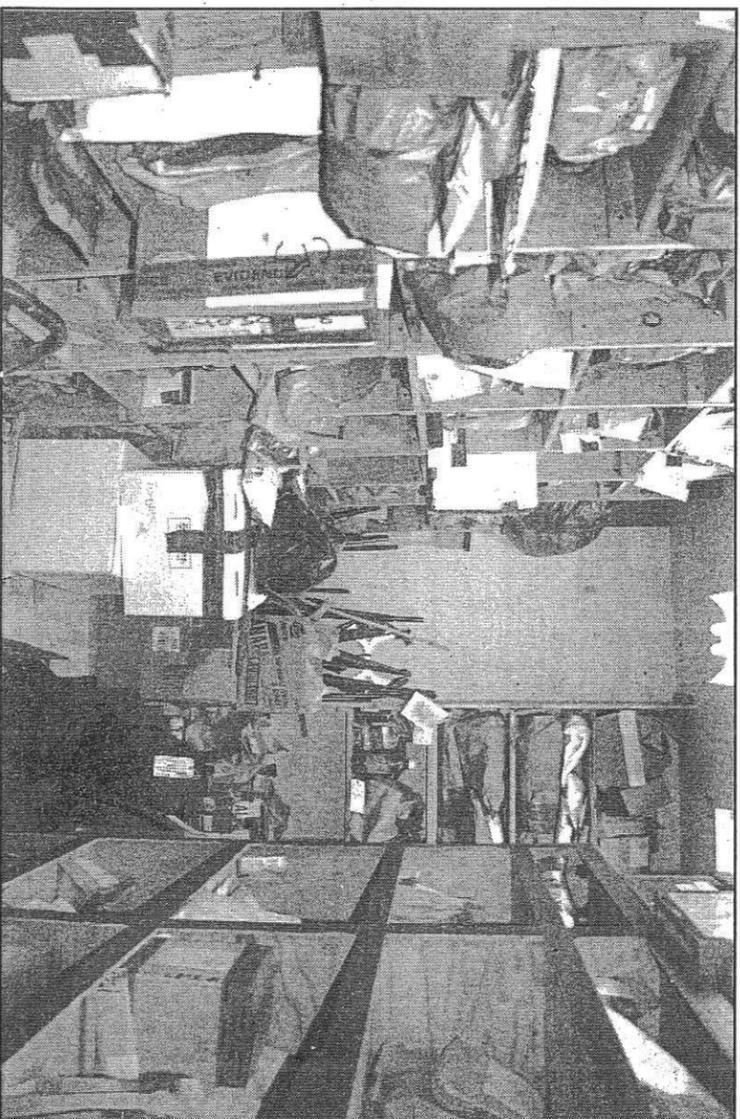
Bethel wants to attract a new generation of young local officers through an “apprentice” type program called the Community Service Officer program. CSOs are uniformed, unarmed, civilian officers who worked beside sworn police officers and assisted them with a myriad of functions.

This would solve the problem of the high-turnover of officers who come from elsewhere, earn training, then take it away to higher paying towns with lower costs of living, Dudley said.

The squad room's crowding means officers lack a physical space to sit down and complete paperwork. Upper ranking officers often share one of two single rooms off a hall adjoining the squad room. These are the size of a closet where the door nearly scrapes the desk corner in shutting. There is no training space that would allow officers, CSOs and VPSOs joint sessions.

Most limiting of all, Achee said, is the inadequate interview space for victims and suspects.

There's only enough space for one sexual assault victim at a



Photos by Naomi Klouda/Tundra Drums
The “evidence room” at the Bethel Police Station symbolizes the inadequacy of the current building; evidence must be carefully labeled and stored for years in preparation for trials. Some evidence, such as DNA samples, must literally be kept indefinitely by police. But there is no more room.

time. That means no extra space for a suspect to be interviewed as well.

The police evidence room is likewise crowded with heaps of carefully marked bags, boxes, and bottles of booze awaiting future trials. Some evidence, such as DNA samples, need to be stored “forever” because of ministrals and appeals.

Police need a larger evidence room that would allow more organized storage and access, such as rolling shelves and drawers.

“Right now we just continue to put bandaids on a bleeding artery,” Dudley said. “No mat-

ter what improvements we try to make to this building the fact does not meet the needs of the department. Over the years the city has grown, the department has grown, our responsibilities and what is expected of us have grown, but the building remains the same. At some point something needs to be done and if that point hasn't already past, it is certainly very close.”

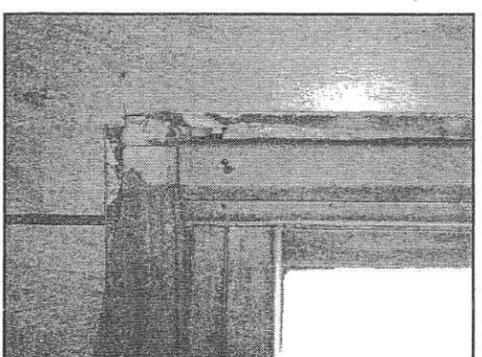
Funding

Sargent has made getting a police station his priority in the city's wish list to the Alaska Legislature. Sen. Lyman Hoffman, D-Bethel, said he knows the city's need well. Gov. Frank Murkowski, visiting the city council last fall, also acknowledged the city's need for a new building when former Mayor Hugh Short emphasized it.

But the state Legislature's attitude is that city police departments are cities' responsibilities to pay for, Hoffman said.

One fact that makes this attitude unfair is that the state places dispatch responsibility for the Y-K Delta on the Bethel Police Dispatch. The city is not compensated for handling trooper calls.

“We've been handling dispatch for the troopers with no type of compensation for this service. It has been something we have been trying to deal with



Photos by Naomi Klouda/Tundra Drums

This hole near a window shows how only bandaging has kept the building together.

for several years,” Dudley said.

Yet an additional level is being asked of Bethel in a new mandate requiring all 56 villages to have 911 access. That means Bethel needs to update and expand — but is given no state money to do so.

Now that the state budget has passed out of the House, it is in the Senate's hands. Hoffman hopes to add the jail to his list of capital projects. His office also sent a letter to the troopers saying Bethel needs to be compensated for its 911 system.

It remains to be seen how the state will handle the 911 mandate, and if Bethel will see a police station anytime soon.