



CITY MANAGER REPORT

Reporting Period: August 23 – September 15, 2020

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Date: September 15, 2020

COVID-19

Education and Outreach

Wear a Mask and Wash Your Hands posters arrived and have been posted.

Welcome to Saint Paul Island Airline Rack Card have been provided to Grant, Security and Ravn to put in the seat backs on the planes that service Saint Paul Island.

We will be working on a BeringS to distribute house to house in December.

CARES Grant Relief Funding

City Command Staff continue to work on purchasing and completing tasks for spending the CARES grant funding.

Household COVID Safety Bags

We are working the Aleut Community of Saint Paul to put together Household COVID Safety Bags for each household. The kit will include the following items:

- Duffle Bag
- Masks
- Tylenol packs
- Emergency radio
- First aid kit
- Hand sanitizer
- Thermometer
- O2 Meter
- Hydration packs
- Flashlight
- Spray bottle with bleach
- Cleaning rags

FEMA Reimbursement Funding

Stephanie and I continue to work with FEMA regarding reimbursement for response to COVID-19. We will be submitting a project for reimbursement to cover janitorial, legal, consulting, cleaning supply, PPE, and educational costs for July and August for approval this month.

We will need to submit separate projects month by month as the pandemic continues.



Saint Paul Island Unified Command

Unified Command met on August 24 and September 14 to review the strategic reentry plan and community risk indicators. The updated plan is presented to City Council for review and approval.

SCF Dental Team

On August 31, 2020 Patrick Baker and I met with April Kushin and Mayquella Buckley with SCF dental to discuss using CARES funding to send customer/owners out for emergency dental or bringing in the dental team. We thought it would be best to bring the dental team in. They have really good protective measures in place. We would likely see the team here on island in October or November.

Local Government Public Health Analysis ECHO

Each Tuesday at noon State public health officials host a Zoom meeting the local governments regarding COVID-19. Below is a bulleted summary of the meeting:

- Dr. Zink provided some updates to the attending on the September 15th Zoom meeting. She stated that a vaccine will be coming in the new year and in the meantime we need to keep doing what we are doing, get vaccinated for the flu, and that small rural communities can use their geography to their advantage.
- Representatives from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region presented as well. In this region there is testing at some airports when you arrive like in Bethel. The region has had outbreaks, clusters of outbreaks and some deaths. Two of the large clusters account for two-thirds of the outbreaks in the region and are travel related. The representatives stated there is a strong desire for more travel restrictions.
- A State public health official expects that we will be seeing a vaccine anytime from November this year to April 2021.
- Testing supplies remain stable.
- The State is looking at an emergency rule to allow DHSS to share notice of positive cases in small communities with less than 1,000 people with others than just local health representatives.

Telalaska Upgrades

On September 4, 2020 Patrick Baker and I met with John Bruce regarding upgrades to the Telalaska internet dish and servers at the school. We discussed possibly using CARES funding for the upgrades. I was tasked to follow up with Telalaska regarding the necessary upgrades.

On September 11, 2020 I received word from Telalaska. The Telalaska Network Engineering Team and Finance Department has stated that capital in the amount of \$200,000 or more required to make improvements and that if the money is available they could absolutely make upgrades that would help deliver more bandwidth, more affordably to the users on Saint Paul Island. The current users are the school, City, Tribal Government and Trident. I have a follow up meeting the Telalaska representatives to discuss what is needed in more detail.

Public Radio Dish

The ARCS satellite dish is in need of some repairs. I recently received a quote for replacement of the dish from Alaska Public Broadcasting. The total cost the replacing the dish and equipment is \$8,796 which does not include shipping. The new dish would be similar to that installed on Saint George

Island. I will be working with Jill Fratis and Chris Alloway to determine if this the best option and if so to figure out the logistics. We would plan to use CARES funding for this replacement.

Local TV Channel

I have reached out to Chris Mandregan to see if he can find out what may be needed for equipment to set up a local TV channel that would run through the TDX cable/fiber system. Chris was going to ask and get back with me.

Personnel

New Employee Orientation

On September 3, 2020 we conducted a new employee orientation with five recent new hires.

Employment Agreements

I have been working with three contract employees to renew employment agreements that are set to expire this November. Jeff Kowalski agreed to renew his employment agreement for two more years. Chief Lamblez and Corporal Lamblez agreed to renew their employment agreements until February 2022.

Review Meetings Regarding Project and Task Tracking

With the increased workload due to COVID, we have been meeting with staff to determine a system to improve tracking and reporting on projects and tasks. We have set up a system titled Monday.com and have a series of meetings with staff to start tracking projects and tasks. In future City Council meetings we will be able to show progress charts for various projects.

Air Transportation

On September 2, 2020, Patrick Baker and I met with Dan Kitchens the Chief Commercial Officer for Ravn. Rob McKinney was in a meeting with FAA. Below is a bullet point summary of what was discussed.

- They are looking to be up and operating this month and have the first flight to SNP on September 22nd.
- Flights would be 3 times week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, do not know the time yet. They are still waiting for route approval from DOT. The petitions from ACE have been delaying this a bit.
- There would be stop in BET or DLG for fuel, they prefer DLG.
- FAA has approved overwater certs and the flight crews are in training this week.
- 3 of the Dash 8s to service SNP are ready to go.
- The plane configuration will be the same. 25 seats with rafts in row 2.
- They will run make up flights as needed.
- No fares announced yet, they are looking at 2-3 tiers for the fares and offering a limited number of seats at a “local” fare rate.
- They will operate out of ANC at the same location.
- They have discussed with TDX regarding having them operate the SNP station. Dan said he thinks everything is in place for this. This means APUN will no longer be doing this.
- They restricted the company and cut executive costs by over \$4 mil per year. This should result in savings. The old Ravn was management heavy.

- 95% of the old Ravn employees are returning, which includes the pilots, operations, and safety teams
- Call center is up and working but they are not taking reservations yet, still need approval from DOT.
- They have 5 years of funding from investors even if they do not make money.
- New Ravn will focus on improved customer service. They are creating a customer care team that will handle reservations, changes, etc.
- There will be no booking fees if you call vs. book online.
- COVID protective measures include wearing of masks by employees and passengers.
- Snack service will focus on prepackaged items and bottled water. No alcohol will be served while the pandemic is occurring.
- Dan stated “ they intend to operate more smart and be community driven”.
- They are looking at the Q300s for the future.

On September 14, 2020 Rob McKinney emailed me informing me that they hope to start flying to the island on September 28, 2020.

On September 15, 2020 I received the following email from Venk Paluvai with USDOT:

Float/Corvus continues to work through the certification requirements that it needs in order to resume flight operations. We are not sure what date they will begin operations, but we are working with the carrier as expeditiously as possible. You may view any updates regarding the status of their application to resume operations at www.regulations.gov, by entering ‘DOT-OST-2020-0134’ in the search function.