

## CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

TO: Mayor Tutiakoff and City Council Members  
 FROM: William Homka, City Manager  
 DATE: March 12, 2024

- CAPTAINS BAY ROAD PROJECT:** The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Community Transportation (CTP), recently announced the list of projects statewide slated to receive “Intent to Award” letters, and Unalaska’s Captains Bay Road project is included on that list (see below). Execution of final grant agreements is contingent upon the approval of the 2024-27 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, which is currently awaiting approval from the Federal Highways Administration and Federal Transit Administration. This is not a guarantee of funding, but it is good news that the project has surpassed this hurdle.

Congratulations to the following:

Project Name	Sponsor	PEB Score
Bogard Road Reconstruction: North Earl Drive to North Engstrom Road	DOT&PF	382.0
Wales to Tin City Road Reconstruction	City of Wales via Kawerak Inc.	371.0
Seldon Road Reconstruction, Wasilla Fishhook Road to Snowgoose Drive	Matanuska Susitna Borough	369.3
Seldon Road Reconstruction, Snowgoose Drive to Lucille Street	Matanuska Susitna Borough	367.3
Vintage Boulevard and Clinton Drive Reconstruction	City and Borough of Juneau	344.0
Akutan Harbor Access Road	Akutan	338.8
Wales Community Roads Improvement	City of Wales via Kawerak Inc.	338.0
Captain's Bay Road	City of Unalaska	334.0

- US EPA CPRG GRANT APPLICATION:** The City of Unalaska is committed to transitioning its electric power production from diesel generation to renewable energy sources, including wind and geothermal. We have assembled a team of professionals to pursue a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the US EPA. On February 1, 2024, the City submitted a letter of intent to apply to CPRG to fund the Makushin Geothermal Project. The grant awards up to \$500 Million and requires zero local fund contribution as a grant match. We’ve engaged the Unalaska Trilateral Group to develop a seamless submission; it’s expected to be a very competitive grant process.
- GRANT APPLICATION – ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** The City submitted an application for a building efficiency grant to Alaska Energy Authority’s Renewable Energy / Village Energy Efficiency Program (RE-VEEP). No local match is required and we should be notified about April 1<sup>st</sup>. We applied for \$169,308 to:
  - Perform an energy audit at the water treatment plant to evaluate potential efficiency gains by using excess electricity generated by the microturbines.
  - Improve the battery/solar system at Icy Lake. This would let us avoid installing a remote fossil fuel generator there.
  - Replace fluorescent lighting with LEDs in the wash bay, warehouse, DPW building and City Hall.

- JUNEAU LOBBY TRIP:** The City of Unalaska delegation met with several members of Alaska’s Legislature in Juneau on Monday, March 4 and Tuesday, March 5, 2024. We met with Senators Dunbar, Wilson, Olson, Kaufman and Keihl. We also met with Representatives Ortiz, Tomaszewski, Josephson, Edgmon, Wright, Stapp, Hannan, Sumner, Vance and Galvin. The Meetings went very well and we were able to express the City’s state priorities for capital projects. We also explained what was happening with the Makushin Geothermal Project. Included in the photograph, left to right, are Natalie Cale of Ounalashka Corporation; city consultant Chris Hladick; Representative Bryce Edgmon; Council Member and Vice Mayor Alejandro Tungul; Mayor Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr. and City Manager William Homka.



- UNALASKA FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The Unalaska Fire Department had representation in Juneau for the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) Legislative Session and Leadership Summit for the first time since 2017. The Fire Chief was able to network with colleagues and see how Unalaska is aligning our



priorities with the rest of the fire departments from around the State of Alaska. Chief Knowles met with several legislators about two main priorities: addition of CPR/First Aid in Alaska Education Curriculum and CAPSIS funding for new construction of fire facilities. AFCA had \$250 million in projects collectively. There was a lot of good conversations that came from introducing these projects to legislators. Pictured is Chief Knowles and Rep. Bryce Edgmon after a productive meeting about the support and needs for fire/rescue and pre-hospital emergency medical services in Unalaska.

- DPU DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT:** On March 19 the City will conduct interviews of two candidates by video conference. Our consultant is presently conducting background checks of both candidates. Following receipt of the background reports and interviews, the decision will be made whether to advance either candidate to an on-site visit.
- STAFFING UPDATE:** The tables below summarize HR actions and position openings.

**February 16, 2023 – March 8, 2024**

Type of Action	Number Of	Internal	External
Hires	4	1	3
Pending Hires	2	0	2
Pending Offers	1	NA	NA
Resignations	1	NA	NA
Separations	3	NA	NA

### Position Openings

Department	# Openings	Notes
Administration	1	HR Mgr
DPS	5	Police Officer (1), Police Sergeant (3), Corrections Officer
DPU	6	Director, Water Operator, Util Lineman (2), Util Lineman Chief, Apprentice Lineman
DPW	2	City Engineer, Installation Maint Worker
Finance	1	Controller
PCR	4	3 Lifeguards, Rec Coordinator
Planning	1	GIS Admin Replacement
TOTAL	20	