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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 19, 2020
To: City Council
From: Tod Larson, City Manager
Subject: Coronavirus Update

City Operations.

- The City is still maintaining all essential services currently.
- We have been working closely with the Curyung Tribal Council through this emergency.
- I had a discussion with Alaska Airlines to determine what their plan is. They are working through the bankruptcy judge in the Rav'n bankruptcy. Alaska Airlines needs access to the Rav'n terminal and she said they need to figure out ground crews since they used to use Rav'n for that. Lastly, she said that once these tasks are sorted out, that Alaska Airlines could begin flights in about a week after they get the green light. They will have to determine schedules because of the low numbers flying right now.
- There is some concern that if we have a number of patients that the EMS transports, we could run out of EMS crew. Critically short on EMS volunteers.
- We are looking at opening up the DMV as soon as we can find and install protective equipment (Plexiglas Shield). Difficult to procure right now.
- The EOC is having difficulty in managing the Travel Permit System. It has turned into a significant administrative burden and will only get worse in the next weeks. Richard is working on some solutions aimed at streamlining the process and reduce the administrative burden. More will follow.
- Chief of Police had officers up at the airport last week to educate and ensure compliance. The good news is that he spoke with six occupants that deplaned and they all had permits and a quarantine plan.
- There are still many challenges to enforce quarantines. The only way it will work is if all people abide by the quarantine. We need public support to be successful.
- I met with Jean to brainstorm our harbor and port rules for this summer under Coronavirus rules. I hope to have a draft by the end of Sunday night to send out to stakeholders to review. I'm going to make sure that the harbor, port, and processor locations are honoring the rules and staying separated from Dillingham citizens.

- Fritz Johnson took on the project of designing and getting some signs that will be posted around town to remind people of the requirement to quarantine.
- Many employees are working well beyond 40 hours a week and are dedicated to the City and keeping critical services operational.
- Cynthia is tied up with all of our CIP projects and working with the State to make sure there are no hiccups. The State plans to keep moving forward with their downtown project. All indications are that the projects will be a go.
- Richard Thompson was successful in obtaining enough cloth masks so that each employee has one. I haven't made it mandatory to wear yet.
- We are still working on the FY20 budget revision and the FY21 budget. Lori has proposed some dates.
- Held the Dillingham Coronavirus Task Force meeting on 4/17. We have representatives from across the spectrum in Dillingham to get together to cross talk and share information.
 - Dr Hyndman and Gina Carpenter are the medical experts for our group.
 - Staffing is good. They are getting more TDY docs and nurses.
 - More test kits are on the way.
 - Masks are mandatory for entrance into the hospital.
 - If you are going to the hospital, call first. Then call again when you are in the parking lot and they will come out and screen you for entrance.
 - Gina mentioned the latest smaller Cities to have a positive test – Nome and Kodiak.
 - Positive comment on the signage in town.
 - Both School Districts are wrestling with how to conduct graduation in the current environment. They are also looking and already starting to think about and plan for the next school year.
 - Talked at length about our EMS capabilities and PPE. We have enough PPE for 35 calls.
 - David Griffen from the hospital said that a local person is attempting to get a setup to produce those face shields we have seen crop up.
 - Nushagak has a fuel barge on the way. They have stood up their emergency center.

Medical.

Health Update

- State of Alaska has 300 cases, 110 recovered, 35 hospitalized, 9 Deaths.
- The EOC procured masks for each employee of the City. Currently it is optional to wear.
- The Governor will be issuing a mandate directed towards individual fishermen next week that will address items such as living on a vessel, limiting contact with communities etc.
 - Once that is out, we should consider whether it should be referenced in an updated emergency ordinance and whether the City should add additional restrictions.
 - Ordinance 2020-06 only references the March 23 mandate on quarantine.

- Supposedly the State will be sharing processor plans that have been under review with local communities in the next couple of days.
- The City of Dillingham Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-06(A) expires on May 1st, so the Council will need to decide to extend it or let it expire. The next regular Council meeting is on May 7th, so the EO will expire without a regular or special meeting before the end of the month.

BBAHC

- I attend a daily update with BBAHC to stay connected to the medical side of this pandemic and it has turned out to be a very good hour to spend every day.
- BBAHC is working to obtain a contract to utilize Grandmas House as an overflow area. TBD
- Two Abbott COVID testers arrived at the hospital; however, the Medical Director doesn't have much faith in them. She will still send in a follow-up swab to the State Lab.
- New hospital policy that everyone entering the hospital will need a mask.
- Medevac.
 - Guardian has seven planes in Anchorage and one in Dillingham. They are going to do everything they can to provide coverage.
 - The Coast Guard is hesitant to move infectious patients, however, they said that they would respond if necessary.
 - Still looking into National Guard aviation.

Critical Community Services.

- Our critical service workers have been working very hard to keep services up.
- Public Works has taken steps to maintain social distancing, personal protection measures.
- Water and Wastewater – these two guys have taken many measures to make certain that they do everything they can to protect themselves. They know how critical they are to Dillingham.
- The Public Safety Department is holding their own right now. We are looking for officers, but with the Coronavirus, it will be difficult.
- Although the Senior Center is closed, Ida and her new cook are still cooking and delivering meals to their normal meals on wheels as well as those that typically eat at the Senior Center. We know now that they are at least getting one good meal a day.
- So far, we have been able to keep landfill operations going. They are short handed but still doing their best to keep their operations going.

Communication from Neighboring Communities.

- We have been in conference calls with the Bristol Bay Borough and the Lake and Pen Borough.
- Naknek, South Naknek, and King Salmon tribes joined Curyung and the City of Dillingham in our stance with the fishing season.

Commercial Fishing.

- The Mayor's Processor Plan Review Group is standing by right now to make sure the plans that they developed made it through the State's approval process prior to the group's analysis. The State said that we should see the plans NLT Monday.
- The State also mandated that all boat Captains are required to submit a plan as well. We will receive a few hundred of them to review. The State will have reviewed them against the State requirements when we get them.
- Icicle has delivered the Wood River Facility's Disease Prevention Plan for us to review.
- I've reviewed the Discovery Health's COVID-19 procedure manuals – more info below in the "State Mandates" section.
- Mayor Ruby and I attended a conference call on Saturday morning 4/18 with BBRSDA to talk about fishermen standards.
 - Executive Director Andy Wink lead the call to determine what our concerns are with the fishing fleet and see if we could work on solutions to mitigate risk.
 - He mentioned that the Trident Plan for quarantine and arriving in Dillingham was pretty strict and that they weren't messing around.
 - We talked about the industry and/or City providing some type of security guard force to help with quarantine compliance.
 - BBRSDA asked if they could make a presentation to the City Council at the next regular meeting to talk about what they are doing.
 - They suspect a fleet reduction because of the extra costs and rules associated with the pandemic.
 - Norm Van Vactor talked about a plan he presented on Friday 4/17 that would cover the quarantine plan to the Governor's office and it was shot down.
 - BBRSDA developing a group to review the commercial fisherman's "COVID-19 Catcher and Tender Vessel Procedures". This is the plan written by Discovery Health out of Seattle and it appears that the Governor will adopt this plan as Attachment A in the new Health Mandate.
 - Everyone talked about the challenge in enforcement....no real watershed ideas.

State Mandates.

- The State released amended Attachment A and B on 4/11/2020. One thing Attachment A clarified is that it makes a 14-day mandatory quarantine for the 'Essential Workforce'.
- Health Mandate 14 - Non-Congregate Sheltering Order in effect until rescinded. The State of Alaska is prepared to implement a temporary quarantine and isolation program.
- Health Mandate 15 - April 15, 2020 goes into effect April 20, 2020, may be updated at any time. Health care facilities and provides defined in statute and this mandate may resume services that require minimal protective equipment.

- We obtained a copy of the draft of the upcoming Health Mandate directed to the Fishing Fleet. We will need the committee to review this document immediately as I sense that it may be near going to print.
- A company from Seattle by the name of “Discovery Health” wrote two separate documents that the State and Fishing Industry are using for their operations.
 - The first one is “COVID-19, Catcher and Tender Vessel Procedures”. This is a well written and comprehensive document that lays out every procedure they recommend. I think the State will issue this document as an addendum to the new Health Mandate for the Commercial Fleet. Again, it’s a number of mitigation measures written by doctors and experts....if the industry complies with the procedures. We should review this in the plan approval group.
 - The second document from Discovery Health is “COVID-19 Shorebased Procedures with Local Emergency and Health Services”. This plan is nearly identical to the first one (most of the issues are the same). The big difference is that it includes recommendations that are specific to a ground-based processor plant. I also recommend this be reviewed by the group of stakeholders with a medical expert.

Economic.

- Cynthia has tried to weed through the mound of economic information and provide a common location for residents, businesses, and government operations.
- The information is located on the City’s website on the left side of the main page and it is titled “COVID-19 Financial Assistance”:
https://www.dillinghamak.us/index.asp?SEC=A931F069-CC77-4C51-8385-DAB47FF5C9EC&Type=B_BASIC
- This is certainly a work in progress and will be updated as we find more information.

Alaska Municipal League/Alaska Municipal Management Association.

- Participated on an AMMA conference call on 4/15 regarding COVID focused on what municipalities are doing with construction projects lined up. Most said that they were moving forward, but a couple were terminating their contract and paying some hefty settlements for getting out of their contract.
- Participated on a second AMMA conference call on 4/16 specifically for coastal communities to cross talk and share solutions with each other.
 - Commissioner Crum from DHSS was on the call for about 10 minutes. He was questioned about if the Governor was going to use the National Guard for assistance. He said that the pandemic in Alaska hasn’t risen to that level yet.
 - The Commissioner talked briefly about the State Mandate coming out this week directing the fishing fleet to quarantine and follow the “COVID-19 Catcher and Tender Vessel Procedures” that will be Attachment A to the next Health Mandate.

- Admitted that the State was behind and to be patient with them as they get up to speed.
- Tom Koloski from DHS&EM took over after the Commissioner had to depart.
- Mr. Koloski said that we should see all the plans from the processor and fishing fleet within the next few business days. (He thought Monday 4/19 at the latest)
- Mr. Koloski also said that the State is working on the Sport Fishing Mandate next.

State of Alaska.

- We have experienced significant issues with the Governor and his senior staff. They have ignored the City of Dillingham and even called directly to the fishing industry to develop plans. We had no input. This has frustrated the Mayor and I (and across the bay as well).
- Letter to the Governor's Chief of Staff – Ben Stevens. The Mayor can best explain the letter as she was involved in writing the document.
- Alaska National Guard – right now there isn't any movement on deployment.

Industry Meetings.

- Participated in a BBEDC conference call on 4/13. I represented the City in the meeting with BBNA, BBRSDA, processors, and medical.
 - Katie Copps, a PA spoke to the group about the area medical capabilities, our limited Medevac capability, the status of testing capability, and the importance of quarantine and getting the boats out on the water fast.
 - The processor group talked about that they had submitted their plans to the State of Alaska for approval. They also talked briefly about how each one will ensure quarantine in their organization.
 - BBRSDA was also interested in the plans for fishermen to quarantine and what enforcement tools can be used. They have been working with the Governor's Office helping to determine the standards for the fishing fleet.
- Mayor Ruby and I were on the phone with Icicle Seafoods for our weekly update with them. We just started a weekly call so we can keep the lines of communications open.
 - Icicle will start moving people in small groups starting this week to begin all their startup operations.
 - They have guaranteed us that they will land, get in their transportation, go straight to their worksite and not leave until the season is over and time to go home.
 - They will have a closed campus and there will only be a handful that will leave, like truck drivers.

Summary. This is the notes for some of the things going on in the City in the past week since our last workshop. There are a lot of moving parts and people are working very hard to prepare Dillingham. We have fought the fight about this fish season and will continue to let others know the wishes of the people of Dillingham. The weeks are long.