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Dillingham City Council
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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 29, 2020
To: City Council
From: Tod Larson, City Manager
Subject: Coronavirus Update

City Operations.

- No movement on Alaska Airlines coming into Dillingham. Spoke with them about their status this week. She said that the bankruptcy court in Delaware is moving slowly and they don't understand the intricacies of travel in rural Alaska.
- Worked with Brooks on some recommendations on the Emergency Ordinance and the draft of the 2020 Fisheries Related Use District rules. Designed to control the location of people that have a high chance of contracting or spreading the virus.
- We have a partial order of PPE for our first responders on its way from the State. The EOC is going to submit follow up orders to maintain a stockage high enough to replace what we use.
- Seems like things have calmed down around the airport and most are getting used to the permit system. Of course, there are those few that want to fight the system. The Chief is still having his officers spot check the airport as their time and mission allow.
- 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. The City staff has been fielding many calls from people that want some type of exemption or special treatment. I cannot stress enough that the only way that all the efforts to keep the virus out and keep our citizens healthy has to be a voluntary decision and to practice discipline.
- First two tenders arrived in Dillingham. Did a gear drop and departed. One is having some engine trouble and will repair in place. No one is allowed to cross over to the vessel or vice versa.
- Held the Dillingham Coronavirus Task Force meeting on 4/24. We have representatives from across the spectrum in Dillingham to get together to cross talk and share information.
 - We talked quite a bit on Health Mandate 16 – Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan Phase I-A, and Health Mandate 17 – Protective Measures for

Independent Commercial Fishing Vessels. Those two mandates had hit the street just prior to our meeting. Lot's of questions about Health Mandate 17. Overall, the impression that it had a good intent, but came up short on teeth. I felt it had too many 'if possible' and 'if you can' type of statements. The good thing is that Health Mandate 17 acknowledged that each municipality may have rules that are in addition to the Mandate's.

- The hospital is continually pressing for more testing capability.
- The hospital is expecting a large order of PPE from the State any day now.
- Production of test kits has approached 50,000/day now. Still not enough, but better than it has been.
- Gina talked about Discovery Health and discussions with them. Discovery Health was a big part of some of the processors planning.
- Questions about the CARES Act funding – not a lot of answers yet.
- We don't have a lot of information on CARES Act yet, but I believe Friday 5/1 will tell us a lot.
- Tom Tilden brought up a good point about the long-term exposure to negative Coronavirus coverage and the potential for mental health damage. He felt we needed to put something out for people. So, I put together a message for our social media rotation, but I need to work with the mental health providers at the hospital to find some posters or other information to go out in the community.
- Both School Districts are still considering ways to conduct some type of graduation in the current environment.
- The Task Force spent some time discussing Health Mandate 17 and some of the potential issues with it.
- Made contact with the Coast Guard – still awaiting a return call though.
- Developed a list of materials to improve the harbor area for this year. Signage, porta-potties, handwash facilities, hand sanitizers, etc.
- We are still trying to get a solution for housing fishing personnel that are ill and need a place to recoup and a place for wandering crewmembers and others. State EOC shot down our request for tentage. TBD.
- Gathered two quotes for roving patrol security, 24/7 from 5/15-7/31, rental vehicle, and housing.

Medical.

Health Update

- State of Alaska has 355 cases, 240 recovered, 36 hospitalized, 9 Deaths.
- Awaiting a Mandate for set netters and one for Sport Fishing. Not sure what may be next, except that with the Governor issuing Health Mandate 16, he may be moving the other way and loosening restrictions.
- I have the processor plans out for review and comments. The deadline for comments is 5pm on 4/30. Lori will consolidate and we will put a memo together for the Governor's Office
- The City of Dillingham Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-07 will be considered tonight.

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 has signed a lease with the MEAL board to lease Grandmas House for use as overflow capacity for the hospital. A contractor has been selected to repair the sprinkler system and will be working on the system soon.
- BBAHC submitted a letter to the Governor requesting that the fishing season be shut down. I haven't heard of any comments after they submitted it.
- Supplies are slowly trickling in to the hospital.
- We are going to work together next week to develop the process for testing a large number of people in the Fisheries Related Use Districts that we established.
- Samaritan's Purse notified the hospital that they have a 25-bed modular hospital complete with Docs and Nurses available for deployment when they need it. It's deployment is situational dependent, but they are looking at the other side based on numbers.

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. The roads have been causing Public Works trouble with all the snow and moisture in the ground. They are working on the roads up by Nerka this week.
- 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. Apparently, this has been well received. Ida does a great job with her program – her heart is definitely in her work.
- So far, we have been able to keep landfill operations going. They are shorthanded but still doing their best to keep their operations going.

Communication from Neighboring Communities.

- Joined Bristol Bay Borough and Lake and Pen Borough in two separate calls to the Governor's Chief of Staff – Ben Stevens.

Commercial Fishing.

- All processor plans are in the hands of the City Council, Department Heads, and the Dillingham Coronavirus Task Force members for comment.
- A few advanced processor workers have arrived to begin the setup of the plants.
- BBRSDA and other fishing related personnel coming to Dillingham are being discouraged from coming early and have requested that crews only conduct critical maintenance on their vessel, otherwise wait until next year if you can.
- Council will be considering the updated Emergency Ordinance and our rules on 4/30. Once approved, we will distribute as widely as possible. Our focus is requiring a minimum of two COVID tests, a 14-day quarantine, and tightly enforced Fisheries Related Use Districts from the day of arrival until completing the season.

State Mandates.

- Health Mandate 16 – Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan Phase I-A.
 - The first in a series to reopen the Alaskan economy.
 - The Mandate has a number of attachments for a wide variety of business types.
 - Stresses opening business in a safe way. Social distancing, limiting capacity, spread things out, etc.
- Health Mandate 17 – Protective Measures for Independent Commercial Fishing Vessels.
 - Establishes rules for vessels and Captains operating on Alaskan waters and in Alaska Ports and Harbors.
 - Directed at Independent Commercial Vessels only.
 - Includes some documentation requirements.
 - Does not require testing – which is a basic requirement of ours.
 - Acknowledges a 14-day quarantine requirement.
 - Also acknowledges the City’s right to enact additional protective measures.
 - Establishes a flagging system that lets everyone know the quarantine status of the vessel.
 - Establishes a verbal and physical screening requirement.
 - Establishes a number of requirements regarding crew, social distancing, illnesses, etc.

Economic.

- Briefed the Finance and Budget Committee on 4/27 on what we know about the CARES Act.
 - \$1.25B for the State of Alaska.
 - The Governor divided up the funding with a formula that we believe is similar to the CAP formula.
 - Funds are anticipated to be available on 5/1/2020.
 - Must be spent by 12/30/2020 or returned to the US Treasury.
 - Not much out on the procedures and a listing of allowable expenditures.

- The legislature is conducted committee meetings Thursday and Friday. There is some question if the Governor can divide up the money or is that reserved for the legislature to decide.
- CARES Act monies cannot be used to replace lost revenue. Must be an expense related to the COVID pandemic.
- AML recommended not to commit any funds until we get a better idea about the rules (hadn't planned on it!).
- Some uncomfortable unanswered questions regarding the vetoes that the Governor made and said the monies would be replaced with CARES Act funding. I know right now that we cannot use CARES money to replace School Bond Debt Funding.
- Reviewed the Treasury Department Guidance for CARES Act funding. Pretty general of course...just emphasized the prohibition to use the funding as revenue replacement and that the expenditure had to be directly related to costs from our COVID response.
- 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

Alaska Municipal League/Alaska Municipal Management Association.

- Participated on an AML Conference Call regarding the CARES Act. It reinforced my research this past weekend on the CARES Act. Notes are above in the Economic Section.
- I had a second conference call with AMMA regarding Mandate 16 strategies across the State. Had to leave that call early, but each municipality really had their own plan, that fits their community.

State of Alaska.

- Mayor Ruby and I participated in two calls with the Governor's Chief of Staff since my past briefing last week.
 - 4/24/2020
 - This call was really the first one to establish a clear line of communication with Bristol Bay community leaders.
 - COD, Bristol Bay Borough, Lake and Pen Borough, Bryce Edgmon, Commissioner Crum (DHSS), Ben Stevens.
 - Developed the idea to have a coordinated radio show on Thursday 4/30 from 10:00-12:00. Consistent Bristol Bay message.
 - Talked some about security and enforcement challenges.
 - Developed that the EOCs are the main contact for the State. We will route through our EOC.
 - 4/29/2020
 - Discussed Health Mandate 17 and developed a timeline for questions.
 - Stressed again the need for State Government to go through the City/Boroughs and not so much direct industry contact around us.

- Pushed hard to get testing included as a requirement as Mandate 17 still does not have testing as a requirement. Test prior to arrival in Dillingham and after quarantine prior to releasing from quarantine.
- Potential for some State assistance in putting together our security force. They spoke about sending in an assessment team to determine needs and contract with an Anchorage security company to fulfill. It would help us significantly if they took over this task.

Industry Meetings.

- Shared much of the information gained from other groups with this BB COVID & Fishery Update.
- Emphasized the need to write the Governor's Office and State Legislators.
- We want more stringent measures in Bristol Bay.
- Need to see how we can help people with the anxiety levels in our community. One of the things that I read really just said to stop watching the non-stop coverage on TV, walk away from the negativity that Facebook seems to be generating, and get outside now. We'll have more information to share with our citizens.

Road Ahead.

- Regular City Council Meeting 5/7/2020.
- Publish new Emergency Ordinance and make wide distribution.
- Finalize the additional rules for the Fisheries Related Use Districts for the summer and widely distribute as well.
- Complete processor plan review and submit comments.
- Develop the plan for ill and wayward personnel.
- Update the travel permit to include water side in addition to air requirements.
- Develop the CARES Act rules as they apply to Dillingham.
- Continue to refine the FY20 budget revision and the FY21 budget.
- Develop the security strategy and initiate action.

Summary. Another very busy week in preparation for the fishing season and our COVID response. We really want (and need) the State to engage with us now and fill our resource holes prior to needing it in a crisis situation. Proactivity is always better than being reactive in these situations if you can help it. We need action now so we are postured the way we want to be prior to the bulk of the fishing season personnel arrival.