

FCC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Sept. 16, 2020

Reported by Jim Wright

FCC Manager Mark Butler:

1. FCC has 5,000 white cotton masks to disburse to whoever wants them, from MOA. Just call him at the FCC and ask.
2. We are reminded that the FCC will provide \$75 per year for promotion, marketing, signage, P.O. Boxes, etc., to each community council, but we must indicate that it is for an approved purpose.
3. FCC has 4 zoom accounts that can be used for cc purposes.

Mayor's office reports:

Ethan Berkowitz:

1. At 6 months into the pandemic we have the lowest death rate in the U.S. We've been mostly open since May, but with limits on restaurants, and with the exception of bars which were briefly closed.
2. MOA received \$156M of federal relief, passed on through the state, which included funds for: small businesses (\$6M); hospitality, child care, etc.
3. Waiting on \$300M in grants
4. Of PPP funds \$1.5 billion went to Alaska
5. MOA has balanced budgets, so financially stable, unlike the State deficit issues.
6. State has cut school bond reimbursements, pressing tax burden on MOA.
7. MOA has in-person limits in place for indoor gatherings such as CC meetings. 30 max is the norm, but CC can do hybrid meetings of in-person plus zoom. FCC Chair Daniel George advised that we can get insurance for our community council meeting sites. Political and religious meetings – 50% of indoor capacity is allowed. Check with MOA.
8. Schools are to be reopened when certain metrics are met.
9. The key metric is the “arnot” which refers to the case count per 100,000. Below 1 means the disease is in retreat; above 1 means the disease is increasing.
10. They also look at where the cases are occurring.

Jason Bockenstedt, Chief of Staff:

11. 4 buildings have been approved to assist re homelessness, AO 2020-66.
3 are in response to covid. The 4th is a treatment center.
12. They are seeking to defray operations expenses from sources that include the Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska Housing vouchers will partially reimburse costs, and Medicaid is expected to reimburse part.

13. First step: Robin Ward, Real Estate Director, is currently engaged in due diligence on the properties. This is expected to take 30 to 60 days. This will help determine fair offers depending on the condition of the subject properties.
14. This is followed by the RFP process, which will take a further 60 to 90 days, to secure a service provider for each property. They will consider provider experience at 24 hour care, how to measure success, what services including transportation, and how this will avoid wandering clients in our neighborhoods.
15. The third step is to score the RFPs and take the information to the Assembly to decide, with an opportunity for public hearing and input. This is a further 60 to 90 day process.
16. Alaska Club is expected to be an overnight shelter.
17. Alcohol tax is to be used to fund such facilities.
18. Service providers will not do buildouts or adaptations to new uses. MOA will seek their input as to what is needed. The hotels are well maintained so little change is expected. The Alaska Club may be more involved, requiring changes.

APD (Chief Doll):

This was largely a repeat of his September presentation to RPCC.

1. In the wake of the George Floyd event, all rallies and protests in Anchorage have been nonviolent and appropriate.
2. APD already does much of what is sought in proposed reforms.
3. APD welcomes the public's input.
4. Crime is largely in decline as shown in the charts brought to RPCC in September.
5. APD is currently working to improve the release of records, reports. The goal is 10 business days or less.
6. APD is currently working to improve responsiveness by dispatch. Last year it was 15.9 seconds average response time for 911 calls. The national standard is 10 seconds or less. In 2020 we're down to ~11 seconds. To be clear, this is the time for a dispatcher to answer the telephone. This is not time until APD is dispatched or the average time to arrival on the scene. Those figures were not offered.
7. Officers attending CC meetings will resume, after a slow period due to covid.

Assembly Report was given by Felix Rivera:

1. Assembly met last night (Sept. 25)
2. Assembly hired Wheeler & Associates as legal consultants.
3. There are two Assembly Aide positions opened re Covid and related work. The application period ended Sept. 27.

4. Assembly Chambers is open for 50% capacity, allowing 80 public participants at a time. They may also use the Willa Marston Theater which would allow another 60 or so attendees. The public can attend in person, on line, by email, or otherwise. See his newsletter.
5. He notes that in the past, AO 64 was contentious. The chair cut off testimony. There was no Q&A period. Thereafter, the Assembly set up a committee to improve the public process.
6. We now face AO 2020-66, which will again tax the process. He asked for FCC input, and FCC Chair Daniel George suggested he look at the State process, which allows for Q&A. Cathy Gleeson from Turnagain CC suggested the interim step of public outreach prior to public hearings before the Assembly.
7. There was a question whether CARES Act money is now approved by the feds for use on these properties? The Inspector General said we should talk to Treasury, which said there are two paths to comply: a) we must show the funds are used for housing and other approved purposes by the December 1 deadline (which we can't); or b) put the money in first responder payroll reserve before Dec. 1 -- i.e., pay it to APD - and then swap the money out for other things later. Felix says Treasury advised us to do it this way. (As an attorney I can say that this sounds a bit sketchy and may not fly, but the Assembly is using the Treasury advice as cover).

ASB rep. Margo Bellamy reports:

1. The next School Board meeting is on _____. It can be face to face for those who sign up on a first come first serve basis.
2. ASD rental facilities are closed until further notice.
3. Parent Teacher conferences are expected to happen Oct. 21-22, probably via zoom.
4. Enrollment has dropped by 5,000 students. This means less money will be available for transportation, special needs, etc. That is a hard impact on schools.
5. Chromebooks have been distributed to children in need, as have internet connectivity devices, to allow distance learning.
6. ASD is delivering meals to kids in need. Parents should contact their school or go to distribution sites to take advantage of this benefit.
7. ASD is focused on 3 goals: reading, math, and career or life readiness.
8. ASD is partnered with the census to promote these goals, as the count is key to funding.
9. ASD has an ambitious plan for students to re-enter the schools. It depends on the metrics. They plan to phase in, first, SPED students, then middle school, and high school last. Margo skipped over elementary, but presumably they would start at or near in time to the SPED reopening.

FCC was apace on spending its 2020 budget as projected.

FCC voted to present a new annual budget at the same level as the preceding year: \$90K. With a quorum of 20 delegates in attendance, the 2021 budget passed 19 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.