



CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Tuesday, May 9, 2016
6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Assembly Chambers, City Hall

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Hearing Items:
 - a. **Introduction of the FY 2016-2017 Budget**
4. Written Testimony
 - a. Letter from the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce
 - b. Letter from Southeast Senior Services
 - c. Letter from KSTK
5. Oral Testimony
6. Adjournment



Wrangell Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 49
Wrangell, AK 99929
(907) 874-3901
www.wrangellchamber.org

March 7, 2016

CITY CLERK
MAR 03 2016
RECEIVED

Mayor David Jack and Borough Assembly
and Jeff Jabusch, Finance Director
City & Borough of Wrangell
P.O. Box 531
Wrangell, AK 99929

Re: Request for Borough Contribution

Dear Mayor Jack, Borough Assembly and Mr. Jabusch:

Thank you for this opportunity for the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce to respectfully request a contribution of \$23,000 from the FY 2016-2017 Budget, more commonly known as Community Promotion.

The Chamber of Commerce appreciates everything that the City has contributed to our community non-profit organization for many past years. Without the City's financial support, managing the Fourth of July and King Salmon Derby events, along with marketing operations, the promotion of economic growth would not be able to exist.

The Chamber of Commerce appreciates working closely with the City to create an atmosphere where businesses can thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christie Jamieson', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christie Jamieson, President

cc: Cyni Waddington, Executive Director
Chamber Board of Directors



419 6th Street
Juneau, AK 99801
Telephone: 907.463.6192
Fax: 907.586.9018
www.ccsjuneau.org

April 4, 2016

Mr. Jeff Jaybusch, City Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell
P.O. Box 531
Wrangell, AK 99929

Dear Mr. Jaybusch,

On behalf of the staff of the Wrangell Senior Center and the senior citizens we serve, we would like to request \$11,000 to be included in the City of Wrangell's FY17 budget for the Wrangell Senior Program. The continued support from the City of Wrangell is essential to the senior program and will help make it possible for us to continue to provide high quality, responsive services to the Wrangell senior citizens during the coming year.

Southeast Senior Services would like to thank you and the City of Wrangell for your contribution of \$11,000 toward the FY'16 operating budget for the Wrangell Senior Program. In Fiscal Year 2015, your support helped make it possible for us to provide:

- 4,964 Home-delivered meals
- 3,392 Congregate meals
- 2,999 Rides

The nutritious meals, door-to-door transportation, homemaker services, shopping assistance and errands offered through the Senior Center help seniors stay healthy and remain in their homes. On behalf of the senior citizens of Wrangell, thank you again for your continued generous support of the Senior Center. I welcome you to call me anytime at 463-6154 if you have questions or suggestions regarding our services.

Cordially,

Marianne Mills

Marianne Mills, Program Director
Southeast Senior Services



March 28, 2016

City and Borough of Wrangell
P.O. Box 531
Wrangell, AK 99929

Re: Reply to 2016 – 2017 Fiscal Year Budget Update

Dear Borough Manager Jeff Jabusch and Wrangell Borough Assembly,

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the expected Wrangell Borough budget shortfalls and the potential impact that may have to the in-kind utility credit to KSTK.

In FY 2015 – 2016, the State of Alaska reduced KSTK's funding by 18%, a reduction of \$24,500. Additionally, the City of Wrangell reduced KSTK's utility in-kind credit from \$9,200 to \$8,500 a reduction of \$700. This is a combined reduction in funding of \$25,200 to KSTK. Out of an annual budget of \$360,000 that's a huge hit.

For FY 2016 – 2017, the State of Alaska will again reduce, or possibly eliminate, funding to Public Broadcasting. Currently the House is proposing a cut of 27%. Governor Walker supports this number. The Senate is proposing a full 100% cut, completely defunding Public Broadcasting across the state. We will not know the actual number until the Conference Committee meets and makes a decision. Under the best-case scenario, KSTK will lose 27% of state funding this year which is \$30,500.

I am requesting that the City of Wrangell not further reduce the utility in-kind credit to KSTK in the coming fiscal year. Due to continued degradation of funding, KSTK is at risk of going off the air. The City may be able to help keep that from happening by continuing to provide KSTK with a utility credit of \$8,500.

Why should the City of Wrangell care?

- Public Safety. KSTK is the Local Primary, or LP1, for Emergency Alert announcements in the Wrangell area. Many people know what the Emergency

Alert System is and have heard announcements on KSTK and GCI Cable TV stating "This is a test of the Emergency Alert System..." But what people may not know is the significance KSTK plays as Wrangell's LP1 station. Local Primary stations, or LP1's, are the primary contact for the Emergency Alert System (EAS). All other participating stations, or PN's, tune their EAS receivers to the LP1 station in their area. In Wrangell, KSTK is the LP1, GCI is a PN. **In the event of a natural disaster or civil emergency, the EAS announcement goes to KSTK. GCI has their receiver tuned to KSTK, so they can *repeat* the EAS on television. Without KSTK, GCI does not receive Emergency Alert Announcements.** As Wrangell's LP1 station, KSTK monitors emergency systems 24 hours a day and logs required daily and weekly tests from the National Weather Service, Alaska Rural Communications System (ARCS), and the White House as well as initiating local weekly EAS tests from KSTK.

In addition, the City of Wrangell relies on KSTK to inform the public of city emergencies including power outages, road closures, water and sewer shut downs, landslides, harbor safety issues and more.

- Free City Announcements. KSTK provides the City of Wrangell numerous free announcements several times every day. KSTK would like to continue providing this service at no cost to the City of Wrangell. In the Community Calendar folder today, there are 15 City of Wrangell announcements. The Community Calendar is heard on KSTK 4 times per day and KSTK's online Community Calendar is available 24/7. Businesses pay \$14 per announcement on KSTK to get the word out about their business. To date, KSTK has offered free Community Calendar announcements to non-profits, the City of Wrangell and other government agencies. KSTK is not required to offer this free service. KSTK may need to begin charging all users of the service in order to increase revenue as funding cuts continue. At our base rate of \$14 per announcement, **the City of Wrangell currently enjoys a value of approximately \$420 to \$840 per day in free announcements.**
- Revenue to the City of Wrangell. The city currently provides an in-kind credit to KSTK for utilities. However, the credit does not cover a full year of utility expenses. In FY15, KSTK paid the City of Wrangell \$3,794 for utilities. **If KSTK is forced to turn off the signal, there will be no utility payments to the City from KSTK.**

- Statewide Voice and Economic Impact. KSTK is a member of the Alaska Public Radio Network. Many people in Wrangell understand that as a member of APRN, KSTK is able to broadcast statewide news. However, what people may not consider is that as a member of APRN, KSTK is also able to contribute stories and reports from Wrangell to the statewide network so that listeners and online users throughout Alaska hear and read about what's going on in Wrangell. **This gives Wrangell a voice throughout the state and can directly impact Wrangell's economy.** For example, KSTK's story on Wrangell's Marine Service Center was submitted to APRN and aired on Alaska News Nightly and Alaska Morning News throughout the entire state. Later, the Alaska Fisheries Report picked up the story and aired it as well, so fishermen and boaters across the state of Alaska heard about the hot-shot Marine Service operation we have in Wrangell. I spoke with a couple from out of town who heard KSTK's Marine Service Center report on APRN and brought their boat to Wrangell for a haul-out. That's just one couple. Consider the impact that one story had for Wrangell. Consider the impact if Wrangell loses that voice.

Currently the City's in-kind utility credit to KSTK is \$8,500 annually. I respectfully ask Wrangell's Borough Manager and the Borough Assembly to weigh the small difference a reduction in that in-kind will make to the City's fy17 budget against the huge impact a reduction will have to KSTK's ability to provide public safety, contribute to an informed and educated citizenry and provide a voice for Wrangell statewide.

The City of Wrangell has been an advocate for KSTK statewide and a strong supporter of the station over the years. The KSTK board and I appreciate your continued support and ask that the in-kind utility credit please remain at \$8,500 annually.

Sincerely,

Cindy Sweat
KSTK General Manager