



## **MERTARVIK RELOCATION PROJECT**

### **Steering Committee #11**

#### **Meeting Notes**

October 18, 2017

1:30 PM – 3:30PM

866-866-2244

1949418#

**Participants:** Newtok Village Council, Denali Commission, State of Alaska, DOWL, BIA

#### **Roads and Quarry – Presentation provided by Mark Sherman with GEI**

- Fuel discussion. 15,000 gallons of fuel will be delivered this fall to allow starting work early in 2018.
- Maintaining equipment. Craig Taylor is providing preventative and repair maintenance – they have come out about 5 times this summer. HC crews provided regular maintenance.

#### **Site Development Plan**

- Survey and Platting Work – Field work is complete – plat is close to being recorded.
- Ongoing work – well pump tests, majority of the geotechnical work has been completed. Golder is doing the geo-tech report – which will be out at the end of this month. They have found a few issues with permafrost and poor soils near the proposed fuel storage facility. They will excavate some test pits at alternate locations to find a better location.
- Geo-tech – Geo tech work is being conducted at the townsite, lagoon site, and airport area. The runway geo-tech work completed this year will help reduce the project time line.

#### **Housing**

- Joel asked if the Marie Fairbanks house could be used for relocation work. Dewayne Cooper stated that NVC could use the house for dislocation, but cannot be used to lease out and make money off of.
- Dewayne asked about the HIP funding and leveraging the AVCP.
- Joel stated that the Denali Commission funds will be available by January 2018. If there are critical housing needs between now and January, NVC needs to let Denali Commission know.
- Joel stated that there is also \$1million for the general needs for Newtok in the FY2018 budget.

- Adison provided an update on the LKSD participation in schooling at Mertarvik in 2018.
- Randy provided an update on the barracks. DOWL working with the architects to develop a project cost to relocate 26 modules (13 dwellings) in one barge load.
- The committee discussed the IRT program and stated that the earliest an IRT program could start is in 2019; there is a plan on how they could work on the barracks at JBER.
- Paul would like to explore using the BIA Bruce grant or HIP funds for renovation of the homes.

## **MEC**

- Randy provided an update on the MEC – Competitive proposal process will be used. The RFP is going to be part fee and part qualifications based. The RFP asks for the contractor to provide housing for the crew that can get leveraged into community housing.
- Dewayne stated that the BIA houses can be renovated for housing for subcontractors.
- The septic disposal system is faulty. If you build the MEC you cannot use it.
- Original cost estimate for the MEC shell was \$1.7 million. The cost to build the entire MEC is going to be much more expensive than the \$1.7 million.
- SIP panels have been stored under the MEC foundation for the winter. The panels will be incorporated into the shell for insulation only, not structural strength.

## **Energy**

- Togiak Twin Hills got funding for the intertie project.
- Joel provided an update on the Denali Commission's RUS request and stated that RUS denied the request to provide funding for the power system. The reason for the funds not being provided was that there needs to be people living in Mertarvik before they can provide funding.
- One of the major concerns with this decision is that the same agency has sanitation funds and Newtok will be constrained getting IHS and EPA money which is solely dependent on housing.
- The Committee discussed using AVEC as the electric utility. Paul Charles stated that the NVC wants the power plant to be run by locals. George Karl talked about his concerns about working with AVEC.
- Romy Cadiente discussed the concern about the cost to work with the co-op will add an additional \$600,000 to project costs.
- Randy discussed the "plan B" option – developing a small module and limited distribution system so there will be power there next fall.
- The current community has one generator; Newtok needs a backup generator for safety and emergencies.

- The Committee discussed using outside sources to help with getting funding for energy projects.

### **Funding**

- Adison provided an update on the financial status and grants.
- Adison to send AEA an email requesting their assistance for grants to help with Energy.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Adison to send the steering committee the GEI PPT.
- Adison to send email to Dewayne regarding the renovation of the blue homes. Need a summary of the existing conditions of the homes for the October 11 meeting.

### **Comments**

- Lynn Polocca – appreciate everyone’s assistance
- Jolene John – Albertina Charles – pioneering – fate of desperation for people’s homes that are being – revisit Yurts.
- Jeff Harmon – BIA Providers – Newtok will be presenting the relocation project. December 28-30
- Dewayne Cooper – Commended the project’s success.
- Sally Russell-Cox – Table top exercise Newtok table top exercise that will inform the meeting in the afternoon.
- Joel Neimeyer – Stated that the lieutenant governor held a round table on climate change. A key word is Mertarvik. There will be an administrative order for climate change coming down the pipe to help Newtok and others communities.
- Romy Cadiente – thanked the group.
- George Karl – thanked the funding agencies. Stafford Act needs to be amended to help other communities.
- Bernice John – We all do a better.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:04