

Chefornak Activity Report

Paul Chimiugak, LGS/RUBA, Bethel Regional Office

General Information:

The City of Chefornak transferred the water/sewer system over to the Traditional Council which, in turn, separated the water & sewer system from the Traditional Council. They dedicated a subsidy of \$600 a month to water & sewer system through an ordinance.

The water & sewer system has raised their rate to \$30 a sewer haul and \$10 per water haul. With his rate in place, they are still barely breaking even and they are depending on the local school district and the subsidy from Traditional Council to meet the employees payroll. They have 11 Flush Tank & Haul System units in place and aren't installing anymore. They are waiting for a vacuum system before the community commits to water/sewer services.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — Chefornak water and sewer still needs to have a budget plan done. They do not have enough funds to operate the water and sewer haul system. The administrator said that they are barely breaking even. They are relying on Local School districts payment and the subsidy from the Traditional Council to pay for their employee wages.

Accounting Systems — They are doing their accounting through Quickbooks. The administrator wants to do his accounting through Quicken and the project is going to pay for an instructor out of St. Mary's to go to Chefornak for this purpose.

Tax Problems —The administrator said that they make a special effort to pay IRS taxes and that they are current in their payments.

Personnel System — They have hired two bookkeeper/clerks, one is permanent and the other is a standby worker. The bookkeeper/clerk is budgeted for 3 hours a day.

Organizational Management — They have a standby bookkeeper in case one will be needed and if so they will hopefully keep the enterprise and accounts up to date on activities.

Leadership/Governance —They have five members on the Utility Board, three of which are from the Traditional Council.

Operation of Utility — They still do not have a certified operator. The administrator told Paul Chimiugak, RUBA staff in Bethel, that they had sent an operator for training and both times he didn't get the certification. They are going to sent him to a training for certification some time in the future. There needs to be a rate study done for the Chefornak Water and Sewer Department to come up with a rate that is comfortable or realistic for their service fee.

Ranking

1 = Inadequate

4 = Adequate to meet minimum requirements

7 = Exceeds requirements

Category	1	4	7
Finances		X	
Accounting Systems		X	
Tax Problems		X	
Personnel System		X	
Organizational Management		X	
Leadership/Governance		X	
Operation of Utility		X	