

Deering Activity Report

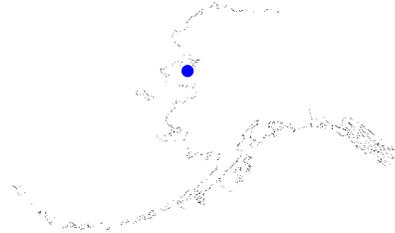
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Margaret Hansen, Kotzebue Office

2001 Population: 136

Region: Northwest Arctic

Local Governments: Second Class City



The City of Deering operates the piped water & sewer system, central watering point and water delivery haul system. The City Council is the policy making body for the utility.

Water is derived from the Inmachuk River; is treated and pumped to a 400,000-gallon insulated storage tank. Water is delivered to home tanks or hauled from the watering point. Major improvements are under construction for a water haul and vacuum sewer system. A new washeteria and water treatment plant are nearing completion. Archaeological remains were discovered while excavating for the new system. The City would like to purchase an incinerator with waste heat recovery to reduce the volume of refuse.



General Information

In January, Margaret, Kotzebue LGS, provided phone and fax assistance to the new City Clerk on her December monthly financial report when she was trying to calculate workmen's compensation by department. They still have not had anyone apply for the City Administrator position. The good news is that Calvin Moto is the Mayor once again. He had held the office previously for three years.

In February, Margaret provided telephone and fax assistance regarding grant management. I reminded her that their grant is due to expire on June 30, 2002, so they need to make sure they will complete the project by then. We also discussed the business plan for their bulk fuel upgrade project. I may have to postpone my trip another month since they are having to do more work on the plan.

In March, the Kotzebue Local Government Specialist provided telephone assistance to the Utility Manager on finances. We also discussed the need to transfer back over to the City all

the operation and maintenance of the water/sewer department since they do have a full time employee. The Utility Manager is temporary but they do have plans to hire a Bookkeeper soon for the electric company.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — The Clerk provides the Council with monthly financial reports in comparison to the budget every month now with no problems. They are current with accounts payable/receivables.

Accounting Systems — The new Clerk is working very well with QuickBooks. She does all the accounting including receipts and payroll. She had no problem completing the W-2's.

Tax Problems — No tax problems.

Personnel System — Although they have policies in place and are following them, they still have not had any applicants for the City Administrator position. RUBA will provide them with other options, paid Mayor, MOA, contract administrator or on the job training.

Organizational Management —The City has reorganized. The Mayor elected has numerous years of Council experience.

Operation of Utility — The water plant operator has lost his certification. They have not been able to get an alternate certified at this time.

Category	Inadequate	Meets Minimum Requirements	Exceeds Minimum Requirements
Finances		X	
Accounting Systems		X	
Payroll Taxes		X	
Personnel System		X	
Organizational Management	X		
Operation of Utility	X		

Anticipated Activity

Margaret plans to travel to provide personnel management to the new Council. She will provide them with options for hiring and retaining new employees. We have set this trip for April 15-17, 2002, but it may get delayed a month