

Hydaburg Activity Report

Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Gina Shirey, Juneau Office

2000 Census Population: 382

Region: Southeast

Local Governments: First Class City



The City of Hydaburg operates and manages the piped water & sewer system. The City Council is the policy making body for the utility.

The Hydaburg River provides water, which is treated and piped throughout the City. Piped gravity sewage is treated at a secondary treatment plant, with an 800' outfall to Sukkwaw Strait. Over 95% of all homes are plumbed. Funds have been requested to construct a new dam to increase the water supply. The City is exploring options to improve waste disposal. Alaska Power & Telephone Co., based in Skagway, owns and operates diesel power systems in Hydaburg and Craig which provide electricity to many Island communities.

General Information

Mayor Wes Morrison was able to bring the collection rate for water, sewer, and garbage up to just over 80% in May of this quarter. As a result of this and improvements to their current dump, the landfill project that was placed on hold is now proceeding with the engineering of a new site.

The Juneau office provided assistance to the City in the areas of utility rates and budgets. The City Clerk called the Juneau office to request information about making utility rates non-code. Sample copies of a Schedule A containing utility rates, sample ordinance language referring to Schedule A, and a copy of a customer agreement were faxed to the City. In addition the City Clerk also requested a copy of their FY01 budget, which was also faxed to them.

City Staff attended a computer workshop sponsored by the RUBA program held in Ketchikan June 25-29.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — The City is still in bad financial shape. The mayor anticipates having enough money to pay for operating expenses through mid-August.

Accounting Systems — The City is still using QuickBooks. The City Clerk has resigned from her job effective July 20th. Only one person has expressed an interest in the position. This candidate does not have strong computer or accounting skills.

Tax Problems — There are no reports of payroll tax problems.

Personnel System — The City Clerk’s position has been advertised, and there appears to be little interested in the position.

Organizational Management — The City has a bare-boned organizational structure. The mayor oversees all City staff. The only staff he has under him is the City Clerk and the Public Works Department.

Leadership/Governance — The mayor is still actively managing the day-to-day affairs of the City.

Operation of Utility — There appears to be no problem with the operation of the utility other than occasional positive tests for lead.

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	

Anticipated Activity

There is no anticipated RUBA activity in Hydaburg for the next quarter. Neither the Mayor nor the Council are requesting assistance from the Juneau office.