

Koyuk Activity Report

Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Leroy Seppilu, Nome Office

2001 Population: 297

Region: Bering Straits

Local Governments: Second Class City



The City of Koyuk operates the water and sewer system and maintains a central watering point for residents to haul their own water. There are honeybucket pits but no sewage lagoon. The City Council is the policy making body for the utility.

A piped water and sewer system was recently completed for the west side of town, serving 51 households. The east loop system is under construction. The school has requested funding to connect to the new sewer system, since its septic effluent is posing a health hazard. DEC has approved the landfill for use, although it is not permitted. Funds have been requested to construct a new water plant and small washeteria.

General Information

A trip was made to the community on October 23-24, 2001 to do an assessment of the City office. The new Utility Clerk was preparing to go on a eight-week maternity leave. She said her collections are fairly good. The City recently fired a qualified and certified water & sewer utility operator over conflict with his pay. Then an unqualified operator was hired at \$1.50 less per hour than what the original operator had asked for. Then just before the Mayor decided to resign, he fired the City Clerk who had always been coming to work late or not show up for work. About two weeks later, the new Mayor rehired the old City Clerk.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — I did not do an in-depth examination of the City's financial records.

Accounting Systems — The City uses a manual record keeping system and seemed to be doing okay.

Tax Problems — The City has no tax problems.

Personnel System — The City Clerk is very intelligent and good at what she does. Her only problem is that she is constantly late or misses work a lot.

Organizational Management — The Utility Clerk should be coming back to work shortly. She seemed like a capable person when I talked with her. She is doing well and will do better once she gets more experience. The previous Mayor asked RUBA to assist the City with revising the code of ordinances. I have not asked the new Council if they would like to continue with the revision.

Operation of Utility — The City has hired an unqualified water & sewer utility operator over a qualified one. The uncertified operator could be a factor in the city’s attempt to get funding for water & sewer utility upgrade and washeteria.

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

Leroy doesn’t anticipate any activities other than telephone assistance and possibly revising the code of ordinances.