

Nightmute Activity Report

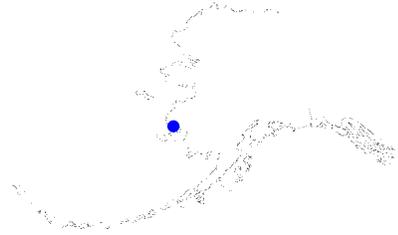
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Paul Chimiugak, Bethel Office

2001 Population: 208

Region: Lower Kuskokwim

Local Governments: Second Class City



The school in Nightmute provides a central watering point for residents to haul their own water. The City of Nightmute provides a honeybucket haul service and the City Council is the policy making body for the utility.

A flush/haul system was recently completed for 21 homes, and additional units are being added in 1999 and 2000. Water delivery and waste tank pumping services are available. Unserved residents haul water and honeybuckets. The community has a new watering point at the school. School wastes discharge to the City sewage lagoon. A washeteria is not available. The Nightmute Power Plant was acquired by AVEC in March 1998.

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General Information

The Bookkeeper for the City of Nightmute quit her position as of the end of March, due to health reasons. She and the Administrator complimented each other well. Now that she's no longer working for the City, the financial management section is hurting. However, the Utility is operational and is still providing efficient service to the customers.

When the Administrator and the President of the Village Council came to town, they were asked about when they wanted to set a meeting to discuss the City dissolution process. They said that they did not really want to dissolve the City but wanted the public informed about the process.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — The Bethel office has not received any financial reports from the City since the Bookkeeper quit. A position opening notice has been posted in the community.

Accounting Systems — The accounting system is suffering because the Bookkeeper quit and the City can't find a competent replacement. However, the Administrator has been doing the payroll and payroll deductions.

Tax Problems — The City office has been keeping current with their taxes despite the lack of a full time Bookkeeper. The Administrator is having the bingo bookkeeper do the quarterly reports. Cross training amongst the office employees is helpful, but they do need to hire a full time, permanent Bookkeeper.

Personnel System — The Administrator said the three-month probationary period before being elevated to the higher pay scale is a problem for some people. The starting pay is 65% to 70% of the regular pay. A prospect had applied for the position of the bookkeeper but declined after hearing of the probationary period pay scale.

Organizational Management — The Council and especially the Mayor helps in hiring procedures by informing the applicants of what is expected in the positions.

Operation of Utility — The Administrator has been ordering extra pumps for customer flush tank units. He then resells them to the customers that need them at the cost of the purchase and freight cost.

Billing and collection problems with one of the commercial customers developed over a misunderstanding of where the bills should be sent. The Administrator had been sending the bills directly to the teachers and the teachers in turn gave them to the Principal of the school. This caused non-payment of the bills and the City Administrator in turn refused service to the teachers until the bills had been paid. Next quarter the bills will be sent directly to the school district here in Bethel and hopefully this will clear things up for the Nightmute Utility office billing and collections.

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 Activities

- Ensure that the utility is operating for the benefit of the City and community and that they hire a qualified water operator.
- Ensure that the loan agreement with the corporation is fully implemented and in place and not jeopardizing