

Nunapitchuk Activity Report

General Information:

There was little work done in the community due to Summer subsistence activity. At the request of the VSW engineer, RUBA staff in the Anchorage office (Scott Ruby), reviewed the City's budget. There were several areas that the budget did not adequately address in the Utility sections. Scott discussed the budget with the City Administrator. The Administrator stated that the City knew the budget did not adequately address all the issues, and would amend it in the Fall.

RUBA staff worked with Department of Labor staff on the acquisition of computer equipment under the fish disaster grant. The City of Nunapitchuk is scheduled to get several computers under this program. These computers will be networked with the City's existing computers. RUBA staff worked to make sure that the new equipment would be networkable with existing equipment. Once the equipment is received this fall, RUBA staff will work with the City to establish electronic communications.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — The budget passed by the City needs to be amended. The City realizes this and will work to complete the changes in the next quarter.

Accounting Systems — The City uses a fairly complex computerized system. They receive assistance on this system by a accountant out of Bethel. The system provides adequate financial information for management of the sanitation utilities.

Tax Problems — There appears to be no major tax problems with the IRS and DOL.

Personnel System — The City has requested that RUBA staff assist in revamping their personnel system in the area of employee responsibility/accountability. The first round of recommendations were implemented by the City. RUBA staff is continuing to work with the City on additional issues.

Organizational Management — The City now has a certified operator. They continue to make improvements in the management of the water plant operations. This has been the biggest problem in the past. With the addition of water sales directly from the water plant, additional changes and/or controls may need to be implemented. RUBA staff will work with the City to identify and implement any needed changes.

Leadership/Governance — The City Council continues to provide thoughtful timely input to both the capital improvement process, and the management process.

Operation of Utility — The City has a signed agreement with the School District on wastewater disposal. Part of the agreement is that the City will complete a rate study to document the cost of water production. The City has requested RUBA assistance in completing this task. RUBA plans to contract for this rate study. Due to the combined nature of the water plant and washeteria this study will time consuming. The result of the contract will not only be a rate study, but also a rate model that the City can continue to use to determine costs. The study will also identify areas that could be improved to reduce rates/costs.

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	