

Pilot Station Activity Report

Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Marita Hansen, Bethel Office
 2003 Population: 564
 Region: Lower Yukon
 Local Governments: 2nd Class City



Individual wells, cisterns, septic tanks and outhouses are used in Pilot Point. There is no central water or sewer system, but all occupied homes have complete plumbing. The City provides septic pumping services and maintains a sewage lagoon. Over half of homes are used only seasonally. Major improvements were recently funded. Wind strength is being monitored by three towers; plans are underway to install a wind turbine during the summer of 2002 to supplement electricity. A new landfill is nearing completion. Electricity is provided by Pilot Point Electrical.

RUBA Activity This Reporting Period

RUBA staff assisted the administrator/bookkeeper in reviewing ordinance amendments to rate increases for water/sewer, refuse and cable TV. These amendments were passed and adopted at the June 2005 council meeting. Another increase is the sales tax. However, this will have to be brought to the community and voted on. They will either have a special election on this or wait till the October election and put this on the ballot. The city is listed on the AVEC delinquency list but is making efforts to resolve this through a payment agreement.

Capacity Indicators

Finances

- | Yes | No | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | All revenue and expenses for the utility are listed in the utility budget. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted a balanced realistic budget. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Monthly financial reports are prepared and submitted to the policy making body. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility is receiving revenues (user fees or other sources) sufficient to cover operating expenses. |

Sustainable Indicators

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility is receiving revenues (user fees or other sources) sufficient to cover operating expenses and Repair & Replacement (R&R) costs. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | YTD revenues are at a level equal to or above those budgeted. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | YTD expenditures are at a level equal to or below those budgeted. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A monthly manager's report is prepared. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Budget amendments are completed and adopted as necessary. |

Finances Comments:

The residential customers rate has changed from \$25 to \$35 a month for water sewer and cable services. The additional expenses are subsidized through a 2% sales tax and through gaming proceeds.

Accounting Systems

Essential Indicators

- | Yes | No | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted a collection policy and actively follows it. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility bills customers on a regular basis. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | An accounts receivable system is in place which track customers and reports past due accounts and amounts. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | An accounts payable system is in place. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The payroll system correctly calculates payroll and keeps records |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A cash receipt system is in place that records incoming money and what it was for. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Utility has a cash disbursement system that records how money was spent. |

Sustainable Indicators

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A chart of accounts is used that identifies categories in a reasonable, usable manner. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Monthly bank reconciliations have been completed for all utility accounts. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has a purchasing system that requires approval prior to purchase, and the approval process compares proposed purchases to budgeted amounts. |

Accounting System Comments:

The accounting system is setup manually and runs efficiently, and the City is still planning to computerize their accounting functions in the future.

Tax Problems

Essential Indicators

- | Yes | No | NA | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | The utility has a system to accurately calculate, track, and report payroll tax liabilities. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | The utility is current on filing tax reports. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | The utility is current on making tax deposits. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | If there are any past tax liabilities, a repayment agreement has been signed and repayments are current. |

Tax Problems Comments:

The City is current with its tax liabilities.

Personnel System

Essential Indicators

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Yes | No | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has a posted workers compensation insurance policy in effect. |
-

Sustainable Indicators

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted and uses a Personnel Policy, which has been reviewed by an attorney, AML, or DCED for topics and language. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adequate written job descriptions for all positions. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted and follows a written personnel evaluation process that ties the job description to the evaluation. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has an adequate written hiring process. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has personnel folders on every employee that contain at least: I-9, Job Application and Letter of Acceptance. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has a probationary period for new hires that includes orientation, job-training/oversight, and evaluations. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility provides training opportunities to staff as needed and available. |

Personnel System Comments:

The City Clerk supervises all the organizational staff and pays them from the General Fund. The City still has not appointed a utility coordinator to oversee the operation and maintenance of the utility services. The City Clerk is planning to attend any future Utility Management classes.

Organizational Management

Essential Indicators

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Yes | No | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The entity that owns the utility is known and the entity that will operate the utility is set. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The policy making body is active in policy making of the utility. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The policy making body enforces utility policy. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility has an adequately trained manager. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has an adequately trained bookkeeper. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has an adequately trained operator(s). |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted the necessary ordinances (or rules and regulations) necessary to give it the authority to operate. |
-

Sustainable Indicators

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted an organizational chart that reflects the current structure. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The policy making body meets as required. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility complies with the open meeting act for all meetings. |

Organizational Management Comments:

The policy making body is proactive in all organizational aspects for efficient operations.

Operation of Utility

Essential Indicators

- | Yes | No | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility operator(s) are actively working towards necessary certification. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has a preventative maintenance plan developed for the existing sanitation facilities. |

Sustainable Indicators

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The manager receives a monthly O&M report from the utility operator and routinely “spot checks” the facilities to see that the maintenance items are being completed. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has a safety manual and holds safety meetings. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Utility facilities have not suffered any major problems/outages due to management issues that are still unresolved. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility is operating at the level of service that was proposed. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The operator provides status reports to the manager on a routine basis. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has completed and distributed its <u>Community Confidence Report (CCR)</u> . |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility is not on the <u>Significant Non-Compliance (SNC)</u> list. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility maintains an inventory control list. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility maintains a critical spare parts list. |

Operation of Utility Comments:

The utility is self-sufficient through user fees and subsidies. An inventory still needs to be conducted for the water sewer facilities.

RUBA Activities For The Coming Quarter

RUBA staff will get copies next quarter of the amended ordinances to the utility rate changes. A request for a copy of the AVEC payment agreement will be requested.