

# Tanacross Activity Report

John Fischer, LGS/RUBA, Northern Regional Office

## General Information:

RUBA staff made no field trips to Tanacross this quarter, however contact was established via phone/fax. According to the bookkeeper, a new administrator has been hired. Apparently this person has a great deal of experience, having previously worked with the Hopi Nation in the lower “48”. However, due to a lack of funding, the new administrator has not come on board as of this time and it is anticipated by the bookkeeper that it will be at least into July of this year before he arrives in Tanacross.

One of the council members attended the “Introduction to Utility Management” seminar conducted in Fairbanks in April 2000. This member participated extensively in the class and completed 2000 action plans for the village.

Apparently the water/sewer project, which got off to a rough start in the previous two years, is going much better this summer. Note: This was reported by staff and not verified with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC).

The accounting system continues to operate smoothly and the council president reported that last year’s audit went much smoother and that accounting deficiencies and audit exceptions which had occurred the previous year had been corrected. Note: This office has not as yet received a copy of the audit, one will be obtained by contacting the Revenue Sharing officer.

## Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — Indications from staff would certainly make it appear that finances are on a much smoother track. Previously, the community has had to a considerable amount of money shuffling in order to continue day-to-day operations.

Accounting Systems — The bookkeeper is extremely proficient and indicates that the accounting is running very smoothly. If indeed Tanacross received a positive audit for their last fiscal year this would tend to affirm these statements.

Tax Problems — No tax problems that RUBA staff is aware of. Given the proficiency of the bookkeeper it is doubtful that any significant problems occur. Also, this is an item that would definitely be picked up in audit.

Personnel System — No change, however Tanacross is again insisting that they would really like to revise and go through the current personnel policy. RUBA has recently hired new staff that specializes in Human Resources issues so it is assumed that this staffer will assist the village council in their efforts.

Organizational Management — No change. Again, the organizational chart will be linked to the personnel policy. Hopefully the new administrator will make the needed organizational improvements when he comes on board in July.

Leadership/Governance — It appears to RUBA staff the president and the council are taking a more active role in the leadership and governance of the village. The council president is spending a lot more time at the office. Again, a wait and see posture will be taken until the new administrator arrives.

Operation of Utility — The Laundromat is open but the revenues are very slim and the facility continues to lose money. The piped system needs to get a little further along in order to be able to generate significant revenue. Apparently there are quite a few laundry facilities in the immediate (Tok) area and competition is particularly stiff for the washeteria. It was reported that the village store enterprise was doing well although whether the funds generated are being put back into the enterprise remains to be seen.

**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		