

Tanana (Too'gha) Activity Report

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General Information:

John Fischer, RUBA staff in the Fairbanks office, went to Tanana and did training for the newly elected officials for the City of Tanana and, including the city manager and city clerk, officials for the City of Hughes, and non-profit board. This training was funded by Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB). Training took place on February 15th and covered all of the topics requested except one. People were especially interested in personnel, parliamentary procedure and the differences in how a first class, second class and non-profit work. We did spend a lot of time talking about the division and how best to approach the upcoming annual meeting of Too'gha. There were many questions, all of which were answered, and people showed up on time and stayed.

Too'gha manager reported that the annual meeting went well with many questions asked regarding the new system. Meeting was well attended by the local people as well as representatives from Tanana Chiefs Conference and Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) .

The Too'gha Board has passed the FY 2000 operating budget. In addition, the board reviewed budget calculations for 2001 and 2002. The board made a decision to delay the opening of the new laundromat until more pipes (hence more revenue) are completed. The decision appears to be a sound one, at least from a fiscal point of view. The board also indicated that a planner is needed to coordinate community development plans with the City, Tribe, Too'gha, and the Corporation.

Construction season is opening again for the summer. First on the agenda will be to complete work on the new laundromat, which has a scheduled completion in the fall of 2000. The two hurdles remaining are equipment purchase and gravel supply, both of which must be worked out between the board and the engineer.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — The utility manager is really beginning to understand the budgeting and finances. He actively participated with RUBA and TCC in putting together not only the operating budget but the projected budgets as well. Cash flow remains positive.

Accounting Systems — Good. Manager is really learning the system. All accounts were reconciled before RUBA personnel even arrived.

Tax Problems —None—assisted manager with minor glitch regarding 1998 W-2's. W-2 amount didn't equal total of 941's. The problem was located, corrected, and the proper reports transmitted to the IRS.

Personnel System — Good.

Organizational Management — Good.

Leadership/Governance — Good. Seems like everybody is starting to work together rather than at cross-purposes to one another.

Operation of Utility — The decision to continue with the old laundromat for another winter is a tough one. The existing facility is old and has had minimum maintenance expenditures (since a new laundromat was to come on line.)

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