

Tanana (Too'gha) Activity Report

John Fischer, LGS/RUBA, Northern Regional Office

General Information:

There was one RUBA visit during this reporting period. The purpose of the visit was to work with staff regarding 2001 proposed budget. It appears that a viable budget may have been created for the fiscal year, however the board has thus far failed to adopt it. The reason for the board's recalcitrance (understandably) is the failure of staff to bring forward the 2000 year end figures. Therefore, the board has no valid comparison to set forth the proposed budget numbers. Too'gha staff has been promised an additional visit to assist with this problem, however it appears do to time constraints, this visit will probably not occur until February of 2001.

In other happenings, Too'gha Laundromat revenue has been significantly lower than in preceding comparison years. This has been partially attributed to Laundromat vandalism and looting of the coin boxes. A camera security system has been installed in the Laundromat and at the end of this period the vandalism has ceased, hopefully forever.

The tribe donated a computer and time was spent setting the computer up and getting it running. The new utility manager attended OIT training in Minto and is scheduled to attend Introduction to Utility Management and beginner's Quickbooks training in January 2001.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — Declining. Recent break ins and equipment out of service have taken a toll on the revenue stream.

Accounting Systems — The Quickbooks system is still in fair shape. The current manager has not been able to reconcile the Quickbooks year end financial statement for the board. RUBA has scheduled a trip to assist him in doing this. Too'gha is four months into their fiscal year without board approval of a budget.

Tax Problems — New personnel have been mistakenly making tax deposits predicated on the quarters of their fiscal year instead of the IRS calendar year. This has resulted in the miscrediting of tax deposits in the IRS system. Too'gha has been charged penalties as a result. A meeting with the IRS in Fairbanks has apparently corrected this situation.

Personnel System — Personnel system has continued to function throughout extensive staff turn over.

Organizational Management — Seems to have continued well.

Leadership/Governance — Too’ gha board continues to provide good leadership and concern for the community.

Operation of Utility — Effectiveness has declined somewhat with all the changes and confusion. Hopefully the new security system will preclude any more vandalism/break-ins. Revenue is down from previous years. Finances and maintenance monies continue to be very tight.

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	