

Tuluksak Activity Report

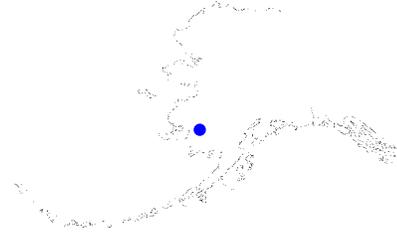
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Johnny Evan, Bethel Office

2000 Census Population: 428

Region: Lower Kuskokwim

Local Governments: Village Council



The Village Council operates the washeteria and the central watering point. The Village Council is the policy making board for the utility.

Treated well water is hauled by residents. Only one watering point, with storage capacity of less than 7,000 gallons, serves the entire community, washeteria, clinic and school. The washeteria was rehabilitated in 1996, but water shortages are limiting its use. Residents haul honeybuckets -- Tuluksak has 75 active honeybucket disposal pits. A feasibility study has been completed to implement a piped water and sewer system. A larger water storage tank, water system improvements and a honeybucket haul system are the village's priorities.

General Information

The Tribal organization hired a temporary Tribal Administrator and appointed a Tribal Service Director. The community received five more bins for their container haul system and they were immediately put into operation. The accounting system was reorganized through Alaska Accounting Solutions, and transferred to the Tribe on May 2001. The accounting system is now computerized through Mind Your Own Business (MYOB) financial software. The system can do everything except Payroll. The Tribal organization met with IRS in June 2001 to negotiate their 1993 to 1996 past tax liabilities. The Tribe has 90 days to make an offer to the solve the situation. Despite the reduction of the container haul system rate, the collection rate is still not improving. The Tribal organization is negotiating with Yupiit School District for the possible take-over of the well/washeteria operations for the next fiscal year.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — User fees are not covering the expenses incurred. The user fee of \$30 was reduced to \$20 despite the low collection rate. If it is not subsidized, it is not known how they will continue to operate. The Tribal organization is looking into whether they should initiate a water rate. The Tribal organization still needs to develop an overall budget. The Tribe has a debt with the local corporation, but is paying it off with the sales tax accrued.

Accounting Systems — Accounting was transferred to the Tribe and is now computerized. Receipts are recorded daily, weekly, and monthly. The financial software is capable of producing monthly financial reports, separate according to job units, and record payroll

records/journals. With this capability, the Tribe will soon be able to calculate their own tax liabilities and complete the tax reports.

Tax Problems — They are current with their present tax liabilities but still have to negotiate with IRS on the past tax liabilities. The tribe met with IRS in June 2001 and they will have ninety days to make an offer to IRS, this will be at the end of September 2001.

Personnel System — The Tribal organization hired a temporary Tribal Administrator, and appointed a Tribal Services & Housing Director. The new bookkeeper is now the Chief Accountant and now handles all the accounting functions. They also hired a Tribal Clerk who will be responsible for all the clerical duties.

Organizational Management — The organization was reorganized in June 2001 with a new Tribal Administrator, and the Tribal Council appointed an administrative assistant in the event the administrator is absent.

Leadership/Governance — The Tribal Council is actively involved in all aspects of the planning process. They have drafted a five year infrastructure plan that would improve all the capital projects in the community. The Council met with the Moravian Parsonage to transfer the land to the Tribal community. The Tribal organization is looking into taking over the water treatment plant operations.

Operation of Utility — No outstanding issues to report. The 5 new container haul bins were put into service.

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	

Anticipated Activity

Johnny will assist the Tribal Council in their negotiations with the IRS on their past tax liabilities. Johnny will also continue to encourage the Tribe to increase the user rate so revenue will cover the expenses.