

Tuntutuliak Activity Report

General Information:

The Water and Sewer services for Tuntutuliak are under construction and operating at the same time. Tuntutuliak has a Flush Tank Haul system with plans to pursue the Container Haul system for those residential customers who do not want to connect to the Flush Tank system. Currently, there are fifty-two residential homes connected to the system with eleven more planned as soon as weather permits.

There are two 6x6 ATV's, 4x4 ATV's, one snow machine, two 300 gallon water trailers, a snow blower, snow plows that can be attached to the ATV's, and two 300 gallon sewage trailers for the Flush Tank Haul System.

Tuntutuliak Community Services Association (TCSA) is a utility organization that manages and administers the electrical services, washeteria, and the water sewer services for the community.

The major problem at the moment is trying to meet the needs of the customers. This is hampered by huge amounts of snow that is covering the boardwalk. The bobcat that is primarily used in removing snow is broken. ATV's equipped with snow plows, are not working due to too much snow, but they recently have received a snow blower that is too small for the amount of snow on the boardwalks. Despite this situation, they are meeting the demands of the customer as weather permits.

TCSA is concerned in getting a rate analysis done and developing a budget for the new fiscal year. A complete rate analysis was completed and approved by the utility board for presentation to the community. VSW and RUBA Programs are planning a Community Educational session on operations of the Flush Tank Haul system, and to have the residential customers understand what they are paying for. The rate study will be presented as soon as a meeting date is set.

The washeteria is operating with four washers and four dryers operational, two showers, sells miscellaneous items, and charges \$.15 a gallon for water. The water delivered to the Flush tank holding tanks is not charged to the customers. This is the main reason that the washeteria is losing \$5G plus annually.

A RUBA Work Plan will be developed based on the initial findings. These are minor discrepancies that will improve the operations of the water sewer services.

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Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — TCSA is still subsidizing the washeteria and the water sewer services annually due to no set rates for the services. The washeteria rates are reviewed, but they somehow do not create a surplus. After initial review, the amount of water disbursed is greater than how much time it would take to make the water. The water delivered to the residential customers average 200 gallons per month, and this is not charged and/or paid for. This is the main reason the washeteria is in the red.

Accounting Systems — System is still kept manually with accurate records. Electrical and washeteria services have a budget and is referred to when purchasing. The water sewer services has yet to develop a budget for the fiscal year, this is second on the priority list. Quick Books Pro is installed, data entered, but is not used on a daily basis. They would like assistance in implementing the operation of the financial software.

Tax Problems — TCSA is current with their tax liabilities.

Personnel System — TCSA has adopted and uses a similar P & P manual as does the local corporation, two sample policies were provided on my first visit. There were no job descriptions for its current staff, Johnny Evan, RUBA staff in Bethel, did bring down a list of sample job descriptions for their use.

Organizational Management — An organizational chart has yet to be formulated and developed, ordinances need to be developed and adopted in the form of a resolution, the rate analysis has yet to be presented to the residents for consideration, and develop utility plans.

Leadership/Governance — There is still friction between TCSA and the Tribal Council on environmental issues for the community. Despite this situation, the Tribal Council is drafting the ordinances for the utility services. TCSA is a non-profit organization not authorized to formulate and develop ordinances for the utility services.

Operation of Utility — The washeteria is fully functional, but does not charge water distributed by the water sewer services. This will change once the rate study is approved for implementation. The water sewer services is still under construction and/or in operation for those units completed. There are no set rates, budget developed, utility plans, and no preventive maintenance schedule for the assets used. TCSA would like the identified discrepancies formulated and adopted by end of construction.

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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	