

September 8, 2016

Members of the Assembly and public-

The purpose of this note is to express my preference for the Ordinance, which would support the electrical fund subsidization. I feel that it is important that the city keep three things in mind.

Balance- Though it is important to give relief to the citizens from some taxation, it is also important that we are asking for an increase because we are in desperate need of funds for day to day city operations. Sales taxes on food, as it has been pointed out to me many times by members of the public, are paid by many non-resident summer visitors and workers. I do not feel compelled to lower taxes on these folks as they are not our main focus. The city needs to balance relief with revenue and this gives us the best balance of the two.

Housing- Rental unit cost in Sitka are in the lower 1/3 in the region until you add on utilities. These add nearly an additional 40% to monthly housing. As housing is one of our biggest needs to retaining population, it is critical that we keep utility costs as low as possible.

Business- Our business community needs tax relief as well. Utility costs will be passed on to their customers therefore raising cost for local products. To stimulate more local purchasing and to keep dollars in town, we should keep the costs for businesses as low as possible.

In my absence, I hope that you will consider these issues before you vote on Tuesday.

Respectfully yours,
Bob Potrzuski