

Budget adjustments

I realize that there is a shortfall of money this year and that all departments have had to take cuts. What I have seen is that we are not out of the woods in this financial turmoil. The economic engines in Sitka are still driving downwards not at an alarming effect as in other communities but slow and deliberate.

Sitka has always protected its core departments PW, Fire, Police Admin and has helped the peripheral departments like SCVB, SEDA and the Isabel Miller Museum which are not city staff but are partly funded by city and the ability to receive funding from other sources. Now in recent years when the city has had surplus money it has been possible to help those Non profits that are in need of financial help.

What the City of Sitka is now facing is a long road ahead of short falls in our budget and we as an Assembly need to rethink how we are to pay for these services.

The following is my thoughts since I will not be at the May 25th meeting.

Please leave the core departments as they are and let's look at how to fund the SCVB and the museum with the same or close to the same as last year.

I would propose that we pull what is needed from the funds we have set aside for Non Profits and support those peripheral departments that are essential to Sitka. As for the Non Profits give what we have left and possible us what we may have as surplus from fiscal 2010.

It is a pleasure to disperse money when it is in abundant, everyone is happy and smiles abound. Now when money gets tight and those that are use to getting what they want that's when our job becomes crucial. If we are not going to take from our savings and fund these departments then we seriously need to prioritize which departments need to be funded.

Even though I am not there at this meeting I wish to plug my support to see that SCVB gets more funding this coming year and relook at the funding process for them the future.

Isabel Miller Museum I believe has started a well needed turn around with the help of our last year funding and still needs our support this year. Both of these organizations are part of who we are in Sitka and some may think they should be city staff. My thoughts are these people do more for our community per dollar than any one else.

Please do what you can to fund these groups and I will be supportive of what ever decision the Assembly makes.

Larry Crews
Assembly Member
5/14/2010