

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
RESOLUTION 2011-02

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING
FUNDING FOR RAVEN RADIO

WHEREAS, Raven Radio has provided local, state, national and world news, as well as regional weather and Emergency Alerts services to Sitka, Angoon, Elfin Cove, Kake, Pelican, Port Alexander, Tenakee Springs, and Yakutat for almost 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Raven Radio broadcasts all regular City-Borough Assembly meetings live and without cost to the city, thus promoting participation in local government; and

WHEREAS, Raven Radio provides a variety of music styles and entertainment for all Sitkans; and

WHEREAS, Raven Radio has trained more the 800 Sitkans in the art of radio programming and production; and

WHEREAS, Raven Radio has more the 5,000 listeners and 1,200 members; and

WHEREAS, Raven Radio operates largely through the voluntary contributions of time and money from Sitkans; and

WHEREAS, In order to maintain and improve services Raven Radio is renovating and re-equipping broadcast studios in the Cable House which is a one hundred year old historical building prominently located on Sitka's waterfront; and

WHEREAS, Raven Radio has already secured \$616,000 from federal and private sources towards a total budget of \$679,000; and is requesting a \$63,000 state capital grant to complete the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka does hereby recognize Raven Radio's value to Sitka and surrounding communities and supports Raven Radio's request for a \$63,000 capital grant.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 11th day of January, 2011.

Cheryl Westover, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara Peterson, Acting Municipal Clerk

Raven Radio Emergency Equipment Replacement and ADA Compliant Studio

Non-Profit Public Radio station KCAW (Federal Tax ID # 92-0073400) requests a \$63,000 appropriation to help leverage money for grants to replace failing equipment and also to construct a studio compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. These improvements would be made to the KCAW studios in Sitka, Alaska and are priority goals as defined by the Raven Radio Foundation Board of Directors.

Project Description and Objective

This project will provide emergency broadcasting equipment for an area of Coastal Southeast Alaska highly prone to earthquakes and potential tsunamis. This project will replace obsolete and failing radio broadcast equipment that has been operating continuously for 15 years as well as update and upgrade emergency broadcast capacities. Raven Radio will create a ground floor radio studio compliant with the Americans with Disabilities act, allowing elders and the disabled access to the air. The objective is to provide reliable, and in some cases singular, radio communications to coastal Southeast Alaska. Additional renovations will address structural and operational deficiencies in the Cable House, a one hundred year old historical building on Sitka's downtown waterfront. This state appropriation will help provide the matching funds required by other federal and private sources and to complete this multi-year renovation and re-equipping project.

Project Funding

Total Project Cost: \$679,000

Funding Already Secured: \$616,000

State Funding Request: \$63,000

If this funding request is granted, Raven Radio will not apply for additional state funding for this project in the future.

Detailed Project Description:

This multi-year, multi-phase renovation of the Cable House and update of KCAW's broadcast equipment is nearing completion. KCAW is requesting a capital grant of \$63,000 to finish the project and secure a stable radio signal for several remote communities in coastal Southeast Alaska.

KCAW serves 11,500 residents of Southeast Alaska in the communities of Sitka, Angoon, Kake, Elfin Cove, Pelican, Port Alexander, Tenakee Springs and Yakutat. The station is lifeline for these residents, providing Tsunami Warnings, Emergency Alert System and AMBER Alerts; severe weather warnings and forecasts; local, regional, state, national and international news as well as diverse cultural programming. As one of the few sources of news and information for coastal Southeast Alaska, listeners depend on KCAW for vital emergency information. In the last few years, for example, Southeast Alaska experienced several

earthquakes, multiple tsunami warnings, record-breaking snowfall and several weeks of mudslide and avalanche danger. Station facilities must be capable of reliably relaying emergency information to the public.

Much of KCAW's existing studio equipment is obsolete and worn out and has been subject of repeated failures causing numerous losses of service. This project will primarily benefit KCAW listeners by providing for uninterrupted service of a vital, and in many cases, singular means of emergency, educational and entertainment programming. \$19,000 will be used to buy and install broadcast studio equipment, install propane generators at KCAW studios and the transmitter site and purchase portable emergency broadcast gear and newly mandated Emergency Alert System equipment.

The Cable House is owned by the Raven Radio Foundation and houses the broadcast studios. The building is listed on the National Historic Register, prominently located on the waterfront in downtown Sitka and is more than one hundred years old. The building is receiving a much needed renovation after falling into disrepair with more than a dozen roof leaks, peeling paint and dismantled windows. Renovations have been top to bottom, including roof, windows, siding, entryways and ramps. The renovation budget is missing \$25,000 which would provide matching money for seismic bracing, a boiler firewall, basement insulation, as well as entryway foundation repair and furniture, fixtures and equipment for the completed interior.

There is a significant population of elderly and disabled individuals that cannot climb to the second floor studios for interviews, call-ins, or to host a weekly program. Renovations have included installation of a studio on the ground floor to be outfitted with production equipment and will serve as both an ADA compliant on-air studio and a production studio. Raven Radio's lot in downtown Sitka now has an ADA compliant parking space as well as a ramp to the door. The ADA space is stable, but the edge of the parking lot sits within a few feet of a sloughing slope that will eventually erode out from under the parking lot surface. Bracing this area will cost \$7,000. Other lot access improvements include safe steps and rails as well as an access sidewalk at a cost of \$12,000.

Raven Radio currently has more than 5,000 listeners, 1,200 members and 100 active volunteers. For the past 29 years, KCAW has been a reliable source of critical alerts as well as news and information. As a result our listeners have been vigorously involved in the financial operation of the station. This year local revenue will total over \$240,000 in listener memberships, business support and special events. KCAW is a committed member of CoastAlaska Inc., a consortium of seven Southeast Alaska stations striving to improve service to listeners, while decreasing costs, through inter-station cooperation. Current economic conditions make it unlikely that Raven Radio can raise the additional money required above and beyond the operating costs needed to complete this multi-phase renovation and re-equipping project.

Top-Level Project Timeline

July 2010 – Completed construction of ADA compliant studio
October 2010 – Completed parking lot paving and ADA compliant parking space
September 2010 - Completed broadcast studio equipment installation
May 2011 – Complete upstairs studio renovations
August 2011 – Complete upstairs studio equipment installation
August 2011 – Complete emergency broadcast equipment installation
September 2011 – Complete seismic bracing, boiler firewall, insulation, foundation work
September 2011 – Complete parking lot steps, railings and sidewalk access
September 2011 – Complete erosion control
October – Project complete

Detailed Project Funding Data

Project Costs:

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Funding Secured</u>	<u>Add'l Funds Required</u>
I	Roof , siding, windows, electrical, entryway	\$185,000	\$185,000	0
II	ADA studio, fire sprinklers, interior renovation, seismic bracing, boiler firewall, insulation plus furniture, fixtures and equipment	\$264,000	\$239,000	\$25,000
III	Digital studio and emergency broadcast equipment installation	\$114,000	\$95,000	\$19,000
IV	Parking lot w/ADA space, lot improvements	\$116,000	\$97,000	\$19,000
	Total Budgeted Expenses	\$679,000	\$616,000	\$63,000

Renovations have been funded by the following sources:

- USDA Community Facility Grant Program
- APBI/Denali Grant Program
- Rasmuson Foundation
- Public Telecommunications Facilities Program
- Raven Radio Foundation

Funding Secured:

\$616,000

State Funding Request: \$63,000

Other Funding Requests:

There are currently no other funding requests

Additional Funding Required:

No additional funding will be required. The requested funds will complete this multi-phase project.

What Entity will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and operations of this project once its complete?

Non-Profit corporation Raven Radio Foundation Inc. will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and operations of the facilities once complete.

Contact:

Ken Fate

General Manager

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