



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

CBS

### **HIGHWAY TO SITKA...**

#### **PROVIDE EQUITABLE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SERVICE**

CBS requests the AMHS provide adequate and consistent service to our 9,000 residents and the visitors of our community. The AMHS acts as Sitka's highway, providing core service critical to our economy. Ferry service needs to be increased to the same level as other mainline ports in Southeast Alaska.

### **STATE FUNDING FOR STATE FACILITIES...**

#### **SUPPORT FOR STATE SERVICES AT SITKA JAIL FACILITIES**

CBS requests the State of Alaska to fund the Community Jail Contract at its previous level of \$695,000. By law, the State is responsible for caring for persons charged under State law: 89% of our inmates fall into this category. Costs for personnel, food and laundry services have all risen sharply. Sitka's contract is not sufficient to sustain jail operations.

### **ADOPTION OF A SUSTAINABLE BUDGET...**

#### **WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE A LONG TERM FISCAL POLICY**

CBS requests that Alaska Legislators work together to develop a sustainable and balanced budget that allows municipalities to plan for the future. Lack of a comprehensive budget plan has adversely impacted public safety, infrastructure maintenance, education and other key services.

### **CONTINUED STATE SUPPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES...**

#### **LONG TERM FUNDING SOURCE TO SUSTAIN COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE REVENUE**

CBS requests the State of Alaska continue the current level of the Community Assistance Program and develop a long term funding source on which municipalities can rely. Prolonged budget level uncertainties are causing severe difficulties for Sitka and other local governments.

### **MANAGING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE...**

#### **NO INCREASE TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM CONTRIBUTIONS**

CBS requests the State of Alaska maintain the current level of 22% of the PERS/TRS unfunded liability. Municipalities currently pay the amount set by the State but requiring a larger percentage could drastically impact already stressed municipal budgets.

### **LANDS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT...**

#### **STATE PARCELS SELECTED FOR FUTURE GROWTH**

CBS requests the State of Alaska transfer ownership of four land parcels located adjacent the Sitka road system. These parcels have been identified as prime areas for community development. The parcels are known as Millersville, DOE parcel at the end of Seward Avenue, Indian River Valley parcel and Starrigavan/Katlian Bay parcel.

### **FUNDING FOR SITKA SCHOOLS...**

#### **SCHOOL BOND DEBT REIMBURSEMENT**

CBS requests the State of Alaska resume fully funding the School Bond Debt reimbursement program. The drastic decrease has left many communities, including Sitka, struggling to come up with revenue to balance the general obligation bonded debt.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES...**

#### **SUPPORT FOR THE MUNICIPAL HARBOR GRANT PROGRAM**

CBS requests the State of Alaska fully fund the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2019 State Capital Budget to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity for coastal communities. Municipalities have committed significant match for projects of local importance.

### **QUALITY EDUCATION IS OUR FUTURE...**

#### **FULLY FUND BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION**

CBS requests the State of Alaska fully fund base student allocation (BSA). Sitka's schools are struggling economically and BSA is critical in determining future staffing, class size and curriculum.



## PREPARING CRITICAL SERVICE FOR TIMES OF MAINTENANCE OR EMERGENCY ...

### ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE

CBS requests \$10,000,000 to develop an alternative water source. Currently, CBS utilizes a single pipe to provide water to both the new hydroelectric generation facility and the water treatment plant.

In 2013 and 2014, CBS spent \$145,000,000 to raise the height of the Blue Lake Dam from 145 feet to 228 feet and increase power generation by 16 megawatts. To protect this investment in the hydroelectric project, CBS will at 5-year intervals shut down the shared pipe for maintenance and cleaning. During these maintenance periods, CBS will be without a source of raw water.

As Blue Lake is a surface water source, in order for CBS to maintain filtration avoidance, State and Federal water quality regulations must be met. Since the dam elevation was raised, CBS has experienced several high source water turbidity readings during large storm events. Future high turbidity readings may necessitate filtration of Blue Lake water to meet State and Federal drinking water requirements.

CBS has completed an analysis outlining various alternative water source solutions including an alternative water transmission line, a permanent treatment facility or a groundwater secondary water supply.

Funding for this critical infrastructure project ensures that the citizens of Sitka will have access to water in times of necessary infrastructure maintenance or emergency.

Total Project Cost...\$20,000,000 (100%)  
FY 2019 State Funding Request...\$10,000,000(50%)  
Additional Funding Required (CBS Water Fund)...\$10,000,000 CBS (50%)

## MAINTENANCE OF CRITICAL HARBOR INFRASTRUCTURE...

### MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM

CBS requests that the State provide \$5,000,000 for Phase I of the Crescent Harbor Float Replacement Project or \$1,500,000 for Eliason Harbor Electrical Replacement under the Municipal Harbor Facility Matching Grant Program.

Crescent Harbor was designed and constructed by AKDOT/PF in several phases between 1965 and 1970, and was deeded to the City in two parts in 2001 and 2004. The Crescent Harbor Float Replacement Project includes complete replacement of the float system, new ADA-compliant gangways, reconstruction of access trestles, and replacement of potable water, fire, electrical and lighting systems to bring each up to current code standards.

Eliason Harbor was designed by AKDOT/PF and constructed in two phases in the late 1990s. While the facility overall has been deemed in good condition, the electrical system requires substantial rehabilitation within the next 5 years. The Electrical Replacement Project includes replacement of main service equipment, main distribution panelboard and load centers on the floats, and main cables between these components and the new pedestals.

Funding for either project will ensure that these critical pieces of harbor infrastructure remain in service to help support a healthy and vibrant commercial fishing and visitor industry in Sitka and Southeast Alaska.

Crescent Harbor Phase I...\$13,500,000 (100%)  
FY 2019 State Funding Request...\$5,000,000(37%)  
Additional Funding Required (CBS Harbor Fund)...  
\$8,500,000 CBS (63%)

Or  
Eliason Harbor Electrical  
Replacement...\$3,800,000 (100%)  
FY 2019 State Funding Request...\$1,500,000 (39%)  
Additional Funding Required (CBS Harbor Fund)...  
\$2,300,000 (61%)

