

WASILLA CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

IM No. 00-60

SUBJECT: City Lobbyist, Steve Silvers Monthly Report

Presented to Council  
Date: 4/10/00  
verified by: KS

REQUESTED BY: Administration

PREPARED BY: Administration

DATE: April 5, 2000

FOR AGENDA OF: April 10, 2000

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**SUMMARY:**

Following is a monthly status report from Steve Silvers, City Lobbyist.

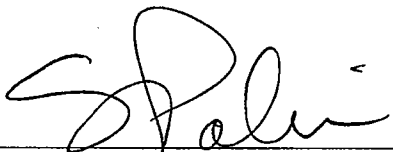
If Council would prefer a different format, please advise.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please see attached for your information.

FISCAL IMPACT  No  Yes, amount requested:

Fund:

**MAYOR REVIEW/COMMENT:**



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Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor

Washington D.C. Status Report  
Submitted by Steve Silver  
March 7, 2000

The month of February was devoted to preparing the City's Fiscal Year 2001 appropriations request to Senator Stevens and the other members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation. That request has been previously transmitted to the City and is attached to this status report.

The City has requested legislative appropriations for the following items:

1. Water and Sewer Improvements- \$6.6 million.
2. Police Equipment- \$1 million.

The federal appropriations process is just beginning. As Chairman of Appropriations, Senator Stevens has not announced when he will begin the formal process of committee consideration, but he requested that all cities provide their requests to him by mid-February. I worked with the Deputy Administrator John Cramer to prepare the request and supporting material. Fortunately we were able to meet the Senator's deadline.

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Since the request was submitted, I have met with all the appropriate Congressional staff and with the staff of the State of Alaska Washington, DC office to brief them on the City's pending request. At this point, the City and I are waiting for Senator Stevens' staff to review the request and ask for any additional information which may be necessary.

It is not realistic to expect that the entire request will be fully funded. However, the requests are well supported by need and a basis for funding. I am very hopeful that a good funding package will be approved later in the year. It is likely that the Committee process will begin in May with Senate floor consideration to occur in the summer. The final bill consideration including Conference Committee will occur in the September/October time frame. It is my recommendation that the City send a delegation to Washington in April or May to meet with the members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation and their staff. These discussions are usually completed within 2 days. It is always a good idea for representatives of the City to meet personally with them during the process on their turf, so to speak. The delegation should be 3 - 5 people and consist of the following:

Mayor Palin, a member or 2 of the Council, although all are welcome, the Deputy Administrator a list of Alaska cities/boroughs which have sent similar delegations to Washington DC in 1999 and 2000 include;

Anchorage Municipality  
Seward  
Craig  
Sitka  
Unalaska  
Petersburg  
Kotzebue  
City of Fairbanks

Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough  
Valdez  
Aleutians East Borough  
Juneau  
Wrangell  
North Slope Borough  
Fairbanks North Star Borough

A visit by a delegation of elected officials is very common and is highly recommended before the end of May.

To: Senator Stevens

Through: Lisa Sutherland, Deputy Staff Director

From: Steve Silver

Subject: Request for Appropriations

RECEIVED

APR 10 2000

CITY OF WASILLA  
CLERK'S OFFICE

City of Wasilla

Water and Sewer Funding

Amount of Request for FY 2001: \$6.6 million (over years)

Purpose of Request: This is a request for water and sewer funding for the City of Wasilla. The City is one of the fastest growing communities in Alaska. It has tremendous needs which the State of Alaska cannot meet because of its need to provide basic water and sewer to rural Alaska villages. A description of the funding for Phase 4 is below:

**WASILLA WATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 4**

This is the last phase of a 4-part plan to meet the current and ever-increasing demand for City water service. Presently, the City's water source and reservoir capacity is marginal for public uses and fire fighting, according to national water utility and fire fighting standards. This funding request is for the construction phase of a project that will meet the growing demand for City water utility service.

**\$6.6 Million Funding Request (Phase 4 Costs)**

Two, 12-inch Municipal Wells	600,000
Well/Pump House	800,000
3-Million Gallon Reservoir	3,500,000
Transmission Mains	3,900,000
Total Phase 2 Project Costs:	\$8,800,000

State Share = 5%	462,500
City Share = 20%	1,737,500
Federal Share = 75%	6,600,000

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## **Project Description**

The City's water system consists of 3 wells and two 1-million gallon reservoirs. Two of the wells are depleting (an adjacent City well was abandoned and a new 400-foot well was "dry"). The third well has signs of septic system contamination. A four-phase plan was developed to address the short-term emergency and mid-term water supply needs. The plan has the concurrence of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the Mat-Su Borough Fire Department.

Phases 1-3 consist of constructing an emergency well and a waterline while drilling exploratory wells, purchasing a new well site (having adequate ground water protection), and performing engineering. The City will invest approximately \$1.5 million and the State will contribute \$0.75 million to complete Phases 1-3.

Phase 4 consists of constructing two municipal water wells, a 3-million gallon reservoir, and a total of 4.8 miles of water transmission mains (to connect new wells/reservoir to existing mains, and the West Parks Highway and Palmer-Wasilla Highway transmission main extensions). The completed project will serve the City's water supply needs for the next 10 years.

## **WASILLA WATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS- PHASE 4**

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Meeting the tremendous demand for public water utility service is beyond Wasilla's financial capability. For example, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has requested water service for fire protection for a High School that will be constructed beginning in summer, 2000. Water service is also needed for the proposed Iditarod Museum, Alaska Railroad Commuter Station, and other developments at the City's Airport Light Industrial Park area (Church Road South). To serve these projects, Wasilla needs to extend water transmission mains and develop new water wells and construct reservoirs.

Wasilla's existing water system is already stretched. Public health and safety will be at further risk as more users connect to the water system. The Chief of the Mat-Su Fire Department has written a memorandum to the City expressing concerns for fire protection. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation concurs in the need for the City to increase its water system infrastructure in order to maintain a healthy and safe community.

Wasilla's water system consists of the Spruce Avenue facility (main production well and 1 million-gallon reservoir) and the Iditarod School well site (two

working peak demand wells). In 1997, the City shut down one of three wells at the Iditarod site due to low flow. The flows in the remaining two wells are decreasing.

In 1998, the City attempted to drill a replacement production well at the Iditarod site, but that new well had minimal flow and low quality water requiring extensive, expensive treatment. The City spent over \$100,000 for engineering services and drilling this "dry hole." The result is that the City still needs an adequate water supply.

Another consideration for constructing new wells is that the Spruce (primary production) well is showing a rapid increase in nitrate levels, a sign that the many septic systems in the area are impacting the well water. A prime consideration for the proposed production well site is wellhead protection and assurances that the well water remains protected far into the future.

#### WASILLA WATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS- PHASE 4

#### SOLUTION

The initial action taken in 1998-99 was to drill a new well near the existing City "Iditarod" wells. However, that well went over 400 feet deep and no adequate water was encountered. Over \$150,000 of City funds was spent on this dry hole.

In 1999, the City and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) worked out a strategy to address the emergency and mid-term water supply needs. A 4-phase project has started.

Phases 1-3 consist of:

- \*Identify and acquire a site for the emergency well near the existing Spruce Reservoir.

- \* Drill an "emergency well" and connect it to the existing Spruce reservoir. This provides a well to meet peak demands and serve as a backup should a primary well fail.

- \* Exploratory drilling and purchase a well/reservoir site that will provide wellhead protection and water volumes adequate for Wasilla for the next 25 years.

Phases 1-3 are underway and scheduled for completion in October 2000.

Phase 4 consists of:

- \* Drilling two, 12-inch municipal water wells capable of a minimum 1,000 gallons per minute production each.
- \* Constructing a 3-million gallon reservoir at the well site.
- \* Constructing two water transmission mains (24 - 36 inch diameter) from the new reservoir to the existing water main system, and two transmission main extensions (Palmer-Wasilla Highway and West Parks Highway to provide domestic use and fire protection services for a High School, museum, railroad commuter station, lumber yard, businesses and residences.

Phase 4 is scheduled to start in 2001 with completion in 2003.

**Potential Source of Funding**

**Department of VA/HUD/Independent Agencies References to FY 2000 Report**

p. 141-148: Lists 130 different grants to cities for water and sewer improvements including

p. 141- \$3.75 million each for Valdez and Anchorage. (# 8 and 9)

p. 141--\$3 million for water treatment plant at Franklin County, Alabama. (#5)p.

144- \$1.425 million for sewage overflow at Middlesex County Mass (#57)

p. 144-\$1.425 million for sewage overflow at Bad Axe, Michigan (# 67)

p. 145-\$ 4 million for water and sewer infrastructure at Lockwood, Montana (#79)

p.145- \$ 3 million for water treatment plant Grand Forks, North Dakota (#103)

p.96-115: Lists Community Development Block Grants for water ans sewer improvements p.106--\$500,000 to a YMCA Camp in Beaver County, PA for wastewater treatment plant.

p.115--\$600,000 to East Northport, Long Island, NY for sewage treatment plant.

**Item # 2 Police Equipment Funding**

**Amount Requested for FY 2001-\$100,000**

**Purpose of Request:** The City of Wasilla has a number of needs for updated and technologically improved equipment. A copy of particulars is provided with a 10% add on for inflation. The equipment includes:

1. Golden Eagle Radar Units— \$13,000 (5 Units)
2. Bullet Proof Vests-- \$10,000 (15 Units)
3. Remington Shotguns— \$ 2,250 (5 Units)
4. Vehicle Radios-- \$ 2,000 (3 Units)
5. Laptop Computers— \$13,250 (5 Units)
5. Eyewitness In car Video \$26,000 (5 Units)

6. Pro Laser Hand held lidar	\$ 7,500 (2 Units)	
	7. Radios	\$ 7,000 (6 Units)
	8. Colt Car Rifles	<u>\$10,000 (20 Units)</u>
Total	\$91,000	

**Potential Source of Funding:**

**Dept. Of Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Bill, References to FY #Report 106-398**

p.102--Variety of earmarks to individual police departments for technology ranging from less than \$50,000--\$3 million for computer equipment..

P.106--COPS Bullet proof vests. No specific amounts indicated.