



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Borough Manager

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### **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: May 28, 2025  
TO: Mayor and Assembly  
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

**Waterbody Setback Ordinance Review:** The following is the timeline for providing OR 25-073 to the various boards and commissions for comments as directed by the Assembly. Staff have contacted all the boards to be put on their agendas. We are awaiting confirmation from the chair of a few of the boards.

Water and Wastewater Advisory Board - June 18  
Agriculture Advisory Board - June 18  
Fish and Wildlife Commission - Working to schedule a special meeting near the end of June  
Transportation Advisory Board - July 25  
Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board - July 28  
Planning Commission – June 2 introduction, with public hearing postponed to August 4  
Assembly introduction – September 16

**Expected State Budget Impacts:** With the recently passed FY26 State operating and capital budgets, assuming no line item vetoes, the Borough expects a 25% reduction in school bond debt funding, which would reduce the Borough's reimbursement by \$3.7 million. Administration will bring legislation forward for Assembly consideration in the July/August timeframe to adjust our budget due to this shortfall. The plan is to reduce school capital spending by \$550,000 and draw on the reserve established for this purpose. As a sidenote, while the Legislature reduced school bond debt reimbursement by \$10.3 million statewide (36% of that borne by the Mat-Su), the budget approved \$38.1 million in new school major maintenance grant funding for nine projects statewide.

Additionally, the State Legislature included the following intent language in the Department of Public Safety's operating budget. "It is the intent of the legislature to direct public safety funds to areas of the state that do not have the tax base to provide needed policing services to their communities. The Department of Public Safety executives are urged to meet with officials from three organized, non-unified boroughs in the state, Kenai Peninsula, Fairbanks North Star and Matanuska-Susitna, who do not currently offer adequate local public safety services and

encourage them to take the steps necessary to police their respective boroughs rather than relying on the State to provide those services. The Department shall submit a full response to the Co-chairs of the Finance committees and to the Legislative Finance Division by December 20, 2025, outlining the communication, feedback, or actions taken by each borough.”

**Agriculture Advisory Board Term Limits:** The Agriculture Advisory Board met and passed a resolution recommending approval of Ordinance Serial No. 25-059 to remove term limits.

**Academy Charter School Traffic Study:** Some Assembly members received communications from the school principal regarding concerns for using project funds for a traffic impact analysis. As part of the approach road permit for accessing the Old Glenn Highway (aka Arctic Avenue), the Department of Transportation requires an impact analysis to determine if access improvements are needed. The analysis will be conducted by the design team using project funds. Project staff will make every effort to mitigate costs to the project for any potential traffic improvements required as a result of the expansion.

### **Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

#### **State Budget**

- **AK-Legislature-passes-budget-with-\$1,000-dividend-and-adjourns-for-the-year**  
FRONTIERSMAN

#### **Local Community**

- **Effort-to-recall-Palmer-Mayor-leads-by-2-votes-on-election-night/**  
ALASKA WATCHMAN
- **We-are-assembled-once-again-to-express-our-sincere-reverence. VFW-Boy-Scouts-pay-tribute**  
FRONTIERSMAN

#### **Troopers**

- **Troopers-recover-body-of-Wasilla-man-lost-in-ATV-accident**  
FRONTIERSMAN
- **Mat-Su/2025/05/23/pilot-finds-body-of-one-of-2-men-lost-in-Susitna-River-troopers-say**  
ADN

#### **Assembly**

- **Borough-Assembly-removes-a-road-service-area-board-member-and-okays-purchase-of-Big-Lake Rec Center**  
FRONTIERSMAN
- **Assembly-approves-additional-time-for-Willow-EMS-station-build**  
KTNA

#### **Planning**

- **Oilwell-road-residents-propose-new-community-council**  
KTNA

#### **Schools**

- **Mat-Su-School-Board-approves-restrictions-on-student-phones-and-similar-devices-during-school-hours**  
AK NEWS SOURCE

- **Proposed-removal-of-one-graduation-requirement-addition-of-two-new-diplomas-introduced-at-school-board**  
FRONTIERSMAN

#### **Roads**

- **Knik-river-bridges-open-over-memorial-day-weekend-despite-major-construction-project**  
AK NEWS SOURCE

#### **Trails and Parks**

- **Susitna-state-forest-in-planning-stages-by-state**  
FRONTIERSMAN

#### **Top MSB Facebook posts**

- **Memorial Day at the Wasilla Veterans Wall of Honor (photos)**  
16K VIEWS, 10K REACHED

#### **Future Events:**

- Lucille Street Project Open House, May 29, 4-6:30 p.m., Tanaina Elementary School
- 2025 Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference, June 2-5, Dena'ina Conference Center, Anchorage