



## CITY OF WASILLA

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM NO. 92-07

TO: Council

FROM: Mayor Stein

DATE: March 25, 1992

RE: Mayor's Juneau Trip - March 19 and 20, 1992

I travelled to Juneau last week to make our first in-person contact with the legislature, Governor's office and state agencies. I visited with Representative Larson, Senator Kerttula, Representative Carney, Public Safety Commissioner Burton, DOT/PF Commissioner Turpin, Governor's Rural Liaison Richard Romer, AML Executive Director Scott Burgess, State Assessor Mike Worley and Representative Loren Leman.

### State Budget

The budget remains unsettled but cuts in both state operations and municipal support are expected. Senator Kerttula seems to have the best perspective and comments that Alaska is far from "broke". New taxes have been suggested but the only one with significant support is the motor vehicle fuel tax which would support, among other things, state road grants to cities.

Capital budget for grants to cities is a question which will not be considered until near the end of the session.

I encouraged all legislators to support adequate municipal assistance and school funding to help relieve the property tax burden.

As economic fuel from the state's oil wealth is exhausted, many in the legislature only favor spending for programs and infrastructure that will develop new private enterprise.

More costs will continue to be shifted to local government taxation.

### Public Safety

I met with Commissioner Burton and heard his concerns about statewide cutbacks of the Trooper's budget and the shifting of additional duties to his organization. A copy of his "State vs. Local" public safety booklet has been distributed to Council boxes. The section on Mat-Su shows a 115% growth in Mat-Su population and only a 41% increase in Trooper staffing between 1980 and 1990. Reviewing his book will give an insight to the pressure for local police.

I told the Commissioner that even with strong support for Wasilla City police that a sales tax proposition would have to go to the voters in October and the earliest that a department would be organized would be in FY1994.

### Taxation

State Assessor Mike Worley gave me a copy of Alaska Taxable 1991 which compiles statistics from around the state. Of particular interest is Page 28 which shows Wasilla's tax rates in comparison with the rest of the Borough (favorable) and Pages 11 - 17 which shows all communities and their property and sales tax rates and revenues. Copies of Alaska Taxable were distributed to Council boxes this week.

### DOT/PF

Commissioner Frank Turpin and Deputy Commissioner Keith Gerken were updated on the Main Street project opposition and asked to keep the project moving after consideration of the community concerns. I emphasized the need for more of a highway grid network in the Mat-Su and asked for their support for new federal aid routes. I also made a pitch for Port MacKenzie and the need for a highway and rail corridor to the port.

### Governor's Liaison

Richard Romer is now responsible for local government liaison. I gave him a copy of our CIP packet and asked for the Governor's support (non-veto) of our critical projects. He directed me to send copies to Budget Director Shelby Stastney.

### Sewer Plant

I stopped in to talk with Representative Loren Leman who was the engineer who designed the drainfields. Mr. Leman was unfamiliar with the specifics of our operating difficulties and I briefed him on the apparent problems. He strongly recommended that the City include a nationally-known authority on water treatment as part of our engineering effort.



John C. Stein, Mayor