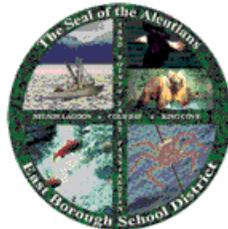
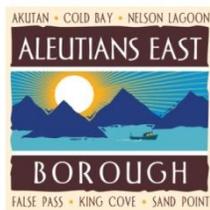


In the Loop

Special Edition



Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

Borough Puts Hovercraft on Two Week Operational Hiatus

The Aleutians East Borough (AEB) has placed operation of the Suna-X on a two-week hiatus while administrators contemplate several funding options for the hovercraft operation. The hiatus began March 1, 2008 and will end March 15, 2008.



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“We are at a point where we need to step back and take a good look at the hovercraft operation,” said AEB Administrator Bob Juettner.

Since it began commercial operation between Cold Bay and King Cove last August, the hovercraft has been incurring a substantial monthly operating loss. Mechanical problems, delays in getting replacement parts from the United Kingdom and poor weather have combined to keep the hovercraft out of service much more than previously anticipated.



During the stand down, the Borough will consider several money-generating options. One includes selling two hovercraft engines in storage, which could bring in approximately \$200,000. The AEB will also pursue reimbursement for medevacs done during the past several months and look into obtaining a mail contract.

Between now and March 15, the hovercraft will be available for medevacs and charters (contracts will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis). Weather-permitting, the Suna-X will also transport the boys and girls basketball teams from King Cove to Cold Bay as necessary for games. The administrator will provide an update on the hovercraft operation no later than March 15, 2008.

Borough Establishes Policy Regarding Financial Disclosure

The Aleutians East Borough has established a financial disclosure policy, effective immediately, which requires employees and elected officials to file a specific form any time they receive a gratuity, from any source, having a value of more than \$50. This includes cash, checks, transportation, lodging or meals, gifts and services not typically provided to the Borough. Employees and elected officials are required to file the original of the *Disclosure of Gratuity Received* form with the Borough Clerk and keep a copy for their own records.

All the information provided on the forms is public record, and may be released to any individual or entity whenever the Borough Clerk has received an appropriate request. The policy states that if there are doubts as to whether a particular transaction should be reported, employees and elected officials should go ahead and file the *Disclosure of Gratuity Received* form with the

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Borough Clerk. For more information on the policy and to view copies of the form, please visit the links below.

[Link to financial disclosure policy memorandum](#)

[Link to Borough's policy forms](#)

AEB Initiates Leave without Pay Policy for Employees

The Aleutians East Borough has created a policy for permanent employees, effective immediately, regarding Leave without Pay (LWOP) or leave of absence. Employees requesting a leave without pay must submit a completed official Borough LWOP form to the Borough Administrator or the Assistant Borough Administrator. Whenever possible, the form must be submitted at least thirty days prior to the date when the requested LWOP will begin.

As part of the request, the Borough Administrator/Assistant Administrator will consider several factors, including anticipated workload requirements, staffing considerations during the period the LWOP has been requested and the duration of the LWOP. The LWOP will only be granted to an employee after he or she has utilized all available annual leave. The rule of thumb is that employees on LWOP will not accrue benefits, including medical insurance, PERS retirement, sick leave or vacation time. The administrator signing the LWOP request form shall have the discretion to make exceptions from this general policy. For more information on the LWOP policy, please visit the links below.

[Link to Leave without Pay policy memorandum](#)

[Link to Borough's policy forms](#)

Got News?



If you have news you'd like to share, please email ltanis@aeboro.org and ccorbridge@aeboro.org.

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