



RESOLUTION 21-40

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A TWO-YEAR
HELICOPTER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MARITIME HELICOPTERS, INC.
TO PROVIDE HELICOPTER SERVICES BETWEEN THE AKUTAN AIRPORT ON
AKUN ISLAND AND THE COMMUNITY OF AKUTAN AND COMMITTING THE
BOROUGH TO PAY MARITIME AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$920,000 PER
YEAR FOR THESE SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Aleutians East Borough (“Borough”) entered into a Co-Sponsorship Agreement between the City of Akutan, the Borough and the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) for the Akutan Airport in January 2010 providing assurances to the FAA for federal construction funds and agreeing to operate the airport for at least 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the Borough agreed to provide reasonable public access between the community of Akutan and the airport; and

WHEREAS, the Borough tried to operate a hovercraft, which proved to be expensive and unsustainable and was replaced by a helicopter; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and Maritime Helicopters, Inc. (“Maritime”) entered into a Helicopter Services Agreement dated November 22, 2013 to provide transportation between the village of Akutan on Akutan Island and the Akutan Airport located on Akun Island, which ended January 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Borough had subsidized the helicopter operation at approximately \$1,500,000 per year, which was unsustainable; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the United States of American Department of Transportation (USDOT) agreed to cover 50% of the helicopter expenditures between Akutan and Akun; and

WHEREAS, Maritime and USDOT entered into an agreement to provide essential air service (EAS) between Akutan and Akun between February 1, 2019 through March 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Borough agreed to pay for the remaining 50% of the EAS costs reducing the Borough subsidy significantly; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 USDOT advertised the Akutan EAS and Maritime and USDOT are in the process of entering into an agreement to provide essential air service between Akutan and Akun Island between April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Borough would pay to Maritime the remaining 50% of the EAS costs reducing the Borough subsidy costs significantly.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly authorizes the Mayor to negotiate and execute a helicopter services agreement with Maritime to provide helicopter services between the Akutan Airport on Akun Island and the community of Akutan;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly commits to paying Maritime an amount not to exceed \$920,000 per year for these services.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 11th day of March 2021.



Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tina Anderson, Clerk