

RESOLUTION 23-47

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A HELICOPTER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MARITIME HELICOPTERS, INC. TO PROVIDE HELICOPTER SERVICES BETWEEN THE AKUTAN AIRPORT ON AKUN ISLAND AND THE COMMUNITY OF AKUTAN

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, in September 2012 the Borough began operating 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 2021, the USDOT agreed to cover 50% of the helicopter expenditures between Akutan and Akun; and

WHEREAS, Maritime and USDOT entered into an agreement to provide EAS between Akutan and Akun between April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023; and


WHEREAS, in October 2022, issued a request for EAS proposals for Akutan; and

WHEREAS, USDOT received two proposals and are still in the process of reviewing the proposals and determining the EAS order; and

WHEREAS, due to timing Administration is requesting the Assembly to authorize the mayor to negotiate and execute a helicopter services agreement with Maritime Helicopters to provide helicopter services between the Akutan Airport and the Community of Akutan.

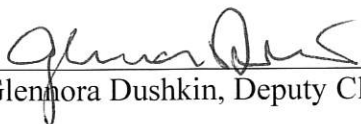
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly authorizes the Mayor to negotiate and execute a helicopter services agreement with Maritime to provide helicopter services between the Akutan Airport on Akun Island and the community of Akutan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 9th day of March 2023.



Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST:



Glennora Dushkin, Deputy Clerk