



CBS/STA SEMI-ANNUAL DINNER

**Monday, November 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall, Room 3**



**Opening remarks by Mayor Eisenbeisz and Chairman Widmark
Dinner**

Topics for Discussion

Submitted by STA:

1. Health and Safety of Citizens (Health Committee and Transportation/Community Development Committee members)
 - Bears
 - Speed Bumps on Katlian
 - Village Blight Clean Up
 - Katlian Bay Road
2. STA Contributions to the Community Updates (Finance Committee Council Members)
 - STA Salaries/Fringe
 - Financial Assistance
 - STA Transitional Housing Services, July 2023-June 2024
 - Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement – Contributions to Fishermen and Citizens
 - Department of Energy Grant – Partnership between STA and CBS
 - Other contributions to the Community



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**SITKA TRIBE OF ALASKA AND THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
Semi-Annual Meeting
November 18, 2024**

STA Agenda Items

1. **Health & Safety of Citizens (Health Committee and Transportation/Community Development Committee members)**
 - Bears
 - STA requests the City & Borough of Sitka (CBS), specifically the Sitka Police Department, in partnership with Fish & Wildlife Troopers to put down any bears that come into the residential areas of Sitka.
 - This is of particular concern to us in the Indian River area. Again, we want to reiterate, as we did last year when we met, that it is not ok to have an expectation that people either just stay in their home or keep garbage in their home.
 - Higher fines are issued at Indian River, when bears are appearing in other parts of the community, the bear is shot but no bear has been shot at Indian River, residents are just expected to put up with the bears in their neighborhood.
 - Speed Bumps on Katlian
 - STA requests the CBS put seasonal speed bumps on Katlian Street during the summer. As Lincoln Street closes, traffic on Katlian Street increases as people try to bypass the congestion from the roundabout on to Lake Street/Harbor Drive over the bridge. Our Transportation and Community Development Committee and Resource Protection Committee have regularly talked about this and request action by the CBS during the summer of 2025.



- Village Blight Clean Up
 - STA requests collaboration between the CBS and STA to remove the dilapidated house that has fallen in the village. The Council will take actions necessary to characterize it as a health and safety risk and allocate ARPA funds necessary to pay for a portion of the funding needed to demolish/remove the house. We request the CBS also allocate funds (to cover the other ½ of the cost of demolition/removal) and finally we encourage the CBS to remove the barriers in front of the properties so the sidewalks can again be used by pedestrians.

 - Katlian Bay Road
 - STA contacted Shee Atika to share safety concerns we have with the Katlian Bay Road remaining open during the fall/winter months. We understand the CBS has also expressed concerns to the State of Alaska. STA plans to advocate that the State close the road to vehicle traffic during the fall/winter months and only open the road to vehicle traffic during Spring/Summer. We join you in concern.
2. STA Contributions to the Community Updates (Finance Committee Council members)
- STA Salaries/Fringe
 - The Tribe employs 81 staff year-round and an additional 30 staff seasonally. Our annual payroll and fringe in 2025 for employees is \$9,845,688. We had a compensation review completed in 2022 that benchmarked positions and raised our wages throughout our organization. We were found to be paying below market. Our employees spend their wages in the community and contribute to the economy.

 - Financial Assistance
 - The Tribe provides direct financial assistance to its citizens (TCs), other Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) residents of Sitka, and organizations that provide services to Tribal households (HHs). On the next page is a table detailing our assistance programs and assistance provided between July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.



| Assistance program | Eligibility | Clients served | Total assistance |
|--|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| ARPA Assistance | All TCs | 3,281 | \$3,281,000 |
| Emergency Assistance* (\$500/household) | TCs in Sitka | 45 | \$22,500 |
| Employment Assistance* (\$250/person) | TCs in Sitka | 24 | \$5,872 |
| Funeral Assistance | All TCs | 26 | \$35,795 |
| General Assistance* | AN/AI individuals in Sitka | 7 | \$4,227 |
| LIHEAP* (energy assistance) | AN/AI HHs in Sitka | 84 | \$99,446 |

* Program has income requirements

In 2024, our Social Services Department collaborated with the Tribe's Finance staff to coordinate distribution of \$1,000 in federal ARPA assistance to all Tribal citizens who applied. STA assisted 3,281 individuals through this program - two-thirds of our enrolled citizens.

ARPA also provided us with additional resources to support childcare for Tribal households. We provide direct assistance with tuition for income-eligible Alaska Native and American Indian children to attend licensed childcare facilities in Sitka, as well as grants to the facilities themselves.

| STA Childcare Assistance, 7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024 | Number of grants | Amount of grants |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Tuition assistance | 23 | \$35,530 |
| Assistance to facilities | 10 | \$435,679 |



- ***STA Transitional Housing Services, July 2023-June 2024***

STA works in partnership with SAFV to provide transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking. The federally-funded program provides up to two years of rent subsidies and other services to help survivors rebuild their lives. Between July of 2023 and June of 2024, STA provided services to 18 survivors with a total of 17 children.

| Service | Total value of services provided |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Rent subsidies | \$143,032 |
| Utility subsidies | \$20,411 |
| Groceries | \$13,000 |
| Basic household furnishings | \$8,934 |

- ***Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement - Contributions to Fishermen and Citizens***

- STA received funding from the U.S Department of Agriculture to establish a new traditional foods distribution program that both helps fishermen and our citizens. In 2024, we had fourteen distributions of fish and served 3,897 citizens. We paid the fishermen \$212,296 and distributed 15,467 pounds of fish (halibut, king salmon, rock fish and cod) as well as 1540 pounds of Dungeness crab. This is an extremely popular program, and we are thankful to our grants/finance staff and social services for pursuing the \$2,000,000.00 in funding and doing the legwork to operate this program. This new program complemented our existing program, that has a focus on food distributions to Elders. This new program expanded our distribution of traditional foods to all tribal citizens.

- ***Department of Energy Grant- Partnership between STA and City***

- STA and CBS staff worked together to apply for and receive \$150,000 for electrical grid resilience. This will allow CBS to purchase and install additional electrical infrastructure, like transformers. This Tribal specific funding is available for 2 additional years (\$150,000/ each year). The grant requires a Tribal match of \$22,497 and a CBS match of \$44,993 each year.



- ***Other Contributions to the Community***

The Council allocates funding in their budget to contribute to various causes each year. Amounts donated to-date in 2024, are on the following table. A donation will be made to the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner that ANS/ANB historically holds at the ANB Hall on each holiday.

| Date | Name | Transaction Description | Donation Amount |
|--------------|---|--|--------------------|
| 1/12/24 | Friends of the Library | Donation for Spelling Bee | 100.00 |
| 1/12/24 | SHS Parent Association | Donation for 2024 SHS Seniors | 500.00 |
| 1/22/24 | Baranof Bruins | Donation-2024 Baranof Bruins | 500.00 |
| 2/9/24 | Kaagwaantaan Dancers | Donation to Sitka Kaagwaantaan for Celebration 24' | 500.00 |
| 2/26/24 | Sitka Economic Development Assoc. | 2024 Donation | 500.00 |
| 2/27/24 | Sitka Volunteer Fire Dept | 2024 Fire Dept. Donation | 500.00 |
| 3/13/24 | Noow Tlein Dance Group | Donation to Noow Tlein Dance Group | 750.00 |
| 3/22/24 | Raven Radio Inc | 2024 Donation | 500.00 |
| 4/12/24 | Sitka Fire Dept | 2024 Paramedic Schooling Donation | 500.00 |
| 8/5/24 | All Out Alaska | Donation to Community Activities/Events | 500.00 |
| 8/16/24 | Sitka Pioneers Home | Donation for Piano from Council | 500.00 |
| 8/19/24 | Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce | Sponsorship of Sitka Emerging Leaders Summit | 500.00 |
| 8/20/24 | Sheet'ka Kwaan Dancers | Donation for dance group to go to AFN | 750.00 |
| 8/20/24 | Tlingit Readers Inc. | Donation to Sharing our Knowledge Conference | 500.00 |
| 8/20/24 | Sharing our Knowledge | Donation to Sharing our Knowledge Conference | 500.00 |
| 9/18/24 | Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska | Donation for Elder Winter Boxes | 500.00 |
| 9/18/24 | Sitka Counseling & Prevention | Donation for Indigenous People's Day | 1,000.00 |
| 9/30/24 | Sitka Cancer Survivors Society | Donation from Council | 500.00 |
| 10/9/24 | Blatchley Middle School | Donation to Chess Club | 500.00 |
| Total | | | \$10,100.00 |