

City and Borough of Sitka FY11 Consolidated Operating Budget

Summary of Significant Accounting and Budget Policies

Significant Accounting Policies

Accounting for the financial activities of the City and Borough of Sitka is performed in accordance with Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), and applicable Federal and State of Alaska guidelines.

Specific accounting policies having an impact on this budget include the following:

Depreciation - Depreciation is recorded on the straight line basis for all fixed assets and useful lives used to calculate depreciation expense conform, as much as possible, to industry standards.

Inventories - Inventories of maintenance supplies and materials are accounted for under the periodic method on a first in - first out (FIFO) basis. Inventories of maintenance supplies and materials re expensed when consumed.

Bad Debt Expense - Bad debt expense is accounted for under the direct write off method.

Investments in Debt Securities - All investments in debt securities are considered to be held until maturity and are carried at historical cost. Investments are marked to market on a monthly basis separate from the accounting system and market value is reported to management monthly. Premiums and discounts on the purchase of debt securities are amortized on the effective interest methods.

Compensated Employee Absences - Compensated employee absences (annual leave) is expensed as accrued.

Grants - Grants from Federal Government Agencies are accounted for as revenue to the appropriate fund (normally a Capital Project Fund).

Capital Project Funds - All capital construction projects in excess of \$50,000 are normally accounted for in separate Capital Project Funds. Due to increased control initiated in FY97 some projects less than \$50,000 will be accounted for in Capital Projects Funds. For proprietary funds, capital construction is accounted for in separate capital project funds for internal management purposes only; and the end of the fiscal year, all proprietary fund capital projects are closed back to the parent fund through adjusting journal entries. Uncompleted projects are shown as construction in progress and grant revenue for capital construction is accounted for as grant revenue.

Fixed Assets - For accounting purposes the minimum level for fixed assets is set at \$5,000 and for infrastructure is set at \$10,000.

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Summary of Significant Accounting And Budgeting Policies (cont.)

Significant Budgeting Polices

Specific budgeting policies having an impact on this budget include the following:

Budgeting Basis - Budgeting is on a cash inflow / cash outlay basis. As the financial operations of proprietary funds are required to be accounted for under the accrual accounting basis, budgeting in these funds is for outlays (expenditures), not for expenses. So that the user may relate expenditure authority to its effect on the financial condition of such funds, pro forma financial statements showing the estimated financial effect of the authorized spending are also provided. Accrual accounting information is, where necessary, adjusted to a cash basis in order to provide management with consistent budget execution information.

Operating and Capital Budgets - Authorized expenditures for all funds are divided into separate and distinct capital and operating budgets. Capital budgets include authorized expenditures for acquisitions of fixed assets, minor construction projects, acquisitions of and improvements to land, and direct transfers of equity to capital project funds and other funds (in particular, internal service funds). All other authorized expenditures are contained within operating budgets.

Lapsing of Appropriations and Reappropriations of Capital Expenditures - All unencumbered operating budget appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th). Capital expenditures do not lapse; however, for internal management purposes, capital appropriations are also assumed to lapse at the end of the fiscal year. Capital expenditures which carry forward to future years are reappropriated and are clearly shown as such in the budget. Amounts shown are estimates only. Actual remaining appropriations are reappropriated.

Revenues - For budgeting purposes, revenues for proprietary funds are assumed to be received in cash although, under accrual accounting rules, some revenues are recorded prior to the actual receipt of cash. These revenues include interest receivable, amortization's of discounts on investment securities, and utility fees billed but not yet received. The effect of these non-cash revenues is not considered to be significant enough to be material.

Internal Budget Redistributions - The Municipal Administrator has the authority to redistribute appropriations between accounts within specific Divisions of the General Fund, within Enterprise Funds and within Internal Service Funds. Authorized expenditures may not be redistributed between operating and capital budgets. Redistributions between certain Divisions of the General Fund, between different Funds or between operating and capital budgets of the same Fund, must be approved by the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly.

Internally Funded Capital Projects - Capital projects in excess of \$50,000 are normally accounted for in separate Capital Project Funds. Due to increased control initiated in FY97 some projects less than \$50,000 will be accounted for in Capital Project Funds. If such projects are funded through grants, donations, or revenue generated by the project, such revenues are accounted for directly under the Capital Project Fund. If a project is funded through the transfer of equity from the General Fund or a Proprietary Fund, the transfer is budgeted as *Interfund Transfers or Advances to Other Funds* under the General Fund or Proprietary Fund, and an *Advances From Other Funds* under the Capital Project Fund. For proprietary funds, capital construction is accounted for in separate capital project funds for internal management purposes only; and the end of the fiscal year, all proprietary fund capital projects are closed back to the parent fund through adjusting journal entries. Thus, if projected expenditures for Capital Project Funds lag behind expected levels, actual amounts of year-end working capital may exceed projected levels.

Fixed Assets - For budgeting purposes the minimum level for fixed assets is set at \$5,000 and for infrastructure is set at \$10,000.