Hi folks:

We have been gathering Council members known travel plans for the next four months to chart the calendar for quorums. There are also Council members who do not yet know if they will be gone for meetings in June, July and August. The picture is looking grim. We must have four out of six elected City Council Members present for a quorum and a vote. I am suggesting that we make use of existing State Statute that allows Municipality's the option of including excused, absent council members to call into the meeting and vote.

We are at the start of the process of finding a new, permanent City Manager for Unalaska. This process is going to take up much of the summer, and we are going to need to have quorums fairly regularly to keep moving forward. This is my biggest concern. There is City business that we will need to handle during this time as well, from the WW Treatment Plant project, the final design and approval for the new Water Treatment Plant, the Landfill expansion, Union Negotiations and the UMC upgrade/expansion design and funding options to name a few. On every one of these items, we will need a minimum of four votes to pass, amend or delay any action required.

The last time Council looked at this issue was maybe ten years ago. At that time, we were doing everything with paper and the concern was that the packed of information would not make it to the Council member who wanted to call in on time, and they would not have the same information that those council members at the meeting did. Well, things have changed dramatically since then. We now have everything on a memory stick instead of paper, and it is all on-line. The council meetings are broadcast live over KUCB, and the best invention of all is GO TO MEETING. Serving on the AML Board of Directors, the SWAMC Board of Directors, the AIRA Advisory Panel and the MTAB state Board I have used this internet tool multiple times over the last two years, and it works.

We would need to do this by Ordinance and Brooks Chandler has Patrick in his Anchorage office drafting one today. We need to look at this next Tuesday as we have a short council at the next two meetings, and maybe even no quorum. It would be discussed in a work session and have first reading on Tuesday with public hearing and second reading on the meeting May 12th, if we have a quorum. It will be on the final agenda going out to the public this afternoon along with the two travel items that missed the draft on Thursday.

Other municipalities have used the State statute to write their own ordinance to allow this tool for better attendance during council discussions and voting to good effect. Dillingham is one of them.

If we don't realize the practicalities of using new technologies to keep City business moving forward when needed, we are going to make things very, very difficult for our staff, contractors and community. The truth is that we had council members out of town a lot in the past several years, and it is now at the boiling point. I have no issue with Council members who need to be gone from

Unalaska for work or personal business at all. This community has changed dramatically from when folks didn't leave for a year at a time, and then only for vacation. We need to change along with that fact and allow the City to continue to meet challenges, make decisions and receive direction from a full council whenever possible.

I will ask Don about sunset language as well. Just through the end of September.

Zoya, Bong, Roger and Yudelka: Thank you for getting your summer travel dates to Cat. If anything changes, please be sure to let her know as soon as possible.
Tom, I know we talked a week ago briefly on your dates for June/July, but would you please email the exact dates to Cat?
Dave, did you send Cat your summer vacation plans? I think you did, but can't remember. We would like to know as far in advance as possible what your trips for OC or the Aleut Corp. are for the summer as well. I understand you might not be here for this next meeting?

Please call me with any questions you might have.
Shirley