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Cc: [Mike Taylor](#); [Susan Warner](#); shelly.owens@gustavus-ak.gov; rachel.patrick@gustavu-ak.gov; [Lucas Beck](#)
Subject: Last night meeting
Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025 19:07:49

Good evening, I am writing regarding the discussion about cutting the hours on the staff last night. In particular the salary of the Fire Chief and the EMS Captain. It is distressing to me that such a discussion would be held in a public forum and by all accounts ambushing the the affected staff with such a proposal. It is unprofessional and distressing to the employees who dedicate their lives to providing the best EMS and Fire Protection services to our community. While I understand that the City is looking to better manage their budget under these difficult times, proposing these types of cuts are short sighted at best and cruel at worst. If this is the direction the City wishes to go the affected staff should have been given the opportunity prepare for it.

On a personal note, my son loves living in Gustavus. He is dedicated to the Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department and has learned how to be a more effective leader and an effective EMS provider. He has secured grants for new equipment for the fire department. More importantly, he responds to every call and provides support and leadership to the volunteers. I have had many community members mention to me how proud they are to see him in this role. Some have even said that they feel a measure of comfort seeing him show up because he is a “known” person to them. It is distressing to me that the City would treat him and Lea this way, two dedicated members that are there for all of us, all the time.

I certainly hope that the proposed cuts in salary do not come through. I do hope that in the future the City will consider a more tactful way of dealing with their staff than setting a life changing proposal in a public forum.

Respectfully,

Gus Martinez