

# **Will Sand Point go 1st Class?**

From the ALEUT  
Sand Point School

Public opinion of First Class City was expressed at a public hearing with the City Council on Tuesday, November 29. This subject should have been enough concern to the people of Sand Point, but very few people attended the meeting.

First Class City will be put on the ballot Tuesday, February 7. This is a local election, so you have to be a registered voter and have resided in Sand Point for 30 days if you want to vote in this election. If you do want to vote and you know that you won't be here, contact the City Clerk and ask for an absentee ballot.

Before the City can have a reclassification, a simple majority of the voters must pass the referendum. According to the registrar, 90 to 100 people have voted at each local or state election here.

If the election results indicate a reclassification of the City, within 30 days the State will issue a Certificate of Reclassification. The Department of Education will then "turn over" the land and buildings of the school to the City. The State will then fund the school 100% for the rest of this year and the next fiscal year.

There are three main situations which will change immediately: Local school control--A local school board election will have to be held. There will need to be a lot of playback between the present regional board and the newly-elected school board. Election of the Mayor--Before the Mayor is elected, one Council member has to resign because there can only be six Council members. The mayor is not considered a Council member and can not vote. He does have the power to veto any measure the Council passes. Five Council members can override a veto. Raw Fish Tax--The tax, which is on processed seafoods, will bring in some revenues to the City. It is collected by the cannery and the cannery pays it to the State, who will give part of it back to the City in a rebate as soon as Sand Point reclassifies.

The City Council meeting on Wednesday, November 30, was about the subdivision ordinance. Before the Council discussed this subject, they selected Debbie Gundersen as TV assistant. Dave Jensen read a statement of the findings of First Class City and the resolution was read and approved. The resolution of the bid for the road construction was accepted. S&S Construction Company of Fairbanks has the road contract. A comment was made that this is the first time Sand Point has ever had a capital improvement project.