

## Emily Deach

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**Subject:** RE: Public Notice: Special Finance Committee Meeting Agenda & Packet 6/2

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**From:** Ann Prodo

**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2020 5:22 PM

**To:** Emily Deach <e.deach@skagway.org>

**Subject:** [External Email] Re: Public Notice: Special Finance Committee Meeting Agenda & Packet 6/2

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05/28/2020

Brad Ryan and Skagway Finance Committee  
Municipality of Skagway  
PO Box 415  
Skagway, Ak, 99840

Dear Manager, Brad Ryan and Skagway Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my thoughts about the disbursement of Cares Act / CPV funds.

It seems unfair some might say, regarding a distribution of \$1000 each month from July thru February to all residents of Skagway. Let us consider this for a moment. There are those of us that are out of work and are collecting a sum of money which might be criticized by those who are working. Those of us that own businesses, have several opportunities to supplement our income through grants and loans (even if not completely sufficient). And there are those who remain employed and may have certainty of a paycheck for now. However, what would happen if their hours are at any time curtailed because of Covid 19 related reasons past or future? What if the reasons for the cutbacks, are minimal and are still considered full time and not eligible for unemployment benefits? What if they normally worked a second job during the summer to supplement their year-round job to make ends meet during the off season prior to Covid 19? Certainly, the devastation to our summer economy prevented them from holding the supplemental job and therefore like those who are unemployed, they too will most certainly be impacted if excluded.

It is essential that we look forward to fall and winter months and just accept that we all have need for the funds to assist in covering the yet uncovered expenses which are inevitable. Remember, we are a community of people and generally, we coexist as a team "All for one and one for All". We all have exponential and unique needs as we consider the post season expenses of an economic disaster during a period of employment opportunities that are unlikely to occur at all or at best minimally.

I believe the disbursement of funds in the amount of not less than \$1000 per resident, will ease a few worries for many. I hope it works out. So many are making hard choices or putting off inevitable choices, if there is no way to afford basic needs without leaving Skagway. Or, they wonder how to make ends meet if they stay. It is not beyond reasonable that some may choose to live together and split costs. This could mean tight spaces with increased chances of illnesses.

As for what constitutes a resident, I have mixed thoughts of how to carry it out. It is legitimate to ask resident recipients to qualify their residency beyond just a voter card or Alaska drivers license with a Skagway address or local mailbox. I would think a year-round resident could prove their residency "beyond the shadow of doubt," by producing a lease for renters, or if a temporary resident or seasonal renter, a lease with a termination date. For homeowners, a mortgage or title for a home in Skagway might be appropriate. Both types of residents are vested in Skagway and using something of this nature, may help prove their actual residency status. I feel certain that keeping money circulating in town, is how to continue support and to strengthen our community. One must also consider the value of keeping residents present to benefit the town through collective payments to the city tax base. Additional

services need the financial support during the fall and winter that residents support through their purchases; utilities, food, and fuel, just to mention a few. We the residents of Skagway, need each other in a symbiotic type relationship to maintain the wellness of businesses and residency.

It is important to consider what is adequate proof of residency. It is not enough for an individual to possess a driver's license, voter card or mailbox. Therefore, to avoid disbursement to unqualified people here only briefly, a higher burden of proof should be required. Transient workers should not qualify as a resident because once their temporary project or role is completed, they leave and go home.

It is my opinion that having a vested interest in Skagway meets the reason for the disbursement of the funds. It is important not to cause hurtful exclusions. The point is, to help stabilize our community for next season so 2021 vacationers have a tourist stop to come to that is not a broken down, ghost town ( though knowing some in Skagway, that too could be created into a tourist attraction) Just kidding. But seriously, the funds at their best use is to keep our town and its residents presentable for next season.

Sincerely,

Ann Moore