



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Administration

KELLY TSHIBAKA, COMMISSIONER

10th Fl. State Office Building
PO Box 110200
Juneau, AK 99811-0200
Main: 907.465.2200
Fax: 907.465.2135
www.doa.alaska.gov

May 21, 2020

Mr. Nathaniel Herz
Alaska Public Media/Alaska's Energy Desk
Nat Herz <nherz@alaskapublic.org>
m: 907-793-0312

Dear Mr. Herz:

Thank you for your recent communication regarding the Online Checkbook for the State of Alaska. As you know, the checkbook has been removed from the web, until further notice. The checkbook online will need to be reevaluated. It has become apparent that there is need for internal controls and quality assurance measures to be put in place as well as an auditing peer review process before we can put it back online. Previously checks and balances had not been established, and we have found that in addition to the lack of oversight, there may be errors in the coding which cannot be remedied until such time as our financial software (IRIS) upgrade to 4.0 is complete. At that time we will then review the options for a checkbook online program.

The upgrade of IRIS to 4.0 is a vital and major project. The process for the upgrade is already well underway, and is requiring numerous staff, dedicated focus, energy and time. In addition, it is the season for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is statutorily required and incorporates all departments working with and reporting to DOF.

DOF also has other items already underway that are considered vital and must be finalized, such as the shifting of all employees to bi-weekly pay; and the issues that have arisen because of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, we do not have an expected date set for when the online checkbook to be reinstated nor do we have funding authority to properly address this item.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelly Hanke".

Kelly Hanke
Special Assistant II to the Commissioner
Department of Administration