

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on March 17, 2009, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Lynne Woods for the purpose of discussing Enhanced 911 Dispatch.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

- Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1 (*Deputy Mayor*)
- Mr. Pete Houston, Assembly District No. 2
- Ms. Michelle R. Church, Assembly District No. 3 (*arrived at 3:05 p.m.*)
- Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4 (*arrived at 3:40 p.m.*)
- Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5
- Mr. Rob Wells, Assembly District No. 6
- Mr. Tom Kluberton, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

- Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
- Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
- Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
- Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Deputy Mayor Woods inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director.

**V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**1. ENHANCED 911 DISPATCH**

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to enter into the Committee of the Whole.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly moved into the Committee of the Whole at 3:05 p.m.

The following provided a presentation on Enhanced 911 Dispatch: Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Borough Emergency Services Director; Mr. John Owen, Public Safety Director for the city of Palmer; Mr. Bill Doolittle, Owner of 911 Insight; and Mr. Dan Stern, Communications Manager, city of Wasilla Dispatch Center.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to exit the Committee of the Whole.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited the Committee of the Whole at 5:21 p.m.

*(The special meeting recessed at 5:22 p.m. and reconvened at 5:27 p.m.)*

Assemblymember Bettine:

- opined that the manner in which the proposals are evaluated should be very clear;
- spoke to concerns with contradictory comments during the presentations;
- urged the Borough to be unbiased in their evaluation of requests for proposals; and
- requested that the Manager review and understand the concerns that have been expressed.

Deputy Mayor Woods:

- noted that when over 90 percent of your costs is salary, it is difficult to achieve savings;
- spoke to the controversy surrounding the School District when they outsourced janitorial services;
- further added that it has yet to be seen whether or not the School District has incurred actual savings; and
- noted that it is clear that the Assembly is concerned with keeping costs down.

MOTION: Assemblymember Houston moved to direct the Manager to revoke the current request for proposals for Enhanced 911 Dispatch.

Assemblymember Church:

- spoke in opposition of the motion;
- noted that the audit stated that there would be savings;
- commented on the first request for proposal and what the causes were for the additional request for proposal; and
- noted that there could be other communities that would like to consolidate.

Assemblymember Wells advised that he was not in favor of revoking the current request for proposals.

Assemblymember Houston:

- stated that he has no faith in the audit;
- opined that the way the numbers were calculated was flawed;

- stated that working towards a regional governance is a good idea; and
- further added that if they move toward regional governance, that a request for proposal would be unnecessary.

Deputy Mayor Woods:

- commented that she is disappointed that nothing is happening until April; and
- added that she understands that the process takes longer when it is available statewide.

VOTE: The motion failed with Assemblymember Houston in favor.

Assemblymember Bettine spoke to the need for the Assembly to address the Management Audit Review with the contractor.

Discussion ensued regarding the Management Audit Review.

#### VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

*(There were no persons who wished to testify.)*

#### VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

*(There were no comments provided.)*

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

  
LYNNE WOODS, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 04/07/09