

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on March 22, 2011, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The special meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of discussing Resolution Serial No. 11-041.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

- Mr. Warren Keogh, Assembly District No. 1
- Mr. Noel Woods, Assembly District No. 2
- Mr. Ron Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*arrived at 5:17 p.m.*)
- Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4 (*arrived at 5:33 p.m.*)
- Ms. Cindy Bettine, Assembly District No. 5
- Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6
- Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

- Ms. Cheryl Marino, Deputy Borough Clerk
- Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk
- Ms. Christine Nelson, Planning and Land Use Director
- Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
- Mr. Brad Sworts, Transportation Division Manager

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor DeVilbiss 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 Ms. Helen Munoz, a member of the public.

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Resolution Serial No. 11-041: A RESOLUTION RELATING TO SEEKING A DETERMINATION OF STATE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR A 2011 MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TRANSPORTATION BOND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROADS, ROAD UPGRADES, AND IMPROVEMENTS.
  - (1) IM No. 11-071

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Arvin moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 11-041.

Mr. Spiropoulos provided an overview of Matanuska-Susitna Borough road powers as a second-class borough.

MOTION: Assemblymember Keogh moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 11-041, by striking projects titled “17 Mile Lake Road Upgrade and Paving - \$500,000” and “Jensen/Soapstone Road - \$1,375,000” and inserting in their place:

- Collector Upgrades: Sutton – Jonesville Road (2.3 miles), Lazy Mountain – Clark Wolverine Road (1 mile), and Butte – Maud Road (1 mile), Smith Road (0.5 miles), and South Butte Road (0.3 miles) - \$1,710,000;
- Paved pathway adjacent to Old Glenn Highway in Butte, from Plumley Road to Knik River Bridge - \$1,250,000; and
- Bodenbug Creek Bridges upgrade in Butte at Sullivan Road – \$125,000.

Assemblymember Colver requested that Mr. Sworts provide a staff report on the substituted projects.

Mr. Sworts:

- stated that Jonesville Road, Clark-Wolverine Road, Maud Road, Smith Road, Butte Road, and Sullivan Road, are all considered collector roads;
- noted that the Old Glenn Highway is an arterial road, so adding pathways would be appropriate; and
- stated that he was unsure if Elk Road or Backacres Road were collector roads.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- noted that if there is a law suit it would be Borough staff who would be providing testimony; and
- advised that staff would have to explain and justify why what is being done is part of a larger transportation system.

Assemblymember Halter queried if a paved pathway adjacent to an existing road meets bonding requirements.

Mr. Spiropoulos affirmed the query.

Assemblymember Colver:

- spoke to previous concerns with Jensen/Soapstone Road;
- noted that there is no road service area for that project; and
- stated that he is in favor of the amendment as a result.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 11-041 by inserting “Talkeetna - “F” Street and Beaver Road upgrading and chip sealing - \$362,500.

Assemblymember Halter:

- related that Beaver Road is a problem road; and
- stated that this was an addition made after Mr. Sworts spoke to the Talkeetna Road Service Area Board of Supervisors.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- spoke to concerns with funds continually being directed to South Trunk Road;
- stated that it is important that this project specifically identify that it is for access to Machentanz Elementary; and
- related that he would like to amend the title of the project.

Assemblymember Halter queried if the amount of money and the length of the project would remain the same.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- stated that the information he has seen shows that South Trunk Road is the more expensive access route; and
- noted that those numbers have not been vetted through a formal process and are more an estimate.

Assemblymember Halter queried if it was envisioned to connect to the state project portion of Trunk Road.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- stated that is generally what he had in mind;
- opined that by changing the title, that all other potential routes could be include in the ongoing discussion; and
- advised that he wants all options to be on the table and is unsure of the figure.

Assemblymember Halter noted that projects without names can be confusing to voters.

Mr. Sworts stated that \$8,300,000 would be sufficient to cover the project in either direction.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 11-041, by striking the words “South Trunk Road Extension to Nelson Road” and inserting in its place “Collector road access construction to Machentanz Elementary School.”

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Assemblymember Colver opined that the title should be amended to strike the word determination.

Mr. Sworts:

- spoke to a conversation he had with staff in Juneau concerning language; and
- noted that staff was concerned that if it was worded incorrectly, it would appear that the Borough is requesting that it be included in the current budget rather than waiting till next year.

Mayor DeVilbiss inquired if it would be well received in Juneau as written.

Mr. Sworts:

- affirmed the query; and
- opined that if the Assembly would like to provide further clarification, it would not be inappropriate.

Assemblymember Colver:

- spoke to the revenue forecast rising;
- opined that there is no reason to wait until next year; and
- stated that he does not want to wait.

**MOTION:** Assemblymember Colver moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 11-041 and IM No. 11-071, by striking the words “relating to” and “a determination of” in the titles to read: “A resolution seeking state legislative support for a 2011 Matanuska-Susitna Borough transportation bond for construction of new roads, road upgrades, and improvements.”

Assemblymember Woods:

- opined that the title reads as though the Borough is requesting the entire amount for the 2011 budget; and
- stated that he understood that was not to be the case, and that the request would be spread out over a number of years.

Mr. Sworts clarified that these funds would be requested in one budget.

Assemblymember Keogh:

- stated that he supports the amendment;
- opined that if it was not accepted this year, that perhaps it would be next year; and
- noted that the reference to 2011, is the year of the proposed bond.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- noted that he also supports the amendment;
- opined that maybe the word October election needs to be inserted somewhere; and
- stated that would show the intent of the Assembly to put it on the ballot this year.

Assemblymember Colver stated that perhaps a “whereas” or “be it resolved” clause could be

included that indicates the intent of the Assembly.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 11-041, to insert a whereas clause, prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> to last whereas clause to read: “Whereas the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly intends to put the question before the voters of the Borough at the October, 2011, regular election.”

MOTION: Assemblymember Ewing moved a secondary amendment to IM No. 11-071, to insert the words “pending voter approval of the bond at the October, 2001, regular election.”

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved a secondary amendment to the last “therefore be it resolved” clause, to strike the words “would like a determination” and insert in its place “respectfully requests matching funds” and to strike the words “regarding this proposed sharing of costs” to read: “Now, therefore be it further resolved, that the Assembly respectfully requests matching funds from our State Legislative Delegation for construction of new roads, road upgrades, and improvements.”

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion passed as amended without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved to suspend the rules to request that Mr. Sworts provide a report regarding Anchorage Road Bonds.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Mr. Sworts:

- stated that he collected data on Anchorage road bonds;
- related that in 2003, Anchorage had requested \$40,000,000 in road bonds;
- noted that in every year up to 2009, Anchorage submitted road bonds in the range of \$40,000,000 to \$45,000,000 per year; and
- related that Anchorage has their road bonds planned through 2016.

Mayor DeVilbiss inquired if the bonds had all passed.

Mr. Sworts stated that as far as he knew they had.

Assemblymember Colver requested information on the amounts that Anchorage has received over the last few years.

Mr. Sworts advised that he is already in the process of compiling that information and will provide it as soon as it is completed.

Assemblymember Halter requested that the Manager and the Mayor present the resolution to the delegation in person in Juneau.

There was no objection noted.

## VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to concerns with the fees for planning, platting, and other permits:  
Mr. Butch Moore.

## VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

*(There were no comments provided.)*

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

  
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LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 04/19/11