

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on April 8, 2003, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Assemblymember Simpson, Presiding Officer, for the purpose of addressing Resolution Serial No. 03-031.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Ms. Kelly Ladere, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. J. Bruce Bush, Assembly District No. 1
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra A. Dillon, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Teresa Williams, Borough Attorney
Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, Deputy Borough Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Assemblymember Simpson inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Trudy Lanphear, a member of the audience.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Resolution Serial No. 03-031: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SB 157 WHICH RELATES TO IN-PATIENT PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES FOR PERSONS WHO ARE UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE AND ARE EITHER ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE OR ARE IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

(1) IM No. 03-091

Mr. Duffy:

- provided a staff report stating that in-state treatment costs are on average lower than out-of-state treatment costs;
- spoke regarding the number of children that are sent out-of-state for treatment;
- stated that there are three facilities that are interested in locating in the borough; and
- advised that available beds in-state would be used before children are sent out-of-state.

MOTION: Assemblymember Ladere moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 03-031.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the benefits statewide economically and socially of having a facility of this nature located within the borough; and
- the difficulties that are placed on families who either have to relocate out-of-state to be with their children or families that cannot be with their children due to the economic hardship of relocating.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Dillon:

- advised the Assembly that the meeting packets for April 15, 2003, would not be available until Thursday afternoon; and
- spoke regarding the Assembly retreat, advised that one member has already given notification of their inability to attend on that date, and asked the members whether or not they wanted to reschedule the retreat for some time after June.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- holding off on scheduling the retreat until after the October election; and
- the importance of holding a retreat now to identify goals and objectives and to designate funds during the budget.

With concurrence of majority of the Assembly, Ms. Dillon stated that she would proceed with scheduling the Assembly retreat on April 26, 2003, and asked the members to contact her if they could not be in attendance.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

JIM COLVER, Borough Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:

SANDRA A. DILLON, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: May 6, 2003