

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on September 1, 2015, at the Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of a Department of Emergency Services Operational overview.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

- Mr. Jim Sykes, Assembly District No. 1
- Mr. Matthew Beck, Assembly District No. 2
- Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*Deputy Mayor*)
- Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4 (*entered telephonically at 4:10 p.m.*)
- Mr. Dan Mayfield, Assembly District No. 5
- Ms. Barbara J. Doty, Assembly District No. 6
- Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7 (*arrived at 4:03 p.m.*)

Staff in attendance were:

- Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC, Borough Clerk
- Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
- Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
- Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk
- Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
- Mr. Bill Gamble, Emergency Services Director
- Mr. Ken Barkley, Deputy Director - Fire
- Ms. Lisa Behrens, Deputy Director - EMS
- Ms. Sonya Conant, Human Resources Director
- Mr. Eric Wyatt, Information Technology Director
- Mr. Casey Cook, Emergency Manager
- Mr. James Wilson, Internal Auditor
- Mr. Glenn Stevens, EMS Operations Chief

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 Mr. Benny Cottle, Emergency Responder for the Borough.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to concerns with the operations of Emergency Services: Ms. Cathy Hummel.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following person spoke to concerns with the handouts for the meeting: Ms. Patricia Rosnel.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Department of Emergency Services Operational Overview

Mr. Bill Gamble, Emergency Services Director, provided an overview of Emergency Services operations.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Sykes:

- thanked Mr. Gamble and his staff for the presentation;
- opined that it will be difficult to accomplish the goals of the Department; and
- stated that he is open to funding suggestions.

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- thanked Emergency Services personnel for their hard work;
- noted that it has been an extremely busy summer;
- stated that the fire fighters have done an excellent job in responding to all the fires that have occurred this summer; and
- noted that the job they do is extremely important.

Assemblymember Halter:

- spoke to having driven by the area of the fire by Horse Shoe Lake;
- opined that the new rail extension has been a natural fire break; and
- noted that the fires have been impacted by the high winds.

Assemblymember Doty:

- thanked the emergency responders for their hard work;
- commented that she is impressed with the Department's leadership;
- noted that her pointed questions assist her in clarifying priorities; and
- spoke in support of finding creative ways to accomplish the goals of the Department.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- noted that service areas do not have a separate legal existence and are part of the Borough;
- related that all major decisions that impact service areas within the Borough are decided by the Assembly;

- advised that service areas cannot own property, and that you cannot be sued or sue a service area; and
- noted that it was recently affirmed by the Supreme Court.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 12/01/15