

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The joint Assembly/School Board meeting was held on March 8, 2016, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

**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 (*Deputy Mayor*)  
Mr. George McKee, Assembly District No. 3  
Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4  
Mr. Dan Mayfield, Assembly District No. 5  
Ms. Barbara Doty, Assembly District No. 6 (*entered telephonically at 6:01 p.m.*)  
Mr. Randall Kowalke, Assembly District No. 7

School Board Members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Deborah Retherford, Seat A  
Ms. Sarah Welton, Seat B  
Ms. Susan Pougher, Seat C  
Mr. Ole Larson, Seat D  
Mr. Kelsey Trimmer, Seat E  
Ms. Donna Dearman, Seat F  
Mr. Ray Michaelson, Seat G

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk  
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager  
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager  
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney  
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk  
Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Halter 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 Dr. Deena Paramo, School District Superintendent.

## **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)**

The following person opined that the School District's proposed budget is not consistent and should be reviewed: Mr. Steve St. Clair.

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

## **VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. Annual Budget And Bonding For Schools (*MSB 2.12.075(A)*)**

Dr. Paramo, Superintendent and Mr. Luke Fulp, Assistant Superintendent, reported on funding needs for the School District's fiscal year 2017 budget.

### **B. Land Acquisition Near Joe Redington Sr. Junior/Senior High School For Shooting Sports (*Requested By School Board Member Larson*)**

School Board Member Larson:

- requested an update regarding the attempted land acquisitions for shooting sports; and
- spoke in support of securing land for shooting sports.

Mayor Halter reported on the different failed attempts to acquire land for shooting sports.

### **C. Palmer and Wasilla Pools Recreation Bond Proposal Update (*Requested By School Board Member Larson*)**

Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director, reported on the needed repairs for the Palmer and Wasilla pools.

## **VII. SCHOOL BOARD, MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS**

*(Assemblymember Doty exited the meeting.)*

School Board Member Larson:

- thanked the body for their patience while receiving the budget presentation;
- spoke in support of the School District;
- spoke in support of the open boundaries providing educational options for students and parents; and
- opined that the School District is the best in the State.

School Board Member Trimmer:

- thanked the body for listening to the budget proposal;
- spoke in support of schools being fully funded; and
- noted that children are the future.

School Board Member Welton:

- thanked the Assembly for hosting the meeting;
- spoke to her appreciation of the presentations made this evening;
- stated that the Technology Expo was a success; and
- wished everyone a good spring break.

School Board Member Michaelson:

- noted his appreciation of the presentations;
- commented that he is pleased that the bodies are able to work together to support children;
- opined that the School District is the best in the state;
- spoke to the need to continue to meet the needs of students as growth continues; and
- spoke to the need to keep the student/teacher ratio low.

School Board Member Dearman:

- thanked the Assembly for hosting the meeting;
- thanked School District staff for attending the meeting; and
- thanked the Assembly for receiving the budget presentation.

School Board Member Retherford:

- spoke in support of the School District's budget;
- noted that the School District is the most efficient in the State;
- stated that classroom size is a large parental concern; and
- spoke in support of federal funding for schools.

School Board President Pougher:

- encouraged the Assembly to seek out constituents to find out what is important to them;
- opined that the top concern would be education; and
- spoke to her concerns over losing teachers if the budget is not fully funded.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- noted student growth in the Borough;
- spoke in support of the School District;
- stated that he is unsure if the Assembly will be able to fund the full budget request; and
- noted that the Assembly would do the best they can.

Assemblymember McKee:

- summarized the recent oil field job losses;
- noted that oil provides a significant revenue source for the State;
- opined that without oil, there is no money; and
- stated that during his campaign the biggest request from constituents was to not raise property taxes.

Assemblymember Kowalke:

- opined that the budget presentation was well laid out and thoughtfully presented;
- spoke in support of the School District;
- spoke in support of a shooting range for shooting sports; and
- recognized the excellence of the School District.

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- noted his appreciation of the presentations provided;
- thanked the School District for their hard work;
- noted that oil revenue is much lower than anyone would like;
- spoke to the growing educational needs within his district; and
- spoke in opposition to bifurcating the recreational bond package.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- thanked the body for the meeting;
- noted that the Assembly and the School Board both have their own roles;
- opined that the bodies have worked well together; and
- spoke in support of continuing to have open communication between the bodies.

Assemblymember Beck:

- noted that strong families are the foundation of society;
- stated that he is proud to be a part of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough;
- spoke in support of the School District's curriculum;
- commented that the School District has the most educational options in the State; and
- thanked the School District staff for a good budget presentation.

Mayor Halter:

- spoke in support of the School District;
- noted the many components to the educational partnerships within the Borough;
- noted the State's fiscal crisis could impact the Borough's budget;
- spoke to the need to keep the mill rate low; and
- stated that he is proud to work with the School Board.

*(The meeting recessed at 8:11 p.m. and reconvened at 8:20 p.m.)*

## **VIII. ASSEMBLY ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. **Ordinance Serial No. 16-013:** An Ordinance Appropriating \$1,993,488 From The Land Management Permanent Fund 203, For M/V Susitna Engine Repairs, Project No. 70013, As A Loan To The Ferry Fund 450 And Reappropriating The \$1,993,488 Back To The Land Management Permanent Fund 203 Once The Anticipated Vessel Sale Funds And Insurance Funds Are Received.

- a. **Resolution Serial No. 16-015:** A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The M/V Susitna Ferry Engine Repairs, Project No. 70013; And Authorization To Enter Into A Contact With Associated Maritime Providers, Inc. In The Amount Of \$1,993,488.
- (1) IM No. 16-037

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 16-013 and Resolution Serial No. 16-015.

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 16-015, by inserting the words “and/or Foss Maritime, as need” after the words “Associated Maritime Providers, Inc.” to read: “FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly authorizes a contract with Associated Maritime Providers, Inc. and/or Foss Maritime, as needed for repairs to the M/V Susitna engines in the amount of \$3,093,488.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymembers McKee and Colligan opposed.

VOTE: The main motion passed as amended with Assemblymembers McKee and Colligan opposed.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION (*For Matters, The Immediate Public Knowledge Of Which Would Clearly Have An Adverse Effect Upon The Finances Of The Borough And Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Confidential; And Matters Involving Consideration Of Government Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure; And For Discussion Of Pending Litigation.*)

1. Bell Vs. MSB et. al. – 4NE-14-05 CI

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to enter into executive session for matters, which immediate public knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough; and matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be kept confidential; and discussion of matters subject to the attorney-client privilege. In particular to discuss the Bell Vs. MSB litigation. Those present during executive session were the Mayor, the Assembly, the Attorney, the Manager, the Clerk, and the Assistant Borough Manager.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly entered into executive session at 8:55 p.m.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to exit executive session.

VOTE: There was no objection noted and the Assembly exited executive session at 9:07 p.m.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

  
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VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 04/19/16