

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The joint Assembly/School Board meeting was held on September 3, 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*) (*entered telephonically at 6:04 p.m.*)  
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  
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  
Ms. Donna Dearman, Seat F  
Mr. Ray Michaelson, Seat G

School Board Members absent and excused:

Mr. Kelsey Trimmer, Seat E

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

**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 Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager.

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

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

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

### **A. Building Construction Progress and Review of Capital Construction Plan (MSB 2.12.075(A))**

Mr. Mike Brown, School District Executive Director for Operations, reported on the School District Capital Improvement Plan.

### **B. Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee Discussion (Requested by School Board)**

School Board President Pougher led the discussion regarding the status of the Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee.

### **C. Budget Update/Financial Forecast (Requested By Administration)**

Mr. Gene Stone, Superintendent, and Mr. Luke Fulp, Assistant Superintendent, reported on the budget and financial forecast for the School District.

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

School Board Member Michaelson noted that these are exciting times to be on the School Board with all the changes that are occurring.

School Board Member Retherford spoke in support of having handouts to support members when they are speaking with the public.

School Board Member Welton:

- thanked the body for the meeting;
- noted that graphs and pie charts assist her in understanding budget issues; and
- spoke to her history of working with the Borough Area School Site Selection Committee.

School Board Member Dearman:

- thanked Superintendent Stone and Mr. Fulp for their presentation; and
- noted that even with fiscal hardships that the School District will continue to support children the best way possible.

School Board Member Larson summarized his history and experience with the Borough Area School Site Selection Committee.

School Board President Pougher:

- noted that there are 18,828 students attending Borough schools;
- stated that Colony and Palmer High Schools both have homecoming this weekend; and
- related that Susitna Valley High School is hosting a cross country meet this weekend.

Assemblymember McKee opined that the School District is fortunate to have Mr. Gene Stone as Superintendent;

Assemblymember Sykes:

- spoke to his appreciation of the meeting;
- spoke in support of the Borough Area School Site Selection Committee;
- opined that although there is a fiscal crisis that the Borough is in pretty good shape;
- spoke in support of diversifying the Borough's tax base; and
- opined that education is important regardless of the cost.

Assemblymember Kowalke spoke in support of the quality education children in the Borough receive

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- thanked everyone for the informative presentations;
- spoke to concerns with budget shortfalls for the School District in coming years;
- spoke to the need to diversify the revenue base for the Borough; and
- invited the body to attend the ribbon cutting for the new Big Lake round-about.

Assemblymember Doty:

- thanked everyone for their presentations; and
- spoke in support of the long standing leadership within the School District.

Assemblymember Colligan spoke to his excitement regarding the upcoming Potato Bowl, on which he and Assemblymember Beck have a friendly bet that the loser has to walk home from the game.

Assemblymember Beck stated he would wear his roller blades.

Mayor Halter:

- spoke to his excitement over the opening of all the new schools this year;
- noted that the Borough is facing tough financial times; and
- spoke to the State planning to construct the Seward Meridian road extension project in 2018.

Assemblymember Beck spoke in support of the School District.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.



VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 11/17/16