I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board was held on Thursday, July 28, 2016, at the MSB Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. Mr. Tom Healy chaired the meeting.

II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUOROM

Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mike Campfield, P.E.
Archie Giddings, P.E.
Tom Healy
Helen Munoz
Ronald Phillips
Thomas Stoelting

Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board members absent and excused were:

Gina Jorgensen

Staff and Agency Representatives in attendance were:

Debbie Passmore, Board Administrative Support

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Today's agenda was reviewed by the Board and discussed.

VOTE: No objection and the agenda was approved as amended.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Helen Munoz

V. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS

Eugene Carl Haberman
Kelsey Trimmer
Tom Munoz
Priscilla Gillow, CRW

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. Minutes for the May 4, 2016 meeting were reviewed by the Board.

VOTE: The minutes were approved without objection.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

None

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*Three minutes per person)*

Kelsey Trimmer, A-2 Septic

- He has been asked to come to our meetings in the past.

- Can't stress how important it is to get the Septage & Leachate Treatment Facility project started
- It is negligent to ask us to drive and haul to Anchorage
- It is hazardous to drivers
- It is not the way to do business for a Borough of our size
- Urges that this project move forward a quickly as possible
- In light of the recent fund cuts, this is a necessity and not an option. It's something we owe the people of the Borough to have.

Eugene Carl Haberman

- Reported that some of the Board members were at the Palmer meeting
- The notice went out on Monday for the Thursday meeting
- It wasn't on their website but the picnic was
- This is a $5M deal
- There was little or no information
- The press reported that when there is little or no information, it's not right
- There seems to be a debate that the public needs to be heard
- Why have the meeting when people can't hear the Board members
- He said that the minutes should not have been voted on without public comments
- He wanted to make a correction
- He thinks that the public would like to comment on the reports
- The idea of what we have is not good because there is no back and forth with the public
- There should be a dialogue between the public and the Board
- Believes this Board needs to resign
- Mentioned the Boards that he has asked to resign

Tom Munoz, Tom's Septic Service

- Has been hauling to Anchorage for 39 years
- Dumped 14,000,000 gallons last year alone (per the AWWU's inaccurate calculations)
- Lost revenue to the Borough is probably $1.2M in dumping fees.
- The loss should be calculated into the figures for the septage facility that is to be built
- Agrees with Kelsey that hauling to Anchorage has gone on too long. They have hauled millions and millions of gallons of sewage to Anchorage through all types of weather and traffic conditions.
- This is a necessity that we need here. This will not be a major loss like the ferry.
- This facility will pay for itself; the only thing we need to do is to get on the ball and get the facility built.
- The cost of the rates that will be charged will be paid for by raising the rates, just like other company's (city, water, garbage, etc.) rates go up. That's the cost of business; everything has to be paid for.
- We've had no choice in the past; it has to be done for the new guys. It's long, long overdue.
- This is a Borough situation here, not a City of Palmer or City of Wasilla situation.

IX. AGENCY AND STAFF REPORTS

A. City of Wasilla – Mr. Archie Giddings, P.E., Public Works Director
   a. No updates
   b. Has had quite a delay on the soils report; looking that over now
B. City of Palmer – Tom Healy
   a. Chris Nall is the City of Palmer's new Public Works Director. He will be attending some WSAB meetings in the future by I will continue to be Palmer's representative on the WSAB and will continue to give the City of Palmer's reports in the future.
   b. The City of Palmer has completed the update of the facility plan.
   c. They are in the process of getting the funding in line now.
   d. HDR did the update; they were given the contract to provide the design of the new plant
   e. The new plant will move away from the lagoon system to a MBBR which will provide a necessary level of treatment.
   f. There is a tight schedule to make the improvements
   g. There is a resolution before the City Council to put on the ballot a Voter Authorization for up to $5M in bond authority to provide a portion of the funding for the improvements (along with a combination of loans and grants).
   h. That will be a ballot issue in the fall.
   i. Estimated cost for Phase 1 of this is approximately $12-15M.
   j. Major improvement for basic infrastructure and facilities.
C. AWWU, Debbie Passmore read an email from Mark Corsentino
D. MSB, Mike Campfield
   a. CP Department is working with the PW Department to bring to the Assembly on August 16 to accept and appropriate the $5M grant from the DEC
   b. If that gets approved by the Assembly, we'll get the project started.
   c. Debbie Passmore will send out a reminder to the Board when the legislation will go to the Assembly so Board members can attend the meeting and show their support.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

None

XIII. INFORMATIONAL HANDOUTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A.

XIV. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Helen Munoz

- (talked quite a bit without her microphone on)
- In 1981, this was on the ballot along with the pools at the high schools to be built; the pools passed
- Here she is still fighting for the same thing

- Had a Palmer Assembly person say to her "Well, you don't live in the City." Helen said, "Not everybody wants to live in the City. Only about 15% of the population are on City of Palmer or City of Wasilla sewer. The rest are on septic tanks or outhouses."

Archie Giddings

- Clarified the comment about this being the number one priority in Juneau. Actually, the number one priority was getting funding for this project. Obviously there's no money in Juneau. It seems that the Borough is recognizing that.

Tom Stoelting

- Would like to see this move a lot faster. It's time!
- They can come up with fire stations and schools but not this?
- If AWWU with their upgrades cuts off the Boniface at Turpin station, then what will we do?
- If they make us haul all the way to King Street in South Anchorage, can you imagine what we're going to have to charge to make that up?

Ron Phillips

- We need to get this under way.

Mike Campfield

- No comments

Tom Healy

- Pretty clear consensus here in terms of what needs to happen. The Board has taken action to support moving this forward.
- Thinks contacting our politicians to let them know of our support is appropriate at this time.

Helen Munoz

- There's a Borough meeting on August 2. It would be nice to see others in this room at that meeting, too.

XV. NEXT WSAB MEETINGS

A. Thursday, September 8, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in the MSB Assembly Chambers
B. Thursday, November 10, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in the MSB Assembly Chambers

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned by Tom Healy at 2:35p.m.

Tom Healy

Mr. Tom Healy, Chair

ATTEST:

Debbie Passmore

Debbie Passmore, Board Administrative Support