

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, July 6, 2016, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor 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 (*arrived at 6:02 p.m.*)
Mr. Randall Kowalke, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Moosey, 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. Eugene Stone, School District Superintendent.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

The following person spoke to the need for a wastewater septage treatment facility: Ms. Helen Munoz.

The following person spoke to concerns with the impacts of increased traffic on Beverly Lakes Road: Ms. Patricia Fisher.

The following person spoke to concerns with the high volume of traffic at the intersection of Bogard Road and Seldon Extension: Mr. David Eastman.

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

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Borough's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – Governor Walker's Vetoes

Mr. John Harris, the Borough's State Lobbyist, reported on what is occurring with the special session that the Legislature is currently in regarding Governor Walker's vetoes.

Mr. Moosey provided an overview of the Borough's internal response to the Governor's vetoes.

Mr. Gene Stone, School District Superintendent, reported on the School District's internal response to the Governor's vetoes.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Colligan:

- opined that the Manager is taking the appropriate approach to the fiscal crisis;
- spoke in opposition to burdening staff with worry about how to perform their jobs;
- stated that he is sickened that the discussion is occurring so late in the process;
- commented that it is what it is and the Borough will deal with it the best they can; and
- queried if another meeting would need to be scheduled in July.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- spoke to the research he has been doing regarding whether the budget can be opened up and the mill rate changed, due to the unexpected events; and
- noted that there are legal arguments for unexpected contingencies, but that they should be discussed soon.

Assemblymember Beck:

- spoke to the need to be proactive; and
- opined that the Manager should write a letter on behalf of the Assembly and sent to the Legislature, that requests they take whatever action deemed appropriate as suggested by Mr. Harris.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection to such a letter being written.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- stated that the letter should include a request to override the vetoes; and
- noted that a request to fund the school debt reimbursement program and other school funds that were cut, should also be included.

Assemblymember McKee opined that the State has a \$4.9 Billion dollar shortfall and that the Assembly is not being realistic by asking them to fund anything.

There was no objection noted to Mr. Moosey writing a letter to the Legislature.

Ms. McKechnie noted that the decision to hold a meeting needs to be made this evening in order to properly advertise the meeting.

Mayor Halter queried if the body wanted to schedule an additional meeting.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kowalke moved to schedule a meeting for July 19, 2016, at 6 p.m.

VOTE: The motion passed with Assemblymember McKee opposed.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to concerns with increasing property taxes in response to the State's fiscal crisis.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- spoke to all the governmental transparency that has come forward recently;
- opined that the public needs to be invited into the discussion regarding what is funded with tax payer dollars;
- spoke to the community meeting that he and Assemblymember Beck conducted a couple of years ago;
- opined that a strategic plan needs to be in place to address these types of financial risks; and
- opined that the public needs to be more involved in the budget process.

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- spoke to concerns with the current fiscal crisis and the impact on future year's budgets;
- noted that the same fiscal reality could perpetuate a domino effect; and
- spoke to the need to find new sources of revenue, as well as prudent budget cuts.

Assemblymember Doty:

- spoke to the need for a public educational process regarding revenue and budget cuts; and
- opined that the Borough needs a clear economic development plan.

Assemblymember Colligan spoke to the need to continue to have open communication to figure out the best way to generate new revenue.

Assemblymember Beck:

- noted that he is full of hope and is encouraged by the discussion this evening;
- opined that the community will voice their opinion as to what should be done;
- stated that the Borough will continue to move forward and provide good service to its residents; and
- stated that he is looking forward to doing the necessary work.

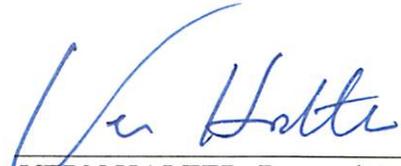
Mayor Halter:

- noted that the Borough has always been frugal with its spending;
- spoke in opposition of raising the mill rate;

- spoke to his disappointment in the Legislature and their decisions;
- noted that by code the Borough had to have its budget done by a certain deadline;
- spoke to his frustration that this is not the case with the State;
- opined that the Legislature is being irresponsible;
- noted that property tax is the primary source of revenue; and
- thanked staff and the public for attending the meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.



VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 08/02/16