

1 **Minutes of the Public Hearing**
2 **Denali Borough Assembly**
3 **Anderson School, Anderson, Alaska**
4 **May 7, 2019**
5
6

7 **CALL TO ORDER:**

8 The public hearing was called to order by Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN at 6:09 p.m.
9

10 **ROLL CALL:**

11 Assembly members present: Jake HILL, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Jill BOELSMA, Tallon
12 SHREEVE, David EVANS, Joe CHATFIELD, Eileen HOLMES and Krista ZAPPONE. Absent:
13 Don DEBLAUW. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.
14

15 **ORDINANCE 19-04: Fiscal Year 2020 Budget**

16 Kobe Road resident Betty Murph Whitney, shared some photos of the Kobe Road and
17 described current frustration and concerns among some residents living off and past the Kobe
18 Road. Ms. Whitney commented that many residents do not want government involvement or
19 oversight with road repairs in their area and residents are also concerned that the road will
20 be damaged and made worse, not better.
21

22 Kobe Road resident Susan Adams explained that Kobe Road is the only access into 150
23 square miles of subdivision. Any road work will affect every resident living within those 150
24 square miles. Ms. Adams described the road as a pioneer road that is not economically
25 feasible to upgrade to provide year round access. Ms. Adams further explained that recent
26 attempts to repair the road have pushed much of the gravel off the road and into the ditch,
27 filling the ditches and lowering the road, which has made the road worse and not better. Ms.
28 Adams expressed concern that the borough will grant money towards a road project that is
29 unsustainable, unaffordable, and to a group of people that may not have the knowledge and
30 skills to improve the road conditions.
31

32 Kobe Road resident Sofia Grafton expressed the following concerns:

- 33 • The Kobe Farm Community grant request states that members of the non-profit group
34 could receive payment, not just reimbursement, from grant funds for work performed
35 on the road project and Mr. Don DeBlauw may have a conflict of interest as an
36 assembly member and his family being members of the a Kobe Farm Community.
- 37 • The Kobe Farm Community grant application states the purpose of the non-profit is to
38 support agriculture and commercial activities and grant funds should not be used to
39 support commercial activities.

40 Ms. Grafton expressed a desire to see all road activity cease until the assembly establishes
41 some road standards and votes to approve the grant request.
42

1 Anderson area resident Leroy Sutton observed that there was a lot of animosity between the
2 Kobe area community and he asked the assembly to hold a meeting with the purpose to work
3 through some of the animosity.
4

5 Rochester Way resident Bill Gill explained that the residents that live past the Kobe Road
6 mailboxes are modern day sourdoughs without any infrastructure beyond what each resident
7 provides for themselves. Mr. Gill expressed concern that anyone that tries to work on the road
8 without understanding the area and the terrain will end up making the road worse and not
9 better. Mr. Gill further expressed his opinion that some of the members of the Kobe Farm
10 Community have shown incompetence and malice in some cases in previous work done on
11 the road. Mr. Gill asked that the borough ensure traditional access is not blocked off or
12 interrupted.
13

14 Kobe area resident John Godfrey explained that the road drainage system will need to be
15 improved before any road repair work will be effective. Mr. Godfrey expressed concern that
16 previous road work attempts have made the road and road drainage worse and he has doubts
17 that another attempt will improve the road situation.
18

19 Panguingue Creek Homeowners Association President Teresa Floberg asked the assembly
20 to amend the budget and provide full grant funding request for the Panguingue Creek
21 Homeowners Association.
22

23 R.L. Overstreet stated that he believes once government gets involved, taxes are sure to
24 follow, which is why he is concerned about having government involved in any road repairs
25 or projects in the Kobe area.
26

27 **ADJOURNMENT:**

28 The public hearing was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.
29

30
31 APPROVED:



Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

32
33
34
35 ATTEST:



Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

36
37
38 Date Approved:

June 12, 2019

1 **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**
2 **Denali Borough Assembly**
3 **Anderson School, Anderson, Alaska**
4 **May 7, 2019**
5
6

7 **CALL TO ORDER**

8 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:37 PM.
9

10 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

11 Mayor Clay Walker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
12

13 **ROLL CALL**

14 Assembly members present: Jake HILL, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Jill BOELSMA, David
15 EVANS, Tallon SHREEVE, Eileen HOLMES, Joe CHATFIELD and Krista ZAPPONE.
16 Absent: Don DEBLAUW. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.
17

18 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to excuse Don DEBLAUW. The motion was seconded. The VOTE
19 by show of hands to excuse was unanimous.
20

21 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

22 Kobe Road area resident William James Nemeč stated that he lives in Alaska, specifically
23 bush Alaska, to be free. That our borough was established to support the local schools and
24 nothing else. There was not supposed to be any social engineering or controls put on the
25 people of the Denali Borough. Mr. Nemeč explained that the State of Alaska was set up as
26 a republic and the people need to fight any attempt to take away our freedom. Mr. Nemeč
27 explained that there is a way for the Clear Sky homestead, Anderson Subdivision, Quota
28 Subdivision, and the Kobe Ag Subdivision areas to leave the Denali Borough. Mr. Nemeč
29 commented that homesteading is a hard way of life but they are good people that want to
30 stay free.
31

32 R.L. Overstreet stated that there are a lot of people in the audience that do not trust the
33 government. He cautioned the assembly that people will push back at attempts of the
34 government to push into their lives.
35

36 Healy area resident Erik Haugen asked the assembly for an update on the conditional use
37 permit code. Additionally, Mr. Haugen asked the assembly to consider an alcohol, marijuana
38 and tobacco tax, as well as a recreational activities tax. Mr. Haugen also asked if there
39 could be some additional signs or reduced speed limit in the area of the Healy Spur Road
40 and the George Parks Highway intersection to help make the current lighted pedestrian
41 walkway less confusing.
42

1 Mr. J.P Pellet representing Ms. Susan Nowland informed the assembly that the Alcohol and
2 Marijuana Control Office gave final approval for the Denali Grass Company retail store
3 license application.
4

5 Sofia Grafton stated that farmers are used to dealing with difficult roads and the Kobe road
6 is not different. Ms. Grafton expressed confusion because she believes most of the
7 residents living off of or past the Kobe Road were not in favor of the Kobe Farm Community
8 forming and applying for grant funds and yet the non-profit formed, applied for, and now is
9 recommended to receive grant funding.
10

11 Healy area resident Jason Motyka, thanked the assembly and the public for being a good
12 example of a positive public process. Mr. Motyka stated that there has been some
13 community concern expressed about the noise created by the 49th State Brewing Company
14 outdoor events. Mr. Motyka provided the summer schedule of outdoor events as well ask
15 asked the assembly and the public to spread the word that if there is concern about noise,
16 to please contact the business directly so they can address those concerns. The following is
17 the schedule of outdoor events for the 49th State Brewing Company:
18

- 19 • May 25th from 10:30 pm to 12:45 am
- 20 • June 21st and 22nd from 7:00 pm to close of business
- 21 • June 28th from 10:00 pm to 12:45 am
- 22 • July 13th from 10:30 pm to 12:45 am
- 23 • August 2nd from 10:00 pm to 12:45 am
- 24 • August 9th and 10th from 7:00 pm to close of business
- 25 • August 16th from 10:30 pm to 12:45 am
- 26 • September 23rd from 10:00 pm to close of business
27

28 **AGENDA**

29 Dave EVANS MOVED to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was
30 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to approve the agenda was unanimous.
31

32 **MINUTES**

33 **APRIL 10, 2019 PUBLIC HEARING, AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

34 **APRIL 17, 2019 WORK SESSION AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

35 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2019 Public Hearing and
36 Regular Meeting and the April 17, 2019 Work Session and Special Meeting as presented.
37 The motion was seconded.
38

39 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to amend the April 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes to correct her
40 comments stating the she was excited about the Spirit of Youth award but was not able to
41 attend the Spirit of Youth award ceremony. The motion was second. The VOTE by show of
42 hands to amend was unanimous.
43

1 The VOTE by show of hands to approve as amended was unanimous.

2
3 **REPORTS**

4 **MARCH 2019 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

5 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to receive the March 2019 Financial Report. The motion was
6 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

7
8 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

9 The April and May Planning Commission meetings were cancelled.

10
11 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

12 Superintendent Dan Polta verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written
13 report (attachment A).

14
15 **MAYOR REPORT**

16 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report
17 (attachment B).

18
19 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

20 Assembly members thanked those present for their attendance, comments and reports
21 and encouraged the public to stay engaged, in addition to the following comments:

22
23 Jill BOELSMA reported that she was excited to attend the Alaska Liter Prevention and
24 Recycling award ceremony when the Zero Landfill Initiative project received an
25 Outstanding Leadership award.

26
27 Jake HILL thanked borough solid waste staff for the tour of the Denali Borough Landfill.

28
29 Jared ZIMMERMAN thanked borough staff for providing a live stream of the meeting.

30
31 Krista ZAPPONE stated that all the comments provided during the public hearing and
32 public comment section of the agenda have been heard and she would be open to
33 scheduling a special meeting to provide time for additional comments. Ms. ZAPPONE
34 also reported that an elementary student from the Tri-Valley School has issued a
35 challenge to the community by taking pledges from community members to choose to
36 use reusable bags instead of plastic shopping bags.

37
38 David EVANS MOVED to request the administration to contact the State of Alaska
39 Department of Transportation regarding the pedestrian crossing lights at the intersection
40 of the George Parks Highway and the Healy Spur Road and ask them to find a better
41 solution. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

42
43 David EVANS commented on the following:

- 1 • the current grant program, in which the Kobe Farm Community used to apply for
2 grant funds to improve the Kobe Road, does not include project management by
3 the borough.
- 4 • the Matching Grant Committee reviewed 7 grant applications, including the Kobe
5 Farm Community application, and scored each application. The Kobe Farm
6 Community application received the second highest score and the projects that
7 received the top three scores were the applications recommended for funding.
- 8 • A variety of tax initiatives have been voted on over the years and they have not
9 been supported by the voting public.
- 10 • He is excited to see additional funds being budgeted for Parks and Recreation.
11

12 Joe CHATFIELD stated that as a land owner and seasonal resident of the area, he is
13 personally interested in seeing the Kobe Road improved. He reported that by his
14 observation, the road received the most damage from the firefighting crews and
15 equipment during the last fire in the Kobe area and the road has not been repaired or
16 improved since receiving the damage. Mr. CHATFIELD encouraged the community to
17 stay involved and stated his belief that the Kobe Road community has more in common
18 than in conflict and he feels that they can find a solution and remain good neighbors.
19

20 Joe CHATFIELD read a letter from assembly member Don DEBLAUW in which Mr.,
21 DEBLAUW apologized for missing the meeting and stated that he and his family's
22 motivation for working with the Kobe Farm Community was to improve the Kobe Road
23 conditions, not to create community conflict, and he hopes that the Kobe community
24 come together and remain good friends and neighbors. Additionally, Mr. CHATFIELD
25 explained that the Denali Borough has not exercised road powers and that the Denali
26 Borough grant programs are a way for non-profit organizations to provide services to our
27 communities that the State and/or borough does not provide.
28

29 Tallon SHREEVE encouraged everyone to stay future focused to help make decisions
30 now that will be positive for our children and grandchildren.
31

32 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called a recess at 8:02 PM. The meeting was
33 called back in order at 8:15 PM.
34

35 **COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

36 **LETTER REGARDING THE KOBE FARM COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING REQUEST** 37 **FROM:**

38 **BETTY (MURPH) WHITNEY**
39 **DOROTHY DEBLAUW**
40 **BRUCE HAMILTON**
41 **DAVID CONKLIN**
42 **RUPERT SMITH**
43 **FRANK MAGGIO**
44 **CHARMI WEKER**

1 **SAM DEBLAUW**
2 **ROBERT AND JOAN DARLING**
3 **THOMAS DEBLAUW**
4

5 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN acknowledged the letters received from community
6 members of the Kobe Road area and opened the floor for additional public comments.
7

8 Betty Murph Whitney stated that Assembly member Don DeBLAUAW may have a conflict of
9 interest that should be considered and that she is concerned that the Kobe Road area does
10 not have enough permanent residents to support the scope of the road improvement
11 project.
12

13 John Godfrey stated that he felt blindsided when he read in the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer
14 that the Kobe Road residents formed a non-profit and applied for grant funds for a road
15 improvement project. He commented that if he had known, he would have attended the
16 Matching Grant Committee meeting in which the grant application was reviewed and voiced
17 his concern at that time.
18

19 Susan Adams stated that she encouraged the idea of a special meeting to hear additional
20 public comments. She commented that she had three main concerns about a road project
21 on the Kobe Road including:

- 22 • Road access for residents during the project.
- 23 • Public notification of when and how road work would occur.
- 24 • Quality of the completed work.
25

26 R.L. Overstreet voiced his concern that the government will try to force the residents of the
27 Kobe Road area to get along and that is not the role of the government. He is concerned
28 that if the people fixing the road are not familiar with the terrain and conditions, the road
29 could be made worse and not better. He expressed his belief that most residents do not
30 want the road conditions improved because easier access would encourage additional
31 traffic which makes their homes and property less safe. If residents had been aware of the
32 grant application, they would have voiced concerns sooner.
33

34 Joe CHATFIELD pointed out that the assembly received letters in support and in opposition
35 to the Kobe Road grant application. He believes that through a special meeting, the
36 community may be able to find some common ground.
37

38 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

39 **ORDINANCE 19-10: DENALI BOROUGH CODE CHAPTER 9.10 TITLED SUBDIVISIONS**

40 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 19-10. The motion was seconded. Mayor
41 Walker reviewed the proposed ordinance. David EVANS asked if this ordinance had
42 received legal review and Mayor Walker informed the assembly that the ordinance had not
43 received legal review. Jared ZIMMERMAN clarified that this ordinance would only apply to
44 new subdivisions. The roll call VOTE to introduce Ordinance 19-10 was unanimous.

1
2 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 19-10. The motion was seconded. The
3 VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

4
5 **PENDING ORDINANCE**

6 **ORDINANCE 19-04: FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET**

7 Krista ZAPPONE moved to amend the Panguingue Homeowner's Association Non-Profit
8 Contribution Grant award to fully fund the request to total a contribution of \$14,995. The
9 motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

10
11 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve Ordinance 19-04. The motion was seconded.

12
13 Jill BOELSMA asked the administration to continue working on credit card payments to
14 reduce the amount of credit card fees paid by the borough.

15
16 Mayor Walker informed the assembly that the administration is working with legal
17 counsel to develop a road maintenance agreement between the borough and the Kobe
18 Farm Community for the Kobe Farm Community road project.

19
20 Jake HILL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 19-04. The motion was seconded. The VOTE
21 to postpone by show of hands was unanimous.

22
23 **ORDINANCE 19-05: FISCAL YEAR 2020 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2025 CAPITAL**
24 **IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)**

25 David EVANS MOVED to approve Ordinance 19-05. Mayor Walker reviewed the project
26 list. The motion was seconded. The roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

27
28 **ORDINANCE 19-06: APPROPRIATING EMERGENCY RESPONSE APPARATUS**
29 **FUNDS TO THE TVVFD FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW ADVANCED LIFE**
30 **SUPPORT AMBULANCE**

31 Jake HILL MOVED to approve Ordinance 19-06. The motion was seconded. The roll call
32 VOTE to approve was unanimous.

33
34 **ORDINANCE 19-07: APPROPRIATING EMERGENCY RESPONSE APPARATUS**
35 **FUNDS TO THE MVFD FOR THE PURCHASE OF A LIGHT RESCUE VEHICLE**

36 David EVANS MOVED to approve Ordinance 19-07. The motion was seconded. The roll
37 call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

38
39 **ORDINANCE 19-08 VERSION B: APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE LAND**
40 **MANAGEMENT CAPITAL FUND FOR AN AERIAL IMAGERY AND COMMUNITY**
41 **MAPPING PROJECT**

42 Jake HILL MOVED to approve Ordinance 19-08. Mayor Walker reviewed version B. The
43 motion was seconded. The roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

1 **ORDINANCE 19-09: DENALI BOROUGH CODE 9.12 STREET NAMING ORDINANCE**
2 **19-03: FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

3 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Ordinance 19-09. The motion was seconded. The
4 roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

5
6 **RESOLUTIONS**

7 **RESOLUTION 19-16: A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR AERIAL**
8 **IMAGING AND COMMUNITY MAPPING**

9 David EVANS MOVED to approve Resolution 19-16. The motion was seconded. The roll
10 call VOTE to approve was unanimous

11
12 **OTHER BUSINESS**

13 **ARAMARK CORPORATION, DENALI PARK VILLAGE, APPEAL OF PENALTIES**
14 **ASSESSED**

15 Tony Beckerly from ARAMARK Corporation addressed the assembly, apologized for the
16 oversight resulting in a late payment, and asked for consideration and relief of the penalty
17 assessed.

18
19 Mayor Walker informed the assembly that staff applied the penalty as directed in Denali
20 Borough Code.

21
22 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to reduce the penalty from 50% to 12%. The motion was
23 seconded. After some discussion regarding different rates, the VOTE by show of hands was
24 a tie with HOLMES, EVANS, ZIMMERMAN, and ZAPPONE in favor and CHATFIELD, HILL,
25 BOELSMA and SHREEVE opposed to reduce the penalty from 50% to 12%. Mayor Walker
26 provided the tie breaking vote in the affirmative to approve the penalty reduction from 50%
27 to 12% with a final vote total of 5 to 4.

28
29 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

30 Jason Motyka suggested that an online payment and reporting submission process would
31 reduce calculation errors and simplify the process.

32
33 John Godfrey suggested that a stern letter should accompany the penalty reduction notice.

34
35 Anderson resident and Kobe Road area land owner Rupert Smith expressed his
36 appreciation for the grant funds to improve the Kobe Road and suggested that clarifying that
37 the scope of the road project will be for the first few miles of the Kobe Road may help ease
38 tensions.

39
40 Healy area resident Erik Haugen wished Mayor Walker a Happy Birthday and made the
41 following recommendations:

- 42 • Strive to find a way to be good neighbors, even when we disagree.
- 43 • Consider a tax on alcohol, tobacco and marijuana.
- 44 • Consider a recreation activity tax.

1
2 Sofia Grafton reminded the assembly that anyone living in the Kobe Road area knew the
3 road conditions when they purchased their residence.
4

5 R.L. Overstreet stated that all residents of the Kobe Road area knew what the road
6 conditions were when they bought their property and there is no reason for the government
7 to get involved in fixing the road.
8

9 Susan Adams asked that any requirements or agreements be included in the discussion at
10 the special meeting. It would provide confidence to the public that the final road quality will
11 be improved and not made worse.
12

13 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

14 Assembly members thanked those in attendance, in addition to the following comments:
15

16 Joe CHATFIELD commented that government doesn't work without people being part of
17 the process and he appreciated the public involvement at the meeting.
18

19 David EVANS asked the assembly to consider structuring the meeting so that each
20 ordinance would receive its own public hearing within the regular meeting prior to voting
21 on that agenda item.
22

23 Krista ZAPPONE stated she would like to consider a structural agenda change that
24 could encourage additional public engagement.
25

26 Jared ZIMMERMAN commented that if the borough is going to support road projects
27 then we should establish some basic road standards and expectations. Borough funds
28 can make a very positive change in a community but Mr. ZIMMERMAN stated that he
29 would not be able to support borough funds being used on a project that could divide a
30 community.
31

32 Jill BOELSMA stated that she is proud of the way we vet and allocate borough funds and
33 she is confident that a peaceful resolution can be found for the Kobe Road community.
34


35 Eileen HOLMES commented that she remembers 6 hour long or longer meetings so a 4
36 hour meeting is something to be thankful for.
37


38 **NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING**

39 The Assembly set a special meeting for Thursday, June 6th at 6:00 PM at City Hall (later
40 moved to the Anderson School) in Anderson, Alaska.
41

42 The next regular assembly meeting will be on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at the Tri-
43 Valley Community Center, Healy, Alaska. Public hearing starting at 6:00 PM with the
44 regular meeting to follow.

1
2 **ADJOURN:**
3 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was
4 adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 10:31 PM.
5

6
7 APPROVED: 
8 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

9
10
11
12 ATTEST: 
13 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk
14

15
16
17 Date Approved: June 12, 2019



Denali Borough School District

P.O. Box 280 • Healy, Alaska 99743 • (907) 683-2278 • FAX (907) 683-2514

Superintendent's Report Denali Borough Assembly Tuesday, May 7th, 2019

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

Please accept this written report for the month of May.

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Congratulations to all our students who participated and performed in the Aurora Music Festival in Nenana. Many of our students also qualified for the state festival later this year. Thank you to Candace and Darren Mudge for all the work they did organizing and coordinating the event.
- b. Congratulations to Marie Gore, Judy Sweeney and Karen Martin. I was contacted by DEED this month and informed that all three have been nominated for consideration for the Alaska Teacher of the Year for 2020, this is in addition to BP's nomination of Candace Mudge which was shared earlier.
- c. Congratulations to Samantha Ward who completed her Graduation Certificate, Concentration Principal with the Department of Educational Leadership with UAA and is participated in their graduation ceremony this past weekend.

2. Strategic Planning - Core Planning Team meeting

- a. On Saturday April 20th the Core Planning Team met for its annual meeting to review the progress of our work from our strategic plan. Overall it was a good meeting that affirmed our work and revitalized our commitment to the work. I appreciate all the CPT members who were able to attend and also appreciate that others had commitments on that day (maybe next year the scheduler (me) should not select Easter weekend for our meeting).

3. Finances

- a. FY19 Budget – After implementing our asbestos abatement and Anderson boiler replacement projects we anticipate ending FY19 with a small surplus.
- b. FY20 Local Request - The local contribution requested by the District in the FY20 Budget is a total of \$2,769,308. The required contribution, which is based on the Full Value Determination of real and personal property in the Borough is \$964,876. The additional optional contribution based on

Mission Statement

Nurturing, empowering and inspiring today's student to positively shape tomorrow's world.

Attachment A

enrollment and capped at 23% of the Basic Need is \$1,804,433. The total request is \$13,000 less than in FY19.

- c. FY20 State Funding - Last month the politics of K-12 funding took another interesting turn in Juneau. Governor Dunleavy is now claiming that the forward funding for FY20 that was approved and signed into law last year is unconstitutional and his Department of Law provided a supporting legal opinion. Lawyers with Legislative Legal disagree and provided a legal opinion to the legislators that the statute is constitutional. The Alaska House passed a FY20 budget with no funds for K-12 FY20 (since they were already approved) and includes language to forward fund K-12 in FY21. The House and Senate have each approved their budgets, now a conference committee will be established to negotiate the final budget that will be transmitted to the Governor.
- d. The Board Finance Committee - At the committee's next meeting they will continue the review of possible reductions and look at each priority group and attempt to prioritize the items within each group. I feel that funding the full BSA is very certain for next year but there is conversation in the legislature regarding the \$30 million outside of the BSA that was approved for FY20 and signed into law last year. This exercise from the committee will prepare the district for the possibility of reductions in the coming years, especially when K-12 funding will be exposed to gubernatorial vetos.
- e. Cantwell Enrollment – Projected enrollment at Cantwell for next year continues to fluctuate. I held a meeting with parents and the community on Monday May 6th to discuss the situation and provide people information on our plans to operate Cantwell next Fall and adjustments the Board would consider if the enrollment is below 10 students.

4. Facilities

- a. Cantwell Roof Project – I signed the construction contract for this project with Interior Alaska Roofing and the project is a go. Our construction company has begun purchasing materials and will begin site mobilization on May 27th.
- b. Anderson Roof - We held an onsite visit from our engineers recently and during a follow up visit our engineering firm was able to take samples of the roof for construction confirmation and materials testing. In doing so they learned that large sections of the roof have no vapor barrier at all and minimal insulation.
- c. Tri-Valley Roof – Maintenance staff were able to make some repairs to the roof over the 4th grade classroom to reduce the water leakage. We were also able to pinpoint the drain location in the roof and move that tile. The roof is pitched properly to direct water in that section to the drain. The opening to the drain pipe itself sits 1/2 inch above the surface of the roof, which causes water to pool. We are considering how we might be able to improve this drainage.

- d. Asbestos Abatement - We received a second quote for our asbestos abatement project and this is within our projections at ~\$36,000. We are moving forward with this project. The removal is being scheduled for early summer and we are trying to coordinate their days on site to minimize impacts on community events. The new flooring will be installed internally.
- e. Anderson Boiler - We ordered the boiler for Anderson to replace the unit that cracked. Assembly and installation will take place this summer.

5. Accreditation

- a. The team from AdvancEd completed their site visit this past week. They will provide the district with a written report in another week or two. In their closing summary with me they shared the key themes they will develop in the report. The team was very impressed with our district and feels that we have a very strong foundation in our commitment to strategic planning and with Denali Learning, and encourage us to keep up our and build our momentum on our implementation work.

6. Professional Development

- a. This weekend, May 11-12th, Karen Martin is coordinating a meeting of a steering committee for an Alaskan rural teachers network, AKRise, based in part on the model of NWRise. DBSD staff members Nathan Pitt and Hannah Ragland are also participating at this event in Anchorage.

7. Personnel

a. Certified Staff

- i. We received back all of our non-tenured teacher contracts!!!!
- ii. We are talking with the TV Volunteer Fire Department about embedding ETT training in our physiology class and offering a separate EMT course as a follow up. The ETT course will involve an MOA with the TVVFD for us to support them providing an instructor for these components and the EMT course would involve the district supporting the application of someone for an M Certificate to lead this course. The M Certificate is the limited certificate that allows people to teach CTE courses such as our building trades and MacTech courses.
- iii. Following our review of projected special education needs at Tri-Valley we are advertising for an additional special education teacher with pre-school certification to help meet these needs. This position is in line with the Board approved FY20 budget for the district.

b. Classified Staff

- i. No updates

c. Exempt Staff

- i. No Updates

d. Temporary Staff

- i. We hired Sandy Trumbower as a temporary teaching assistant at Anderson. This will help us address educational needs that arose with the entry of new students to the school. This is temporary position that will last no more than 30 days.
- ii. We published our advertisements for our temporary summer workers including student maintenance helpers, student tech helpers, and security for Tri-Valley.

Sincerely,

Dan Polta
Denali Borough School District

DENALI BOROUGH

P.O. Box 480 • Healy, Alaska 99743
Phone: (907) 683-1330 • Fax: (907) 683-1340
Email: dbgovt@mtaonline.net
Website: www.denaliborough.com



Clay Walker, Mayor

May 2019 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

This report speaks primarily to non-agenda items. Agenda items will be discussed in meeting.

Temporary Use Permit granted to Texas A&M Archeological Department

- Following the previous issuance of three one-year use permits, the group has requested and been issued a four year permit to continue archeological exploration on borough managed land near Little Panguingue Creek.

Anderson Community Fire Resilient Landscape Project approved by Division of Forestry

- Goals of the project are to protect and educate the community through the Anderson Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and Alaska Division of Forestry – Alaska Forest Action Plan.
- Over the course of two field seasons, the project will create 80 acres of shaded fuel breaks on state lands effectively surrounding the community of Anderson. Community meetings and Firewise workshops will also be convened.
- Fuel wood greater than 4 inches will be set aside and free for public use.
- This is the first CWPP in the borough and hopefully not the last. Getting to this stage takes a local champion. The borough will support efforts, but the project needs a local point person(s). Kudos to Anderson for taking this important step in a fire-prone environment.

National Association of Counties (NACo) and federal Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program

- The President of NACo appointed me to a seat on the Public Lands Steering Committee, which provides NACo direction on issues relating to federal lands, including the PILT program. Meeting are by monthly teleconference as well as in-person at the two annual NACo conferences and the Western Interstate Region (WIR) conference each May. I am not planning to attend the annual NACo conference this summer, nor the May WIR conference. In May of 2020, WIR will meet in Anchorage, which I will plan to attend and would encourage the Assembly to consider the in-state opportunity.
- Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff member Michelle Lane visited Denali National Park to see the issues related to Denali Park Road geo-hazards, primarily the slump on Polychrome Mountain. We met in Healy and discussed the PILT Bill, which Michelle helped draft, and the Denali Borough has supported. The bill recognizes boroughs with fewer than 5,000 residents and includes new population adjustment calculators. She expressed some optimism that the bill may find a home on the federal appropriations bill expected in the fall.

Denali Park Road

- Along with borough admin asst., Trena Haugen, I attended a portion of the National Park Service's Scenario Planning Session specific to the potential of loss of a section of the Denali Park Road. This intra-governmental session, which included Federal Highways, Alaska Department of Transportation, and the Denali Borough, focused on pre-event, event, and post-event planning and recommended actions. From a

borough perspective, I shared the importance of the Denali Park Road, which is the longest road in the Denali Borough, to the regional and state economy. I shared my appreciation and support of work towards keeping the Park Road a safe and spectacular viewing corridor.

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Applications

- In partnership with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Denali National Park, the Denali Borough submitted an application for grant funding to plan and construct a new west-side Bison Gulch Trailhead Parking Facility. The estimated total project cost is \$424,082. The FLAP funding request is for \$385,788. The National Park Service is providing the required 9% match, which amounts to \$28,294 and the borough has agreed to commit \$10,000, should the project be accepted and funded.
- The State of Alaska Department of Transportation, in partnership with Denali National Park and the Denali Borough, submitted another FLAP application for a “Planning and Environmental Linkage Study” spanning from Cantwell to Ferry. Through community outreach, this study would identify needs and potential projects within the corridor and set the planning and environmental table for projects to qualify for available funding. The project cost is \$1.5 million with no borough contribution.
- This is the first time the Denali Borough has ever submitted an application through this program. With a scarcity of state funding sources, it appears that other municipalities are also looking toward these federal funds. We hear there are a total of 27 applications requesting over \$30 million, with just \$7 million available.

DOT station meetings

- I scheduled a meeting with our station foremen, Rick Lee of Cantwell and David Talerico of Healy. We discussed the borough’s Needs List, project updates, project ideas and more.
- David Talerico has since transferred and the borough extends its’ appreciation to David for his many years of service to the safe travels of our community and the greater public. Godspeed!

Letter in support of oral health care provisions at ICHC

- By request, I provided a letter of support for Interior Community Health Center’s application for grant funding to provide semi-regular oral hygiene services in their Healy Clinic. We wish them well in pursuit of this additional service provision.

Alaska Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) Award

- The Zero Landfill initiative, a partnership of Subaru, Denali National Park, the Denali Borough and others won ALPAR’s most prestigious award, the Joe Gully President’s Award for Outstanding Leadership. Chris Noel represented the borough in accepting this award.

Solid Waste Update

- Tipping fees increased, as approved, on May 1 from \$115/ton to \$125/ton at the Denali Borough Landfill.
- The free Scrap Metal Program collection at the Denali Borough Landfill continues. Scrap metal and dry vehicles are accepted for free. Let’s keep the borough clean and beautiful!
- Many thanks to the community groups performing spring clean ups throughout the borough. By the way, ALPAR is the group who supplied over 200,000 yellow bags for the community clean ups statewide.

Happy May, happy start to the summer season and camping season. As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions.

- Clay