

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**  
2 **Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting**  
3 **Virtual Meeting**  
4 **April 14, 2021**  
5

6 **REGULAR MEETING**

7 **CALL TO ORDER**

8 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:04 PM.  
9

10 **ROLL CALL**

11 Assembly members present: Lisa MINER, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Dominic CANALE, Joe  
12 CHATFIELD, Jake HILL, Krista ZAPPONE, Jeff STENGER (arrived at 6:28 PM) and Eileen  
13 HOLMES. Assembly member absent: Tallon SHREEVE. Mayor Clay Walker was also  
14 present.  
15

16 Jake HILL MOVED to excuse Assembly member SHREEVE. The motion was seconded.  
17 The VOTE to excuse passed by unanimous consent.  
18

19 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

20 Vanessa Jusczak with Discover Denali and the Denali Chamber of Commerce, verbally  
21 highlighted information provided in the written report to the assembly.  
22 (See ATTACHMENT A)  
23

24 McKinley Village area resident and Planning Commissioner Steve Jones reported that a few  
25 themes of concern and consideration emerged from the recent road naming meetings for  
26 roads in the Denali Borough which included:

- 27 • Ability to keep existing duplicate road names.
- 28 • Ability to keep historically named roads and suffixes.
- 29 • Provide special consideration for traditionally named roads on AHTNA land.

30 Mr. Jones encouraged the assembly to consider some changes to Denali Borough Code  
31 9.12 to provide this flexibility.  
32

33 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

34 Jake HILL MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded.  
35

36 The MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA PASSED by unanimous consent.  
37

1 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

2 **MARCH 10, 2021 ASSEMBLY PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING AND**  
3 **MARCH 31, 2021 SPECIAL GRANT REVIEW MEETING**

4 Jake HILL MOVED to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2021 Public Hearing and  
5 Regular Meeting and the March 31, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was  
6 seconded.

7  
8 The MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED by unanimous consent.

9  
10 **REPORTS**

11 **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

12 Finance Committee member Krista ZAPPONE reported that the committee met to review  
13 the upcoming budget process and the permanent investment fund asset allocation strategy.

14  
15 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

16 Superintendent Dan Polta verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written  
17 report (see Attachment C).

18  
19 **MAYOR REPORT**

20 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report  
21 (see Attachment D).

22  
23 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

24 Assembly members offered the following comments:

- 25 • Thanked those that provided reports.
- 26 • Thanked those that assisted with the COVID-19 vaccine clinic.
- 27 • Thanked Marsha Lambert and borough staff for work on the road naming  
28 meetings.
- 29 • Expressed appreciation for school and borough staff.

30  
31 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

32 There were no communication and appearance requests.

33  
34 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

35 **ORDINANCE 21-04: FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

36 Jake HILL MOVED to introduce Ordinance 21-04: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Amendment.  
37 The motion was seconded.

1  
2 Mayor Walker highlighted some of the budget changes provided in Ordinance 21-04:  
3 Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2021.

4  
5 The roll call VOTE TO INTRODUCE PASSED unanimously.

6  
7 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to postpone Ordinance 21-04: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget  
8 Amendment. The motion was seconded.

9  
10 The MOTION TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

11  
12 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

13 There were no pending ordinances to consider.

14  
15 **RESOLUTIONS**

16 **RESOLUTION 21-06: PERMANENT INVESTMENT ASSEST ALLOCATION**

17 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Resolution 21-06. The motion was seconded.

18  
19 Mayor Walker described the permanent investment asset allocation as outlined in  
20 Resolution 21-06.

21  
22 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE PASSED unanimously.

23  
24 **OTHER BUSINESS**

25 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

26 There were no public comments.

27  
28 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

29 Assembly members commented on the following:

- 30
- 31 • Expressed appreciation for a productive and cordial meeting.
  - 32 • Expressed appreciation for the work that has gone into the recent road naming meetings and into the budget preparation.
  - 33 • Thanked staff and volunteers providing COIVD testing and organizing local  
34 vaccine clinics.
  - 35 • Announced the Lions Club is hosting a COVID Fever Reliever BBQ on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - 36 • Expressed appreciation for the Denali Chamber of Commerce and their work with  
37 the business community.

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**TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Assembly meeting(s) will be:

- Tuesday, April 21 2021: Finance Committee Meeting at 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 28, 2021: Special Assembly Budget Meeting at 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, May 12, 2021: Public Hearing and Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM

**ADJOURN**

Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:34 PM.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk                      Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Denali Chamber of Commerce  
Directors Report  
907-683-4636

March 2021  
[director@denalichamber.com](mailto:director@denalichamber.com)

With the creation of the Discover Denali Visitor Center, the duties and hours of the Chamber have been reduced. Currently, a large part of my time is spent working in partnership with committees and organizations for community improvement, development and promotion.

These include:

- Zero-Landfill Initiative
- Inclusive Conservation Research Project – University of Illinois
- Denali Trails SCORP
- Parks PEL PAC
- Denali Working Group (Alaska Travel Industry Association)
- Statewide Chamber Executives Panel

Over the next 3 weeks we will be hosting 3 marketing campaign Zoom presentations, geared specifically to travel planners, agents and independent travelers. This is in partnership with Ovibus Consulting, who has industry contacts to assist in this endeavor.

We are beginning plans for our 2021 event calendar. We plan to host the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, Blueberry Festival (August 13<sup>th</sup>) and Trunk or Treat. Blueberry Festival will have a different format than in years past, and details are being worked out.

We will be hiring an intern this year, to focus on business needs and economic development. This is partially thanks to the anticipated funds from the Denali Borough Grant program. Thank you.

Please reach out with any concerns or questions.  
Thank you.

Vanessa Juszczak  
Executive Director



## Discover Denali, Visitor Center

Monthly Directors Report

**Date: April 12, 2021**

Inquires for visitation information continue to rise. For example, between Friday after business hours and Monday morning, we received 16 requests for visitor guides. The information I'm hearing locally echoes what I hear across the state – small accommodation providers (B&B's, cabins, VRBO's) are seeing a dramatic increase in bookings, and are in fact full for select days and weekends. Larger properties are seeing an increase as well, although not with the same booking percentages. However, this is anticipated to change, as those in the current planning stages might be forced to seek more traditional types of accommodations. I think my previous predictions of increased traffic the farther the summer progresses, will hold true.

The State of Alaska has dedicated tourism marketing dollars, which will be put in to a large scale nationwide campaign. This combined with increased flight traffic, low fares and increased consumer confidence with travel, means that we may see significantly increased levels from last year.

Additionally, we are seeing a recent rise in inquires regarding planning for trips in 2022 and beyond.

PPP funding and the Borough grant monies anticipated, along with fundraising, will allow us to proceed with hiring a summer intern. Details on the program can be found here:

<https://denalichamber.com/intern-program/>

(This is not yet released to the public as we are still piecing together the fundraising piece – so you get a sneak peek! Fundraising will be done through the Chamber, as that is the entity with the gaming permit.)

Our program “Denali, Open & Safe” continues to be popular with businesses and tourist, and is an important aspect of making travelers feel secure. <https://www.discoverdenali.org/open-and-safe/>

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Vanessa Juszczak  
Executive Director  
director@discoverdenali.org



# Denali Borough School District

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

## **Superintendent's Report Denali Borough Assembly Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

### 1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Congratulations to Tri-Valley Senior McKayla Randall. McKayla was one of 15 recipients of a June Nelson Memorial Scholarship from AASB. Her application essay and those of the other winner can be found at <https://aasb.org/2021-june-nelson-scholarship-winners/>
- b. Thank you to the workers from public health and all the volunteers who came together to provide our community with another vaccination clinic at the Tri-Valley Community Center on April 9<sup>th</sup>. This clinic provided the second and final dose for people who started their vaccine series at the clinic in March. First dose vaccines were also offered to people who wanted to start their series with the Moderna vaccine. These people will need to arrange to receive their second dose in Fairbanks in four weeks.
- c. Congratulations to the Tri-Valley Viking Warrior Girls' Basketball Team. They emerged as regional champions following this weekend's tournament and represented the Golden Heart Conference at the State 1A Basketball Tournament April 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>.

### 2. 2021 Smart Start -

- a. CDC School Guideline Update - The administrative team reviewed and discussed recent changes to CDC guidelines for schools. We will be updating our DBSD protocols to reflect some of those changes. This includes modifying the distance needed between students in classroom settings from 6 feet to 3 feet. This comes with several caveats and only applies in low risk communities with other measures firmly in place, such as universal mask wearing in schools. The guidance for schools remains unchanged on universal mask usage, regardless of people's vaccination status. No change will be implemented in continuing the requirement to be wear an appropriate face covering while in the school buildings.
- b. Vaccine Access - On the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, Pfizer asked the FDA to expand the emergency use authorization for its vaccine to be extended to include people ages 12-15 years old. This request is based on results from phase III trials in people in that age group. The FDA may act on this in several weeks.

### Mission Statement

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

### 3. Finances

- a. FY22 Budget Errata - At this point we have identified three items for eventual correction in the FY22 budget and/or Financial Plan. The first item is an adjustment to the predicted award to DBSD under ESSER III. In the financial plan we assumed an award of ~\$310,000. A more accurate review indicates that at most we will receive \$260,000 and likely less. I've investigated some other small funding streams within the ARPA. None of these will provide consequential, additional aid to DBSD. This will increase our planned draw on unrestricted carryover in year one of our fiscal plan. The second item was staffing adjustment omitted from our plans. This will add expenses of ~\$25,000. Third, we received our FY22 premium prices for our employee health insurance. They increase by ~4%, after our 2% discount. The budget included an assumption of a 6% increase. This will lower expenses by ~\$30,000. Insurance costs also fluctuate each year with any staffing changes and the change in individual, couple, or family coverage and those related differences in premium rates.

### 4. Facilities

- a. Cantwell Earthquake - On April 8<sup>th</sup>, a little after 9 am, an earthquake occurred that was centered 17 miles south, southeast of Cantwell with a 5.5 on the Richter scale. The earthquake was very deep but still shook our schools. No injuries or damage were reported. Maintenance completed an inspection of the facilities to confirm that no damage was sustained.
- b. Anderson Roof Project - We have been able to keep the sections at risk from having a buildup in snow even in the recent snowstorm. No leaks emerged after that large snowfall in Anderson. (thank you, Eric Story, Anderson Maintenance). Curtis continues working with our engineers and contractors to plan corrections to the work completed and prevent future leaks. At the moment these items include the following: spray foam applied in specific locations (labor will be provided at no charge, the supply cost will be covered by a credit from other work which has been adjusted by the engineer), the seams will be resealed this summer at no charge, the vent from the home ec. room will be redirected (cost not yet determined but this will be a change order to the district).
- c. Transportation RFP - In the end we received only one bid, from First Student. We accepted their bid and are developing a formal contract.
- d. Hydrolyzing Machine - The hypochlorous acid generator arrived. We are now completing the installation and setup. We anticipate it will be in full production mode within two weeks. Once fully functional it can produce 144 gallons a day of hypochlorous acid, which can be used as a cleaning agent and as a disinfectant, including in electrostatic sprayers. It is produced at 10x concentration which is diluted for general use. We received inquiries from two organizations interested in obtaining some of the cleaning product we produce for use in their own operations.

- e. Solar Power - Curtis is working with Solarize Denali and will review various proposal that organization is receiving. This will help us learn of updates and opportunities with the responding companies. We continue to seek discounts or grant programs available for public schools in order to lower set up cost and shorten the payback period.
  - f. Tri-Valley Generator - I communicated to Senator Bishop's office on the oddities of the cost models of this project, asking for help to pursue a lower cost option without shifting 100% to local sources as opposed to an 80/20 share through the DEED Major Maintenance Grant Program. To fix the final issue of the generator not doing an auto shut down once mains power resumes, it is advised to replace that control panel. We will move forward with this repair at a cost of ~\$3,000.
  - g. Door Locks - All the hardware has arrived in Fairbanks and we are beginning the programming work for the hardware.
  - h. School Water Samples - The company we use to conduct our regular water tests of the schools is closing their Fairbanks office. We are working with them on a reliable path and timeline to send samples to their lab in Anchorage within the 24-hour collection to test time window. We are also looking for alternatives in Fairbanks should this pathway not materialize.
5. School Calendar - The School Board introduced two versions of a FY22 school calendar for consideration. They both have the same start and end dates, Wednesday August 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>, while they have different dates for spring break. A quick comparison document between the two DBSD options and included information on spring break from other large districts in the state will be included in the next update to Board Docs. The Board is scheduled to vote on the FY22 school calendar tomorrow, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Public comments on this agenda items can be sent to [schoolboard@dbbsd.org](mailto:schoolboard@dbbsd.org)
6. Legal Notices
- a. Cantwell Private Land Access - Our neighbor in Cantwell signed and returned the land access agreement.
7. Personnel
- a. Certified Staff
    - i. We issued the physical contracts to non-tenured staff as approved by the Board in March. All but one has already been signed and returned.
    - ii. Certified Staff - I hired Beth Norman, pending board approval, to continue as our elementary teacher in Anderson for the coming school year.
  - b. Classified Staff
    - i. No updates
  - c. Exempt Staff
    - i. We issued the physical contracts to non-certified exempt staff as approved by the Board in March. All but one has already been signed and returned.

# DENALI BOROUGH

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*Clay Walker, Mayor*

## **April 2021 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly**

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

### **COVID -19 Mass Vaccination Point of Dispensing (POD) Clinics**

- Many thanks to the numerous volunteers, including vaccinators, who made the March 12 and April 9 Moderna Vaccination Clinics such a success! About 340 of our friends and neighbors will soon be fully vaccinated from COVID-19 due to your collective efforts. Public Health nurses, NPS staff, borough staff and many volunteers all played key roles. Thank you Assembly Members Zappone and Canale for volunteering!

### **COVID Testing and Vaccination Planning/Funding Efforts.**

- The borough is finalizing a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services (DHSS) in order to utilize pass through Center for Disease Control (CDC) funding which will support the provision of COVID-19 testing and vaccination services in the borough for the coming months. The total dollar figure of this reimbursable funding agreement is \$220,000 and the duration is through next March.
- The borough plans to utilize the services of a medical provider to deliver these services. The borough is not an enrolled medical provider and cannot deliver vaccinations.
- Visitor industry businesses are keenly interested in the availability of both COVID testing and vaccination services and the borough has been working closely with businesses to ensure our plans meet their needs.

### **Vaccination Rates and Guidance**

- As of 4/12, the Denali Borough had the highest vaccination rate (42%,) of all the Railbelt boroughs - Kenai, Anchorage, Mat-Su and Fairbanks. Mat- Su had the lowest rate at 21%. Statewide, we need to grow that rate to not only slow the spread but to squelch the development of further variants. Local vaccination efforts will look different, with smaller clinics planned, but clinics will continue to be offered locally. CDC and DHSS advise that all eligible people should strongly consider receiving the vaccine not only for the protection for themselves but also the broader population-level effort to put COVID-19 behind us.

### **FEMA Request for Public Assistance**

- The borough team has had several meetings with FEMA regarding our application for Public Assistance. We are identifying eligible work performed by the borough in response to the public health emergency including standing up a community testing program, operating an Emergency Operations Center, and supporting those impacted.

## **Parks Highway PEL**

- DOT is managing this collaborative project which will identify potential future transportation and access improvements along the Parks Highway corridor from Cantwell to Ferry. After Needs and Opportunities were assessed in 2020, the Study Team has developed potential solutions and a screening process to evaluate these solutions.
- The Study Team has opened an online Open House “seeking public input on which solutions should be recommended and how solutions should be prioritized.” The Open House can be found at: <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/parkshealypel/>. The comment period runs from April 12 to May 12.

## **Denali Working Group in support of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)**

- Every five years the State of Alaska must update its SCORP in order to remain eligible for a federal program which helps to fund outdoor recreation projects. With the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act last year, this funding is set to increase.
- Last time the SCORP was updated (2016), the Denali Borough played no role. This time, to the credit of the State and NPS, its federal partner in this effort, a more inclusive approach is employed which solicits local input with a goal of a more actionable plan.
- To that end, the borough has been invited to participate as a separate region, which will result in our own section of the plan. Outdoor recreation is hugely important to both borough residents and to our visitor industry. Growing these opportunities was an identified goal in our 2019 Land Use and Economic Development Plan. The borough has convened a Denali Region SCORP Working Group, comprised of agencies and departments (NPS, DOT, DNR), local voices and businesses, to help direct this and inform this effort.

## **Street Naming Public Process**

- The one-month public comment period, when 160 people submitted online comments and road name proposals, combined with three nights of Zoom public meetings on the topic resulted in strong and helpful public engagement.
- Strong attendance of Assembly members and Planning Commissioners, a number of whom attended all three evenings was appreciated. The conversations were robust and themes emerged relating to a durable system with standardization while also allowing for a level of flexibility, especially in this initial naming process.
- At their April meeting, the Planning Commission will review the body of input and deliberate next steps relating to the issues brought forward.

## **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

- This \$1.9 trillion bill was signed into law on March 11. Treasury must deliver the first tranche of funds to municipal accounts within 60 days of passage. Guidance and final allocations are still being developed. As the allocation is tied only to population and not to economic damage, we don't expect this relief package to meet the need for the Denali Borough. In fact, the estimated sum this year is just over \$200,000, while we lost over \$4,000,000 in revenue last year.

## **Other Meetings of Note:**

- Denali Chamber of Commerce has been hosting bi-weekly Business Updates, which I have attended. The primary topic has been the need for COVID testing and vaccination services for seasonal businesses. We are responding to the need and building a program of expanded testing and vaccination for all workers and residents with the use of federal funds.
- Attend Alaska Municipal League Legislative Updates and Public Health ECHO calls.
- Attended and provided report at the virtual March Denali Borough School Board meeting.

- Attended NACo membership call regarding ARPA and Infrastructure.
- Attended ATIA (Alaska Travel Industry Assn.) Denali Working Group call

Happy April, Happy meltdown! As always, feel free to contact me or staff with questions.

-Clay