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**Denali Borough Assembly
Minutes of the Special Meeting
Virtual Meeting
April 8, 2020**

SPECIAL MEETING

Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the special meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Assembly members present: Jake HILL, Jill BOELSMA, Jeff STENGER, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Lisa MINER, Tallon SHREEVE, Joe CHATFIELD, Eileen HOLMES and Krista ZAPPONE. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The assembly received comments from 7 members of the public. The written comments are attached. In addition to the attached written minutes, a member of the public asked about local health care providers and their capabilities.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jake HILL MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded. The roll call VOTE was unanimous.

REPORTS

SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT

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

MAYOR REPORT

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

EMERGENCY PLANNER REPORT

Emergency Planner Chris Noel verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report (attachment C).

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 20-07: An emergency ordinance declaring an emergency and suspending rules to permit telephonic participation

Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Emergency Ordinance 20-07. The motion was seconded. The roll call VOTE to approve Emergency Ordinance 20-07 was unanimous.

1 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

2 Assembly members commented on the following:

- 3 • thanked those that participated in the meeting,
4 • expressed concern for the current health pandemic,
5 • expressed concern of how the health pandemic will affect our community,
6 • expressed concern about seasonal businesses and employees returning to our
7 community; and
8 • expressed concern for our local and State economy.
9

10 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

11 Upcoming assembly meetings will be virtual meeting on the following dates and times:

- 12 • Public Hearing and Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 6:00 PM.
13 • Public Hearing and Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM.
14 • Grant Review Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 6:00 PM.
15

16 **ADJOURN:**

17 Jake HILL MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned by
18 unanimous voice vote at 7:36 PM.
19

20
21 APPROVED: _____
22 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer
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26 ATTEST: _____
27 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk
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29
30
31 Date Approved: _____



**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, April 8th, 2020**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

Please accept this written report for the month of April.

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Thank you to all of our staff for their hard work this week and in the weeks ahead to provide distance learning for our students. They are Nicole Allard, Amanda Austin, Chris Basile, Lori Brewer, Hollie Bye, Kimberly Cassel, Tailor Eli-McClaskey, Christy Eli-Piercy, Mark Fanene, Alesha Ferguson, Daryl Frisbie, Kelly Gebauer, Marie Gore, Jennifer Graham, Jennifer Gross, Curtis Hamel, Chantal Hammond, Angel Hayes, Diana Herrera-Veich, Anne Hjorth, Dwight Hjorth, Uwe Hoffmann, Brittany Jamison, Lauren Jeffrey, Jacy Johnson, Bethany Jones, Donna Jones, Craig Kasemodel, Karri Keith, Joann Kovach, Michelle Kovach, Stacie Kovach, Mary Kuzel, Kate Lawton, Lauren Legrismith, Garin Martin, Karen Martin, Mark Martin, Jeni Mason, Justin Mason, Connie Mattila, Mary McCall, Kerry McIver, Salena Mirasole, Don Mirosh, Kassandra Mirosh, Sierra Montez, Candace Mudge, Melissa Nelson, Paula Newton, Nathan Pitt, Hannah Ragland, Terry Reed, Carmen Russo, Caitlin Santos, JoHanna Sestito, Darla Soto Katie Stainbrook, Jody Stamps, Stephanie Stickle, Eric Story, Letitia Stratton, Gretchen Striker, Judy Sweeney, Kesslyn Tench, Windy Thorn, Martha Tomeo, Tricia Turley, Reena Voivedich, Sarah Walker, Samantha Ward, Debbie Weather, Kaitlyn Weitzel, Jared Williams, Jeremy Wolf.

2. Coronavirus -

- a. Schools in DBSD and the State of Alaska are closed to students and the public through May 1st. This is director by Governor Dunleavy in one of series of emergency orders put in place over the last two weeks to help slow the spread of the COVID-19.
- b. All DBSD schools are operating via distance during this period of time. We know this will cause a significant shift and strain on students, parents and staff as we adjust to this. I appreciate, and offer my understanding, to the

Mission Statement

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

challenges this disruption is causing. It is not something that any of us wanted to do, regardless of this unprecedented situation Alaska is facing.

- c. Many people are asking questions regarding the end of the school year and year end events such as graduation. Commissioner Johnson is working with the State administration to identify a date on which they would reach a decision regarding the end of the school year and the ability of students to return to the physical schools. We are committed to celebrating the success and our graduates but cannot commit to the form of that celebration at this point.

3. Finances

- a. FY20 Budget - We continue to track our end of year projection and continue to expect an operational surplus of ~\$80,000. This does not include expenses related to the coronavirus. Some expenses will increase while others will decrease.
- b. Students with Intensive Needs - We succeeded with our appeal to DEED and will receive our budgeted funding for all out students with intensive needs.
- c. FY21 Budget - At the February board meeting the Board amended and then approved the FY21 budget to include the operation of Cantwell School. Following the actions at the February board meeting, we completed the technical update of the budget for transmittal to the Denali Borough. After all adjustments the budget contains an operational deficit of ~\$425,000 and will be covered from the district's unrestricted carryover. We will continue to look for additional expenses reductions that can be implemented next year.
- d. FY21 State Funding - The Alaska Legislature passed the state budget. It includes funding public schools to the full BSA and also includes an additional \$30 million statewide for K-12 Education. This is the same level of funding school received in FY20. The budget now goes to Governor Dunleavy who may sign it, veto it completely, or remove or reduce items through a line item veto. The DBSD FY21 Budget was built without the additional \$30 million.
- e. CARES Act - The federal government's Coronavirus relief bill contains some money that will come directly to school districts. I will get more information on this later in the week. My understanding at the moment is that the funds will be modest, they will be distributed using existing federal grant programs which all districts receive, allow great flexibility, and won't need to be spent until September 2021. I do not yet know a precise figure for the amount DBSD may receive.
- f. 10% Carryover Restriction - The State is investigating whether the emergency declaration provides the Governor with the authority to wave the 10% carry restriction on school districts. If so, this could allow districts, who are able, to increase their unrestricted carry over this year to do so.

This could help carry over funds into a budget year when many municipalities will be facing revenue shortfalls.

- g. Repurchase Agreement - First National Bank Alaska confirmed that the principal in our repurchase agreement is secure and will not decrease even as the interest in overnight interbank loans drops to near zero or if it were ever to go negative.

4. Facilities

- a. Tri-Valley System Monitoring - We received an updated quote from Siemens for updated monitoring hardware and software which would also include automated call out alerts at times of system shut down. The cost of the project is ~\$100,000. It can be spread over four years and includes replacing several control panels which are nearing the end of their useful life.
- b. Anderson Roof - Our engineering firm, Northform, is moving ahead with final design work on the Anderson Roof. We are on schedule for construction this summer (Commercial Construction is an essential service under the emergency declaration). We adjusted this project to consider the possibility of two construction phases, one this summer and one next. This could allow companies to design construction more efficiently
- c. Generator Update Project - We received approval from DEED for the changes to the project to the format where we can do a single bid to both design and construct the projects. We are also building in three construction phases, one for each school. These changes would allow us to work on this project in partnership with the Borough, updating one generator at a time, while maintaining the potential reimbursement from DEED under the CIP grant program.
- d. Automated Door Locks - The actions to restrict building access at our schools under the State health mandates adds yet another benefit to this project. Having such locks would help ensure that only approved staff have access to the buildings and would allow us to easily monitor when and which rooms individuals entered.

5. FY21 School Calendar

- a. At the March meeting the Board read the options for the FY21 School Calendar for a second time. They also received survey data which was collected before COVID-19. The Board postponed the calendar for a third and final reading to the April board meeting.

6. Personnel

- a. We are preparing personnel documents to guide the employer/employee relationship under the building closures. These include off-site work agreements, leave guidelines, etc.
- b. Certified Staff

- i. DBSD and DEA ratified a new 3 year contract that will be in effect for FY21-23.
 - ii. The Board approved hiring Eli Holmes for the secondary English/Language Arts and Social Study position in Anderson.
 - iii. We continue to interview candidates for the position of literacy coach.
- c. Classified Staff
 - i. No updates
- d. Exempt Staff
 - i. No updates

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.org



Clay Walker, Mayor

April 2020 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly Special Meeting – COVID-19 Edition

COVID-19 Health Crisis

- The world has changed in many ways since our March 12 meeting. The COVID-19 global pandemic has forced us all to sacrifice and make major changes in order to slow the spread, flatten the curve, and give our health care system an opportunity to respond and care for patients at a measured pace.
- Our messages, delivered in press releases, Facebook posts, and Mondays with the Mayor video chats, have focused on following Governor Dunleavy's Health Mandates and Alerts and keeping our communities as safe as can be. There are currently mandates in place requiring 14-day quarantine for any travelers from out of state, social distancing requirements, and restrictions on travel between communities. Also, wearing of masks is advised in public.
- As of this writing, Alaska has the fewest cases in the country and the Denali Borough has zero confirmed cases.
- The Health Mandates specifically overrule any local provisions. There is very little legal basis to put in place other protective measures. If the current mandates do not meet our communities needs, the best route is to petition the Governor to make provisions specific to our needs.
- The current mandates are the best measures to ensure our public health and everyone should familiarize themselves with the mandates and follow them. Here is a link to a FAQ sheet: http://dhss.alaska.gov/News/Documents/press/2020/FAQs_03272020-SOA-COVID-19-Health-Mandate-011-012.pdf

COVID-19 Economic Crisis

- The Denali Borough, with a vibrant visitor industry which brought over 600,000 visitors last year, is acutely vulnerable to a sudden downturn in visitation. In fact, one economic data firm, who evaluated the economic vulnerability of every county in the country, ranked the Denali Borough the second most vulnerable of all counties, based on potential job losses. See the map here: http://www.chmuraecon.com/interactive/covid-19-economic-vulnerability-index/?utm_source=Chmura+COVID-19+Updates&utm_campaign=7e83d7f942-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_12_02_09_57_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f333f036d3-7e83d7f942-128396137
- Of course, job losses are among many economic impacts. Impacts to local businesses, both large and small losses are another. The \$2.2 trillion federal CARES Act funds Unemployment Insurance, Small Business Assn. programs, and direct payments to individuals. Information on these programs can be found on our website and the Denali Chamber of Commerce is doing well in keeping the business community up to date.

- Revenue loss from the overnight accommodations tax, which makes up 80% of all borough revenue, will be significant. Borough management has taken steps to further constrain this current year expenditures, through yet another budget amendment. The 2021 budget, which was almost complete, is also being revisited and amended downward.
- We are also working with our state and federal organizations and elected officials to ensure that community impacts are included in relief package legislation. Governor Dunleavy has identified an “Emergency Community Lost Revenue Replacement Program” as a goal of his Economic Stabilization Plan. We support his goal and support federal aid being eligible for use in such a program.
- I have joined Vanessa Juszczak at the Chamber in standing up a new Denali Recovery Alliance. We had our first meeting and linked into a recent Fairbanks meeting of their Economic Development Commission. Thanks to Assembly members Tallon Shreeve and Jake Hill for participating in the Alliance.

Organizational Preparedness

- The numerous steps taken the past year to streamline operations digitally have really paid off. Staff collaborates remotely through Office 365 (recent change), the tax remittances due this month are mainly being paid online (recent change). At the same time, there are essential times when staff must be in the office and social distancing is practiced.

Emergency Response Preparedness

- When we went to remote work, we transitioned from an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), to an Incident Management Team (IMT), with essential roles filled by different staff members. The borough has conducted eight different meetings in that capacity. Chris Noel is serving as Incident Commander and has been meeting regularly with other Emergency Managers statewide.

Unprecedented Collaboration

- “This crisis has brought us all closer together”, said Alaska Municipal League (AML) Director Nils Andreassen at the beginning of our third different group call of the day.
- I quickly tallied teleconferences and zoom meetings the past three weeks and counted 27. Both our federal organization (National Assn. of Counties) and state organization (AML) have worked very hard to get the right people together to get the best information out and collaboration happening. I participate in the board of directors calls, the legislative committee calls, and the municipal manager calls.
- We have worked directly with the Clear Air Force Station Commander Lt. Col. Lee, who has placed his base under emergency orders, which limits the number and purpose of entries onto base. We have worked directly with Acting Superintendent Swanke at Denali National Park and are in touch with their IMT. We have worked directly with Rep. Talerico, Sen. Bishop, Gov. Dunleavy and his staff, Sens. Murkowski and Sullivan and attended a call with Vice President Pence. We are working with the State EOC and the Public Health staff.
- Two weeks ago, the borough participated in a table-top exercise with local emergency responders planning for response to COVID-19 calls. We are working toward another such exercise based upon a model provided by the Division of Public Health. Unfortunately, we will likely have our first case here at some point and we will be prepared.

Happy April, happy Easter. As always, feel free to call me or staff if you have any questions.

-Clay



Hello All -

What a few weeks.

As you can imagine, many of the businesses I represent have been hit quite hard by the recent events. Many of them are facing negative cash flow, as money that they have already received for lodging or tour bookings are being refunded.

On top of that are the uncertainties for what a possible tourism season in Denali Borough will even look like. What will the largest OA providers do? What decisions will NPS make? What travel restriction will be in place? This is a hard time to be a local business. And this will not just affect tourism businesses - but all the businesses who affiliate with them as well, and individuals, like carpenters and laborers who rely on the growth of the industry.

I am doing my best to steer all businesses, regardless of Chamber membership to the resources they need to weather this. But approximately 1 in 4 small businesses do not survive a disruption of this magnitude. I am now hearing from businesses who will not be opening this summer, and many more are still in limbo as they feel out the different possibilities.

The formation of the Denali Recovery Alliance, with the purpose of examining how to best aide recovery from the effects of Covid-19 on our local economy and tourism industry, gives us a tool to move forward. Part of the discussions will inevitably be our current narrow tax base. There is no way to move forward in ensuring economic healthy for years to come, without having that discussion. We are conducting a SWOT analysis of our Borough's economic health, and will gladly share those results. Thanks to Mayor Walker for co-chairing this endeavor and working alongside our business community.

The Denali Visitor Center has been on hold, due to a few issues. One, the plan we had, is no longer appropriate. We are looking at when it is safe & logical to resume promotion of our area. And the ways in which we will do that will also change. We are currently in talks with a few other Alaska Chambers to examine cross community promotions for summer staycation.

Two, the uncertainty of current funding. We understand the need to be fiscally responsible, and yet we also understand that to mitigate the effects of this, investment will be required.

I do have a request for consideration. It has proven rather difficult to reach the business community as a whole to effectively communicate. My understanding is that the Denali Borough used to require businesses to register, and this would absolutely provide an avenue to communicate with the business community during unusual times such as these. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance as you work through this as well.

Vanessa Juszczak

MEMO

To: Denali Borough Assembly Members

From: Chris Noel, Emergency Planner

Date: April 7, 2020

Re: COVID-19 and Borough Administration Response

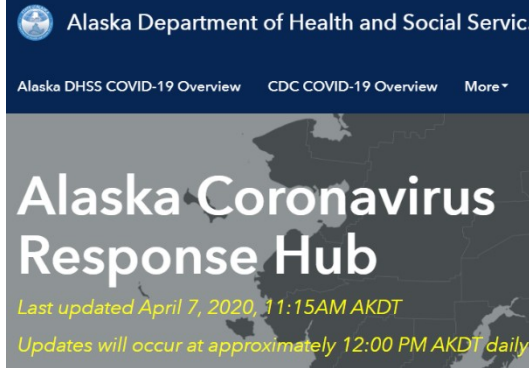
The global health pandemic caused by a novel coronavirus, named “coronavirus disease 2019” or COVID-19, has upended normal life across the country, and world. Public health resources are limited in the Denali Borough and testing challenges continue, a barrier to identification and swift isolation of the infection. Person to person transmission is occurring in communities across the state. The strategy has morphed from one of test, identify, isolate, and trace contacts - to the community wide mandates we are operating under today. With a combination of good individual hygiene, strict adherence to social distancing and stay-at-home mandates- Alaska is successfully “flattening the curve,” spreading out the rate of infections and allowing scarce public health resources to focus on the greatest need. We MUST continue to follow State guidance, trusting them to determine when it is appropriate to “let off of the gas” and relax restrictions.

The Denali Borough administrative staff organized into an Incident Management Team on March 10th, to coordinate and manage our response, in addition to continuing day to day business. All administrative staff are working remotely, and the solid waste facilities are open with protective measures in place. Regular coordination is taking place with Clear AFS, Denali National Park, the Chamber of Commerce, public health, and representatives from the three clinics open to the public within the Denali Borough (including the seasonal canyon clinic) among many others. We have facilitated a table top exercise with the four volunteer fire and EMS departments and mutual aid partners, who stand ready to serve their communities with response protocols and necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) in place. We are collecting information on the location and quantity of PPE within the Borough from response agencies as well as community partners and industry, to assess overall capacity. Protective equipment supplies are limited and following state guidance, we will need to fill any immediate needs that arise by leaning on each other. We are working closely with Neighbor to Neighbor to help meet food and sheltering needs that arise.

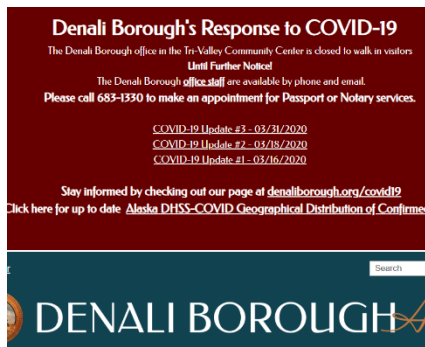
In the near future the Borough will coordinate a table top exercise with a wide selection of community organizations, local businesses, faith-based groups, and first responders to discuss our readiness, and identify gaps. We will continue our focus on accurate and timely public information, with an emphasis on closely following and heading public health directives.

I’d ask for each of you to continue to reach out to community members, listen to their concerns, answer their questions, and provide feedback to the Administration as needed. I’ll also ask for your continued financial support as needs may arise to meet the immediate demands of the public health emergency. I will submit a report at the next Assembly meeting summarizing our efforts. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to my fellow Denali Borough teammates. They are working hard to continue providing support and service to our community.

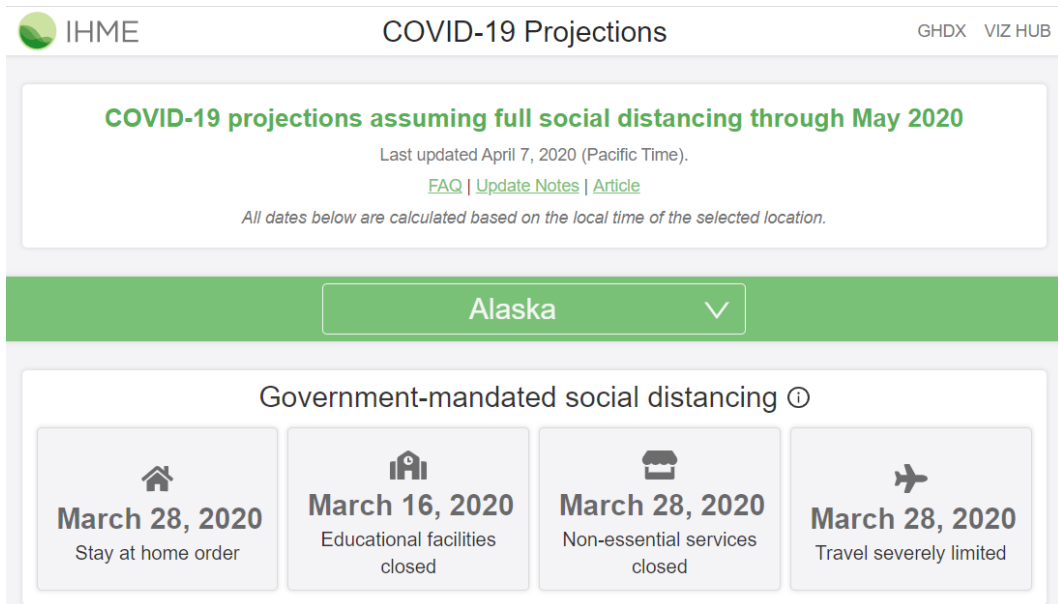
Below are a few of the resources I follow closely:



<https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>



<https://www.denaliborough.org/>



<https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america/alaska>

*Disclaimer- these projections are based on assumptions about following existing social distancing and stay-at-home mandates. It is imperative that we continue to follow State public health guidance as they closely monitor the outbreak.

Public comments provided by Vanessa Juszczak with the Denali Chamber...

Amber <amberrenshaw@yahoo.com>

Tue 4/14/2020 3:15 PM

To: Amber Renshaw <arensaw@denaliborough.com>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] This message was sent from outside the company. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Public comments provided by Vanessa Juszczak with the Denali Chamber of Commerce:

Mayor Walker and I had the opportunity to listen to the Fairbanks Economic Development council meeting yesterday. They have offered to let Clay and I tag along through this process and hopefully we can learn from them as we go.

It looks like an opening date of July 1st is the current possibly for many large scale operations, but certainly is by no means set in stone.

Ms. Juszczak provided a clarification regarding a video that was shared on Facebook by the Denali Chamber - it was not a Denali Chamber video but was a shared video from Alaska Travel Industry

That says, Alaska will wait for you, to visit, when it is safe and appropriate

Forgot one thing, for closing public comment:

While the Federal Government has passed the CARES Act which includes financial relief for businesses, it has become clear that that bill has also come with its own challenges.

The bill was not designed to support seasonal businesses in the same way as year-round businesses. In addition, the application process is confusing and the vast number of applications have created a bottleneck within the Small Business Administration, who is vastly understaffed to deal with the new demand on their structure and employees.

I do not feel confident that those funds will arrive in time to assist businesses in a timely number. Additionally, the restrictions for reimbursement of lost revenue means many business receive no actual relief beyond very short term payroll and mortgage assistance. Any support via resolution to the State and/or Federal government for assistance to seasonal businesses, especially regarding lost revenue, would be greatly appreciated as we move forward.

Sent from my iPhone

Question for Special Meeting Tonight

Liz Tierney <lztierney@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/8/2020 10:09 AM

To: Amber Renshaw <arensaw@denaliborough.com>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] This message was sent from outside the company. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Wondering what/if there are best practices laid out for on boarding staff for the summer season?

Are there plans to enhance the local clinics to prepare for an influx (even if we expect the season to be slow)?

Also, I won't be able to watch the live stream but will it be available for rewatch?

Thank you!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Special Meeting Comment

Denver Urlaub <denver_urlaub@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/8/2020 3:47 PM

To: Amber Renshaw <arensshaw@denaliborough.com>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] This message was sent from outside the company. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Amber,

Thanks for taking my comment for tonight's Special Meeting as it appears this is the proper & only opportunity to respond.

I have written it below.

Mr Mayor & Assembly Members

As a result covid-19 closing the UGANDA Entebbe airport in under 24 hours notice after the first case of covid-19 was discovered in Uganda, Stacey & I walked through the valley of the shadow of death in our 3 day 50 hour flight back to Fairbanks. Fortunately, we found flights direct out of Africa to Houston to Fairbanks. We returned to America to a country we had never seen. Fear everywhere. We were not even allowed to buy food, or go to the water station to get water.

We had no fear. We had no exposure, and no symptoms. That remains the same.

Having now completed our 14 day HOUSE ARREST or Mandatory sentencing "quarantine"

We are finally free to get water to wash our clothes, to drink and food to resupply our dry cabin that was empty and closed for the winter. .

While we are more than WILLING to CO-OPERATE voluntarily, we feel Mandates are unconstitutional upon everyone's

First Amendment Rights. It appears while we have been shut down and locked up Covid-19 numbers saw the largest increases. The method is not working.

Last year, Stacey & I found a way to support the borough revenues and increase our own income via "Sweet Seclusions" an Airbnb business. Although, we only opened a late date of June 25th, our season was profitable, and booked fully with only six vacancies. We were so excited for 2020 to increase occupancy for our second season allowing the property to pay for itself.

With this in mind, I am writing because the same fears of covid-19 are running rampant online "Virtual claiming our business season is lost." Even suggestions that we "WANT PEOPLE to STAY AWAY".

The Chamber of Commerce even posted a video on You tube saying, "Denali wants you to wait!"

These assumptions are based on the idea Covid-19 may be short lived.

However, what if it is not? What of it is here to stay?

IF We as a Borough close down tourism, or encourage people to wait this summer, How long will we be willing to "HOLD OFF"

and keep our businesses closed? One Season? Two Seasons? Longer?

I suggest, if, people are afraid of others. "THEY" stay at home allowing the rest of us to live, and move and have our being".

I request the council members not to infringe or alienate our rights with emergency orders and/or actions that may further "dictate" what businesses can or cannot operate with in the bureau this or any season.

Revenue & Tax money are ESSENTIAL for the Borough. Income & business IS ESSENTIAL for residents survival! That means TOURISM is ESSENTIAL without fear of the unknown, and over re-action through measures that prevent the freedom this country and State were founded on!

We are "The last Frontier" because we are tough enough to survive anything.

Let us, EACH individually, decide "IN THE LAND of the FREE and the HOME of the Brave" :how Free we are and how Brave we are to open or close our businesses without interference by any ordinance or discouragement of

tourism .

If we begin to turn people away, SOME location will INVITE them. We will all lose, and our name will be mud.
Please do not enact any ordinance that would require loss of business or legal action to retain our rights to freedom

Denver Urlaub

4/8/2020 Special meeting

Stacey Urlaub <stacey.urlaub@gmail.com>

Wed 4/8/2020 3:38 PM

To: Amber Renshaw <arensaw@denaliborough.com>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] This message was sent from outside the company. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Amber,

Thank you for taking my email on passing it along to the borough assembly for comments to be considered at tonights meeting.

Borough Members:

Although I have no issue with the boroughs desire to " suspend rules requiring in-person attendance to establish a quorum", I am apposed to the borough declaring a local emergency that would give them additional emergency powers to enact additional local mandates within the borough. Let us continue with the constitution and laws that have already been put into place. There is no justification for doing anything different than following what has been voted on and established over the years. There are no cases of the virus within the borough. Do we declare a local emergency for flooding because the weatherman says it will rain? This is premature.

Already the Denali Chamber of Commerce has taken it upon themselves to put out a video asking people to wait to come to Alaska. They represented the state in doing this without any mandate from the state saying that we are closed this summer. We recognize that this summer is going to look different than other summers here in Denali. Yes trains have been suspended until July 1st and cruises are canceled but this doesn't mean that everything has to be shut down for the year. Telling people we want them to wait is not correct. Had we said, wait for mandates to be removed that would be one thing but immediately after this went out, I had a guest cancel. If "we" "Alaska" says wait then they will cancel. I'm greatly upset by the fact that this happened.

The Cares act will not cover the huge loss if we shut down an entire season. That is too much power for a local Mayor. The emergency was declared by the state. Leave the mandates to the governor and the President.

Stacey Urlaub

Public Comment for Assembly VIRTUAL Special Meeting, April 8, 2020

Nicole Allard <nicoleeallard@gmail.com>

Wed 4/8/2020 5:58 PM

To: Amber Renshaw <arensaw@denaliborough.com>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] This message was sent from outside the company. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Denali Borough,

I want to express concern about the risk of COVID-19 to our community due to the lack of pro-active measures taken at Three Bears. I understand that they are a private corporation and I am unsure what actions are available to the Borough. However, any support that you can lend them in understanding the risk to the community and their employees, their civic responsibility to protecting the community, as well as ideas/encouragements for education they can provide to people who have recently traveled or are visiting from Fairbanks/Anchorage for non-essential outings (ie snow machine trips) would be greatly appreciated. My boyfriend, William, recently worked at Three Bears and a lot of what he saw was very concerning to us both (his account is below). We acknowledge that we have not been in the store in just over a week and hopefully improvements have been made in the meantime as the collective knowledge of the pandemic is rapidly changing. However, we still hear accounts of people coming into the Borough for recreation and visiting the store. We (William and I) just want to ensure that the community continues to have safe access to food and that this pandemic is not brought in through complacency.

Nicole Allard
907-888-5835

My name is William Randle

I was an employee at the Three Bears Healy location from October (with 10 plus years of experience working for Whole Foods) of last year until the end of March when I resigned with no notice (the first time in my life) after being severely disappointed with corporate/management's actions or lack thereof regarding COVID-19.

As early as mid-march I began pushing management to take the virus seriously. Initial response was "It's just the flu."

As things progressed there was still little to no communication regarding corporate's plan. A few changes to how we did business. Closing an hour early. Limiting sales to two like-items per customer. And prohibiting reusable shopping bags. But there was still little to no substantive communication to employees. Other than a platitude riddled posting next to the time clock thanking us for our service to the community.

I pushed for a store meeting in a one on one sit down with the store manager but was told there was no need. A simple request for kick plates on the bathroom doors was met with derisive laughter.

Meanwhile the tension/anxiety amongst staff was becoming palpable. Regular occurrences included seasonal employees just landing in Healy from known hotspots, supposedly in a two week 'quarantine', shopping in the store. Other community members presumably not taking the virus threat seriously would make multiple daily trips to the store. Sometimes with the whole family in tow.

I'm not trying to shame anyone, just trying to describe factors contributing to an atmosphere that began to feel increasingly less safe. And I feel confident that my feelings on the matter reflect many current employees who may not want to go on record for fear of losing their jobs.

Ultimately I made the decision that my modest wage of \$12/hr was not worth the risk to me or my girlfriend (whose medical history marks her as high risk for developing severe symptoms/infection). I'm fortunate that I felt financially secure enough to walk away. I know others who didn't feel that was an option.

Full disclosure. I filed my first unemployment claim despite having voluntarily quit. The main intention was to put pressure on Three Bears to be more pro-active about protecting their employees and the communities they serve.

This short-written testimony follows suit. Please feel free to direct follow up questions my way regarding any vagaries therein. Or for my thoughts on suggested course of action.

A concerned Alaskan and Healy community member,

William