

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**
2 **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**
3 **Virtual Meeting**
4 **August 5, 2020**
5

6 **WORK SESSION**

7 Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman called the work session to order at 6:02 PM.
8

9 The Denali Borough Assembly and the Denali Borough Planning Commission reviewed and
10 discussed the Denali Borough Land Management Plan.
11

12 No action was taken during the Work Session.
13

14 **PUBLIC HEARING**

15 Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman called the public hearing to order at 6:19 PM.
16

17 **ORDINANCE 20-03 Version B: Baseline addressing system**

18 The assembly heard from nine (9) members of the public regarding Ordinance 20-03
19 including Steve Jones, Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Miner, Lee Lightfoot, Tri-Valley Fire Chief
20 Brad Randall, Hannah Filardi, Therese Morin, Erik Haugen and Vernon Carlson. A summary
21 of comments include:

- 22 • Support for addressing in the Denali Borough, and
- 23 • concerns regarding the baseline system, and
- 24 • suggestions and reasons to consider a different system of addressing.
25

26 **ORDINANCE 20-12: Denali Borough Code Chapter 3.26 Titled Alcohol and marijuana**
27 **tax**

28 Mr. Cyrus Cooper stated that the purpose described in section 3.26.020 should include the
29 language from the voter approved ballot measure that described the purpose and use of the
30 tax revenue.
31

32 **ORDINANCE 20-13: Accept and appropriate Emergency Management Performance**
33 **Grant (EMPG) funds**

34 There were no comments.
35

36 **ORDINANCE 20-14: Accept and appropriate Rasmuson Municipal Arts & Culture**
37 **Matching Grant funds**

38 There were no comments.
39

1 **ORDINANCE 20-15: Denali Borough Code Chapter 9.15 - Local Option Zoning**

2 Steve Jones recommended some changes to the formation, procedures and approval of a
3 local option zoning district. Mr. Jones stated that he would provide the assembly with
4 documentation of his suggested changes.

5
6 **ORDINANCE 20-16: Denali Borough Code Chapter 9.15 - Conditional Land Use**

7 Lorali Simon with Usibelli Coal Mine provided a written comment and verbally offered support
8 for the wording in Ordinance 20-16 Section 9.15.080 and thanked the Planning Commission
9 for hearing the concerns expressed and addressing those concerns through their public
10 review process.

11
12 **REGULAR MEETING**

13 **CALL TO ORDER**

14 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

15
16 **ROLL CALL**

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

20
21 Jake HILL MOVED to excuse Assemblymember BOELSMA, Assemblymember HOLMES
22 and Assemblymember. ZAPPONE. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of
23 hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.

24
25 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

26 James Gauvin reported that land issues in the Otto Lake and Dry Creek area continue with
27 flood erosion along some of the roads, an uninhabited cabin referred to as the “trespass
28 cabin” has had recent occupancy and damage, and additional trails are being created from
29 commercial ATV activity.

30
31 City of Anderson Mayor Samantha Thompson thanked the borough for City and Fire
32 Department funding.

33
34 Cyrus Cooper suggested that the Alaska National Guard could be asked to assist with flood
35 mitigation efforts in the Dry Creek area.

36
37 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

38 Jake HILL MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show
39 of hands and voice confirmation to approve the agenda was unanimous.

40
41 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

42 **JULY 8, 2020 MINUTES**

1 Jake HILL MOVED to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2020 Public Hearing and
2 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice
3 confirmation was unanimous.

4

5 **REPORTS**

6 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

7 Jake HILL MOVED to receive the June 2020 financial report. The motion was seconded.
8 The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to receive the June 2020 financial
9 report was unanimous.

10

11 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

12 Planning Commission Presiding Officer Kesslyn Tench reported that the commission held a
13 walking work session in the Panguingue parcel of Denali Borough lands for their July
14 meeting.

15

16 **EMERGENCY PLANNER REPORT**

17 Emergency Planner Chris Noel verbally highlighted information provided in the attached
18 written report (Appendix A).

19

20 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

21 Superintendent Dan Polta verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written
22 report (Appendix B).

23

24 **MAYOR REPORT**

25 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report
26 (Appendix C).

27

28 **CARES ACT PROGRAMS REPORT**

29 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the Mayor Report that
30 pertain to CARES Act Programs (Appendix C).

31

32 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

33 Assembly members thanked those that provided public comment and reports, and
34 expressed gratitude for the local COVID testing options available.

35

36 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

37 There were no communication and appearance requests.

38

39 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

40 There were no draft ordinances.

41

42 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

43 **ORDINANCE 20-03 Version B: Baseline addressing system**

44 Jake HILL MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-03. The motion was seconded.

1
2 There was discussion regarding the need for a robust and consistent system of addressing
3 while still providing a logical and intuitive system of addressing. Assembly members and
4 local emergency responders expressed both support and concern for Ordinance 20-03.
5
6 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-03. The motion was seconded.
7
8 Jeff STENGER MOVED to schedule an assembly work session in the next 30 days with
9 local emergency responders to develop a system of addressing that will be workable for all
10 interested parties. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice
11 confirmation was unanimous.
12
13 The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to postpone Ordinance 20-03 until after
14 the assembly work session was unanimous.
15
16 **ORDINANCE 20-12: Denali Borough Code Chapter 3.26 Titled Alcohol and marijuana**
17 **tax**
18 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-12. The motion was seconded.
19
20 Jake HILL MOVED to amend Ordinance 20-12 to include the language from the approved
21 ballot measure in the “purpose” section of Ordinance 20-12. The motion was seconded. The
22 VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to amend Ordinance 20-12 was unanimous.
23
24 The roll call VOTE to approved Ordinance 20-12 as amended was unanimous.
25
26 **ORDINANCE 20-13: Accept and appropriate Emergency Management Performance**
27 **Grant (EMPG) funds**
28 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-13. The motion was seconded. The roll
29 call VOTE to approve was unanimous.
30
31 **ORDINANCE 20-14: Accept and appropriate Rasmuson Municipal Arts & Culture**
32 **Matching Grant funds**
33 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-14. The motion was seconded. The roll
34 call VOTE to approve was unanimous.
35
36 **ORDINANCE 20-15: Denali Borough Code Chapter 9.15 - Local Option Zoning**
37 Jake HILL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-15. The motion was seconded.
38
39 Jake HILL MOVED to amend Ordinance 20-15 to include the optional language provided to
40 dissolve a local option zoning district. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of
41 hands and voice confirmation to amend Ordinance 20-15 was unanimous.
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43 The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to postpone Ordinance 20-15 was
44 unanimous.

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ORDINANCE 20-16: Denali Borough Code Chapter 9.15 - Conditional Land Use

Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-16. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to postpone was unanimous.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 20-13: Affirm the Denali Borough website as a public posting location

Jake HILL MOVED to approve Resolution 20-13. The motion was seconded.

Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to amend Resolution 20-13 to include clarifying language stating that the website will serve as a public posting location for each of the four (4) communities. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to amend Resolution 20-13 was unanimous.

The roll call VOTE to approve Resolution 20-13 as amended was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 20-14: Encourage and recommend safety precautions when in public spaces

Jake HILL MOVED to approve Resolution 20-14. The motion was seconded.

There was discussion about local government role and authority in regards to health and safety precautions.

The roll call VOTE to approve Resolution 20-14 was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Jake HILL MOVED to approve the Land Management Plan. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to approve was unanimous.

Marijuana License #20221: Denali Grass Company; transfer and renewal

Jake HILL MOVED to not-protest Marijuana License 20221 license transfer and renewal. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to not-protest was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly members commented on the following:

- Appreciation for a productive conversation and meeting, and

- 1 • appreciation for the Denali Borough remaining in low risk level for COVID-19, and
- 2 • expressed sympathy for those struggling financially and/or health difficulties due
- 3 to the current pandemic, and
- 4 • expressed appreciation for public engagement and the ability to continue meeting
- 5 during a health pandemic.

6
7 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

- 9 • Public Hearing and Regular Meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2020

10
11 **ADJOURN:**

12 Jake HILL MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned by
13 unanimous voice vote at 9.58 PM.

14
15
16 APPROVED: _____
17 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

18
19
20 ATTEST: _____
21 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

22
23 Date Approved: _____

MEMO

To: Denali Borough Assembly Members

From: Chris Noel, Emergency Manager

Date: August 12, 2020

Re: COVID-19 emergency planning update

I am participating in a regular Risk Level Advisory Committee with the Denali Borough School District. The Committee helps provide context and information to the Superintendent, who ultimately will decide on the school risk level on a continuous basis. More information about the Risk Levels and Frequently asked questions are available at www.dbsd.org.

The COVID-19 community testing program has performed 368 tests to-date. We are adding an additional testing day with the start of school, so tests will be available at the Tri-Valley Community Center Monday and Thursday from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, and Wednesday from 4:30-6:30 pm.

Marsha and I are in strong support of the address system outlined in Ordinance 20-03. We have spent additional time communicating with local fire departments and the Troopers to come to consensus. Due to the complexity of this topic, and the diversity of addressing systems across the country, we may not get to 100% consensus prior to adoption and into the application and assignment phase of the project. Uniform street addresses will facilitate a quick and reliable response by first responders, using a system that is robust and easy to maintain.

The total amount awarded to the VFD's from the Borough's CARES allotment is \$1,173,377.00. This is an incredible opportunity for the VFD's and will benefit them for years to come.



**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, August 5th, 2020**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Thank you to School Board and community for their support for maintaining the position of School Nurse in our District over the past years. This dedication of resources provides DBSD a needed asset at this time.

2. Coronavirus -

- a. DEED/DHSS Guidelines - Updated Smart Start guidelines from DEED were issued on Tuesday, July 27th. The guidance expanded from 17 pages to 46 pages. It includes the recommendation for all students and staff to wear cloth face coverings, and evening includes a "Sample parental agreement for in-person education form."
- b. Cloth Face Coverings - In line with the updated guidelines and staff and parent survey results, I amended the DBSD Smart Start plans to include the requiring of cloth face coverings for students and staff at all risk levels.
- c. DBSD School Board Resolution 20-03 - During the special meeting on July 30th, the School Board adopted Resolution 20-03. This supports the Borough Assembly to pass proposed Resolution 20-13 encouraging the adoption of mitigation measures including wearing a cloth face covering, hand washing/sanitizing, and maintaining physical distance. By working together when we are in communal spaces we reduce the spread of the virus and allow our community to remain healthy.
- d. Committee on DBSD Risk Level - I established a committee to discuss and provide a recommendation to me to finalize our risk level for school operation in the DBSD's brick and mortar schools. Following our first meeting on Wednesday the 29th, I affirmed that our risk level is Medium, or Yellow. Our next scheduled meeting is on Friday August 7th. Our PEAK offices are able to work on the DHSS community risk levels for Anchorage and Wasilla. PEAK Anchorage is currently operating on High or Red risk level. PEAK Wasilla is currently operating on Medium or Yellow risk level.
- e. DBSD Smart Start Plans - We submitted our Smart Start documents to DEED and will update the Department regularly as we update and add ever expanding detail to our plans. The reality of cases in the Denali Borough and the proximity to the start of school seems to have increased anxiety for

Mission Statement

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

some about in-person learning at all. Additional people have great misgivings about returning to distance learning due to the serious negative mental and social health consequences and the quality of learning experiences for their students as compared to in-person education.

- f. “Remote Education” - We are offering a third option for families and students in the coming school year. Students may already opt to home school. In home schooling the parent is acting as the teacher and selects the courses, curriculum, schedule, and even the learning activities for their child. In a Remote option, the materials and activities would still be teacher led but the interactions would continue via distance regardless of the risk level in the community. We are calling each of our families to answer questions about these models and learning their plans for the coming school year. This information will allow us to adjust our staffing assignments in order to support those choosing traditional schooling and those choosing remote learning.
- g. Community Outreach - We will be at the Healy Farmer’s Market again this Saturday, August 8th to answer any questions or hear concerns for the start of the school year.
- h. Student Start Date - Just a reminder that the School Board adjusted the student calendar and students will start school on Wednesday August 26th.

3. Finances

- a. FY20 Audit - The “site visit” for our audit this year is scheduled for next week and will be conducted virtually.
- b. FY21 Budget - Deed confirmed that the Borough CARES act contribution will not be included in their calculation as part of the more regular revenue for consideration of the 23% funding cap. While this does not necessarily open avenues of additional revenue it could be germane if we experience a reduction in funding as that would also reduce the amount of the 23%.

4. Facilities

- a. Tri-Valley Boiler - We are setting a date for the Fire Marshall is inspect the basic work on the boilers. This will affirm that the new controls are in correctly and the temperature settings are accurate. We are still arranging for a mechanical company to do an overall inspection.
- b. Anderson Roof Project - Rain has delay aspects of this project and we adjusted the work schedule to allow the crew more time to complete this summer’s sections so we can start up the boilers and heat the building for staff and students.
- c. Server Room Fire Suppression - The vast majority of this work is complete.

5. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff
 - i. No updates
- b. Classified Staff

- i. No updates
- c. Exempt Staff
 - i. No updates

Sincerely,
Dan Polta
Denali Borough School District

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

August 2020 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

Community COVID-19 Testing Collaboration

- The Denali Borough, through engagements with Registered Nurses Karri Keith and Ann Barker, continues to support COVID-19 testing offered in addition to the services provided at the three health clinics in the borough.
- Weekly meetings of healthcare providers, hosted by the borough, continue. These meetings are a valuable forum for information sharing and collaboration. State of Alaska Public Health Nurse Andrea Dubenezic has been particularly helpful along the way.
- The borough appreciates the responsiveness from the State of Alaska Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in quickly filling the multiple requests submitted for PPE supplies, swabs, medium and more.
- An order of 1,500 cloth face coverings, placed to the national stockpile, is currently unfilled. The plan is to distribute those masks widely.

COVID-19 Positive Case Reporting

- The borough has been issuing press releases following positive test results for both resident and non-resident cases in the borough. Non-resident cases are further placed into one of three categories: traveler, visitor industry and other industry, following a similar practice by the State of Alaska.
- The intention of the borough's reporting and press releases is not to simply mirror the state's reporting but to provide the public with relevant information, within the bounds of personal privacy rights, which will help the public understand the level of local risk exposure. With that, there will be times when the state and local numbers will not match exactly. For example, if the borough is informed of a non-resident positive test here who is actively residing in the area and the state attributes the case to the person's home address elsewhere, there may be a discrepancy. The state is focused on total case counts and preventing duplications (statewide and nationwide), while the borough is focused on local conditions.
- Additionally, the borough is maintaining an up-to-date dashboard of case counts on our website.

Shared COVID-19 Weekly Case Highlights from the State of Alaska Dept of Health and Social Services Week of July 19-25, 2020 Update:

- "This has been Alaska's worst week of the pandemic in terms of rapid increases in resident and nonresident new cases.
- Total cases in Alaska residents rose 34% this week.

- The majority of new cases are among Alaskans aged 20-29, with cases among Alaskans in their 20s and 30s rising sharply.
- Most nonresident cases have been identified before the person had significant community interaction, so most new cases in Alaskans are acquired from other Alaskans who have not traveled.
- Hospital capacity is currently adequate, but hospitalizations and deaths are increasing
- With current rates of physical distancing, face covering use and other measures to prevent transmission, cases are expected to continue to rise rapidly.
- Alaskans should avoid large and indoor gatherings, wear face coverings in public, keep six feet of distance from non household members and practice good hand hygiene to slow transmission of COVID-19.”

U.S. 2020 Census

- As of July 27, The Denali Borough self-response reporting rate is 18.9%, up from 17% three weeks ago. The national average is 63%. The state average is 49%, last among the 50 states. Our response rate currently ranks us 3,199th out of 3,215 counties nationwide and last among Alaska’s 19 boroughs.
- The borough recently sent reminder postcards to every postal boxholder encouraging participation in the 2020 Census. Responding to the US Census, is safe, easy, and important.
- We recognize that unoccupied seasonal residences play a role in the low local response rate.

Federal COVID-19 Relief Package

- After the House of Representative passed their HEROES Act, the Senate recently unveiled their HEALS Act. There are big differences in the two proposals in relationship to support for local government, modifications of the CARES Act, and availability of funds to be used to supplant lost revenue. Any compromise bill will likely include increased flexibility in the usage of CARES funding and may include new relief funding which can be used to supplant lost revenue, for which counties and boroughs are advocating.

Community Mapping Project

- This project, which is partly funded through a State of Alaska grant, is progressing. Draft community maps for the Healy and Anderson areas have been received following state review and are in borough review process. Cantwell and McKinley area maps are still in the state review process.

Happy August, happy berry picking. As always, feel free to call me or staff if you have any questions.

Stay well,

Clay