

**Denali Borough Assembly  
Minutes of the Work Session,  
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting  
Tri-Valley Library, Healy Alaska  
December 11, 2019**

**WORK SESSION**

Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the work session to order at 6:08 PM.

The assembly reviewed Ordinance 19-20 with recommended changes to Denali Borough Code Chapter 3.21 titled Management of Grant Funds. Teresa Floberg with Panguingue Creek Homeowners Association asked for clarification and provided feedback on some of the proposed changes. Some of the changes discussed were:

- Nonprofit Contribution Grant Program request cap
- Construction projects, including road construction, ineligible for Nonprofit Contribution Grant Program funding
- Defining “road construction” and “road maintenance”
- Creation of an Emergency Services and Public Safety Grant Program, separate from the Nonprofit Contribution Grant Program

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman called the public hearing to order at 6:45 PM.

**ORDINANCE 19-18: Appropriate State Homeland Security reimbursable grant funds**

There were no comments.

**ORDINANCE 19-19: Appropriate Hazard Mitigation Plan reimbursable grant funds**

There were no comments.

**ORDINANCE 19-20: Denali Borough Code Chapter 3.21 Management of Grant Funds**

There were no comments.

**ORDINANCE 19-21: Repeal Denali Borough Code Chapter 5.50 Matching Grant Committee**

There were no comments.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:46 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

1 **ROLL CALL**

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

5  
6 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to excuse Krista ZAPPONE and Eileen HOLMES. The motion was  
7 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

8  
9 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

10 Mabel Quillian, recruiting assistant for the US Census, informed the public of the numerous  
11 job opportunities available through the US Census Bureau as well as encouraged the public  
12 to participate in the upcoming 2020 census and emphasized that participation in the census  
13 is safe, confidential, and important.

14  
15 Tri-Valley Community Librarian announced that the library is hosting a 2020 US Census  
16 button design contest.

17  
18 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

19 Jill BOELSMA nominated Jared ZIMMERMAN for Presiding Officer and Krista ZAPPONE  
20 for Deputy Presiding Officer. Joe CHATFIELD nominated Tallon SHREEVE for Deputy  
21 Presiding Officer.

22  
23 The VOTE to elect Jared ZIMMERMAN as Presiding Officer was by show of hands.

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25 The VOTE to elect Krista ZAPPONE as Deputy Presiding Officer was by secret ballot.

26  
27 **AGENDA**

28 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was  
29 seconded. Jill BOELSMA MOVED to amend the agenda to hear from Ms. Laurie Gieck with  
30 Kohler, Schmidt and Hutchison as item #1 under REPORTS. The VOTE by show of hands  
31 to amend the agenda was unanimous. The VOTE by show of hands to approve the  
32 amended agenda was unanimous.

33  
34 **MINUTES**

35 **NOVEMBER 13, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

36 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the November 13, 2019 regular meeting minutes as  
37 presented. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to approve was  
38 unanimous.

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40 **REPORTS**

41 **COMMUNICATION: LAURIE GIECK WITH KOHLER, SCHMIDT AND HUTCHISON:**  
42 **FISCAL YEAR 2019 FINANIAL AUDIT**

43 Ms. Gieck reviewed the financial audit for financial year 2019 to report a clean audit with no  
44 material weaknesses, no recommendations and no deficiencies.

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**OCTOBER 2019 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

Planning Commission Presiding Officer Kesslyn Tench reported that the commission did not meet in November but will resume in January discussing land use conditional uses and land management plans.

**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).

**ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Assembly members thanked staff for the holiday meal, thanked those that provided a report, and thanked the public for their participation.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

House District 6 Representative Dave Talerico provided a legislative update which included an overview of Governor Dunleavy’s proposed budget and a forecast for topics and challenges that the state legislature will debate in the upcoming session.

Presiding Officer ZIMMERMAN called for a break at 8:12 PM. The meeting resumed at 8:27 PM.

**DRAFT ORDINANCES**

There were no draft ordinances.

**PENDING ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE 19-18: APPROPRIATE STATE HOMELAND SECURITY REIMBURSABLE GRANT FUNDS**

Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to approve Ordinance 19-18. The motion was seconded. The roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

**ORDINANCE 19-19: APPROPRIATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN REIMBURSABLE GRANT FUNDS**

Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to approve Ordinance 19-19. The motion was seconded. The roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

1 **ORDINANCE 19-20: DENALI BOROUGH CODE CHAPTER 3.21 TITLED MANAGEMENT**  
2 **OF GRANT FUNDS**

3 Jake HILL MOVED to approve Ordinance 19-20. The motion was seconded.

4  
5 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to include the recommended definition for “road maintenance”  
6 and “road construction”. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was  
7 unanimous.

8  
9 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to amend the request cap for the Nonprofit Contribution Grant  
10 Program from \$20,000 to \$25,000. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands  
11 was unanimous.

12  
13 The roll call VOTE to approve Ordinance 19-20 was unanimous.

14  
15 **ORDINANCE 19-21: REPEAL DENALI BOROUGH CODE CHAPTER 5.50 TITLED**  
16 **MATCHING GRANT COMMITTEE**

17 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve Ordinance 19-21. The motion was seconded. The roll  
18 call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

19  
20 **RESOLUTIONS**

21 **RESOLUTION 19-21: LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS**

22 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve Resolution 19-21. The motion was seconded.  
23 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to amend Resolution 19-21 by adding the words “*a critical*  
24 *component of emergency response*”, to the resolution. The motion was seconded. The  
25 VOTE by show of hands to amend was unanimous.

26  
27 The roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

28  
29 **RESOLUTION 19-22: LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

30 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve Resolution 19-22. The motion was seconded. The roll  
31 call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

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33 **RESOLUTION 19-23: REGIONAL AIRPORT PLANNING**

34 Jake HILL MOVED to approve Resolution 19-23. The motion was seconded. The roll call  
35 VOTE to approve was unanimous.

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37 **OTHER BUSINESS**

38 **APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION SEATS C, D, H, AND I**

39 Jake HILL MOVED to appoint Kesslyn Tench to Seat C and Mark Menke to Seat D on the  
40 Planning Commission. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was  
41 unanimous.

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43 **CHANGES TO GRANT AWARD POLICY**

1 Jake HILL MOVED to approve the updated Changes to Grant Award Policy. The motion  
2 was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to approve was unanimous.

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4 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

5 There were no public comments.

6  
7 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

8 Assembly members thanked those in attendance, thanked Ms. Gieck for her report,  
9 thanked Representative Talerico for his legislative update, and requested cost  
10 comparison and maintenance data to consider at a future meeting for a new vs. used  
11 D8, in addition to the following comments:

12  
13 Tallon SHREEVE expressed his appreciation for the Alaska Municipal League  
14 conference and encourage other assembly members to attend future conferences.

15  
16 Jake HILL announced that there are 10 new EMT 1 certified residents of the Denali  
17 Borough end expressed appreciation for the emergency service providers in our  
18 borough.

19  
20 Jared ZIMMERMAN appointed Jake HILL to the Finance Committee.

21  
22 Jared ZIMMERMAN asked Mayor Walker and Superintendent Polta to look for dates to  
23 schedule a joint work session with the school board.

24  
25 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

26 Next regular assembly meeting will be on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at the Cantwell  
27 School, Cantwell, Alaska starting at 6:00 PM.

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29 **ADJOURN:**

30 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was  
31 adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 9:27 PM.

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

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39 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
40 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

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43  
44 Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



# 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, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

Please accept this written report for the month of December.

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Thank you, Kay Hockin, who volunteered and chaperoned our students at the Youth Leadership Institute in Anchorage at the annual AASB conference.
- b. Thank you to Candace Mudge and our students at Tri-Valley for the great concert on December 2<sup>nd</sup> along with performers from Nenana and from Colony High School.
- c. Thank to our parents and volunteers who provided a Thanksgiving meal for students at Tri-Valley and supported the Pumpkin Pie Social at Anderson on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November.

2. Finances

- a. FY21 Budget - Reena and I are working on the FY21 Budget for the first presentation at the coming board meeting. The draft we are reviewing with the Finance Committee includes a deficit of ~\$750,000. At my recent meetings in Anchorage, the word on the street is that we should expect Governor Dunleavy's budget proposal for the State to include a 15% reduction, across the board, to all state spending, including public education. His budget proposal should be released this week at which time we will know his starting point for this year's legislative session.
- b. DEED Literacy Grant - We submitted our proposal to DEED for this five-year grant. The proposal, if accepted, would provide DBSD with up to \$220,000 each year for the next five years to support specific literacy efforts in the District. In my conversations with other districts this past week, all but one district was also submitting grant applications. A big thanks to Karen, Jeni, Nathan, Alesha, and Reena for their work on this application.

**Mission Statement**

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

### 3. Facilities

- a. TVS Heating - Our repairs and updates to the valves in our system seem to be working and the building is holding temperature.
- b. Transit Vehicles - We connected with Fairbanks and Nenana who both use "Transit" vehicles for student activity transportation. Use of these vehicles could allow us to carry more students in a single vehicle, reducing our need for as many drivers and lower long-term costs if we can maintain a smaller fleet of vehicles. The 2020 models are being produced with all-wheel drive. But, dealerships are not allowed to sell school districts new vehicles with a 15 person capacity but they can sell district used ones. In an odd twist of law, other companies can rent or lease the vehicles to school districts regardless of the model year.
- c. Activity Bus - The rear lights on our activity bus were malfunctioning. Lights which should have been standard running lights began behaving like break lights. After an initial repair, the lights reverted to the on-off pattern. We removed the bus from service and were able to locate the issue with the power supply to the lights. After this repair, we took the bus on a test run to ensure the connections remained strong and operational. This led to the discovery of an issue with the fuel/water filter and this needs to be replaced.
- d. Automated Door Locks - We continue our research and work on automatic door locks for our schools. We received an updated quote on transitioning Tri-Valley and Anderson. The overall quoted prices is ~150,000.
- e. Blue Expedition - We received the repair quote on this vehicle and feel it will be better for the district to surplus this vehicle as is. We pulled the Red Expedition off of govdeals.com and are doing that smaller repair in order to return that vehicle to service.
- f. Coal at Tri-Valley - For the past several weeks our coal has been generating very large "clinkers" or aggregates of solid, non-coal residue rather than the regular ash. We've asked our crew to add hours in order to clear out the ash area in the night in order to prevent a large clinker from creating a back up in the boiler system. This set of coal should naturally work its way through the supply chain in a short while.
- g. Server Room Cooling - Our crew has been repairing the cooling system in the server room to re-activate the system that better cools and vents this area than the currently operational system.

### 4. Strategic Planning

- a. I'm reviewing revised mini-plans for Strategies 1 and 3 that would provide focus for the next year and a half under our current plan.

### 5. 4-Day School Week -

- a. We held meetings on November 26<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed possible proposals for the Board to consider.

6. Professional Development

- a. Several staff members attended NWRise (now hosted by Idaho Dep. Of Ed.) from November 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>. These professionals included Kassandra Mirosh, Gretchen Striker, Hannah Ragland, Nathan Pitt, JoHanna Sestito, Katie Stainbrook, and Karen Martin.
- b. Connie Mattila attended the AASB training in Anchorage December 5-6th for Board Administrative Assistants.
- c. Reena Voivedich, Business Manager, and Salena Mirasole, Accounts Payable and Payroll Clerk, are attending the annual conference of the Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO) in Anchorage from December 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>.

7. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff
  - i. No updates
- b. Classified Staff
  - i. We accepted the resignation of Kayla Bokhart, lunch TA at Tri-Valley, effective November 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. We approved the transfer of Windy Thorn from the Cantwell pre-school position to the open full-time position at Cantwell.
  - iii. We posted the now open Cantwell pre-school position for 6 hours/week.
  - iv. We hired Kimberly Cassel for the open pre-school position at Tri-Valley, pending Board approval.
  - v. We hired Donna Jones for the open lunch/recess position at Tri-Valley, pending Board approval.
- a. Exempt Staff
  - vi. No Updates

Sincerely,

Dan Polta  
Denali Borough School District

## DENALI BOROUGH

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*Clay Walker, Mayor*

### **December 2019 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly**

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

### **November 19-22 Alaska Local Government Conference, Anchorage**

- **Alaska Municipal Managers Association Meeting**
  - The Monday meeting included professional development sessions on “Implicit Bias in Hiring Decisions” and “Gaining Project Support”. I also attended a workshop on the in-progress development of an Alaska Municipal Health Benefits Association, designed to offer municipalities cost effective health benefits options.
- **Alaska Conference of Mayors Meeting**
  - This Tuesday meeting included statewide updates and in-depth sessions and round table discussions on Education Funding and the Unorganized Borough.
- **Alaska Municipal League Annual Conference**
  - On Wednesday, plenary sessions included affiliate group and district representative reports, a state of the state report, and an energy outlook presentation. I attended a policy workshop on issues surrounding PERS (Public Employee Retirement System) and potential system reform. I later moderated and presented a session on Gateway Communities. Acting National Park Service Regional Director Don Striker was a participating panelist. Wednesday evening the Denali Borough exhibited a table at a “Community Block Party” where we showcased important aspects of our borough such as Clear AFS, Usibelli Coal Mine, Denali National Park, the Alaska Railroad, and GVEA’s Eva Creek wind farm. Big thanks to Connie for putting such a fun and informative table together!
  - On Thursday, I participated in the early morning AMLJIA Board of Trustees meeting. Of the morning sessions, I attended one on early childhood education which looked at local government participation/investment in these formative years. I also attended a session on School Construction and Major Maintenance, of which the primary topic was debt reimbursement and grant funding. One idea/solution discussed was the state bonding for its share of project funding. On Thursday afternoon, 15 founding municipalities signed the bylaws establishing a new Commission to oversee the collection and remittance of local sales tax by remote vendors. This was an exciting culmination of a lot of work and collaboration. Thursday evening saw a Legislative Leadership Panel, with Senate President Cathy Giessel, Senate Minority Leader Tom Begich and House Minority Leader Lance Pruitt answering questions and providing viewpoints and leadership directions. Following the panel, awards were presented. Receiving the “New or Emerging Leader” award was our friend and neighbor Mayor Joshua Verhagen of Nenana. A number of Nenana City Council members attended in support.

- On Friday morning, the AML business meeting began, when we voted in our new board members and officers, and voted on a full compliment of Position Statements and Resolutions. We voted up or down on 33 different resolutions...a record number I believe. These are all found on the AML website and serve as a basis for advocacy and lobbying efforts this coming year.  
On Friday afternoon, the AML Board of Directors convened for a meeting. As a Past President, I continue service to the board. We welcomed new members, took care of organizational business, and set a meeting schedule which will include weekly teleconferences during legislative session.
- Overall, I felt it was the best conference yet in terms of participation (over 1,200 altogether), content, relevancy, and outcomes. I was thankful borough staff participated in affiliate trainings -- Amber Renshaw and Connie MacMaster at Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks, and Wendi Planty at Alaska Government Finance Officers Association. Assembly members Jared Zimmerman and Tallon Shreeve attended AML Conference as well as Emergency Planner/Project Coordinator Chris Noel. Everyone found value in the conference.

#### **Update on Community Transportation Program (CTP) application**

- In August 2019, the Assembly approved Resolution 19-20, which authorized the administration to submit an improvement project application, the Healy Area Pedestrian Paths, under the CTP program, which is open for a limited period of time. The resolution included both a statement of availability of the required 9.03% project match and a commitment to ongoing maintenance. Last month, we were informed that the scope of projects eligible for this program changed. Working with DOT, we have agreed to shrink the number of pathways and amend the application to include one improvement – an eight-foot bicycle/pedestrian lane added to the Healy Spur Road. The DOT estimated cost of this improvement is \$1,600,000. The 9.03% match would be \$145,000 and there would be no borough maintenance commitment. We plan to re-submit this application and, if approved, bring forward an allocation ordinance.
- Added commentary: While a first reaction may be...wait...we are going to help pay for DOT to build a lane on their road?! Upon reflection...this is an identified community safety need and significant enhancement. We have requested the project and stated a commitment to provide the matching funds. These projects are not free now, nor will they be in the future. The lack of a maintenance commitment is big for us.

#### **Update on Solid Waste Equipment Replacement**

- The used D8 Waste Handler Dozer identified and discussed last month is no longer available. While we, and our sales rep, will keep looking at the used market, if the Assembly is interested in considering what a new D8 purchase might entail, I can provide ample information prior to the next meeting.

Happy December, Happy and Safe Holidays to you and yours. As always, feel free to call me or staff if you have any questions.

-Clay