

1 Denali Borough Assembly
2 Minutes of the Regular Meeting
3 Virtual Meeting
4 December 9, 2020
5

6 **PUBLIC HEARING**

7 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the public hearing to order at 6:00 PM.
8

9 **ORDINANCE 20-03: BASELINE ADDRESSING SYSTEM**

10 City of Anderson Fire Chief Scott Thompson encouraged the Assembly to decide on a
11 system of addressing for the borough. Mr. Thompson expressed that no matter which
12 system is utilized, it will be better than no system of addressing, and responders can be
13 trained to use either.
14

15 **ORDINANCE 20-20: UNIFORM ADDRESSING SYSTEM**

16 There were no comments.
17

18 **ORDINANCE 20-15: LOCAL OPTION ZONING**

19 There were no comments.
20

21 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN adjourned the public hearing at 6:10 PM.
22

23 **REGULAR MEETING**

24 **CALL TO ORDER**

25 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:10 PM.
26

27 **ROLL CALL**

28 Assembly members present: Jake HILL, Lisa MINER, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Tallon
29 SHREEVE, Joe CHATFIELD, Dominic CANALE, Jeff STENGER, Eileen HOLMES and
30 Krista ZAPPONE. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.
31

32 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

33 Bill Madsen submitted a written comment (see ATTACHMENT A).
34

35 Vanessa Juszczak with the Denali Chamber of Commerce and the Denali Recovery Alliance
36 reported the following:

- 37
- The Discover Denali website is live and has received good traffic so far.

- 1 • The Denali Chamber of Commerce Trunk or Treat event was the most attended
2 Halloween event to date.
- 3 • The Denali Chamber of Commerce is operating a Santa letter event now until
4 December 20th.

5

6 **ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS**

7 Jake HILL nominated Jared ZIMMERMAN as Assembly Presiding Officer and Krista
8 ZAPPONE as Deputy Presiding Officer. There were no other nominations.

9

10 The NOMINATION PASSED by unanimous consent.

11

12 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

14

15 The MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA PASSED by unanimous consent.

16

17 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

18 There were no communication and appearance requests.

19

20 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

21 **NOVEMBER 11, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

22 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2020 meeting.
23 The motion was seconded.

24

25 The MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED by unanimous consent.

26

27 **REPORTS**

28 **OCTOBER 2020 FINANCE REPORT**

29 Jake HILL MOVED to receive the October 2020 Finance Reports. The motion was
30 seconded.

31

32 The MOTION TO RECEIVE PASSED by unanimous consent.

33

34 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

35 Mayor Walker reported that the Planning Commission participated in a training exercise,
36 provided by Denali Borough Attorney Shane Levesque, regarding quasi-judicial decision
37 making.

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EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT

Emergency Manager Chris Noel verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report (see Attachment B)

SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT

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

MAYOR REPORT

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

CARES ACT PROGRAMS REPORT

Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written Mayor Report (Attachment D).

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly members offered the following comments:

- Thanked those that provided reports.
- Thanked Presiding Officer ZIMMERMAN and Deputy Presiding Officer ZAPPONE for being willing to serve as assembly officers.
- Thanked school district staff and administration for working through the increased variables to navigate this school year.
- Thanked borough staff and public health providers for organizing the community flu vaccine clinic.

DRAFT ORDINANCES

There were no draft ordinances to consider.

PENDING ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 20-03: BASELINE ADDRESSING SYSTEM

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

Presiding Officer ZIMMERMAN suspended the rules to allow debate on both systems of addressing described in Ordinance 20-03 and Ordinance 20-20.

1 The baseline addressing system as described in Ordinance 20-03, and the uniform
2 addressing system as described in Ordinance 20-20 were compared, debated and
3 discussed.

4

5 The MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-03 FAILED by roll call vote with Joe
6 CHATFIELD, Eileen HOLMES, Jeff STENGER, Lisa MINER and Jared ZIMMERMAN
7 opposed.

8

9 **ORDINANCE 20-20: UNIFORM ADDRESSING SYSTEM**

10 Jeff STENGER MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-20. The motion was seconded.

11

12 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to amend Ordinance 20-20 by striking item F in section 9.14.160.
13 The motion was seconded.

14

15 The MOTION TO AMEND PASSED by unanimous consent.

16

17 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to amend Ordinance 20-20 item E. in section 9.14.160 by
18 changing the beginning point of a road from 0 to 100. The motion was seconded.

19

20 Healy area resident Kathy Hennigan offered a public comment stating that addresses get
21 confused, even with address digits as low as three-digit numbers.

22

23 The MOTION TO AMEND passed by unanimous consent.

24

25 The MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-20 PASSED AS AMENDED by unanimous
26 roll call vote.

27

28 **ORDINANCE 20-15: LOCAL OPTION ZONING**

29 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-15. The motion was seconded.

30

31 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to amend 9.15.160 Item A. by inserting the words “is 20 lots or”
32 to the second sentence in item A.. The motion was seconded.

33

34 The MOTION TO AMEND 9.15.160 ITEM A. PASSED by unanimous consent.

35

36 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to amend 9.15.190 item C. to read... “the day of the final store
37 front closure...”. The motion was seconded.

38

1 The MOTION TO AMEND 9.15.190 ITEM C. PASSED by unanimous consent.

2

3 Jeff STENGER MOVED to amend 9.15.200 item D. by striking the word “residential”. The
4 motion was seconded.

5

6 The MOTION TO AMEND 9.15.200 ITEM D. PASSED by unanimous consent.

7

8 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to amend 9.15.200 item D. as follows:

- 9 • Change the words “by limiting” to “based on” and add an “etc.” to the end of the list.
- 10 • Add a final sentence to item D. that says “Such conditions shall be identified through
11 the LOZD Ordinance.”

12

13 The MOTION TO AMEND 9.15.200 ITEM D. PASSED by unanimous consent.

14

15 Jeff STENGER MOVED to amend 9.15.200 item C as follows:

- 16 • Strike the words “or moved to any other part of the lot, tract or parcel it occupies”.
- 17 • Add a final sentence to item C. that says “A nonconforming building may be moved in
18 response to a natural disaster with approval from the Planning Commission.”

19

20 The MOTION TO AMEND 9.15.200 ITEM C. PASSED by unanimous consent.

21

22 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to amend 9.15.190 B. to add a final sentence that says “Any loss
23 or damage that is caused by criminal activity or by fire of undetermined origin or suspicious
24 causes, which is not the doing of the owner, shall be exempt from this rule.” The motion was
25 seconded.

26

27 The MOTION TO AMEND 9.15.190 ITEM B. PASSED by unanimous consent.

28

29 The MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-15 AS AMENDED PASSED by unanimous
30 roll call vote.

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32 **RESOLUTIONS**

33 There were no Resolutions to consider.

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35 **OTHER BUSINESS**

36 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

37 There were no public comments.

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ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly members commented on the following:

- Expressed appreciation for a productive and cordial meeting.
- Expressed appreciation for Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN and Deputy Presiding Officer Krista ZAPPONE for being willing to lead Assembly meeting discussion.
- Expressed appreciation for borough staff.
- Wished everyone a Happy Solstice, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a safe holiday season.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Assembly meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 6:00 PM with a virtual Public Hearing and Regular Meeting.

ADJOURN

Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:46 PM.

APPROVED: _____
Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _____
Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: _____

To: Assembly Members, Planning Members and Mayor
From: Bill Madsen
December 8, 2020

RE Effort to Apply an Addressing System ***REVISION***

I've watched your effort to create an addressing system for the Borough. I'd like to express some thoughts and ideas that I have for you to consider.

First, I think the reason you seem to be struggling with this is this. You are trying to make the addressing system borough-wide in support of simplicity, but trying to tie it all together is creating the opposite effect, in my opinion. I understand the desire to have streets and house numbers. I understand and respect the need for a logical system for emergency services. However, that should not mean all the addresses in borough need to relate to all the others. The result of such is a one-size-fits-all system that doesn't fit anyone very well. If this idea were sensible, shouldn't we let the state do it and they could start at the Southern most point and increase as it moves North.

Please consider this.

Anderson already has addressing even though it isn't the largest community in the borough. The rest of the borough has a lot of named streets, but no house numbers. My suggestion is Healy could do the same as Anderson, as could Ferry, McKinley Village and Cantwell. Leaving the borough to suggest and guide the communities and focus just on the area outside the communities.

To me, it would make sense to allow the Native Village of Cantwell to work on addresses themselves, with some support, guidance and perhaps a stipend from the borough. The same for residents of McKinley Village, who, as a tight community, I think would enjoy and prefer it. Healy is a bit problematic in that there are those in the HOA and those not, but again I think a committee of civic-minded people would enjoy the task. A task that would be made easier if they didn't need to conform to borough regulations regarding coordination with all the other communities.

The homes and businesses that are on the highway could use the mile markers as a beginning basis. The remaining shared roads could be named and numbered as the users would like with gentle sensible guidance. This the borough could arrange and oversee. There isn't that much land left for subdividing that warrants this huge expenditure of time and resources. And try as you may, you can't predict the future growth, decline or neither. If there were a major subdivision built in the future the addresses could be dealt with then.

Emergency services would benefit greatly by having a sensible addressing system, but there isn't a lot of streets for them to be concerned with, which is why they are surviving with what we have. Further, if you consider that we are in a digital age, I think you might agree how easy this all could be. I could have the address of 1 Billz Place. Where is it? How do you get there? "Hey GPS directions from my location to #1 Billz Place". This could easily be a custom-made system for emergency services, backed up with maps, and/or it could all be entered on Google and the navigational systems. There is only, what, a thousand homes/businesses in the borough? Wouldn't take much to digitize that number with individualized directions. And these systems are only going to get better.

I believe that a dictated system like the ones you are considering will have problems, as you have seen, and likely won't (and shouldn't) be accepted by the public. Isn't there a glaring example of the Totem address becoming 248500 and the nearby Mountain View Grocery being 300010 or some such similar difference? Remember, first cause no harm. Don't create a system that makes no sense just because of parameters that you have made for yourself.

Lastly, if you must make a borough-wide addressing system based on a single starting point, I have a suggestion that I think would make it better. Instead of starting at the South end of the borough and going North, which causes huge discrepancies in Healy, I would suggest having the point of beginning be the Intersection of the Parks Highway and the Healy Spur Road. This would create a North and South addressing system and an East West system. This would result in less major discrepancies, such as the Totem / Mountain View example, in the most densely populated area and also lessen the problem for the area North of there as well.

Thank you for your service and thank you for your consideration.

MEMO

To: Denali Borough Assembly Members

From: Chris Noel, Emergency Manager

Date: December 09, 2020

Re: December Assembly Meeting Update

Our revised Emergency Operations Plan has been reviewed at the State and the final revision is being printed at this time. Look out for a copy of the plan in the January Assembly packet. I appreciate the local agencies who reviewed the plan and provided valuable feedback.

COVID-19: Testing continues to be readily accessible and healthcare providers in the Borough performed 330 tests borough wide in November. The seven-day test positivity rate state wide is 6.63%, and 6.98% in the Denali Borough. The Case Rate, or number of cases per 100,000 individuals remains high in the Interior Region of the state, at 57/100,000. Within the last 7 days, 9 new cases have been reported within the Denali Borough. We are at a high risk level across the country at a time when many are traveling or taking time with family for the holidays. Please stay safe over the holidays and continue to wear a mask in public spaces, wash your hands regularly, and be particularly conscious of protecting the most vulnerable.

The Borough posted a Community Testing Program Assistant position and hired two well qualified applicants. Jess Toubman and Tara Cicatello will supplement our testing workforce and increase the availability of testing Boroughwide. We remain focused on offering local testing on location at local businesses and will post publicly and target the Chamber of Commerce when this is available. The will assist in the vaccination effort locally as well.

The state has stopped receiving resources from the Federal Government. The Community testing program stocked up and has capacity to test at current rates through February of next year. Some supplies, such as the Abbott ID NOW rapid COVID test cartridges are in short supply nationwide.

Community Testing will be closed following testing on December 14. The Borough did receive a rapid testing machine that will be up and running starting in 2021. We will post a 2021 schedule shortly.

The State expects to receive a COVID-19 vaccine starting as early as next week! There are multiple vaccine candidates, and availability should increase as more receive Federal Emergency Use Authorization. The targeted populations initially will be frontline healthcare workers, and EMS. We continue to discuss and plan for local vaccine dispensing.

On November 30th, the Borough hosted a point of dispensing (POD) Flu Vaccine clinic that provided 85 vaccinations to our friends and neighbors. A huge "thank you" to Fairbanks Public Health, responders from Tri-Valley and McKinley volunteer fire departments, Interior Community Health clinic, and those who patiently waited for their vaccine. It was a great exercise of a POD clinic, and one avenue to offer a COVID-19 vaccine locally, supplementing more traditional vaccination routes.



**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, December 9th, 2020**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Thank you to all of our staff who transitioned and welcomed our students back to in-person learning month. For many, this was an emotional step with ongoing concerns for personal safety regardless of the benefits provided by in-person learning. I know that this was not easy for everyone and appreciate the ongoing efforts to support our students and each other safely while this pandemic continues.
- b. Thoughts and Prayers - Our hearts go out to the community and school in Haines. Haines was struck by large landslides this week. As I write this, two community members are unaccounted for. One is a local kindergarten teacher.

2. Smart Start 2020 -

- a. Optional Testing - Nurse Keith offered optional testing to staff at Tri-Valley, on Friday the 13th of November. Approximately 12 staff members underwent testing for personal screening purposes. We will be expanding this to each location and offering the option to parents for their children.
- b. CDC updated Quarantine Recommendation - The CDC updated its guidance on quarantine for close contacts of positive cases. A 14 day period of quarantine from the time of most recent contact with a positive individual is still the gold standard of behavior and provides the best protection from unknowingly passing the virus on to someone else. The CDC has also said that if an individual has not developed symptoms, they may end quarantine after 10 days (so on day 11) and must wear a mask and monitor for symptoms at least through the 14 day period. The CDC also said that if an individual tests at day 6 and receives a negative result they may end quarantine after 7 days (so on day 8). Neither scenario provides as guaranteed protection of a 14 day quarantine. We will review this information to determine its place in our return to school/work guidance.
- c. Karin Marten is prepared a survey for high school students in order to collect information on their perception of experiences between distance

Mission Statement

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

and in-person learning. She is also organized a small focus group to follow up and ask more specific questions.

- d. At-Risk Students In-Person at High Risk - We have been able to initial very limited in-person support for a small number of at-risk students in our sites at High Risk. These sessions are extremely limited in number of students and not for full instructional days.
- e. Winter Break - Please remember that the first week of school in January will be provided via distance regardless of the local or statewide case information. This is to provide time for staff and students to return to Alaska and complete the required period of quarantine related to out-of-staff travel.

3. Finances

- a. FY21 Budget - At the November meeting the School Board approved a revision to the FY21 Budget. The budget as approved has an operational deficit of ~\$220,000, which will be covered by our unrestricted carryover. The deficit is the result of how the CARES act funds from the Borough which we expensed in FY20 are accounted for in the FY20 audit.
- b. FY22 Draft Budget - I reviewed the initial draft of the FY22 Budget with the Board's Finance Committee this month. The initial document shows a fairly small operational deficit of ~\$60,000. Reena and I have some technical adjustments to make that will shift this initial figure before we present it at the December board meeting. Nonetheless it reflects a much smaller deficit than I initially thought. This is the impact of the assumption of some additional students remaining in PEAK next school year. One adjustment we are making to the draft budget is to also maintain some of the additional staff level at PEAK to be able to serve these students.

4. Facilities

- a. Anderson Roof Project - A water leak has been revealed in the area above the locker room. This area and issue were inspected by the construction and engineering companies. It is the result of extreme heat loss into and up through one of the interior walls in the boiler room. Additional insulation will be added to the wall and additional venting will be added over that space. The roof area leaking water back into the school will have its top surface repaired. We expect the repairs to the roof and work on insulating and venting the boiler room area to be conducted next month.
- b. Door Locks - We are planning and making arrangements to begin pulling wire (placing needed communication cables) in the ceiling spaces over break. This will also allow us to begin installation of the needed base stations which is needed to begin installation of the lock hardware for this project.

5. Legal Notices

- a. National Education Lawsuit - This case has been dismissed.

- b. Cantwell Property Access - We provided the property owner with an agreement to provide access to their property via the utility easement on the property. We are waiting for a response.

6. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff
 - i. No update
- b. Classified Staff
 - i. We hired (pending Board approval) of Eliza Kurth for the open TA position to support our remote learners.
 - ii. We accepted the resignation of Seneca Glen, TA at Tri-Valley. Her resignation is effective end of school on the 25th of November.
 - iii. We hired Erinn Martin for the open TA position at Tri-Valley. This is a return to DBSD employment for Erinn and we're happy to welcome her back.
- c. Exempt Staff
 - i. No updates

Sincerely,
Dan Polta
Denali Borough School District

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

December 7, 2020

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

Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

- The federal CARES Act established the CRF and, through the State of Alaska, the Denali Borough was allocated up to \$3.8 million to respond to the pandemic's health and economic impacts.
- Following U.S. Treasury guidance, the Denali Borough approved necessary and allowable uses of these funds for small business support, non-profit support, school district support, borough payroll support for staff substantially redirected to COVID response, standing up a new COVID testing program, and other related uses. With the December 30 deadline ahead, the small remainder is being mostly allocated to support individual needs through the local non-profit Neighbor to Neighbor and supporting local childcare through Denali Preschool and Learning Center.
- The borough has supported an additional relief package, which includes business relief, individual relief, and, important to the Denali Borough, local government relief which can backfill actual lost revenue. Senator Murkowski is a member of the "Group of Eight" bipartisan senators who drafted the proposed \$908 billion relief package currently under consideration. The proposal includes a similar level of funding to the CRF for state and local government as in the CARES Act - \$160B.
- I have written both of our senators in support of direct and flexible relief for impacted local governments. The siderail, or bumper, of use for "certified actual lost revenue" helps assuage concerns that funds will be misspent on unrelated needs.
- It is also possible that the new package, which replenishes the CRF, will extend the deadline for CARES act funds beyond the December 30 deadline. The remainder for the Denali Borough, although, will be minimal.
- The legislative effort will likely follow the timeline of the omnibus spending package, which was set to expire December 11, but has been extended until December 18.

National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors

- NACo, whose mission is to "strengthen counties", has been a strong advocate for appropriate local government relief. I have served on NACo's Public Lands Steering Committee and recently was appointed to their Board of Directors. I will join Kenai Peninsula Borough Assemblymember Brent Johnson in representing Alaska on the board.
- NACo is a non-partisan organization. We were honored to have President Trump attend the NACo March 2020 Legislative Conference. At my first board meeting, a virtual meeting on December 4,

President Elect Biden and Vice President Elect Harris both joined in the Zoom and spoke to their roots in local government, the importance of local government, and the benefits of putting party politics aside and working toward a common goal. We are pleased to continue a strong working relationship with the executive office.

Public Health Efforts

- Continuing efforts include thrice weekly free, no barrier COVID testing in Healy, weekly collaboration calls with area healthcare providers, and publishing a weekly update on COVID case counts and related information.
- Within a nationwide and statewide case surge, the borough's case rates and test positivity rates have increased, but, thankfully, have not surged.
- The borough posted a testing program assistant position, which we hope to fill soon. With this position, we can fill absences in the schedule, respond to requests for group testing at employers, and take administrative load off the nurses.
- In a collaborative effort between the State's Public Health Nurses, the borough staff, and local healthcare providers, a free Flu Shot Clinic was offered on November 30, at the Tri Valley Community Center. Pre-registration was required and COVID protocols were followed. Thanks to the collective effort, 85 borough residents were inoculated against the flu virus. Kudos to all involved!

Alaska Municipal League (AML) Annual Conference

- The 70th Annual Local Government Conference, held the third week of November, was a virtual event this year. The sessions were recorded and can be viewed for the next year. We had excellent speakers, including Governor Dunleavy, informative sessions on CARES funding, COVID response, legislative session, transportation funding, borough formation (at which I presented), and more great topics. The virtual platform was user friendly and interactive.
- All municipalities saved travel expenses and many, like the Denali Borough, took advantage of the group registration rate. The total participation was greater in number than the largest in person meeting, which was last year's conference. Lessons from the virtual conference will be carried forward.

Meetings attended this past month:

- Alaska Municipal League Annual Business Meeting
- Weekly meetings of AML's Fiscal Policy Working Group
- Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association Annual Business Meeting
- Denali Borough School District November Board Meeting
- Missile Defense Agency briefing on the Clear AFS Long Range Discrimination Radar Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- National Association of Counties Fall Board Meeting
- State Lands Development meeting with DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water Director Marty Parsons

Happy December, Happy Holidays! As always, feel free to contact me or staff if you have any questions.

-Clay