

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**
2 **Minutes of the Work Session, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting**
3 **Tri-Valley Community Center, Healy, Alaska**
4 **February 12, 2020**

5
6 **WORK SESSION**

7 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the work session to order at 6:07 PM.

8
9 **TEKLANIKA FOOTBRIDGE PROJECT PROPOSAL**

10 Catherine Billor with WSP provided an overview of the project proposal and defined the
11 borough's role in the proposed project. Piotr Markielau, who lost his wife crossing the
12 Teklanika River, called in comment as part of the presentation.

13
14 Assembly members expressed concern for the project in general and the borough's role in
15 the project, such as operations and maintenance needs, overall costs and liability.

16
17 The assembly discussed the reality of the "Into the Wild Bus" location as an adventure
18 destination and the hazards encountered enroute to this destination. Hazard mitigation
19 options were discussed in addition to the footbridge project.

20
21 Brad Randall with the Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department commented that the TVVFD is
22 against building this bridge and noted that there is low demand for rescue in that area.

23
24 Eric Haugen commented that he would like to see an educational piece in the feasibility study
25 to warn those using the trail of the dangers that exist.

26
27 A member of the public from Fairbanks commented that he is in support of this bridge project.

28
29 **PUBLIC HEARING**

30 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the public hearing to order at 6:55 PM.

31
32 **ORDINANCE 20-03: Baseline Addressing System**

33 Brad Randall, Fire Chief with the TVVFD expressed frustration that the baseline system for
34 street addressing is being considered when the street length system is the one supported by
35 emergency services. He would like the baseline system to be rejected.

36
37 Eric Haugen, Healy, expressed support for the street length system that was previously put
38 before the assembly.

39
40 **REGULAR MEETING**

41 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

42
43 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

2
3 **ROLL CALL**

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

7
8 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to excuse Mr. CHATFIELD. The motion was seconded. The VOTE
9 by show of hands was unanimous.

10
11 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

12 Vanessa Juszczak, Denali Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the new Denali Visitor
13 Center and the desire for tourism growth in the Denali Borough. She spoke regarding a
14 perspective partnership with the borough for funding support.

15
16 Eric Haugen, Healy, expressed interest in the feasibility study regarding the Teklanika
17 footbridge project. He noted his concerns of increased traffic by inexperienced hikers and
18 that the bridge doesn't address other dangers of hiking to the bus.

19
20 Baxter Mercer, Healy, commented that the Local Emergency Planning Commission
21 supported the street length system of addressing. He stated that the Denali Borough hasn't
22 grown that much in thirty years and he doesn't see the concern for the worry over a system
23 that is inefficient to handle population growth. He also spoke regarding the Teklanika bridge
24 project and stated that, while it reduces the danger, it won't be the same experience if you
25 are looking for that type of adventure. He said there used to be another bridge located in
26 the national park that might be an alternative route to the bus.

27
28 **AGENDA**

29 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was
30 seconded.

31
32 The VOTE to approve the agenda by show of hands was unanimous.

33
34 **MINUTES**

35 **JANUARY 8, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

36 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the January 8, 2020 regular meeting minutes as
37 presented. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to approve was
38 unanimous.

39
40 **REPORTS**

41 **DECEMBER 2019 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

1 **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

2 Finance Committee (FC) Chairperson Krista ZAPPONE provided a written report and Tallon
3 SHREEVE, FC member, reported that the finance committee met twice to discuss the
4 purchase of a D8 for the Denali Borough Landfill and the Denali Borough Mayor Salary.
5

6 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

7 Planning Commissioner Kesslyn Tench reported that the commission met on January 15th
8 and discussed a subdivision plat, an easement vacation, and approved proposed
9 conditional land uses and land management plans. Ms. Tench advocated for approval of
10 the appointment of James Ward as a planning commissioner.
11

12 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

13 Superintendent Dan Polta provided the attached written report (attachment A).
14

15 **MAYOR REPORT**

16 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report
17 (attachment B). Additional comments:

- 18 • Congratulations to Mrs. Newton's Tri-Valley School sixth grade class for participating
19 in the Alaska Municipal League (AML) "If I Were Mayor" contest, the winner of the
20 contest will be able to go to the AML conference in Juneau next week.
21

22 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

23 Assembly members thanked everyone who was present for coming, and expressed
24 appreciation to Catherine Billor with WSP for the presentation regarding the footbridge
25 project and the need for further discussion. Additional comments:
26

27 Jeff STENGER is interested in hearing about the AML conference.
28

29 Lisa MINER likes the added safety of a footbridge but is worried about more people
30 using the trail and wonders what the liability will be and noted that it's a hard situation.
31

32 Jill BOELSMA spoke regarding the construction to keep the park road available for the
33 tourist season and the danger in working on the hazardous section of road and the
34 concern for safety for the maintenance workers. Also, she is concerned about the
35 borough managing the bridge project.
36

37 Krista ZAPPONE agrees that the bridge is a continuing concern and likes the idea of
38 improving public information regarding the dangers of hiking to the bus. She is looking
39 forward to attending the AML conference.
40

41 Jared ZIMMERMAN appreciated the work session with the Denali Borough School
42 Board last week and is concerned with the prospect of Cantwell School not being funded
43 and wants to see increased enrollment proactivity.
44

1 Tallon SHREEVE stated that he enjoys being on the Finance Committee and learning
2 more about where the borough is at financially. He appreciates the public process
3 working through borough matters to provide for a better future for the borough. He likes
4 that the borough is working to be self-sustaining, to be able to fund our own projects for
5 infrastructure.

6 7 **COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

8 There were no communications or appearance requests.
9

10 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

11 **ORDINANCE 20-04: Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Amendment**

12 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-04. The motion was seconded. Mayor
13 Walker reviewed the amended line items including the transfer of funds for the purchase of
14 a new D8.

15
16 The roll call VOTE to introduce Ordinance 20-04 was unanimous.

17
18 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-04. The motion was seconded. The
19 VOTE by show of hands to postpone was unanimous.

20 21 **ORDINANCE 20-05: MAYOR'S SALARY**

22 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-01. The motion was seconded. Krista
23 ZAPPONE reviewed the finance committee's recommendation for the Mayor's salary.

24
25 The roll call VOTE to introduce Ordinance 20-05 was unanimous.

26
27 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-05. The motion was seconded. The
28 VOTE by show of hands to postpone was unanimous.

29 30 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

31 **ORDINANCE 20-03: Baseline Addressing System**

32 Jake HILL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-03 to the April assembly meeting. The
33 motion was seconded. Discussion culminated in a desire for borough staff and
34 emergency responders to come to a consensus on addressing and report to the
35 assembly their united recommendation.

36
37 The VOTE by show of hands to postpone to the April assembly meeting was unanimous.
38

39 **RESOLUTIONS**

40 **RESOLUTION 20-02: Supporting Senate Bill (SB) 50; State 5-12 School System 41 Capital Needs Revenue**

42 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve Resolution 20-02. The motion was seconded. Mayor
43 Walker reviewed the resolution background.
44

1 The roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

2

3 **RESOLUTION 20-03: Supporting National Park Service efforts to ensure long term**
4 **access into Denali National Park using the Denali Park Road**

5 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve Resolution 20-03. The motion was seconded.

6

7 Jake HILL moved to amend the wording in Res. 20-03 to include the words “and prudent” so
8 the wording in the last sentence will read as follows:

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the Denali Borough Assembly urges the National
10 Park Service to take the necessary and prudent steps to ensure an on-time road
11 opening as scheduled for the 2020 visitor season.

12

13 VOTE by show of hands to amend was unanimous.

14

15 The roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

16

17 **OTHER BUSINESS**

18 **PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT; SEAT H**

19 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to confirm James Ward to Planning Commission Seat H. The motion
20 was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to confirm was unanimous.

21

22 **LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL**

23 a) AMCO License #4592 Princess Lodge Rapids Renewal Application

24 b) AMCO License #3660 King Salmon Renewal Application

25 c) AMCO License #2633 Lynx Creek Pizza Renewal Application

26 d) AMCO #242 Clear Sky Lodge Dispensary Renewal Application

27 e) AMCO #243 Clear Sky Lodge Package Store Renewal Application

28 f) AMCO #2823 The Perch Renewal and Transfer Application

29

30 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to not-protest the renewal of liquor license numbers 4592, 3660,
31 2633, 242, 243, 2823 and the transfer of license number 2823. The motion was seconded.

32

33 The VOTE by show of hands to not-protest was unanimous.

34

35 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

36 There were no public comments

37

38 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

39 Assembly members thanked everyone for coming, along with these additional comments:

40

1 Tallon SHREEVE stated he doesn't mind discussing addressing again in order to get a
2 decision made. He is excited to attend AML and visit with the legislators and engage
3 with them regarding the Denali borough.

4
5 Jared ZIMMERMAN thanked James Ward for stepping up to serve on the planning
6 commission and thanked the planning commission for completing their projects and
7 stated that he is looking forward to seeing them on the assembly agenda.

8
9 Krista ZAPPONE commented that she is also excited to attend the AML conference and
10 is looking forward to Winterfest when she gets back and enjoying the hockey games,
11 including the Coal Queens on Saturday. She also mentioned that in the extra meetings
12 she has attended there has been public comment and that it is valued.

13
14 Jill BOELSMA added that she values the live streaming of borough meetings. While she
15 was unable to attend the joint work session, she was able to watch it. She encouraged
16 others to watch the livestream and send public comment to the clerk or an assembly
17 member so you can still be involved if you can't attend in person. Regarding the bus,
18 she wonders how many treks are successful and without incident in order to have an
19 idea of the volume of travelers and what the impact of the bridge really would be on the
20 Stampede Trail.

21
22 Lisa MINER thanked the finance committee for their work and the information brought to
23 tonight's meeting. She also spoke regarding addressing, stating that if it's for first
24 responders we need to consider their input.

25
26 Jake HILL is thankful for the commitment of those attending, from assembly members to
27 staff to the public, and is thankful for public comments via email, at the meetings or
28 talking to assembly members. Those comments are useful during discussions at
29 meetings. He also mentioned the value of the livestream. He noted that the Denali
30 Education Center is hosting a community Winterfest kick-off event on Friday at McKinley
31 Village.

32
33 Eileen HOMES stated that it was a good meeting.

34
35 Jeff STENGER commented that he enjoys being a part of the business of the borough
36 and seeing things move forward and the public process that is involved. He supports the
37 schools and wants to see Cantwell school stay open.

38
39 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

40 Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at the McKinley Community Center, Denali, Alaska. Public
41 Hearing at 6:00 PM, Regular Meeting to follow.

42
43 Wednesday, March 25, 2020: Grant Review Meeting at the Tri-Valley Community Center,
44 Healy, AK at 6:00 PM

1
2 The August meeting date was changed to Wednesday, August 5th, 2020 at the Tri-Valley
3 Community Center, Healy, AK at 6:00 PM in order to accommodate the Summer AML
4 Conference in Fairbanks being held the week of the regularly scheduled meeting.
5

6 **ADJOURN:**

7 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was
8 adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:03 PM.
9

10
11 APPROVED: _____
12 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer
13

14
15
16 ATTEST: _____
17 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk
18

19
20 Date Approved: _____



**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, February 12th, 2020**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

Please accept this written report for the month of February. I'm in the process of returning to Healy after an advocacy trip to Juneau with members of the School Board.

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Thank you to Lauren Legrismith, Lauren Jeffery, Karen Martin, Carmen Russo, Craig Kasemodel, Nathan Pitt, Alesha Ferguson, and Paula Newton for dedicating their time last weekend to attend the RTI/MTSS conference in Anchorage.
- b. Thank you to our teachers who attended AKRise on Friday the 24th. They are Carmen Russo, Hannah Ragland, Paula Newton, Gretchen Striker, Kassandra Mirosh, Kesslyn Tench and the organizer - Karen Martin.
- c. Thank you to school board members James Tench and Jenna Hamm, teacher Caitlin Santos, and student Makenzie Mirasole for dedicating their time this past weekend in Juneau advocating for public education to our legislators.

2. Finances

- a. FY20 Budget -, Friday the 31st, we were notified from DEED that they are releasing our portion of the one-time \$30 million grant for K-12 education. This accounts for ~\$150,000 of our budgeted revenue for the current year.
- b. We completed the paperwork for our appeal to the DEED regarding the recent denial of intensive needs status for one of our students. Such an appeal cannot include any additional testing data but we are able to provide a narrative clarification which explains how the data submitted clearly meets the requirements for this status.
- c. CLSD Grant - On Monday the 27th we were informed that we are able to carry funds from the grant over from this fiscal year to next. We are also reviewing which expenses in our FY20 (and FY21) budget may appropriately be supported by the grant. This can reduce our operational expenses in both years a little.

- d. FY21 Budget - the Finance Committee reviewed the FY21 draft budget and is forwarding proposed amendments to the Board for further additional reductions and to operate Cantwell School with one certified FTE. The budget and the implications of Cantwell's projected enrollment was a topic of discussion at the joint work session and which received important public comments.

3. Facilities

- a. Tri-Valley Heating - The coal auger at Tri-Valley has been repaired and the school is being heated on Coal. Our maintenance staff was able to thaw and remove coal that had backed up in the auger, jamming it. We were able to do this without needing a crane to open the higher, heavier access panels. We never did find a specific rock or item leading to the jam. We did learn some things that will help the online operation of the system. We are re-adjusting the system so it does not completely fill the auger which will allow proper flow with far less risk of jamming. We also discovered that contrary to what we all understood, the auger motor and bearing do have access points for applying grease. These were repaired and will be used.
- b. Tri-Valley System Monitoring - We reviewed the system alert structures at Tri-Valley. In Cantwell and Anderson, we have "sensaphones" which call our staff when the temperatures in the building below a set threshold. The alerts that we have at Tri-Valley do not call out and only show up when directly viewed online. A remote alert could have improved our response time when the pumps and coal auger went down last month. We are investigating the addition of this feature, as we also pursue a quote for updating the monitoring software overall.
- c. Anderson Roof - Our engineering firm, Northform, is moving ahead with final design work on the Anderson Roof.
- d. Expedition Starters - Last week two of our expeditions experienced difficulties starting in low temperatures. We researched the issue and confirmed this is likely the result of aging starters which are beginning to fail. We will replace these starters. We also temporarily shifted vehicles in order to provide newer vehicles (with stronger starters) to trips traveling larger distances.
- e. Generator Update Project - Curtis is working with DEED to redesign the deliverable on this project on our CIP list. We are transforming the project to the format where we could 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.

4. Strategic Planning
 - a. This week I reviewed action plan updates in strategies 1 and 3 on Communications, and Connections and Collaborations. The work in communications continues our focus in this area with specific attention to parent participation, Celebrations of Learning, and engaging and educating parents in the academic culture of the schools. The work in connections and collaboration continues our focus in these areas with attention to develop descriptions of student collaboration and how to promote growth in this dimension.

5. 4-Day School Week -
 - a. This group is finishing its work on a calendar option with additional professional development days placed on up to 10 more Fridays. This option would be considered by the Board along with a traditional school calendar.

6. Professional Development
 - a. The District will hold in-service on February 17th.

7. Personnel
 - a. Certified Staff
 - i. We posted the openings for a district wide literacy coach and for a MS/HS ELA/SS teacher at Anderson.
 - ii. We discontinued the posting for a temporary special education teacher at Tri-Valley.
 - b. Classified Staff
 - i. We hired, pending Board approval, of Melissa Nelson for the open full time TA position in Anderson.
 - ii. We are not filling the 10 hour/week position TA position in Anderson at this time.
 - iii. We extended Jen Grahams hours as a TA at TVS for the open TA position at Tr-Valley. She is also letting go of the hours she currently has for pre-school and we have posted that position as vacant.
 - c. Exempt Staff
 - i. We posted the opening for the Principal/Teacher at Anderson.

Sincerely,

Dan Polta
Denali Borough School District

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

February 2020 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

Update on State Homeland Security Program Grants

- The 26 radios, totaling about \$80,000, awarded under this grant program have been purchased, transferred, programmed, and are in use with the volunteer departments.
- The SCBA oxygen generator/re-filler awarded, which costs \$43,000, has shipped.
- These additions are improving our local disaster readiness.

Alaska Board of Game

- The Board of Game considers proposals for regulatory changes in a given area every three years. This year a number of local proposals have been considered by our local Advisory Committee before full consideration by the Board of Game at their March meeting in Fairbanks. The Board is currently accepting public comments on all proposals through February 21, 2020. Comments can be made from this webpage: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main>

Dry Creek Flooding Mitigation Planning

- After hearing from affected landowners, the borough met with a team from DOT which included members of their planning, engineering, materials, and maintenance and operations departments. The history of the area and the proposal to construct an earthen berm was discussed. The cheaper and less durable approach of pushing up gravel to build the berm is being weighed against a more durable and costly approach of an armored berm constructed from Class 2 rip rap, not available nearby. Either way, funding is not readily available. We will pursue legislative funding for the planning and design of the armored embankment and keep the group engaged in pursuing a solution.

DOT meeting in Fairbanks

- I met with the new(er) Denali District Maintenance and Operations Supervisor, Scott Randby. We discussed transportation challenges and opportunities in the area. He mentioned the placement of new lighted alert signs in advance of the steep bumps on the Parks Highway. There is no easy fix for those in these winter conditions.

Denali Chamber of Commerce meeting

- In meeting with Vanessa Juscak, Chamber Director, we discussed the Chamber potentially forming a sub-organization for the expressed purpose of serving as a more traditional Visitor Center. The Visitor Center would focus on the mission of advocating for the area and providing visitor information.

APPENDIX B

Denali Park Road Issues

- After a December press release announcing the potential late opening of the Denali Park Road, there has been a lot of discussion about potential economic impacts in the area. Letters of concern from the Alaska Tourism Industry Assn (ATIA), the Denali Chamber of Commerce, and others highlighted the imperative to keep the Denali Park Road a viable throughway. The borough has been in touch with NPS leadership as well as industry representatives. I have joined an ATIA Denali Working Group, so as to stay up to date and to contribute a borough perspective. The resolution on your agenda supporting efforts of the National Park Service to ensure long term access is a result of these many discussions. Advocating for cooperative assistance will be a part of the upcoming meetings in Juneau and Washington, DC.

U.S. Census

- We completed a verification of our borough boundaries with the U.S. Census. Census workers are here now and starting the enumeration process. I urge everyone to participate; to stand up and be counted!

Legislative Session

- I provided testimony to the Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee in support of SB 50, which the Assembly supported last year in Resolution 19-08.
- The Alaska Municipal League has a new legislative tracker on their website, where 92 different bills which could impact municipalities are being followed.

Bison Gulch Parking Area and Trail Enhancement Project

- An agreement to provide matching funds from Denali NPS and the Denali Borough totaling 9.03 percent of the project costs has been finalized. As discussed, the borough's portion of this project is \$10,000. Expect an allocation ordinance next month.

Website Update

- Check out the updated borough website complete with online forms, livestream links, great photos and more!

Alaska Municipal League Legislative Conference (Juneau, February 18-20)

- The agenda is full of informative sessions with state officials. We have scheduled our legislative meetings in between sessions. We are meeting with the entire interior delegation and others.

Denali Winterfest February 20-23

- Plan on attending a number of the different events throughout the weekend. The borough hosted community dinner, BINGO games, and presentation of the Community Service award is Saturday Feb. 22 from 5-8 pm at the Tri-Valley Community Center.

NACo Legislative Conference (Washington, DC, February 28-March 4)

- I have valued this annual conference and opportunity to meet with our congressional delegation. I also serve on NACo's Public Lands Steering Committee and this is the one meeting of the year I'm planning to attend in person.

Happy February, Happy break from the cold spell. As always, feel free to call me or staff if you have any questions. -Clay

APPENDIX B