

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**  
2 **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
3 **Virtual Meeting**  
4 **January 13, 2021**  
5

6 **REGULAR MEETING**

7 **CALL TO ORDER**

8 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 PM.  
9

10 **ROLL CALL**

11 Assembly members present: Lisa MINER, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Tallon SHREEVE, Dominic  
12 CANALE, Jeff STENGER, Eileen HOLMES and Krista ZAPPONE. Mayor Clay Walker was  
13 also present. Assembly members absent: Joe CHATFIELD and Jake HILL.  
14

15 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

16 James and Susan Gauvin submitted a written comment (see ATTACHMENT A).  
17

18 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

19 Eileen HOLMES MOVED to amend the agenda by moving Communications and  
20 Appearance Request to the next agenda item and approve the agenda as amended. The  
21 motion was seconded.  
22

23 The MOTION TO AMEND and APPROVE THE AGENDA PASSED by unanimous consent.  
24

25 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

26 Laurie Gieck, with Cook and Haugeberg, reviewed the Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Audit and  
27 reported a clean audit.  
28

29 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

30 **DECEMBER 9, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

31 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2020 meeting. The  
32 motion was seconded.  
33

34 The MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED by unanimous consent.  
35

36 **REPORTS**

37 **NOVEMBER 2020 FINANCE REPORT**

1 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to receive the November 2020 Finance Report. The motion was  
2 seconded.

3

4 The MOTION TO RECEIVE PASSED by unanimous consent.

5

6 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

7 Mayor Walker reported that the Planning Commission cancelled their January meeting and  
8 will participate in a training exercise, provided by Denali Borough Attorney Shane Levesque,  
9 for the February 17, 2021 meeting.

10

11 **EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT**

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

14

15 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

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

18

19 **MAYOR REPORT**

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

22

23 **CARES ACT PROGRAMS REPORT**

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

26

27 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

28 Assembly members offered the following comments:

29

- Thanked those that provided reports.
- Expressed gratitude for a clean audit report.
- Shared that there is a local podcast for upcoming events and announcements.

30

31

32

33

34 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

35 **ORDINANCE 21-01: ALLOCATION FROM THE SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT RESERVE**  
36 **FUND**

37 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 21-01. The motions was seconded.

38

1 The roll call VOTE to INTRODUCE Ordinance 21-01 was unanimous.  
2  
3 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to POSTPONE Ordinance 21-01. The motion was seconded.  
4 The VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

5  
6 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

7 There were no pending ordinances to consider.  
8

9 **RESOLUTIONS**

10 **RESOLUTION 21-01: DENALI BOROUGH 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

11 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Resolution 21-01. The motion was seconded.  
12

13 Mayor Walker reviewed the legislative priorities described in Resolution 21-01.  
14

15 The roll call VOTE to APPROVE PASSED unanimously.  
16

17 **RESOLUTION 21-02: DENALI BOROUGH MAJOR SCHOOL MAINTENANCE**

18 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Resolution 21-02. The motion was seconded.  
19

20 Mayor Walker reviewed Resolution 21-02.  
21

22 The roll call VOTE to APPROVE PASSED unanimously.  
23

24 **RESOLUTION 21-03: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

25 Eileen HOLMES MOVED to approve Resolution 21-03. The motion was seconded.  
26

27 Mayor Walker reviewed Resolution 21-03.  
28

29 The roll call VOTE to APPROVE PASSED unanimously.  
30

31 **OTHER BUSINESS**

32 **FEE SCHEDULE UPDATE**

33 Dominic CANALE MOVED to approve the updated fee schedule. The motion was  
34 seconded.

35  
36 The VOTE TO APPROVED PASSED by unanimous consent.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37

**APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION SEAT A, SEAT E, AND SEAT I**

Mayor Walker recommended Lee Lightfoot for Planning Commission Seat A, Baxter Mercer for Seat E, and reported that Seat I will remain vacant due to the lack of interest from any individual(s) to fill the Seat.

Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to confirm Lee Lightfoot for Planning Commission Seat A and Baxter Mercer for Planning Commission Seat E. The motion was seconded.

The VOTE to CONFIRM Mr. Lightfoot and Mr. Mercer PASSED by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Assembly members commented on the following:

- Expressed appreciation for a productive and cordial meeting.
- Expressed appreciation for borough staff, school staff, local election staff and local health officials.
- Encouraged public comments and engagement in our public process and meetings.
- Thanked Mr. Lightfoot and Mr. Mercer for their willingness to serve on the Planning Commission.

**TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Assembly meeting will be on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 6:00 PM with a virtual Public Hearing and Regular Meeting.

**ADJOURN**

Dominic CANALE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:03 PM.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

## Public Comments for Jan 13 Assembly meeting

Susan <got\_younger@yahoo.com>

Tue 1/12/2021 7:08 PM

To: Amber Renshaw <arensaw@denaliborough.com>

Cc: Tools <toolsg@hotmail.com>

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

Hello Amber,

Happy new year to you. We would appreciate if you could share this with the Assembly during the Public Comments portion of tomorrow's agenda? Thank you!

Happy New Year to the Mayor and Denali Borough Assembly members.

We want to highlight that this month marks the five year anniversary of the passage and approval of the Planning Commission [Resolution PC 16-02](#) to address impacts and safety concerns from commercial ATV activity in the Dry Creek/Otto Lake area. While the Assembly did not take action then, we hope you can enact changes this year to address these ongoing issues.

While the 2021 tourism numbers are unpredictable, you should be aware that even with the Coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 season still had its share of ATV traffic. Denali ATV was renting Polaris RZR 1000 ATVs to customers for **self-guided** tours along with a paper map indicating where they can and cannot ride. These are not your average Alaskan four wheelers, but 110 horse power "race ready" ATV's. On occasion, these unguided guests were riding their high powered ATVs not just on Borough property, but trespassing on private property as well — ignoring No Trespassing signs. **Without guides**, Denali ATV has no control over where their guests go nor what impact they may have on existing roads, trails or tundra. Would this type of activity be tolerated in the Village area of the Borough? We ask that you take this into consideration and make our concerns a priority to address this year.

In addition, we would like to understand the status and next steps of the original 80-acre, now 280-acre lease application in the Dry Creek/Otto Lake/Hill Top area. What is the lease application process for Borough land and do these applications go through a public review process?

We thank you for your commitment to the borough residents.

Regards,

James and Susan Gauvin

Dry Creek - Healy

## MEMO

**To:** Denali Borough Assembly Members

**From:** Chris Noel, Emergency Manager

**Date:** January 13, 2020

**Re:** January Assembly Meeting Update

I want to start with a moment of gratitude. Local EMS personnel from Denali National Park are providing mutual aid support to Tri-Valley Fire Department. During vaccination times in Healy, they have provided supplemental support in the event someone has a bad reaction or Tri-Valley receives a call for service. Thank you!

COVID-19: Testing continues to be readily accessible and healthcare providers in the Borough performed 424 tests borough wide in December. The Case Rate, or number of cases per 100,000 individuals remains is at Interior Region of the state, at 24.37/100,000. Within the last 7 days, 2 new cases have been reported within the Denali Borough. On our Thursday January 7<sup>th</sup> update we indicated we were still in a high risk, and this references the States Alert level. While we have seen lower case number and excitement with the vaccine rollout, we need to continue to keep up the mitigation efforts.

As the Mayor mentioned, we are changing Community Testing hours starting next week, Monday January 18.

The new hours will be posted widely:

Monday 1- 2 PM at the Cantwell school

Monday and Wednesday 4:30- 6:30 PM in Healy

Wednesday 1 - 2 PM at the Anderson school

Tuesday and Thursday 9 -11 AM in Healy

This is the PCR swab test and is very reliable. Results take 24-48 hours to get back and testing staff can provide guidance on what to do while waiting for your results.

The Community Testing Program will begin performing rapid tests based on specific criteria. More details will come, and these tests will require an appointment.

Vaccine Update: The Cantwell and Interior Health Center clinic began dispensing vaccine since our last meeting. There are three avenues vaccine is taking within the State, through Indian Health Services, Department of Defense, and the State of Alaska. I know there has been some confusion and frustration with the registration process. Healthcare workers and first responders and Alaskans 65 and older are now eligible to receive the vaccine. For those who have had trouble finding an appointment, keep checking [covidvax.alaska.gov](https://covidvax.alaska.gov). As more doses arrive in the State and more providers sign up, more vaccination spots will open. Individuals can also contact providers directly to register. Interior Community Health Center and the Cantwell clinic are adding individuals to a waitlist so call if you are eligible. Both vaccines available in Alaska require two doses approximately 1 month apart. You must get both doses in the same location.



**Superintendent's Report  
Denali Borough Assembly  
Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. I appreciate everyone in the community and state who followed mitigation strategies and helped lower our local and statewide case rates. This allowed us to return to medium risk this week and welcome our students back to our classrooms.
- b. Congratulations to our students who qualified for All-State Choir. They are Kami Vandeventer Mixed Choir Soprano 2, Taegan Suko and Kimberly Garner Mixed Choir Alto 2, and Paige Scoles and Rosemary Smith Treble Choir Alto 2. Incredible effort by these singers and Choir Director Mudge for continuing this hard and uplifting work.
- c. Thank you to Holland America Princess (HAP). HAP recently realized that they had not taken action on their scholarship program for Denali Borough students. This month they corrected that omission and announced recipients for their 2020 scholarships. They are Abi Smith - \$1,000, Erin Przybylski - \$1,000, Mistelle Titus - \$1,000, Makenzie Mirasole - \$1,000 and Rebecca Basile - \$1,000.
- d. Thank you to the Denali Borough. Mayor Walker delivered the third and final tranche of funding for this year from the Borough to the District. The amount was just under \$1 million and represents the required local contribution.
- e. Thoughts and Prayers - Our hearts go out to the community and school in the Kashinamiut School District (Chevak). Their superintendent, Dave Lougee, passed away this weekend from COVID-19

2. Smart Start 2020 -

- a. Protocol Review - I continue to review information on viral transmission and student achievement to help understand if there is information that supports amending our Smart Start protocols.
- b. Student Feedback - A quick review of the student surveys indicated, not surprisingly, the majority of students indicated a preference for in-person learning over distance learning.

**Mission Statement**

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

### 3. Finances

- a. FY22 Draft Budget - The Finance Committee reviewed the second draft of the FY22 Budget. This is currently unchanged from the first version. We still need to finalize the annual updates to the maintenance and technology plans and incorporate these figures into the budget. We hope to have this completed by the January board meeting. The operational deficit remains a little more than \$100,000.
- b. Stress Test - In order to give us a better understanding of the financial risk of a lower than anticipated enrollment we are generating 4 additional review figures. The scenarios are 1) if our brick and mortar enrollment next year remains as it is this year, 2) if 25% of the anticipated students return, 3) if 50% of the anticipated students return, and 4) if 75% of the anticipated students return. This will allow us to consider the degree to which our unrestricted carry over can help cushion any of these scenarios.
- c. Additional Relief Funds - We are waiting for guidance on funds being provided to school district in the recent federal relief measures.
- d. Transportation RFP - We are publishing an RFP for transportation services for the next 5 years.
- e. Internet Service RFP - We are publishing an RFP for internet services for the next 3 years.
- f. PEAK Anchorage Lease - We renegotiated the lease for our PEAK office in Anchorage. We received a lower monthly rate, evening security patrols, and the owners will provide access to a maintenance which we can engage for simple maintenance.

### 4. Facilities

- a. Anderson Roof Project - At this point, the work on the roof seems to be having the intended affect. Snow is not melting and causing water to pool and ice to form. We will continue to monitor the situation.
- b. Door Locks - Over the winter break our crews pulled wired needed for the door lock projects in addition to wires for additional security cameras and the eventual control panel upgrade. We are installing the needed ground stations for the door lock system. Then we will work on program aspects and begin changing out the door hardware.
- c. Tri-Valley Generator - The day before Christmas break the back generator at Tri-Valley stopped working during a regular test run. We arrange for a rental generator from Fairbanks and installed this the next day at Tri-Valley. An electrician from UCM was unable to locate the problem. A technician from NC Cat inspected the generator this week and will provide a quote to repair current generator. Once we have the quote, we can decide whether to repair the generator or move forward now with the larger upgrade project. The rental generator will remain on site until our generator is fully operational.

5. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff
  - i. I received formal authorization from DEED approving the hiring of Susan Carlson.
- b. Classified Staff
  - i. No update
- c. Exempt Staff
  - i. This month I will ask the Board to approve a position of Director or Learning and Instruction. This will replace the position of Instructional coach and move Karen Martin into the Director position next school year.

Sincerely,  
Dan Polta  
Denali Borough School District

# DENALI BOROUGH

P.O. Box 480 • Healy, Alaska 99743  
Phone: (907) 683-1330 • Fax: (907) 683-1340  
Email: [dbgovt@mtaonline.net](mailto:dbgovt@mtaonline.net)  
Website: [www.denaliborough.org](http://www.denaliborough.org)



*Clay Walker, Mayor*

## January 2021 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

### Denali Borough Community COVID-19 Testing Program

- With the addition of two part-time COVID Testing staff members - Jess Toubman and Tara Cicutello, who are both EMTs - we are expanding testing offerings. Beginning January 18, the new schedule for Community COVID testing at the Healy Testing Trailer will be:  
Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 am to 11:00 am
- Also, we are offering the Denali Borough School District onsite testing at the Cantwell and Anderson Schools. Businesses who may be interested in onsite testing, please email: [covidtestingadmin@denaliborough.com](mailto:covidtestingadmin@denaliborough.com).
- This testing program was paid for through federal CARES funding. Going forward, we are planning to seek FEMA reimbursement for COVID testing program expenses, as these are eligible expenses under the Public Assistance Program.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Update

- Phase 1A, which includes all health care workers and ems responders, is complete in the borough. Over 40 people received their first of two Moderna vaccine doses. Now, Phase 1B Tier 1 is open for appointments. Tier 1 includes all citizens 65 years and older. Those eligible and interested can call Interior Community Health Center at 455-4567 to make an appointment (or to get on the wait list if insufficient vaccine exists) for the Healy location, or if in Cantwell call the Cantwell Clinic for the same.
- We expect that both clinics will continue to receive monthly allocations of vaccine, hopefully with increasing supplies over time. The next three tiers in Phase B are described on the state website: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/VaccineAvailability.aspx#now>
- My kudos and appreciation to those organizing these efforts and delivering the vaccine. The delivery of vaccine takes time away from other service delivery, such as COVID testing, at these lightly staffed clinics, which is another reason the borough is bolstering its' testing program.

### CARES Deadline Extension

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 did not provide additional relief to impacted local governments, but it did extend the deadline to use the previously appropriated CARES funding. For those, like the Denali Borough, who planned to expend their CARES funding by the December 30, 2020 deadline, the extension until December 2021 was of limited consequence.

- I have informed non-profit recipients of this extension. The borough will continue to track and report our expenditures through the coming months. The remaining CARES balance of under \$100,000 will be used for necessary and allowable COVID related expenses in 2021.
- We remain hopeful and supportive of federal relief which can be used to address revenue lost due to COVID-19.

### **New Taxes Beginning January 1, 2021**

- As approved by the voters in November 2019, the borough is implementing a five percent tax on the sales of alcohol and marijuana beginning this New Year's Day. All purveyors in business at this time have registered with the borough. Additionally, the overnight accommodations tax rate rose from 7 to 7.5 percent on that day.

### **Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Audited Financial Statement**

- The FY20 Financial Statements are complete, presented to the Assembly, and will be available on our website for the public. We have said that in order to make it through this crisis with dramatically lower revenue, we will rely upon our strong financial foundation, while at the same time intending to maintain its structure. The three pillars of the foundation are forward funding, a healthy unrestricted fund balance, and very little debt.
- Due to the dramatic revenue decline, we did see a negative change in the total governmental fund balance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 of about \$500,000 (pg. 12). At the same time, the unrestricted fund balance increased from \$2,459,317 in FY19 to \$3,922,412 in FY 20 (pg. 7). As greater revenue losses are realized in FY21 and every effort is made to preserve general fund dollars, the borough may need to lean upon that pillar.

### **Community Mapping Project Update**

- This partnership project with State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development is near the finish line. Both the state and the borough have reviewed the new aerial imagery maps of our communities. The contractor is finalizing the maps and we expect to take delivery of the finished products in early February. The State will host the large digital files of these maps for the public on their Community Profile Maps webpage.

### **McKinley Village Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**

- Volunteers with the McKinley Volunteer Fire Department spear-headed an effort to develop a CWPP for this area. CWPPs are encouraged and promoted by the Division of Forestry and can lead to funding for wildland fire mitigation projects. The City of Anderson completed their CWPP a couple years ago and have a funded mitigation project to help protect the city. The new draft plan for McKinley Village has been locally reviewed and sent to Forestry.

### **Legislative Session and Alaska Municipal League (AML) Legislative Conference (Virtual)**

- Legislative Session begins January 19<sup>th</sup>. Currently neither the House nor Senate have organized around principles and selected leadership. The Senate is likely to organize, while the House could take longer.
- Advocacy, like everything else, will be different this year. Currently the plans are to restrict the public in the capitol building, so advocacy will be via phone, email or video chats. The annual AML conference is planned to be virtual, with a much longer duration.

Happy January, Happy New Year. As always, feel free to contact me or staff if you have any questions.

-Clay