July 12, 2017
6:00 PM

Cantwell School
Cantwell, Alaska

1.) ORDINANCE 17-07, Version A: An ordinance approving a donation of land offered to the Denali Borough by Golden Valley Electric Association located near Otto Lake, Healy, Alaska

If you wish to testify on any of the items listed above, please limit your testimony to three (3) minutes.

Mission Statement: The Denali Borough Assembly, in the service of the Borough citizens, seeks to defend and sustain the spirit and will of the people.
July 12, 2017 -
Following Public Hearing

Cantwell School
Cantwell, Alaska

Regular Meeting

Jill Boelsma
Seat A
Term Expires 11/2017

Patrick Kelly
Seat B
Term Expires 11/2018

Tallon Shreeve
Seat C
Term Expires 11/2019

David Evans
Seat D
Term Expires 11/2019

Joe Chatfield
Seat E
Term Expires 11/2017

Krista Zappone
Deputy Presiding Officer
Seat F
Term Expires 11/2018

Jared Zimmerman
Presiding Officer
Seat G
Term Expires 11/2018

Don DeBlauw
Seat H
Term Expires 11/2019

Paddy Tatum
Seat I
Term Expires 11/2017

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

C. Public Comments (During this section of the agenda the Assembly listens to oral communications from audience members. When speaking during this section of the agenda, please state your name, and limit your testimony to approximately three minutes per person.)

D. Approval of Agenda

E. Minutes of Previous Meetings
   1.) June 14, 2017 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

F. Reports: Financial, Mayor's, School District Superintendent, Commissions, Boards, Committees, and Assembly Comments
   1.) Receive the May 2017 Financial Report
   2.) Planning Commission Report
   3.) School District Report
   4.) Mayor's Report
   5.) Assembly Comments

G. Communication and Appearance Request
   LEPC report and recommendation regarding area-wide or non-area-wide address system question to be placed on the November ballot

H. Ordinances:
   Draft Ordinances:
   1.) ORDINANCE 17-08, Version A: An ordinance to set the Mayor's annual salary for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020
   2.) ORDINANCE 17-09, Version A: An ordinance appropriating up to $140,000 from the solid waste enterprise operating fund to replace the landfill scale
   3.) ORDINANCE 17-10, Version A: An ordinance appropriating up to $50,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for expenses related to an extension of the landfill shop building
   4.) ORDINANCE 17-11, Version A: An ordinance to accept and appropriate up to $12,000 from the General Fund for reimbursable expenditures related to the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) as well as up to $12,000 in matching expenditures
   5.) ORDINANCE 17-12, Version A: An ordinance to accept and appropriate up to $10,000 from the general fund for reimbursable expenditures related to the Local Emergency Planning Committee Grant (LEPC)

Pending Ordinances:
1.) ORDINANCE 17-07, Version A: An ordinance approving a donation of land offered to the Denali Borough by Golden Valley Electric Association located near Otto Lake, Healy, Alaska

I. Resolutions:
   1.) RESOLUTION 17-10, Version A: A resolution initiating a scrap metal drive and waiving fees associated with acceptance of dry vehicles and other scrap metal at the Denali Borough Landfill

J. Other Business:
   1.) Alaska Municipal League Position Statement
   2.) Public Comments (Please limit comments to three minutes per person

K. Assembly Comments (Please limit comments to three minutes per person.)

L. Time and Place of next meeting:
   The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at the Tri-Valley Community Center; Healy, Alaska; Public Hearing 6:00 PM with the Regular Meeting following the public hearing.

M. Adjournment
Minutes of the Public Hearing  
Denali Borough Assembly  
Tri-Valley Community Center  
June 14, 2017

CALL TO ORDER:
The public hearing was called to order by Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman at 7:25 p.m.

ROLL CALL:
Assembly members present: Jared ZIMMERMAN, Patrick KELLY, Joe CHATFIELD, Don DEBLAUW, David EVANS, Krista ZAPPONE, Tallon SHREEVE and Jill BOELSMA. Absent: Paddy TATUM.

ORDINANCE 17-06, Version A:
An ordinance transferring the balance of the Land Enterprise Fund to the Land Management Capital Fund

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:
The public hearing was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED: ________________________________________
Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _________________________________________
Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: __________________________
CALL TO ORDER:
Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman called the regular meeting to order at 7:25 PM. Mayor Clay Walker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL
Assembly members present: Jared ZIMMERMAN, Don DEBLAUW, Joe CHATFIELD, Patrick KELLY, David EVANS, Tallon SHREEVE, Krista ZAPPONE and Jill BOELSMA.
Absent: Paddy TATUM
Mayor Clay Walker was also present.
Jill BOELSMA MOVED to excuse Ms. Tatum. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Kris Capps, Fairbanks Daily News Miner, commented that the News Miner has plans to retrieve paper boxes that are no longer being used due to the cancellation of paper delivery to the Healy area.

James Gauvin, Dry Creek resident, commented that he has been asking the assembly to address ATV use on borough land in the Otto Lake area for three years, and that he is curious to see what will happen with the current land use planning efforts. Mr. Gauvin expressed hope that ATV use will be addressed as a result of these planning efforts.

AGENDA
Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

MINUTES
May 10, 2017 Denali Borough Assembly Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2017 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

REPORTS
April 2017 Financial Report
Patrick KELLY MOVED to receive the April 2017 financial report. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT
Planning Commissioner Susan Braun reported that the planning commission had a quorum of five members for their May meeting. The commission approved Resolution PC 17-01 regarding road and easement standards. The commission also approved Resolution PC 17-04 in support of the borough accepting land at Otto Lake from Golden Valley Electric Association.

SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
Denali Borough School District (DBSD) Board Chair Vernon Carlson

DBSD Board Chair Vernon Carlson thanked the assembly for supporting the school district to the full amount of their request, and reported that there will be no school board meetings in June or July due to a lack of a quorum and staff absences. Mr. Carlson noted that there is a vacant seat representing the Healy area, a seat that has been vacant for eight months.

MAYOR REPORT
Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted activity included in a written report, including the following:

- Mayor Walker attended Tri-Valley School's School to Work barbeque celebrating another year of partnership with Denali National Park.
- Alaska Metal Corporation (AMC) visited the borough on June 8 to tour our solid waste facilities and to discuss recycling options and the segregation of evacuated refrigerators and other metals. Mayor Walker commented that the partnership with AMC may eliminate the need to charge $25 for dry vehicles that are taken at the landfill.
- A number of staff changes have taken place over the last month. Travis Olson, a landfill employee who served the borough exceptionally well, resigned and Scott Wright has accepted an offer to fill that position. Misty Smart, a landfill employee, has accepted the position of administrative assistant at the borough office, and her position of landfill laborer/gatekeeper has been posted, with several applications received. Planning Commissioner Dorothy Leake resigned, leaving another northern district seat vacant.
- Mayor Walker provided comment to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in broad support of an application filed for the proposed Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas Project. Included in the comments were specific requests for a local offtake point and minimized impacts on communities and view-sheds, as well as a reference to assembly Resolution 16-04 supporting an alternative route with a bike path.
- The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation, proposed amendments to the characterization and management of specific types of waste in...
the Alaska Administrative Code. The proposed amendment could specifically exclude coal ash from being categorized as inert waste. Mayor Walker provided comment on the amendment expressing concern for an environmentally sound disposal method for coal ash, and asked that the exclusion of coal ash from the inert waste classification not be included in the final amendments.

- The State of Alaska Department of Transportation is soliciting comment on draft scoring criteria for their Community Transportation Program. Updated criteria have been modified to reflect the fiscal challenges of our current economic environment. The borough “needs list” contains improvement projects that may fit within the program.

- Mayor Walker attended the Clear Air Force Station Change of Command Ceremony on June 12.

- Three firms submitted proposals for the Healy Transfer Station design. An engagement for this project is expected soon.

- On June 7, the Local Emergency Planning Committee held a well-attended meeting that included a table top exercise focusing on a hazardous waste emergency scenario. More information from this meeting will be presented at next month’s assembly meeting.

- Mayor Walker shared several ideas for capital projects he received from Tri-Valley School’s third grade class including an indoor pool, an indoor hockey rink, and recreational trails.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly members thanked those in the audience for attending both the planning meeting and the assembly meeting, and thanked Agnew Beck for facilitating the planning meeting.

Jared ZIMMERMAN commented that, for the assembly to effectively address issues brought to them, the borough may need to assume more powers. Mr. Zimmerman further commented that it is important for people to make their voices heard to authorize the assembly to take action.

Don DEBLAUW commented that he understood the goal of the planning meeting was to help develop borough planning documents, but he heard talk about taxes. Mr. DeBlauw further commented that most people don’t want the borough to grow, but they want amenities, and that he did not feel a good cross section of the public attended the meeting.

David EVANS welcomed Amber Renshaw to her first meeting as Borough Clerk, expressed appreciation to Travis Olson for the exceptional job he did at the landfill, and thanked Paul VanDyke for the excellent work he continues to do at the landfill. Mr. Evans commented that he is glad to see the borough pursuing metal recycling, and hopes that people will see it as worthwhile to bring metals to the landfill. Mr. Evans further
commented that the borough would need to assume parks and recreation powers to maintain trails, which would be different from road powers.

Joe CHATFIELD thanked Travis Olson for his service to the borough, and thanked Amber Renshaw for stepping up to the Borough Clerk position. Mr. Chatfield commented that he is in favor of enhancing our communities, but not in favor of creating an undue burden on people who live here. Mr. Chatfield urged thoughtful and responsible growth, including a look at expanding our revenue base and prioritizing services for guests and community members.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES
There were no communications or appearances.

DRAFT ORDINANCES
Ordinance 17-07: An ordinance approving a donation of land offered to the Denali Borough by Golden Valley Electric Association located near Otto Lake, Healy, Alaska

David EVANS MOVED to introduce Ordinance 17-07. The motion was seconded. Points of discussion that followed include the stipulation that the land to be donated be designated as a public park, the fact that the borough has not assumed parks and recreation powers, the lack of a specified timeline for the transfer, and the possibility of liability associated with the property. The roll call VOTE to introduce Ordinance 17-07 was unanimous.

Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 17-07 to the next meeting. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

PENDING ORDINANCES
ORDINANCE 17-06, Version A: An ordinance transferring the balance of the Land Enterprise Fund to the Land Management Capital Fund

David EVANS MOVED to adopt Ordinance 17-06. The motion was seconded. The roll call VOTE was unanimous.

RESOLUTIONS
RESOLUTION 17-09: A resolution to reappoint check signers to the Denali Borough accounts

Patrick KELLY MOVED to approve Resolution 17-09. The motion was seconded. The roll call vote was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS
There was no other business.
PUBLIC COMMENTS
Susan Braun, Panguingue Creek resident, commented that Panguingue Creek
Homeowner’s Association was lucky to be organized and able to get State of Alaska grants
to build roads when there was money to be had, and stated that it would be interesting to
look into service areas as a way to build and maintain roads in our borough.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS
Assembly members thanked those in the audience for their attendance.

Dave EVANS commented that the assembly missed an opportunity to amend the
mayor’s salary in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget approved at the May meeting, and that he
will ask staff to develop an ordinance on this topic for the next meeting.

Jared ZIMMERMAN congratulated Amber Renshaw on her first meeting as borough
clerk.

Krista ZAPPONE commented that entertaining the idea of expanding borough powers
does not exclude the will of the people, and stressed the importance of the public
comment.

Patrick KELLY commented that a compromise is done right when nobody is really
happy, and that it is important for the public to voice their opinions.

Jill BOELSMA thanked Agnew::Beck for their involvement in planning discussions, and
invited the public to participate in the Healy Tundra Challenge Golf tournament on July 8,
noting that fundraising from this annual event has provided $35,000 to students of our
community via the Scott Menke Memorial Scholarship fund. Denali Education Center’s
Discovery Camp will take place next week, and there will be a two week program in
partnership with the Nenana School District where students will earn high school credit
for hiking in Denali National Park.

NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING
The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at the Cantwell
School; Cantwell, Alaska; Public Hearing 6:00 PM with the Regular Meeting following the
public hearing.

ADJOURN:
The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

APPROVED: ___________________________________________
Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer
ATTEST: Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: ____________
Enclosed are approved minutes from the March 1, 2017, LEPC meeting, as well as draft minutes from the June 7, 2017 meeting. At the June meeting, the committee voted to suggest that the Assembly consider including a question on the November 2017 election ballot regarding implementation of a Borough wide address system. A sample question is included in the draft minutes, for your consideration. Contact LEPC chairs Marge Nord and Steve Love via email at denalilepc@gmail.com, with questions or comments. Additional information will be presented in the LEPC verbal status report.

Worth noting was the strong turnout and participation at the June 7, 2017 meeting, which included a table top exercise related to a fictional, but realistic, hazardous materials spill along the Parks Highway. Participation from across the Borough, and feedback from participants was positive for this Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management led scenario. Also of note is the Borough’s recent engagement with a Mass-Notification vendor, following the recommendation of the LEPC. This engagement has the potential to provide notice to the public of a large scale or wide spread emergency. Smaller scale notification of designated groups, such as “Borough staff,” or “Cantwell school personnel” is also available through this engagement. We ask for your support as the roll out process for this service progresses.
A. Roll Call

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Minutes of Previous Meeting

D. Reports

E. Old Business
   a. Revision of the all hazards plan
   b. Address Letter to PO Box holders
   c. Assembly Report March

F. New Business
   a. Tier II Reports
   b. Tactical training grant

G. Other Business

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting

I. Adjournment
Minutes of the Denali Borough Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting
Denali Borough Office
Healy
March 1st, 2017

CALL TO ORDER:
The committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Love at 6:08 pm.

ROLL CALL:
Steve Love, LEPC Chairman – Marge Nord, Cantwell Fire Department/Denali LEPC - Sam Kimmel, Tri-Valley Fire Department/Denali LEPC – Kate Batten, Tri-Valley Fire Department/ Denali LEPC – Tamera Ohlund, Healy community member – Bob Doss, Denali National Park/Denali LEPC - Rob Graham, Tri-Valley Fire Department/Denali LEPC - Joe Chatfield, Denali LEPC – Chris Noel, LEPC Coordinator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Steve moved to approve the agenda, seconded. Approved

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:
The minutes were amended and approved.

REPORTS:
The LEPC Coordinator reported on the upcoming spring preparedness conference. A questions arose about when the mass notification system will be up and running. It is set to be included in the FY 2018 Budget and considered by the Assembly.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Revision of the All Hazards Plan: Ms. Tami Ohlund reported on progress related to the Resources section of the All-Hazards plan. The reviewers struggled with what information to include – not knowing the intended audience of the plan. Tri-Valley Fire Department indicated the plan is kept in each ambulance and all fire departments have a copy. The Borough Emergency Planner would also have a copy. There was also a discussion regarding the Incident Command process and who would be requesting additional resources. Standard operating procedures can be based on the plan, and it can be tested once the revision is in place. The reviewers are 3/4 finished with the Resource section review. Another community member, Ms. Lacy Gaddis, has offered to assist in the review. There was discussion to keep the revised plan basic and user friendly. It was mentioned that a follow up sub-committee meeting outside of the regular LEPC meeting may be beneficial

b. Address Letter to PO Box holders: After the decision last meeting to draft a letter regarding addresses to all PO Box holders, the committee considered a letter drafted by committee members and the coordinator. There was general consensus that the letter was acceptable and accurately stated the intended goals of an address system. Mr. Chatfield stated that it was a good idea to notify the Assembly
prior to sending the letter. It was also decided to send it prior to the summer season to prevent unnecessarily sending it to seasonal box holders.

  a. Report to Assembly: It was decided that the Secretary would present to the Assembly at their next meeting, Wednesday March 8th, 2017. The LEPC Coordinator will present if Kate is unable.

NEW BUSINESS:

  a. Tier II Reports: The committee received a quick reminder what Tier II reports are, and who should receive a copy (the LEPC, local Fire Department, and state DEC). Tier II reports have come in and the Borough received a similar number to 2016, but with a few notable exceptions from industries operating in the Borough. Rob indicated he would reach out to the Mine on behalf of the LEPC. The Coordinator will also reach out and inquire with notable industries who do not currently submit Tier II reports.

  b. Tactical Training grant: The committee discussed awarded 2015 State Homeland Security grant program funds for a Tactical Emergency Casualty Care course to be held in the Borough. Fortunately, the Borough was able to partner with the Department of Health and Social Services to deliver this type of training in the spring of 2016. There was general agreement that the grant funds should be used for training rather than relevant equipment. The summer is a busy time to schedule training, so mid fall would work better for most. The grant deadline is September 30, 2017.

OTHER BUSINESS:

  a. It was decided that the Mutual Aid Agreement should be sent out for all parties to re-affirm and sign, rather than holding a special meeting for the cause.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held June 7th, 2017 in the Denali Borough office.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.
A. Roll Call

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Minutes of Previous Meeting

D. Reports

E. Old Business
   a. Revision of the all hazards plan: Update
   b. Address Letter to PO Box holders: Responses

F. New Business
   b. Fall tactical training
   c. Borough Wide Mutual Aid Agreement

G. Other Business
   a. Assembly Report - July

H. Time and Place of Next Meeting

I. Adjournment
Minutes of the Denali Borough Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting
Denali Borough Office
Healy
June 7th, 2017

CALL TO ORDER:
The committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Love at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL:
Steve Love, LEPC Chairman – Marge Nord, Cantwell Fire Department/Denali LEPC - Sam Kimmel, Tri-Valley Fire Department/Denali LEPC – Kate Batten, Tri-Valley Fire Department/ Denali LEPC – Baxter Mercer, Tri-Valley Fire Department/Denali LEPC - Joe Chatfield, Denali LEPC – Chris Noel, LEPC Coordinator

Others Present:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Steve moved to approve the agenda, seconded. Approved

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:
The minutes were approved.

REPORTS:
All present thanked the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management representatives for attending the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:
a. Revision of the All - Hazards Plan, Update: The committee was presented with a draft Tactical Emergency Operations annex for the All - Hazards plan. There was no action taken. There was no update on the resource section review underway, and the committee will look for a report at the next meeting.
b. Address Letter to PO Box holders, Responses: The committee considered the written comments submitted directly to the Borough office, as well as the new LEPC email address, denalilepc@gmail.com. All comments received were in support of a Borough wide address system. Other points of discussion included Chena Goldstream’s address effort in the Fairbanks Northstar Borough, many existing roads already have names, and a basic system will be helpful to responders. Other points included the potential difficulty in getting residents to comply with posting numbers. The effort could be organized by the primary users of the system (fire and EMS departments). Cost will be a factor that the Assembly should consider prior to implementation. There was a question as to why residents are opposed to
addresses? It was identified that primary concerns relate to privacy and independence. There was much
discussion on action to take. Though a ballot measure is not required for the Borough to take action, it
may help build consensus.
   a. Action: A motion passed to suggest the Denali Borough Assembly consider including an address
question on the November ballot. A sample question is “Shall the Borough Implement an area-
wide or non area-wide address system for the purposes of enhancing fire and EMS response?”
   The LEPC will make the recommendation at the July Assembly Meeting

NEW BUSINESS:
   a. Haz-Mat Table Top Exercise: Mr. Colin Blair is the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant
Manager for the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (Division), a grant funded
by the Department of Transportation. His responsibilities include bringing training and exercise
resources to local jurisdictions related to Hazardous materials preparedness. The grant can include
sending fire personnel to ICS and HazMat operations related trainings. Mr. Kelly Isham is the Local
Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) liaison, and Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
manager for the Division. His responsibilities include coordinating with the States 21 LEPC’s, and
administering the EMPG grant which funds, in part, emergency manager salaries across the state
(including the Denali Borough).
   The Committee started the table Top Exercise. Please refer to the Participant Feedback Form and After
   Action Review for take away points.
   b. Fall Tactical Training: The committee identified the last weekend in September as a goal for the follow
   up Tactical Emergency Casualty Care training. This training could be coordinated between the Borough
   fire departments, the National Park, and could include Nenana Fire Department and the school district.
   c. Borough Wide Mutual Aid Agreement: The revised borough wide mutual aid agreement was available
   and agencies present considered and signed on behalf of their department. The agreement is current
   through 2022.

OTHER BUSINESS:
   a. It would be helpful to include public comment time on the agenda. Though the LEPC meeting is informal,
   it may prompt additional comments.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:
   The next meeting will be held October 4th, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Denali Borough office.

ADJOURNMENT:
   The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.
DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA
ORDINANCE NO. 17-08
INTRODUCED BY: ASSEMBLY MEMBER DAVID EVANS

AN ORDINANCE TO SET THE MAYOR’S ANNUAL SALARY FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018, 2019 AND 2020

BE IT ENACTED by the Denali Borough Assembly, Alaska that:

Section 1. Classification. This is a non-code ordinance.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to set the annual salary of the mayor at $79,828 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, with annual increases of 3.5% for two subsequent budget cycles (FY2019 and FY2020).

Section 3. Authority. Denali Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.10.060

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance becomes effective with the first assembly meeting following the November 2017 mayoral election, upon adoption of the Denali Borough Assembly and signature of the Mayor.

DATE INTRODUCED: _______________
FIRST READING: ________________
PUBLIC HEARING: ______________

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly this __________ day of ______________, 2017.

________________________________________
CLAY WALKER, MAYOR

ATTEST: ________________________________
AMBER RENSHAW, BOROUGH CLERK
CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

ROLL CALL
Committee members present: Committee Chair David Evans, Jill Boelsma, and Krista Zappone.
Ex-officio committee member Mayor Clay Walker, and Borough Treasurer Annette Ziegman were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded. The voice VOTE was unanimous.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2016 MEETING
Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

REPORT ON INVESTMENT ACTIVITY
Committee members reviewed investment activity since the last meeting. Since the last meeting, four certificates of deposit (CD) had matured, two new CDs had been purchased, investment was made in two equity funds, and two CDs with First National Bank of Alaska were renewed. Points of discussion include the maturity dates for CDs, the current investment ladder, and the low interest rate environment.

REVIEW OF DENALI BOROUGH INVESTMENT POLICY
Committee members reviewed the Denali Borough Investment Policy. A point of discussion was the maximum maturity of five years in the investment policy. There were no suggested changes to the policy.

RESOLUTION FC 17-01 A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING ASSET ALLOCATION OF THE PERMANENT INVESTMENT FUND
Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Resolution FC 17-01 and forward the resolution to the assembly at their May meeting. The motion was seconded. It was noted that the resolution includes readoption of the Borough’s investment policies. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

MAYOR SALARY
Committee members reviewed the history of the mayor’s salary, which is to be set by the assembly per Denali Borough Code 2.10.060(A). When the assembly makes a change to the mayor’s compensation, the change does not come into effect until the first assembly meeting following the
next regular election when the office of mayor is voted on. The mayor’s salary was based upon a part-time schedule from the borough’s creation through Fiscal Year (FY) 2005. In FY 2006, the mayor’s schedule was increased to full-time, with an annual salary of $65,000. No change was made in the compensation of the mayor until FY 2015, when the salary was increased to $72,000, with two annual increases of 3.5% in each of the subsequent budget cycles (FY 2016 and FY 2017).

Points of discussion that followed include the value of $65,000 in 2006 versus 2017, the relatively low salary of the Denali Borough mayor compared to other mayors in Alaska, and ways a salary increase could be implemented.

Jill BOELSMA MOVED that the finance committee make a recommendation to the assembly that the FY 2018 budget include an increase in the mayor’s salary of 3.5%, effective as of the first assembly meeting following the November 2017 mayoral election, and that the mayor’s salary increase 3.5% annually for the following two budget cycles. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) 17-03 PROFESSIONAL AUDIT SERVICES
Borough Treasurer Annette Ziegman asked the committee to serve as the review committee for RFP 17-03. The committee agreed by consensus. The RFP review committee meeting will be April 24 at 6:30 PM.

NEXT MEETING
The next regular committee meeting will be held at the Denali Borough office on Monday, July 17 at 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT
Jill BOELSMA MOVED to adjourn at 7:11 PM. The motion was seconded. The voice VOTE was unanimous.

APPROVED: ____________________________________________
David Evans, Chair

ATTEST: ____________________________________________
Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: ____________________________
BE IT ENACTED the Assembly of the Denali Borough, Alaska that:

Section 1. Classification.
This is a non-code ordinance.

Section 2. Purpose.
The purpose of this ordinance is to appropriate funds to replace the truck scale at the Denali Borough Landfill located in Anderson, Alaska. The existing scale is 36 feet 8 inches in length, which is not long enough to accommodate many truck and trailer combinations. Insufficient scale length has resulted in numerous operational difficulties and limitations. The industry standard is roughly twice the length.

Section 3. Appropriation – Source and Amount.
The Denali Borough Assembly appropriates up to $140,000 from the Solid Waste Enterprise fund.

Section 4. Procedure.
The project will be completed in accordance with Denali Borough Code 3.35, titled “Procurement, Procedures, and Contracting Standards.”

Section 5. Effective Date.
This ordinance becomes effective upon adoption of the Denali Borough Assembly and the signature of the Denali Borough Mayor.

DATE INTRODUCED: __________
FIRST READING: __________
PUBLIC HEARING: __________

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly this _____ day of ______________.
CLAY WALKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

______________________________

AMBER RENSHAW, BOROUGH CLERK

Ayes:
Nays:
Absent:
DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA
ORDINANCE NO. 17-10
INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Clay Walker

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING APPROPRIATION OF AN ADDITIONAL UP TO $50,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO AN EXTENSION OF THE LANDFILL SHOP BUILDING

BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of the Denali Borough, Alaska that:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is a non-code ordinance.

Section 2. Background. The Denali Borough entered into an agreement with the State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development in June 2012, for a new landfill shop grant (13-DM-223) in the amount of $50,000.

The Denali Borough Assembly passed Ordinance 16-03 in February 2016, appropriating up to $310,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund to construct an extension to the landfill shop.

Section 3. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to appropriate additional funds to build an extension of the existing landfill shop building. This additional appropriation will cover unforeseen project change orders, necessary existing shop electrical upgrades, and shop extension electrical work.

Section 4. Appropriation – Source and Amount. The Denali Borough Assembly appropriates up to $50,000 from the Capital Improvements Fund.

Section 5. Procedure. The project will be completed in accordance with Denali Borough Code 3.35, titled “Procurement, Procedures, and Contracting Standards.”

Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance becomes effective upon adoption of the Denali Borough Assembly and the signature of the Denali Borough Mayor.

DATE INTRODUCED: _____________
FIRST READING: ________________
PUBLIC HEARING: ________________

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly this _____ day of ______, 2017.

DENALI BOROUGH
ORDINANCE 17-10
Page 1 of 2
CLAY WALKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

AMBER RENSHAW, BOROUGH CLERK

Ayes:
Absent:
DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA
ORDINANCE NO. 17-11
INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Clay Walker

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE UP TO $12,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR REIMBURSABLE EXPENDITURES RELATED TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT AS WELL AS UP TO $12,000 IN MATCHING EXPENDITURES

BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of the Denali Borough, Alaska that:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is a non-code ordinance.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to accept 2017 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds and to appropriate up to $12,000 from the General Fund for reimbursable expenditures related to this grant as well as up to $12,000 in match expenditures. Eligible expenditures include salary and benefits for the Emergency Planning and Projects Coordinator per the application and obligating award documents.

Section 3. Granting Agency. EMPG grants are funded by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management through the State of Alaska to support emergency management activities.

Section 4. Requirements. EMPG recipients are required to perform projects identified in the borough’s 2016 EMPG Work Plan, complete the Alaska Assessment, attend the State’s Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan Workshop, participate in three exercises, work with the National Incident Management System, complete the FEMA Independent Study Professional Development Series, timely report quarterly progress, and provide a dollar for dollar in-kind match.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance becomes effective upon adoption by the Denali Borough Assembly and signature of the Denali Borough Mayor.

DATE INTRODUCED: ____________
FIRST READING: ____________
PUBLIC HEARING: ____________

PASSED and APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly this _____ day of _________, 2017.
CLAY WALKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

___________________________________________
AMBER RENSHAW, BOROUGH CLERK

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA
ORDINANCE NO. 17-12
INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Clay Walker

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE UP TO $10,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR REIMBURSABLE EXPENDITURES RELATED TO LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE GRANT

BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of the Denali Borough, Alaska that:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is a non-code ordinance.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to accept 2018 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) grant funds and to appropriate up to $10,000 from the General Fund for reimbursable expenditures related to this grant. Eligible expenditures include Local Emergency Planning Committee management personnel and support services, outreach, and preparedness activities per the grant application and obligating award documents.

Section 3. Granting Agency. LEPC grants are funded by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management through the State of Alaska to support LEPC activities.

Section 4. Requirements. Each LEPC member must comply with the State Emergency Response Commission Policies and Procedures manual. Representative attendance is required at bi-annual LEPC Association meetings. LEPC meeting minutes for all meetings held within a quarter must be included with quarterly performance and financial progress reports.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance becomes effective upon adoption by the Denali Borough Assembly and signature of the Denali Borough Mayor.

DATE INTRODUCED: ____________
FIRST READING: ____________
PUBLIC HEARING: ____________

PASSED and APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly this _____ day of__________, 2017.
MAYOR CLAY WALKER

ATTEST:
______________________________
AMBER RENSHAW, BOROUGH CLERK

AYES:  
NAYS:  
ABSENT:
DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA
ORDINANCE NO. 17-07
INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR CLAY WALKER

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A DONATION OF LAND
OFFERED TO THE DENALI BOROUGH BY GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION LOCATED NEAR OTTO LAKE, HEALY, ALASKA

WHEREAS, Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) notified the Denali Borough that the Golden Valley Electric Association Board of Directors have voted to donate a 1.09 +/- acre parcel of land located near Otto Lake, Healy, Alaska to Denali Borough; and

WHEREAS, Golden Valley Electric Association stipulated that the parcel be donated to the Denali Borough with the stipulation that the parcel be classified or designated a public park and will not be sold; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough Planning Commission Resolution PC 17-04 has approved the acquisition of the GVEA parcel and the restrictions attached to it; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Denali Borough Code 4.05.020(C), an abstract of title has been submitted to the assembly; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Denali Borough Code 4.05.020(C)(1) the Denali Borough Mayor and Land Planner have reviewed maps, aerial photographs, plats, surveys, historical land records and visited the parcel to see if any issues of obvious concerns could be found; and

WHEREAS, the mayor and land planner have found that the parcel of land is in acceptable condition and there is no obvious issues or concerns to report; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough Assembly by adoption of this ordinance confirms that it is in the best interest of the borough to approve and enthusiastically accept with appreciation Lot 7 of the Otto Lake Subdivision from GVEA with the deed restrictions that it is classified or designated a public park and will not be sold by the Denali Borough.

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of the Denali Borough, Alaska that:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is a non-code ordinance.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to accept and approve the acquisition of land being offered as a donation to the Denali Borough with deed restrictions...
Section 3. Authority. Denali Borough Code 4.01.015 titled Authority for management of borough real property and 4.05.010(A) titled Real property acquisition and ownership

Section 4. Approval. By the adoption of this ordinance, the Denali Borough Assembly approves the acquisition of a 1.09+/- acre lot which is located within Section 25, Township 12S, Range 8W, Fairbanks Meridian, Lot 7 of the Otto Lake Alaska Subdivision; and accepts the deed restrictions that the lot will be designated as a public park and will not be sold.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance becomes effective upon adoption of the Denali Borough Assembly and the signature of the Denali Borough Mayor.

DATE INTRODUCED: June 14, 2017
FIRST READING: July 12, 2017
PUBLIC HEARING: July 12, 2017

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly this ____day of ______________, 2017.

_________________________________________
CLAY WALKER, MAYOR

ATTEST: ___________________________________
AMBER RENSHAW, BOROUGH CLERK

Ayes:
Nays:
Absent:
DENALI BOROUGH, ALAKSA
PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. PC 17-04

A RESOLUTION BY THE DENALI BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDING THE DENALI BOROUGH ACQUIRE LAND BEING OFFERED BY
GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION (GVEA).

WHEREAS, Denali Borough Code section 4.05.010 (A) authorizes the borough to acquire
land through gift upon assembly approval with recommendation from the planning
commission; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2017, GVEA’s Board of Directors passed a motion to offer Lot 7
of the Otto Lake Alaska Subdivision to the Denali Borough, and further stated that if the
borough is not interested in acquiring the property it will be put up for sale; and

WHEREAS, GVEA is offering to donate the property to the borough to be used for a public
purpose such as a park, with the restriction that the lot cannot be sold or otherwise
disposed; and

WHEREAS, the general condition of the lot can be described as undeveloped with the south
side adjoining Otto Lake; and

WHEREAS, the property has an unauthorized trail used by tourists and summer employees
to access Otto Lake; and

WHEREAS, Lot 7 of the Otto Lake Alaska Subdivision is a 1.09-acre parcel on the western
side of Otto Lake and is located with section 25, township 12 south, range 8 west, Fairbanks
Meridian.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Denali Borough Planning Commission recommends
the Denali Borough accept Lot 7 of the Otto Lake Alaska Subdivision from GVEA to be used
as a public space.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Denali Borough Planning Commission this 16th day of MAY,
2017.
Signature on File
Kesslyn Tench, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Amber Renshaw, Deputy Clerk

VOTE: PASSED
  Yea: BRAUN, TENCH, MERCER, LIGHTFOOT, BREASE
  Nay: 0
  Absent: MENKE, JONES
Mayor Walker,

I forgot to include the Board motion in the previous email.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR PURCHASE OF OTTO LAKE SUBDIVISION LOT 7

Mr. Sloan moved to explore donating Lot 7 of the Otto Lake Subdivision to the Denali Borough for a public park with the restriction that the lot cannot be sold; if the Denali Borough is not interested in the property, GVEA will pursue selling the lot through a competitive, open bid process. Mr. Nordmark seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed.

This was ratified at the March 27, 2017 Board Meeting.

Julie Karl, Land Management Supervisor
GVEA Transmission & Distribution
907-458-5763 direct line
907-458-6371 fax
jlkarl@gvea.com
QUITCLAIM DEED

THE GRANTOR, OTTO E. MAKI, a single man, of Healy, Alaska, for and in consideration of the sum of TEN DOLLARS ($10.00), and other good and sufficient consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, conveys and quitclaims to GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC., an Alaska electric cooperative corporation, all his right, title and interest in and to the following described real property, situate in the Nenana Recording District, Alaska:

A PORTION OF THE OTTO E. MAKI HOMESTEAD, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the quarter corner common to Sections Twenty-Five (25) and Twenty-Six (26), Township Twelve South (T12S), Range Eight West (R8W), Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska; thence South 275.00 feet to a point; thence East 625.00 feet to a point; thence South 913.00 feet to a point; thence East 595 feet, more or less, to the West shoreline of Otto Lake; thence Northerly along the West shoreline of Otto Lake to a point 1,715 feet, more or less, from the point of beginning; thence West 1,715 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning; said tract containing 24.9 acres, more or less, and comprising the OTTO LAKE SUBDIVISION, according to the plat thereof recorded in the offices of the Nenana Recording District on December 5, 1968, as Instrument No. 68-306.

DATED this 4th day of Oct., 1969.

Otto E. Maki

STATE OF ALASKA

) SS

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared OTTO E. MAKI, to me known and known to me to be the identical individual mentioned in and who executed the within and foregoing Quitclaim Deed, and he acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

WITNESS my hand and notarial seal this 4th day of Oct., 1969.

Notary Public for the State of Alaska
My Commission expires:
June 14, 1970
DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 17-10

A RESOLUTION BY THE DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY INITIATING A SCRAP METAL DRIVE AND WAIVING TIPPING FEES ASSOCIATED WITH ACCEPTANCE OF DRY VEHICLES AND OTHER SCRAP METAL AT THE DENALI BOROUGH LANDFILL

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough assumed Solid Waste powers and operates a Class II Municipal Solid Waste Landfill located at milepost 282 of the George Parks Highway; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Denali Borough to maximize the lifespan of the permitted landfill through measures such as waste diversion; and,

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough recently entered into a five year agreement with Alaska Metal Corporation, a Wasilla based recycler; and,

WHEREAS, Alaska Metal Corporation has agreed to haul away dry junk vehicles and other scrap metals such as appliances while also paying the Denali Borough ten dollars per vehicle and ten dollars per ton of scrap metal.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Denali Borough Assembly encourages the public to bring scrap metal and dry junk vehicles to the Denali Borough Landfill by initiating a Scrap Metal Drive; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Denali Borough Assembly waives the current $25 fee for dry vehicles, and $115 per ton tipping fee for segregated scrap metal at the landfill for the duration of the Scrap Metal Drive.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly this _____ day of _________, 2017.

________________________________________
MAYOR CLAY WALKER

ATTEST: ______________________________________
AMBER RENSHAW, BOROUGH CLERK

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
Position Statement Guidelines

The AML Position Statement was developed by an AML standing committee composed of the AML President and appointed or elected officials from member municipalities who have expertise in one or more of the following subject areas:

- Economic Development
- Education
- Energy
- Finance/Taxation
- Public Safety
- Resource Management
- Transportation

Other committee members include:

- One At-Large member
- AML Executive Director
- Sitting board President

In order to assure that the position statements remain true to the goal of reflecting the will of our members and the League’s philosophy and mission, changes to the position statements will be considered by both the committee and the membership only if endorsed by resolution, of a member’s governing body.

Changes begin during the AML Summer Conference in August. A copy of the current AML Position Statement was sent to all member municipalities for review (6/7/2017). For changes to be considered during the AML Summer Conference to the DRAFT 2018 Position Statement, resolutions must be received by email, mail or fax, no later than August 10, 2017.

The DRAFT 2018 Position Statement is then sent to all member municipalities prior to the AML Annual Business meeting in November. For changes to be considered, resolutions supporting the change must be received in the AML office electronically by email, mail or fax, no later than October 6, 2017. Resolutions for changes to this document will not be accepted after this date.

The Position Committee shall debate and act upon each resolution for final recommendations to the membership during the Position Committee meeting on November 15, 2017. If the Position Committee does not accept the submitted resolution, the governing body may bring it to the floor at the General Session on November 16, 2017 for discussion.

Those resolutions accepted by the Position Committee shall also be discussed during the General Session on November 16, 2017 for incorporation into the Position Statement. The amended Position Statement shall be voted on by the full membership at the AML Business Meeting to be held on the morning of November 17, 2017.

Note: These resolutions are “separate” from the Action Resolutions that AML adopts to further a specific “issue” during the Legislative or Congressional session.

Please email your resolutions to: kathie@akml.org; fax to: (907) 463-5480; or mail to: AML, One Sealaska Plaza Suite 200, Juneau, AK 99801
2017
Position Statements

Approved by AML Membership
November 2016

One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 200
Juneau, Alaska 99801

(907) 586-1325
Fax (907) 463-5480

www.akml.org

Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director
kathie@akml.org
Local Control

Article X of the Alaska State Constitution makes mention, throughout, of “maximum local self-government…” The Alaska Supreme Court has used this section to make close calls in favor of municipalities in many court proceedings. While Title 29 lays out the laws under which a municipal government must operate, liberal construction is given to municipalities under the State Constitution.

Due to the large geographical land mass of Alaska; due to the different cultures that are in place in the many large areas of Alaska; due to the differing array of climates and environment experienced by each area of Alaska; and due to the differing infrastructure, facilities and services provided within each area, it is common knowledge that most “one size fits all” legislation that might attempt to envelop the entire State does not usually work well in Alaska. Therefore, it is imperative that, unless prohibited by law, municipalities closest to the electorate be able to provide their constituents with the laws, services, benefits, and taxation that the local populations, through their local elected officials, feel is appropriate.

The Alaska Municipal League has always based their positions upon two guiding principles: Does it allow for maximum local control, and/or does it create an unfunded mandate.
Revenue Sharing

The State’s Constitution entrusts state government with managing the state’s resources to the maximum benefit of all Alaskans. The Constitution also promotes maximum self-governance at the local level. It is therefore incumbent upon the Governor and Legislature to manage and distribute the wealth of Alaska’s resources to local governments each and every year. Predictable, dependable, and direct Revenue Sharing is therefore required for the State to meet its Constitutional obligations. To that end, the State should designate a specific long-term funding source that would perpetually sustain the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program.
PERS/TRS Unfunded Liability

Management of Alaska’s public retirement system has always been the responsibility of State government. Participating municipalities have had no choice but to rely on information provided by the State when making decisions regarding their own contributions to the system. Decades of improper accounting and inaccurate actuarial data provided by the State to municipalities, has now created a huge unfunded pension liability that can no longer be accurately apportioned among all participating employers. The League recognizes that there is municipal responsibility to participate in solving this fiscal problem. However, as the primary responsible party and the only entity with the long-term resources to effectively deal with the magnitude of the issue, the State should incorporate into its long-term fiscal planning strategy a leading position that ensures this ongoing obligation is met, while maintaining close coordination with participating employers to avoid the potential of shifting too great a burden to local governments.

The Alaska Municipal League strongly supports reforms that would allow flexibility with regards to the management of the local government workforce (i.e., termination study costs, below-the-floor penalties).
Fiscal Policy

It is critical for the State to establish long-term financial policy as opposed to short-term reactive approaches that primarily focus on annual revenue/expenditure fluctuations or fiscal austerity. Accumulation of reserves during good years should continue as part of that policy, however draws from reserves during lean years should be more process driven and not as subject to political bartering.

When necessary, State budget cuts in one department’s program area must be coordinated with complimentary programs in other departments. The same needs to occur between State and local municipal programs. To do otherwise will sacrifice critical service delivery and the health of the economy statewide. The League calls upon the Governor to provide Cabinet level leadership during budget formulation to balance these interrelated effects. At the legislative level the League asks that the Director of Management and Budget works closely with the Director of the Legislative Finance Division to assure that programs remain balanced during the Legislature’s budget deliberations.

The Legislature must also ensure that State initiatives always include the necessary State resources required for implementation. Unfunded mandates to local governments are tantamount to unilaterally usurping critical local income and priorities.

State funding reductions to municipalities, when necessary, should occur over a number of years to provide those municipalities with the reaction time to make adjustments. New revenue sources, if considered, must always consider impacts to existing local government revenue sources first. Local municipal sources already in place must always take primacy over new State revenue schemes.
Education

Funding of Public School Districts: The Alaska Constitution provides that the State shall “establish and maintain a system of public schools.” The State established school districts to be the basic unit for the administration of schools. The funding of these school districts is complex and segmented with Federal, State, and local sources. Additionally, State and Federal categorical funds are available to meet special circumstances, which adds to the complexity.

- Sudden alterations in funding and dramatic shifts in funding levels cause havoc as the districts try to implement programs. Thus, stability of funding is required for the adequate management of school districts. Funding levels will change; but predictable, phased increases (or reductions if necessary) are essential.
- Additionally, billions of State and local dollars have been expended on educational infrastructure, sudden reductions in funding inevitably cause the deferral in maintenance of this massive investment. Such deferral of maintenance increases the eventual price tag when minor maintenance issues become critical failures.

Local Control: One of the League’s guiding principles is local control. AML recognizes that ultimate control of education rests with the State Legislature by constitutional dictate; but also recognizes that every educational mandate by the Legislature can impact other important locally developed programs. Every School District is unique with widely different populations, cultures, lifestyles, educational backgrounds, and expectations. AML therefore challenges the Legislature to maximize local control over education and to provide flexibility for local circumstance wherever possible.

Evaluation of School Performance: Evaluation of schools is a process of assessing and reporting a set of key indicators, such as student standardized test results, proficiency rates, graduation rates, drop-out rates, etc. This evaluation process should provide the community with the data on how well the students and district are performing, and to provide the school district with the benchmarks for programmatic improvement. The goal is to continuously improve local educational programs. Almost every new Administration brings a new performance or accountability program, with a different twist, tool, or plan requiring school district action or adaptation. Each alteration has the potential of interfering with the longitudinal evaluation data stream. Thus it is essential that each change be tailored to avoid that disruption. In Alaska, the evaluation process needs to be local, positive, and focused on continually enhancing the local educational performance.

Education Programs for Workforce Development: The primary task for Alaska’s University System and the vocational technical centers in Alaska is to prepare Alaskans with the skills needed by Alaskan industries and employers. There are, of course, other tasks performed by these educational institutions, but preparing the populace to meet the economic and workforce needs in Alaska needs to be kept as the principal priority.
Energy

Energy Policy. Alaska’s economy depends heavily on increasingly expensive gasoline and diesel fuel for heating, transportation, and electric power. Energy costs in rural areas are generally significantly higher, but vary widely depending on transportation costs, seasonal usage peaks, nearby petroleum development infrastructure, and many other factors. Wind and hydroelectric power are abundant and underdeveloped. Processing and distribution facilities to use some of the oil and gas produced in Alaska are virtually non-existent. There are extensive gas reserves, but no current way to get it to the lower 48 or other markets. Production, transportation, storage, and distribution systems to take advantage of these resources in Alaska must be developed immediately.

Alaska’s current oil and gas energy policy is complicated and to some extent, driven by the industry and national political decisions which are outside Alaskan’s control. Support, other than financial, should be provided to encourage new exploration and development of oil and gas resources. Alaska policy needs to emphasize the production, distribution, use and sale of our oil and gas resources to benefit all Alaskans.

Alaska’s energy policy therefore requires a thorough review with emphasis on the needs of Alaska residents. Permitting and future development of energy resources need to emphasize “Alaska First.” Processing facilities and distribution for Alaskans must be a very high priority. Other opportunities, although expensive, abound for the use of alternative energy from the sun, water, wind, and tidal surges. The technology to build and operate facilities utilizing some of Alaska’s natural resources to provide biomass for heat and fuel also needs more emphasis. Revenues from a new natural gas pipeline must be made available for local communities and rural residents to draw upon for energy related grants or for low interest rate loans to help diversify sources and reduce energy costs.

Energy Planning. Alaska is one of the most energy rich states in the union, yet the cost of energy throughout the State is far above the national average. Most local governments have identified the cost of energy as a primary detrimental influence affecting quality of life and economic expansion within their communities.

As the State moves forward with plans to develop a North Slope LNG pipeline to tidewater, it is critical that strategic planning be started immediately at the State level to identify local energy needs statewide, and to develop a comprehensive plan to use either the natural gas itself, or the revenue from the sale of natural gas, to mitigate the high cost of energy throughout the State. This planning must occur in time to influence the design of any LNG pipeline and/or associated processing/shipping facilities, as to maximize the ability of those facilities to meet the strategic energy needs of the State.
Transportation

Transportation infrastructure in Alaska includes much more than roads. When we say transportation we mean surface, air, trail, rail and water. All of these modes work together to move people, goods and services throughout our great state.

Transportation investment has been studied and proven to be a critical economic driver over and over again. Alaska’s transportation infrastructure is pivotal to the state’s economy and facilitates access to markets, supplies, and most of all, resources. Improving and investing in Alaska’s transportation system will enhance the global competitiveness of Alaska business and economic opportunities for its people. Alaska needs new transportation infrastructure development to provide access to resources, reduce barriers for communities to participate in the economy, allow for safe and efficient transportation for all Alaskans, and to dramatically improve Alaskan’s quality of life statewide. It is equally important to ensure the maintenance of our existing infrastructure.

Historically, the federal government has been funding 85%-90% of Alaska’s transportation infrastructure budget. The Federal Highway Trust Fund is experiencing significant shortfalls, contributing to a decrease in federal funds for Alaska, which is not likely to rebound. The League therefore supports a State Transportation Fund with predictable funding that will provide continuity between Administrations and be applicable to all our modes of transportation.
Fishing

Alaska has over 34,000 miles of coastline on three different seas: Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and the Bering Sea. Over half of the nation’s commercially harvested fish, crab and shrimp come from Alaska, nearly four times more than the next largest seafood producing state. A rich variety of other species, such as sea cucumbers, abalone, sea urchins, herring, etc. also come from Alaskan waters and provides unique export markets. More than eight of Alaska’s ports consistently rate in the top 30 U.S. ports in terms of volume or value of seafood delivered. Seafood has been and remains one of Alaska’s top export commodities.

The vast fishery resources of Alaska are of significant importance to the economies of the state and the nation. Local benefits from these resources are not uniformly spread throughout Alaska, but heavily concentrated in communities along the coast of Alaska. The economies of many Alaskan coastal communities are largely dependent on the fishing industry.

Throughout most of the state, there is also a subsistence and recreational need and lifestyle associated with fish resources. These are critically important sectors of our culture and economy that must also be considered in any resource management plan for the industry.

Revenues to local communities from fishing vary considerably and are dependent on a number of factors including the overall health and strength of various fisheries, quota allocations, changing management schemes, as well as the location of processors and the public and private docks or ports to which the catches are delivered. As state funding declines many of the coastal communities face major challenges to maintain community services provided, in part, to the large seasonal influx of fisherman. It will therefore be almost impossible to maintain these current ports and harbor facilities without some other sources of revenue, including consideration of recreational demand on these facilities. As the fishing industry adjusts to change, the state needs to review its current laws and regulations regarding the collection and distribution of revenues from fishery resources and ensure they are equitably allocated to Alaska’s fishing communities.
Public Safety

The State provides needed public safety services to areas not covered by local law enforcement agencies (per AS 44.41.020) and assistance to municipal police departments with the enforcement of criminal laws (AS 18.65.090). It is also critical for the State to maintain all necessary training for Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs) as they provide essential public safety services to communities that otherwise would not have law enforcement.

Municipalities often depend on the State, which has the responsibility for search and rescue operations (AS 18.60.120), to conduct search and rescues within their municipalities.

The State provides a criminal justice information system that is utilized by State and local law enforcement agencies (AS 44.41.020(b)) and is vital to municipal law enforcement, as it provides information unavailable through any other sources. Further, the State Crime Lab provides basic forensic services to law enforcement agencies free of charge. State and local law enforcement rely on these services for aiding in the investigation and prosecution of crimes and in solving other non-criminal cases.

The State has implemented and maintains an interoperable communication system that is used by an increasing number of public safety personnel in the state. This system allows for an increased range of operation and the ability to communicate with other local and state agencies. As long as the cost of these systems continues to be borne by the State, municipalities will continue to find them to be very useful tools.

The State operates the Public Safety Academy which trains many law enforcement officers and provides consistency with public safety services statewide. The training for municipal police officers at the academy is generally funded, upon request through the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC). APSC is also responsible for setting the standards for police officers and for certifying police officers.

Some municipalities operate contract holding facilities for in-custody persons. These municipalities rely on funding from the State to operate these facilities. In lieu of this, the Department of Corrections or law enforcement would be required to transport prisoners at an increase in both time and state expense.

Emergency Medical Technician certifications and Paramedic licensing (required by AS 18.08.84 and 12 AAC 40.300-390 respectively) represent essential life safety functions of the state that must be continued. The required Division of Forestry training for response to wild land fires is also critically important to ensure the protection of all state lands and threatened nearby infrastructure. Funding for this program should be maintained.
Economic Development

Economic development permeates all AML position statements. Effective communication between the Governor, the Legislature, and local governments is critical to the success of any strategic long range state or local economic development strategy.

Even though government cannot affect all the factors important to economic development, it can have a significant impact through both its traditional role as a public service provider and regulator, and its entrepreneurial role as a dealmaker and business recruiter. Of these two roles, the former is essential – government must provide quality basic services and an efficient regulatory environment if it wishes to create economic development. Providing further incentives to businesses are optional; whether it makes sense depends on what government can reasonably offer, the extent to which such offerings are necessary to attract or retain firms, and that the cost of such offerings can be fully funded by the State be entirely a local option.

Public policy can affect factors that are important to businesses, primarily through regulations, taxes, and incentives. It is therefore incumbent upon the Governor and Legislature to maintain a long-term commitment to Alaska’s future by considering local stability and growth, as well as local community plans to develop and implement a comprehensive State vision for economic growth and diversification. Such a vision then needs to guide all future State policy and budgetary decisions.
Minerals

Alaska’s size and complex geology provide immense opportunity for a wide variety of minerals to occur, including coal, gold, copper, silver, molybdenum, zinc, and rare earth minerals. Before statehood, the mineral industry made up about 30% of the economy as compared to about 5% today. Vast untapped mineral reserves still exist.

Some of the disadvantages in Alaska are the distances from markets, lack of road systems to move the material, and in some cases, the lack of technology to develop and process the mineral. All these factors raise the cost of production and make it harder for the industry to compete with other parts of the U.S. and the world.

Alaska enjoys a unique position in that there are vast untapped minerals for the future. These minerals are available to be developed when needed. Such development should occur while incorporating the best environmental practices to protect the environment. Bonds need to be required to protect the resources and people in case of default.

AML supports and encourages research efforts, whether public or private, into new and improved methods to overcome Alaska’s disadvantages, to negate potential adverse impacts, and to improve mineral recovery. Special emphasis should be aimed at improving discharge quality from mine operations and to reduce the risk of dam failures.

The Governor and Legislature need to be active advocates in the responsible development of our mineral resources.
Clean Water

Alaska’s abundance of rivers, lakes, wetlands, snowfields, and glaciers comprise an estimated 40% of the Nation’s surface water. There are more than 12,000 rivers in Alaska, and three of those rivers, the Yukon, the Kuskokwim, and the Copper, are among the ten largest rivers in the United States. Alaska has more than 3 million lakes ranging from pond size to 1,000 square miles. Despite Alaska’s wealth of water, its water resources are not uniformly distributed geographically or seasonally.

Water is highly important to Alaskans, not only for domestic use, but also for the fishing and tourism industries. Alaska needs to assure that policies are in place to protect the quality of its waters, while not inhibiting responsible development, and that those policies are reviewed and updated periodically to assure they include the most up to date and proven science, and are applicable to the unique characteristics of our state.

Alaska also needs to take an active role in the trans-boundary protection of rivers and streams. Treaties with Canada on the protection of rivers need to be reviewed to assure they include new technologies and practices.

All types of development need to account for the costs of putting the best mitigation practices in effect.