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**Denali Borough Assembly
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Virtual Meeting
July 8, 2020**

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REGULAR MEETING

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CALL TO ORDER

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

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ROLL CALL

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

Jill BOELSMA MOVED to excuse Joe CHATFIELD. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vanessa Juszczak with the Denali Chamber of Commerce reported that the Chamber and Visitor Center are using CARES Act funding to provide Denali specific, in-State advertising to promote in-State tourism for the remainder of the 2020 season. Work continues on the Denali Recovery Alliance with the Chamber of Commerce collecting public input through a community survey regarding local effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to approve the agenda was unanimous.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

JUNE 10, 2020 MINUTES

Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2020 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.

REPORTS

DENALI BOROUGH ATTORNEY; JOSEPH LEVESQUE WITH THE LEVESQUE LAW GROUP

Mr. Joseph Levesque with the Levesque Law Group introduced himself, provided his background and described his experience with Municipal Law.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to receive the May 2020 financial report. The motion was seconded.
2 The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to receive the May 2020 financial
3 report was unanimous.

4
5 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

6 Planning Commission Presiding Officer Kesslyn Tench reported that the commission walked
7 the Healy parcel of Denali Borough land to observe land issues and possible land
8 management opportunities. The commission will be walking the Panguingue area parcel of
9 Denali Borough land for their July 16, 2020 work session.

10
11 **EMERGENCY PLANNER REPORT**

12 Emergency Planner Chris Noel verbally highlighted information provided in the attached
13 written report (Appendix A).

14
15 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

16 Superintendent Dan Polta verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written
17 report (Appendix B).

18
19 **MAYOR REPORT**

20 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report
21 (Appendix C).

22
23 **CARES ACT PROGRAMS REPORT**

24 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written Mayor's
25 Report (Appendix C) and included the following points:

- 26 • Through CARES Act funds, the Denali Borough has been able to provide \$750,000 to
27 the local small business community through the Denali CARES Small Business
28 Support Program; and
- 29 • \$289,000 to local non-profit organizations through the Denali CARES Non-profit
30 Support Program; and
- 31 • \$200,000 to local Emergency Services providers; and
- 32 • \$150,000 to the City of Anderson; and
- 33 • \$100,000 for Denali Borough expenses related to COVID-19, including community
34 testing.
- 35 • Additionally, the Denali Borough has identified another \$973,377 to local Emergency
36 Services providers and another \$108,000 to the City of Anderson to come out of later
37 installments of CARES Act fund distributions.

38
39 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

40 Assembly members stated that they appreciated all the reports, that they were pleased to
41 provide so much financial support to our local small businesses and nonprofit organizations,
42 and are grateful that the borough has been able to provide community testing.

1 Jill BOELSMA reported that the Denali Education Center and Healy Napa teamed up to
2 provide helmets to Denali Borough youth, and announced that the Healy Tundra Challenge,
3 the Scott Menke Memorial golf tournament, will take place on July 11th at the Black Diamond
4 Resort.

5
6 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

7 There were no communication and appearance requests.
8

9 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

10 **ORDINANCE 20-12: Denali Borough Code Chapter 3.26 Titled Alcohol and marijuana**
11 **tax**

12 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-12. The motion was seconded. Mayor
13 Walker reviewed the ordinance. The roll call VOTE to introduce Ordinance 20-12 was
14 unanimous.

15
16 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-12. The motion was seconded. The
17 VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.
18

19 **ORDINANCE 20-13: Accept and appropriate Emergency Management Performance**
20 **Grant (EMPG) funds**

21 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-13. The motion was seconded. Mayor
22 Walker reviewed the ordinance. The roll call VOTE to introduce was unanimous.
23

24 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-13. The motion was seconded. The
25 VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.
26

27 **ORDINANCE 20-14: Accept and appropriate Rasmuson Municipal Arts & Culture**
28 **Matching Grant funds**

29 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-14. The motion was seconded. Mayor
30 Walker reviewed the ordinance. The roll call VOTE to introduce was unanimous.
31

32 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-14. The motion was seconded. The
33 VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.
34

35 **ORDINANCE 20-15: Denali Borough Code Chapter 9.15 - Local Option Zoning**

36 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-15. The motion was seconded. Mayor
37 Walker reviewed the ordinance.
38

39 There was some discussion on the process to dissolve a local option zoning district and the
40 assembly asked Mayor Walker to bring some draft language regarding the dissolution of a
41 local option zoning district to the next meeting for discussion.
42

43 The roll call VOTE to introduce was unanimous.
44

1 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-15. The motion was seconded. The
2 VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.

3
4 **ORDINANCE 20-16: Denali Borough Code Chapter 9.15 - Conditional Land Use**

5 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-16. The motion of seconded. Mayor
6 Walker reviewed the ordinance.

7
8 The roll call VOTE to introduce was unanimous.

9
10 Jake HILL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-16. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by
11 show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.

12
13 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

14 There were no pending ordinances to consider.

15
16 **RESOLUTIONS**

17 **RESOLUTION 20-10: AMLJIA Loss control incentive program**

18 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Resolution 20-10. The motion was seconded. The roll
19 call VOTE was unanimous.

20
21 **RESOLUTION 20-11: Approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan update**

22 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve Resolution 20-11. The motion was seconded. Mayor
23 Walker reviewed the resolution. The roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

24
25 **OTHER BUSINESS**

26
27 **LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

28 Mayor Walker reviewed the Land Management Plan and process that went into the
29 development of the Land Management Plan. Mayor Walker recommended that the
30 Assembly postpone the Land Management Plan to the August meeting and host a joint work
31 session with the Planning Commission to review and consider the Land Management Plan
32 together.

33
34 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to postpone the Land Management Plan. The motion was
35 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to postpone was
36 unanimous.

37
38 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

39 Healy area resident Erik Haugen stated that he would like to see the “bus” returned to the
40 borough as a visitor attraction.

41
42 Healy area resident Steve Love voiced his appreciation for the information provided through
43 the meeting reports, encouraged the community to wear masks or face coverings when out

1 in public and encouraged the assembly to avoid mandating masks in public when there is
2 not a way to enforcement such a mandate.

3
4 Dorothy DeBlauw stated appreciation on behalf of the Kobe Farm Community for the
5 funding they received through the Denali CARES Nonprofit Support Program.

6
7 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

8 Assembly members expressed appreciation to the public for their participation in addition
9 to the following comments:

10
11 Jared ZIMMERMAN expressed support for community safety precautions in this
12 pandemic environment.

13
14 Krista ZAPPONE thanked our teachers and school administration for all the work and
15 planning going into the start of school.

16
17 Lisa MINER reported that the Tri-Valley School Volleyball team will be hosting a car
18 wash fundraiser on Saturday, July 11th at the Black Diamond Resort during the Healy
19 Tundra Challenge golf tournament.

20
21 Tallon SHREEVE stated that he is looking forward to the land management plan work
22 session with the Planning Commission in August.

23
24 Jake HILL expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hold virtual meetings but looks
25 forward to holding in-person meetings again at some point. Mr. Hill also expressed
26 excitement for the upcoming Healy Tundra Challenge golf tournament and encouraged
27 the community to participate in this fun filled day that raises funds for the Scott Menke
28 Memorial fund.

29
30 Jill BOELSMA thanked the Black Diamond Resort for always being willing to help
31 support the annual Healy Tundra Challenge golf tournament.

32
33 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

34 Upcoming assembly meetings will be virtual on the following dates and times:

- 35
- 36 • Work Session, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting: Wednesday, August 5, 2020
VIRTUAL Meeting starting at 6:00 PM.
 - 37 • Public Hearing and Regular Meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2020
- 38

39 **ADJOURN:**

40 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned
41 by unanimous voice vote at 8:30 PM.

42
43 APPROVED: _____
44 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

1
2 ATTEST: _____
3 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk
4
5 Date Approved: _____

MEMO

To: Denali Borough Assembly Members

From: Chris Noel, Emergency Manager

Date: July 8, 2020

Re: COVID-19 emergency planning update

COVID-19 testing continues at the Cantwell Clinic (907-768-2122), Interior Community Health Clinic in Healy (907-683-2211), and the Community Testing Program (907-750-4182). The community testing program has performed 174 tests to date, and we do not have testing numbers for the other providers. The program is running smoothly.

Dry Creek Flooding-The Borough office received additional reports of flooding, and videos of water overtopping Ranch Road and overwhelming the culverts already in place.

Federal Mitigation Funding- Funding is on a competitive basis and requires documented damage to increase competitiveness. The small size of the risk assessment study and lack of documented damage make this an unlikely source for a more in-depth study of the Dry Creek Flooding problem. Denali National Park did offer staff time to perform a walk-about and discuss possible mitigation efforts.

State Mitigation Funding-Alaska Department of Transportation has indicated that their solution to the Dry Creek flooding would involve an armored levee, and the cost would likely exceed one million dollars. Funding for this project is unlikely in the near term.

Local Funding for mitigation- We will continue to discuss and consider possible options, with a goal of identifying a few possibilities to be vetted by the Assembly.

EMPG Grant Funding- This grant funds a portion of the Emergency Manager salary, Assembly support for this reoccurring grant opportunity is appreciated.

Hazard Mitigation Plan- Thank you for those who have reviewed the rather large plan, over 200 pages. With the resolution of support, and pending approval from FEMA, the plan is considered updated and we are eligible for Federal Hazard Mitigation funding. The plan identifies the natural hazards we face including Fires, Flooding, Landslides, and Earthquakes, Severe Weather, among others, and mitigation actions to undertake.



**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, July 8th, 2020**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Thank you to all the staff members who participated in detailed conversations on our Smart Start design thinking for our instructional delivery models; Carmen Russo, Kaitlyn Weitzel, Hannah Ragland, Caitlin Santos, Kelly Gebauer, Karen Martin, Lauren Jeffrey, Justin Mason, JoHanna Sestito, Nathan Pitt and Jeni Mason.

2. Coronavirus -

- a. Smart Start - This month collected information on the staff, parent and student experiences from the spring distance learning, reviewed this data, researched and considered various models for operation under the Smart Start framework. On July 1st, I issued a letter to our community, attached below. It provides very basic information on the design plans we will be moving forward with and asking the Board to consider and formally adopt at the July meeting. Please see the letter for the information provided. Many questions on operational details are not in the letter and are still being developed and settled on as we move forward.

3. Finances

- a. FY20 Budget - Reena and I worked through the yearend accounting and considered which funds will be directly charged against the District's Cares Act funding, which can be offset with our literacy grant, and the final Denali PEAK student allotment expenses and carryover needs. We feel that FY20 will end with an operational surplus of ~\$450,000. This will increase our unrestricted carry over to ~\$1.3 million. This will be over the normal 10% limit on the carry over but is allowed this year to help districts mitigate financial impacts of the coronavirus.
- b. FY21 Budget - The Denali Borough approved their FY21 budget. Between the funds in the budget and the funds that Borough will provide from their Cares Act funding, DBSD will receive the full local request for next year of ~\$2.7 million. This is over 20% of our operating budget for the year. As we start to look more at next school year and our finances, we will need to watch our actual student enrollment in the Fall and the impacts this will have on next year's revenue. Given the overall uncertainty, we know that

Mission Statement

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

some families have made the decision to homeschool their children rather than return to the brick and mortar environment and manage the changes they may happen if we move between low, medium and high-risk scenarios. Parents have the freedom to make these choices and DBSD operates a correspondence program, Denali PEAK, to help serve this population. Nonetheless, there are revenue impacts from enrollment changes to the District. Further, our ability to adjust expenses and staffing levels once contracts and rehire notices have been issued and accepted is limited. I feel that our unrestricted carryover and other reserves continue to place DBSD in a healthy position to face this coming year.

- c. FY20 Audit - We set the date for our audit to August 10-14th. Our auditors will conduct this year's financial review via distance.

4. Facilities

- a. Tri-Valley Boiler - We placed orders for the replacement controls and will be able to install those soon. Our insurance company identified an inspector they use for boilers and would pay for this service. Unfortunately, that company is out of state and is not currently traveling. We are now seeking an inspector from Fairbanks to confirm our work and overall safety of the system once we have all the controllers in.
- b. Anderson Roof Project - Our project on renovating the Anderson roof is continuing well. Things have slowed a little bit due to the heavy rain, but the work scheduled for this summer is still on track for completion.
- c. Tri-Valley Roof - We recently had a company visit Tri-Valley and review the condition of our roof. They will identify three ideas to address the areas of leakage and also identified other areas that need attention soon, including a small area over the elementary wing. This was a free service and will provide us information we can use to update our CIP application to the State. Due to the limited size of the protentional project we can design the project like we did the generator project to be a single bid for the full design and construction.
- d. Server Room Fire Suppression - Installation will begin on July 6th.

5. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff
 - i. No updates
- b. Classified Staff
 - i. Tayler Piercy and Bethany Jones, in Anderson declined their rehire notices. We appreciate their service to our students.
- c. Exempt Staff
 - i. No updates

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
Website: www.denaliborough.org



Clay Walker, Mayor

July 2020 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

Community COVID-19 Testing Collaboration

- Nurse Keith is doing a tremendous job serving as the Community Testing Coordinator. She will be returning to the School District in August and we are soliciting interest in the position.
- Weekly meetings of healthcare providers, hosted by the borough, continue. These meetings are a valuable forum for information sharing and collaboration. Clear Clinic has been particularly helpful along the way.
- The borough appreciates the responsiveness from the State of Alaska Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in quickly filling the multiple requests submitted for PPE supplies, swabs, medium, and more. Also, the State Virology Lab, who receives and processes the tests, has been excellent.
- With CARES funding, the borough purchased a winter-ready trailer to provide a safe place for continued, and possibly increased, testing.
- This past week saw a record number of tests processed from the Denali Borough - around 100!
- Increased testing also means increased results. The first positive result was identified on June 25. The non-resident was asymptomatic and instructed to self-isolate, with contact tracing performed.

Careful Openings

- July 1 marked the start of Alaska Railroad passenger service to Denali and the opening of the Denali Bluffs Hotel. Both operations are requiring masks be used on their transportation offerings.
- Bus service in Denali National Park, with half the regular seating capacity, also started with limited offerings on July 1. At this time, mask usage by passengers is not required by either NPS or the concessionaire but is highly encouraged. A number of drivers have expressed concern that this situation could be a potential incubator for community spread of COVID-19. I understand compliance rates with the request has been 100% the first couple days.
- A few eateries and bars have opened in the past weeks as well.

Denali CARES Programs

- Ad Hoc CARES Committee. I appreciate the time and attention this group, which includes the three Finance Committee members plus the Chamber of Commerce Director, has devoted to consideration of CARES funding usage. The group last met on June 29 to review and offer thoughts on the small business and non-profit support programs, emergency services contributions, and potential COVID related projects.
- Support checks for small businesses and non-profits went out on July 2.

Cantwell to Ferry PEL (Planning and Environmental Linkeage) Study Open House

- Alaska’s Department of Transportation is hosting an Online Open House from June 25 to July 2. The public is invite to learn about the project and offer input regarding needs and opportunities within Parks Highway MP203-259. For more information, or to participate, go to: <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/parkshealypel/>

U.S. 2020 Census

- The latest numbers show Denali Borough residents self-reporting at a rate of 17%. The national average is 64% and the state average is 48%. Lots of federal funding is based on population numbers, so let’s encourage folks to “Stand Up and Be Counted”!

Denali National Park Winter and Shoulder Season Visitor Services Environmental Assessment (EA)

- I submit comments from the Denali Borough offering our support of the preferred action plan. Under the “Varied Experiences” Plan, the Park Road will continue to be plowed to Mountain Vista in February and trail grooming for skiing in the front country will be expanded. Additional planned offerings include earlier start dates for campgrounds and buses, improvements at Mountain Vista and Teklanika Rest Areas, earlier start dates for bus services and campgrounds, new commercial guiding opportunities, and other offerings/improvements. The plan can found at: <https://www.nps.gov/dena/getinvolved/winter-ea.htm>

Clear Air Force Station Change of Command

- I attended the socially distanced event July 2, when Lt. Col. Sean Lee relinquished command and Lt. Col. Shahn Rashid assumed command. Lt. Col. Rashid knows Alaska and is excited to serve and bolster community relations.

Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting

- The Committee met June 23 and discussed a new effort to update the All Hazards Plan, the ongoing address system project, and other topics.

Fairbanks City Bus 142

- In a March 2020 Resolution, the Denali Borough Assembly respectfully declined to sponsor a potential footbridge over the Teklanika River and, furthermore, requested the State of Alaska move Bus 142 from the west side of the river. On June 18, with the support from the Alaska Army National Guard, Alaska’s Department of Natural Resources moved the bus to a secure location. DNR is working through its process in determining the next chapter in story of the bus. This development generated significant interest.

Happy July, happy fishing. As always, feel free to call me or staff if you have any questions.

Stay safe,

Clay