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**Denali Borough Assembly
Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Virtual Meeting
June 10, 2020**

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PUBLIC HEARING

17 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the public hearing to order at 6:01 PM.

18
19

ORDINANCE 20-09: Fiscal year 2021 budget

20 There were no comments.

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ORDINANCE 20-11: Healy Spur Road CTP Project allocation

23 There were no comments.

24
25

REGULAR MEETING

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CALL TO ORDER

28 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

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ROLL CALL

31 Assembly members present: Jake HILL, Jill BOELSMA, Lisa MINER, Jared ZIMMERMAN,
32 Tallon SHREEVE, Joe CHATFIELD (joined meeting at 6:05), Eileen HOLMES, Jeff
33 STENGER (joined meeting at 6:15 PM) and Krista ZAPPONE. Mayor Clay Walker was also
34 present.

35 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to excuse Joe CHATFIELD and Jeff STENGER until they were able
36 to join the meeting. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice
37 confirmation was unanimous.

38
39

PUBLIC COMMENTS

40 Vanessa Juszczak with the Denali Chamber of Commerce reviewed the Denali Recovery
41 Alliance activities including the launch of a new website.

42 Healy area resident Richard Martin asked for borough assistance to mitigate flooding issues
43 along dry creek, specifically the impacts to residents along Ranch Road and Killian Road.
44 Mr. Martin asked that a meeting be schedule with impacted residents to discuss mitigation
45 options and to develop a mitigation plan.

46
47

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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51

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

52 **MAY 13, 2020 AND MAY 27, 2020 MINUTES**

1 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2020 Public Hearing and
2 Regular Meeting and the May 27, 2020 Grant Review and Special Meeting. The motion was
3 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.
4

5 **REPORTS**

6 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

7 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to receive the April 2020 financial report. The motion was seconded.
8 The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to receive the April 2020 financial
9 report was unanimous.
10

11 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

12 Planning Commissioner Kesslyn Tench reported that the Planning Commission recently
13 reviewed the Annual Work Plan for land related projects. Ms. Tench announced that the
14 Planning Commission will spend the next four (4) meetings touring Denali Borough Land
15 and becoming familiar with specific areas that are in need of additional effort and action.
16

17 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

18 Superintendent Dan Polta verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written
19 report (Appendix A).
20

21 **MAYOR REPORT**

22 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report
23 (Appendix B).
24

25 **EMERGENCY PLANNER REPORT**

26 Emergency Planner Chris Noel verbally highlighted information provided in the attached
27 written report (Appendix C).
28

29 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

30 Assembly members expressed appreciation for the work being accomplished by the Denali
31 Recovery Alliance and thanked Denali Borough staff and Superintendent Polta for their work
32 and reports in addition to the following:

- 33 • Expressed excitement for continued Antler Creek trail planning, and
- 34 • expressed appreciation for the recent Mini March, and
- 35 • congratulated 2020 High School graduates.
36

37 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

38 There were no communication and appearance requests.
39

40 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

41 There were no draft ordinances to consider for introduction.
42

43 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

44 **ORDINANCE 20-09: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget V. B**

1 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to substitute Ordinance 20-09 with version B. The motion was
2 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to substitute with version B
3 was unanimous.

4
5 Jake HILL MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-09 Version B. The motion was seconded.
6 There was some discussion regarding Hazard Mitigation and potential efforts to address Dry
7 Creek flooding. The roll call VOTE to approve Ordinance 20-09 Version B was unanimous.

8
9 **ORDINANCE 20-11: Healy Spur Road CTP project allocation**

10 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-11. The motion was seconded. The roll
11 call VOTE to approve Ordinance 20-11 was unanimous.

12
13 **OTHER BUSINESS**

14 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

15 Healy area resident James Gauvin encouraged the borough to facilitate Dry Creek flood
16 mitigation planning with area residents. Mr. Gauvin also asked if there was an update with
17 plans for the “into the wild bus”. Mr. Gauvin stated that he looks forward to participating in
18 some of the upcoming Planning Commission meetings that will tour areas of Denali Borough
19 lands, and he will watch for the Denali Borough Land Management Plan on a future
20 assembly meeting agenda.

21
22 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

23 Assembly members commented on the following:

- 24 • appreciation for public comments, and
- 25 • encouraged discussion for Dry Creek flood mitigation options and planning, and
- 26 • thanked those that provided a report.

27
28 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

- 30 • Public Hearing and Regular Meeting: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 VIRTUAL
31 Meeting starting at 6:00 PM.

32
33 **ADJOURN:**

34 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was
35 adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 8:58 PM.

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37
38 APPROVED: _____
39 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

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41
42 ATTEST: _____
43 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

44 Date Approved: _____



**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, June 10th, 2020**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

Please accept this written report for the month of June.

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Congratulations to all our graduates and their families. We wish you all the best as you move from adolescence into adulthood. Thank you to our staff who worked on our school ceremonies and celebrations to honor the graduates' successes. I also appreciate the efforts in our community to use the less restrictive mandates and guidelines for the public in order to celebrate all the graduates in our communities.
- b. Thank you, Angel Hayes for the fabulous interview you gave to Kris Capps for her article in the Daily News Minor about your help delivering educational materials to our students.
- c. Thank you, Gretchen Striker for your interview with KTVA on your selection as a BP Teacher of Excellence.
- d. Congratulations - A big congratulations to TVS senior, and student school board representative, Makenzie Mirasole. Kenzie was selected as the AASG Student Council Leader of the Year!
- e. Thank you to Candace (and Daryl) Mudge, and our tech crew, for putting on the Variety Show and working through some technical challenges the evening of the event. Here is a link to the full recorded version. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iAtzLNfAio&feature=youtu.be>
- f. Congratulations to Jeni Mason for being honored as the Principal of the Year for Region 2 by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals. For Jeni, this is a 'threepeat' of this recognition. If you haven't seen, there was also a small article in the Fairbanks Daily News Minor about her recognition.

2. Coronavirus -

- a. Smart Start - DEED released their Smart Start guidance for schools on reopening on Thursday June 4th. Just to repeat, the overall structure is to identify community health conditions which define low, medium, and high health risk conditions and then plan for district and school operations for these conditions. The descriptors given for those conditions are general,

Mission Statement

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

meaning the language does not say, “If there are 0-10 cases in the community then...”. The basic outline is that the low risk is no confirmed new cases of COVID-14 for 14 days, medium risk is that there are “minimal” new cases, and high risk is the exists of outbreaks or increase in cases. DEED is allowing each district to decide what exactly the case load and increases is to move from one condition to another for each community. For example, the number of cases in Anchorage that could occur and that large community to be at low risk is very different from the number of cases for a small rural community, on or off the road system.

- b. DBSD Planning Process - For our planning we have one more organizing meeting and then will reach out for some additional participants to help with the planning work. We continue to review the areas to address and identify which should be done by specific individuals, as more technical pieces, and which are more vital to have broader participation. We are also designing structures for the small groups to generate multiple ideas for the scenarios that can be considered farther and more deeply.
- c. Summer Facilities - We developed a set of guidelines for access to our facilities in the summer for community groups such as our libraries, sport camps, etc. Our intent is to allow the community libraries, if they choose, to have access to the library facilities starting in June, provided they can follow and provide the cleaning necessary to meet the mandates for public libraries in Alaska. Access to other areas of the buildings will be restricted. Similarly, organizations wishing to access the outdoor fields will be permitted so long as they agree to follow the general mandates for organized sports and day camps. We are not considering opening the inside spaces of our school buildings (gyms, MPRs, etc.) for community sports etc. We do not have the capacity to provide the cleaning necessary and also have concerns of how access to these spaces may provide more broad access to our buildings than we wish.

3. Finances

- a. FY20 Budget - We are in the close out phase of our budget and completing the final payments and tracking of expenses for this fiscal year. We continue to track for an operational surplus. We we narrow in on the final student allotment expenses, carry over, etc. we will see the final figure increase over the projection on the financial report and should be well above \$300,000. This will increase our unrestricted carryover. This will help with the general fiscal uncertainty and to help with the approve FY21 Budget which was approved with an operational deficit of several hundred thousand dollars.
- b. CARES Act - Mayor Walker and I reviewed a list of District expenses which we feel are appropriate and necessary for the District to maintain operations in the face of the current pandemic. The amount is ~\$730,000. This is the amount by which the Borough will consider reducing the local contribution. In addition to the Borough’s Cares Act

money, the District also submitted its first round of expenses for our direct award. Initially we were working with the Borough for them to take on those costs as of the aforementioned list. DEED said we needed to include at least some current expenses in the grant application. Therefore, we submitted increased personnel costs specific to COVID-19 to date. These are ~25,000.

- c. FY21 Budget - The Denali Borough Assembly is considering its local contribution to the FY21 DBSD Budget. The District's total request includes both a required portion and an optional additional portion. The required portion is based on the value of real and personal property in the Borough. The additional amount the Borough is allowed to give is capped by state statute at 23% of the District's Basic Need. The total request from DBSD is \$2,679,071. This includes both portions and is slightly below the maximum allowable based on our enrollment projections. It is slightly lower than the amount requested and provided in FY20.

4. Facilities

- a. Tri-Valley Boiler - We had a very close call with the coal boiler at Tri-Valley today, May 22nd. The boiler overheated and came very close to causing an explosion with possible injury. No one was hurt and the building is safe. An emergency temperature shut off control failed on the boiler. This shut off is designed to turn the boiler off when the system reaches 180 degrees. The system continued to heat up and was discovered from the banging and shaking of the pipes in the boiler room and school. A second emergency shut off kicked in and turned off the system and allowed Curtis and our maintenance crew to take additional steps to shut down and cool down the system. The second shut off is designed to shut the system down at 200 degrees. Nonetheless parts of the system exceeded that heat threshold and reach temperatures in excess of 250 degrees, hot enough to boil the glycol in the system. Curtis and crew are checking the pipes for any damage and if they check out, will turn on the elementary boilers that run on heating oil in order to provide warmth to the building. They will then check and replace the emergency shut offs, check the pipes, fixtures, etc., and only after they are fully confident in the safety of the system will they test run the coal boilers again.
- b. Boiler update after the initial report - when the boiler overheated, it was isolated from the main system for cleaning and maintenance work. This isolation shuts off the valves that move the fluids and turns off the ability for the building to call for heat. The boiler is supposed to go into a cool mode where a small coal fire burns and is fed just enough to keep going. This allows a faster easier start up than a full shut cold shut down. The boiler system is designed to use its temperature sensors to turn down the coal feed and heat buildup to maintain that cool state. These sensors failed. We are now working to find the replacement sensors. This is challenging given the size of the boiler and that most sensor available are

designed for water/steam system which operate at higher temperatures than our glycol system does. The school is being heated by the oil boilers in the elementary end. Even in the summer the school gets very cold without additional heat. We are turning down temperature settings as much as we can in order to be able to provide an acceptably warm (or at least not unacceptably cold) library for the community.

- c. Anderson Roof Project - The protest period on our Intent to Award closed with no protest. This week I reviewed and signed the final contract with Interior Alaska Roofing for this construction project. The overall cost for the construction work on this project is just over \$1 million. Construction will begin this summer and will complete work on two sections. The final section will be completed in the summer for 2020.
- d. Server Room Fire Suppression - Installation of this system should begin in early June. In addition to installing the dry system, the sprinkler heads on the wet system will be replaced with units with a much higher temperature initiation point. This will prevent the water system from initiating before the dry system has a chance to be effective, while maintaining the back up if that system is insufficient to extinguish and control a fire.
- e. Activity Bus - While preparing the Tri-Valley parking lot for graduation we learned that the air brakes on the activity bus had seized and we were unable to move the bus. Usibelli Coal Mine is helping with these repairs
- f. Department of Forestry - We signed tentative agreements with the Department of Forestry to guide the potential use and related fees of our school buildings if there is a local wildfire and our facilities are needed to support the suppression efforts.

5. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff
 - i. I authorized one additional, optional work day to our teachers to help provide time for the end of year wrap up and room close out work this year in consideration for the time and facility access challenges we all face during distance learning.
- b. Classified Staff
 - i. No updates
- c. Exempt Staff
 - i. No updates
- d. Temporary Staff,
 - i. The District is not hiring temporary staff this summer in order to further limit person to person contact to our regular staff members. Some staff have been offered additional hours to help with that work.

Sincerely,

Dan Polta
Denali Borough School District

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

June 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

- As an outcome of the regular Healthcare Provider meetings, Alaska Division of Public Health input, and CARES funding opportunities, the Denali Borough, in the past two weeks, stood up a new, free to all, Community Testing Collaboration. Nurse Karri Keith is serving as the lead, performing the testing. More information is included in the program description attached to this report.
- In just a few days of the new program, it appears we have doubled the number of tests performed in the borough. With increased testing also comes the increased odds of a positive case in the borough. As of June 10, we are one of the few counties in the nation without a confirmed positive case. We do not expect that to last much longer, but the readily available and free testing will prove helpful in managing the public health risks going forward.
- Thanks to collaborators which include the CRNA Cantwell Clinic, Interior Community Health Center Healy, Clear Clinic, State of Alaska Division of Public Health, Usibelli Coal Mine, and Tri-Valley Community Center, and more. And many thanks to Nurse Keith for stepping into this role.

Denali CARES Programs

- Borough staff, especially our Borough Clerk, have worked tirelessly to put together and make public two new support programs, which were agreed to be a priority use of CARES funding:
 - Small Business Support Program
 - The application for this program went live on our website on Friday, June 5. The total amount committed to the program is \$900,000. We expect all successful applicants to receive at least \$2,500, with greater sums awarded to those with greater losses. The application period closes June 22. At that time, we will determine the number of awardees and divide the available total between successful applicants, based upon the three levels of lost revenue.
 - Non-Profit Support Program
 - The application for this program also went live on Friday, June 5 and closes on June 22. Rather than craft the program to also fit the needs of emergency response departments and the City of Anderson, we are meeting with each of those organizations separately to arrive at agreements of CARES funding usage. For all other non-profits, the base amount of need is determined to be \$10,000 with any additional need requiring specific justification.

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

- The National Park Service released the above EA, which is the “culmination of a 2018-2019 planning effort to provide high-quality visitor experiences and resource protection during the winter and shoulder seasons”. The proposed alternative calls for plowing the Park Road to Mountain Vista in February, improvements at Mountain Vista, earlier start dates for bus services and campgrounds, improvements to Teklanika Rest Area, new commercial guiding opportunities, and trail grooming in the entrance area, among other actions. The full plan can be found on the Park website under Planning and the comment period ends June 30. Through the planning process, the Denali Borough supported a number of the proposed actions. After reading the full plan, I intend to submit comments from the Denali Borough offering our support of the plan.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval of Alaska Gasline Development Corporation’s (AGDC) Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas (AKLNG) Project

- On May 21, FERC issued authorization to construct and operate the proposed AKLNG Project. Gas pricing forecasts put the project as planned in an uneconomic position. But, of course, we will continue to stay tuned and abreast of developments.

Other Meetings of Interest

- I attended the May 21 **Denali Borough School District Board meeting** virtually and provided a report. I shared the collaborative work with Superintendent Polta in identifying school costs which qualify under U.S. Treasury guidance as allowable uses of CARES funding and the intention to consider using those funds to buttress a reduced borough Additional Allowable Contribution in the borough’s FY 2021 Budget.
- On June 3, the Fairbanks office of the **National Weather Service hosted a Denali Heavy/Rain Flooding Tabletop Exercise**. The Denali Borough, the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Denali National Park, the City of Anderson, Tri-Valley VFD, the Red Cross, NOAA, State DOT, Clear AFS, GVEA, Usibelli Coal Mine, the Alaska Railroad, and State Public Health were all active participants. This was a great exercise in working through different roles, responsibilities, and planned courses of actions for the wide range of involved organizations and agencies. Building those relationships is always an important take away. The half inch of rain which fell over the course of the two-hour exercise made it even more relevant.
- Together with Denali N.P. and State DOT, we have participated in a couple meetings, including a June 10 site visit, regarding planning for the **Federal Land Access Program funded Bison Gulch Parking Area and Trail Enhancement**. Upon closer ground and soil investigation, the best long-term site for the Parking Area and Trail may actually be closer to Antler Creek.
- Serving as a committee member, I attended the **National Assn of Counties’ Public Land Steering Committee Meeting** June 10. Keeping up on federal developments, the Great American Outdoors Act, which includes substantial funds for National Park Service deferred maintenance, is progressing with broad support. PILT funding is secured for this year and will be released at the end of the month. A long-term funding source of PILT is yet to be identified. A fourth stimulus bill is slow to develop, with expectations that the earliest one could come together is late July.

Happy June, happy peak of the light cycle. As always, feel free to call me or staff if you have any questions. Stay safe, Clay

MEMO

To: Denali Borough Assembly Members

From: Chris Noel, Emergency Planner

Date: June 10, 2020

Re: COVID-19 emergency planning update

COVID-19 testing is now available at the Cantwell Clinic (907-768-2122), Interior Community Health Clinic in Healy (907-683-2211), and the Community Testing Program (907-750-4182). According to the State of Alaska dashboard, 44 tests have been performed in the Borough, and we continue to have no confirmed cases Borough residents have done a great job, and our sacrifices so far are commendable- and have contributed to our position today. Keep up the good work. We must continue to proactive good social distancing and wearing masks in public when social distancing is not possible. Three Bears has created a COVID-19 Mitigation shelf near the “free mask basket” stocked with supplies such as hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray.

Health Mandate 10 has been updated, permitting interstate travel under the conditions of the Mandate, and this will lead to an increase in travel through the Denali Borough. Travelers to Alaska must follow one of four scenarios to travel safely to Alaska. They can arrive with a Negative test result and receive a second negative test after arriving or receive a test when they arrive and a second test within 7-14 days of the first. Until the traveler has received two negative test results, they should minimize trips into public spaces and avoid close contact with those outside of their traveling group. The traveler may complete a 14-day quarantine instead of completing testing.

As we approach the July 1st opening of Denali area businesses, lets continue to encourage local business owners to develop a mitigation plan for COVID-19. The plan should address how they will keep their employees safe, and how they will provide services to visitors while protecting the communities in which they operate. The plan should include policies for visitors who arrive and test positive for COVID-19. Public Health Nursing is willing and able to assist businesses with their individual plan.

We will be meeting individually with each volunteer fire department to discuss CARES funding to the departments, coinciding with the Nonprofit and business relief programs.

We continue to work towards a collaborative solution to the flooding some homeowners are experiencing adjacent to Dry Creek. The Borough was among ~15 agencies who participated in a severe weather tabletop exercise presented by the National Weather Service. They shared that the flooding Healy experienced in August of 2019 resulted from a 9 day rainfall total of 6 ½”. Within the Dry Creek drainage, enough water fell to cover the 48 acre school lot with 16’ of water. We will continue to work with State and Federal partners to develop a long-term flood mitigation strategy.

<https://covid19.alaska.gov/>

<https://www.denaliborough.org/>

Fairbanks Public Health
Center: 907-452-1776