

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**  
2 **Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting**  
3 **Virtual Meeting**  
4 **March 10, 2021**  
5

6 **PUBLIC HEARING**

7 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 PM.  
8

9 **ORDINANCE 21-02: Amending DBC Chapter 5.55 Titled Department of Parks and**  
10 **Recreation**

11 There were no public comments.  
12

13 **ORDINANCE 21-03: Declaration of Continued Public Health Disaster Emergency**

14 There were no public comments.  
15

16 **REGULAR MEETING**

17 **CALL TO ORDER**

18 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:04 PM.  
19

20 **ROLL CALL**

21 Assembly members present: Lisa MINER, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Tallon SHREEVE, Dominic  
22 CANALE, Joe CHATFIELD, Jake HILL, Krista ZAPPONE, Jeff STENGER and Eileen  
23 HOLMES. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.  
24

25 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

26 Otto Lake area residents James and Susan Gauvin provided a written comment (see  
27 ATTACHMENT A).  
28

29 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

30 Jake HILL MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded.  
31

32 The MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA PASSED by unanimous consent.  
33

34 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

35 **FEBRUARY 3, 2021 JOINT WORK SESSION AND FEBRUARY 10, 2021 REGULAR**  
36 **MEETING MINUTES**

1 Jake HILL MOVED to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2021 Joint Work Session  
2 and the February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded.

3

4 The MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED by unanimous consent.

5

6 **REPORTS**

7 **JANUARY 2021 FINANCE REPORT**

8 Jake HILL MOVED to receive the January 2021 Finance Report. The motion was seconded.

9

10 The MOTION TO RECEIVE PASSED by unanimous consent.

11

12 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

13 Mayor Walker reported that the Planning Commission completed a virtual training session  
14 with Denali Borough Attorney Shane Levesque on conditional use permits. Mayor Walker  
15 also reminded the assembly of the public meetings coming up the first week of April  
16 regarding road names.

17

18 **EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT**

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

21

22 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

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

25

26 **MAYOR REPORT**

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

29

30 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

31 Assembly members offered the following comments:

32

- Thanked those that provided reports.
- Thanked those that assisted with the COVID-19 vaccine clinic.
- Expressed appreciation for school and borough staff.

33

34

35

36 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

37 There were no communication and appearance requests.

1 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

2 There were no draft ordinances to consider.

3

4 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

5 **ORDINANCE 21-02: AMMENDING DENALI BOROUGH CODE 5.55 TITLED**  
6 **DEPARMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

7 Jake HILL MOVED to approve Ordinance 21-02. The motion was seconded.

8

9 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to amend Ordinance 21-02 by adding the words "...on other  
10 lands within the borough, which includes state lands, are also an appropriate use of these  
11 funds, so long as the improvements are in the public interest and available to the general  
12 public." The motion was seconded.

13

14 The VOTE TO AMEND PASSED by unanimous consent.

15

16 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE AS AMENDED PASSED unanimously.

17

18 **ORDINANCE 21-03: DECLARATION OF CONTINUED PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER**  
19 **EMERGENCY**

20 Dominic CANALE MOVED to approve Ordinance 21-03. The motion was seconded.

21

22 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE PASSED unanimously.

23

24 **RESOLUTIONS**

25 **RESOLUTION 21-04: COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE**

26 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Resolution 21-04. The motion was seconded.

27

28 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE PASSED unanimously.

29

30 **RESOLUTION 21-05: SUPPORT ANTLER RIDGE RESTROOM FACILITY AND TRAIL**  
31 **MAINTENANCE**

32 Jake HILL MOVED to approve Resolution 21-05. The motion was seconded.

33 Mayor Walker reviewed the project and described the need for the Resolution.

34

35 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE PASSED unanimously.

36

37 **OTHER BUSINESS**

1 **EXTEND ORDINANCE 20-07: DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY**

2 With the passage of Ordinance 21-03, there was no need to extend Ordinance 20-07. No  
3 action was taken.

4

5 **LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

6 **License #4838 Sled Dog Liquor Renewal Application:**

7 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to not protest License #4838; Sled Dog Liquor Renewal  
8 Application. The motion was seconded.

9

10 The MOTION TO NOT PROTEST PASSED by unanimous consent.

11

12 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

13 There were no public comments.

14

15 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

16 Assembly members commented on the following:

- 17 • Expressed appreciation for a productive and cordial meeting.
- 18 • Expressed appreciation for continued momentum on the Antler Creek parking  
19 area and trailhead.
- 20 • Thanked staff and volunteers providing COIVD testing and organizing local  
21 vaccine clinics.

22

23 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

24 The next Assembly meeting(s) will be:

- 25 • Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 6:00 PM: Finance Committee Meeting
- 26 • Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 6:00 PM: Special Grant Review Meeting
- 27 • Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6:00 PM: Regular Meeting

28

29 **ADJOURN**

30 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was  
31 adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:46 PM.

32

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

34 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

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

36 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

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

37

March 2021 Assembly meeting comments

Susan <got\_younger@yahoo.com>

Mon 3/8/2021 7:56 PM

To: Amber Renshaw <arensaw@denaliborough.com>

Cc: Tools <toolsg@hotmail.com>

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

Hello Amber,  
Please share our comments below at this month's meeting.

Assembly members and Mayor Walker,

In anticipation of upcoming discussions related to the Denali Borough Fee Schedule, particularly the Commercial use permit fees in section 4.11. Below are items for your consideration.

- Commercial use permit fees should be applied per "participant" not "tour".
  - Fees charged per participant, rather than tour, could simplify the tracking, collecting and enforcement.
- Based on the trail conditions in Dry Creek, motorized tours have a significantly larger impact than non-motorized and therefore warrant consideration of a higher fee than non-motorized tours.
- Requiring commercial operators to secure a bond in conjunction with their use permit would be in line with current DNR requirements and provide additional protection for the borough against damages.
- Fees collected should be used to offset trail and road maintenance impacted by tours.

Chapter 4.11 Borough Land Permits, License, Easements, and Rights of Way

	Application (Processing) Fee	Use Fee
Personal use extraction permit	\$0	\$3.00 cubic yard
Commercial use extraction permit	\$50	fair market value
Temporary use permit	\$25	\$50 annually
Commercial use permit	\$50	\$5 per vehicle/horse per tour
Easement or Right-of-Way (R.O.W.)	\$100	fair market value

Thank you for your consideration on the items above. We have also provided input on the unnamed streets in the Otto Lake area and we look forward to participating in further discussions on both of these topics.

Susan & James Gauvin  
Otto Lake/Dry Creek, Healy

## MEMO

**To:** Denali Borough Assembly Members

**From:** Chris Noel, Emergency Manager

**Date:** March 10, 2021

**Re:** March Assembly Meeting Update

**Community Testing Program** is performing rapid testing by appointment. Who is eligible? Those experiencing symptoms of COVID-19; Individuals identified as a close contact of a person testing positive for the COVID-19 virus; Individuals needing a negative test result for a confirmed medical procedure. Stay tuned for changes to the PCR swab testing schedule. Call (907) 687-3499 to schedule a rapid test.

**Vaccine Update:** On Tuesday March 9, the State opened vaccine eligibility for all Alaskans 16 years old and older. This is great news and there are appointments available widely. We are fortunate to have three safe and effective vaccines available in the State. Pfizer is approved for individuals 16 and older. The large clinic in the Denali Borough March 12 will provide the Moderna vaccine which received emergency use authorization for individuals 18 years old and older. The Janssen vaccine is a single dose, and available in limited quantities currently. **Individuals needing assistance scheduling a vaccine appointment can call (907) 646-3322, 9am- 6:30pm (Mon-Fri) and 9am- 4:30 pm (Sat-Sun)**

**Point of Dispensing Clinic:** Registration is underway for the mass-vaccination clinic at the Tri-Valley Community Center on March 12. This is a first dose clinic, those who attend will schedule their second dose at the first dose clinic. We should plan to get both doses at the same location whether that is in our local clinic, or at a location out of the Borough. Vaccines are also available by calling the Cantwell Clinic to be added to a waitlist for upcoming vaccination days.

**Chamber of Commerce** – I encourage seasonal businesses to consider their COVID-19 mitigation plans for the upcoming summer. The Chamber Director is hosting bi-weekly coordination calls to prepare for the summer season. The Borough is happy to help support resource needs related to personal protective equipment and testing supplies. Testing and vaccination services for the seasonal visitor industry is still under discussion.

**Road Naming Meetings** -Meetings are just around the corner, April 6- 8. Links to the meetings are available at <https://www.denaliborough.org/addressing>. This is an opportunity to name unnamed roads or rename existing named roads. Proposed changes, and any new road names must meet Denali Borough Code requirements, also available at the link above. Finalizing our official road name map is one of the final steps on our journey to official street addresses.



**Superintendent's Report  
Denali Borough Assembly  
Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Thank you, teaching assistants, Anastasia Brease, Eliza Kurt and Windy Thorn, for helping our students during sudden, unexpected personnel transitions. Your dedication helped stabilize the learning experiencing through those transitions.
- b. Thank you, Nick Hanson, the Eskimo Ninja for joining DBSD last month and working with all our students. A short article about Nick's contribution to our students can be found at [http://www.newsminer.com/news/kris\\_capps/ninja-warrior-hanson-talks-with-students-about-life-obstacles/article\\_23456788-772a-11eb-85ae-37ae00bbbdd4.html](http://www.newsminer.com/news/kris_capps/ninja-warrior-hanson-talks-with-students-about-life-obstacles/article_23456788-772a-11eb-85ae-37ae00bbbdd4.html)
- c. Congratulations to Danika Hamm. Danika placed second at the Regional Spelling Bee. Thank you also to Librarian, Martha Tomeo, for coordinating and supporting our local spelling bee and the participation in the regional bee in the virtual format this year.
- d. At the opening of the annual conference for ASTE the winners of the Ildidacontest were announced and included the following DBSD students; Ben Brown and Mattias Spears for their projects demonstrating the properties of an ellipse with an elliptical pool table, Rita Jacobs for her photograph, Frosty Bubbles, and JT Mason for telling his story, "Marios' Mushrooms." There submissions can be viewed at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vSs4xXiR2vt0Mg1DTWMmx-hhUvF-wFQ8lltsEvpDo-5zXLCI4XGBq7NCQ5e6nBE--VnL4Jrx4YVST6r/pubhtml#>

2. Smart Start 2020 -

- a. Spring Break - I reviewed the school calendar for the week after spring break, March 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>. DBSD will be taking a similar approach as we did following the Christmas Break. March 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> will be a week of distance learning. This will allow individuals who do choose to travel out of state to complete the required social distancing after their return. Distance learning that week will also help limit any local transmission that could result from individuals who travel in-state during. We will also shift parent teacher

**Mission Statement**

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

conferences to Tuesday and hold online classes Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Monday is already scheduled as a non-student day.

- b. Statewide Student Assessment - This month USED confirmed the requirement for states to administer standardized assessments (mostly). There is a waiver process, which seems states should use it only when truly needed. Regulation on the administration of the assessment have been modified to include remote proctoring. Another change for this year suspends the requirement for 95% student participation and the ranking of schools based on the assessments. As the Smart Start plans for Denali PEAK include the closure of our offices to students and families when their respective communities are at High Risk, we will not be scheduling the PEAKS Assessment for students in that program.

### 3. Finances

- a. FY22 Draft Budget - The Board will consider the fourth reading of the FY22 Budget at the March Board meeting. The administration did a review of personnel levels at each site, in line with enrollment projections and budgeted staff levels. Last week we received two staff resignations (see below) and feel that we can maintain the pre-pandemic level of student services without replacing these positions. This will provide cost savings in both FY22 and FY23. When passed, the budget will be transmitted to the Borough for consideration of the requested local contribution.
- b. Two-Year Budget Plan - I met with Mayor Walker on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup>. We talked about the predicted short fall in Borough revenue this summer and the impact, via forward funding, on the FY23 budget for the borough, and ramifications on their local contribution to the school district to support student education. In this conversation, we agreed that two-year budget plans for the borough and the school district would help map out a path to control expenses, use existing reserves, plan for anticipated revenue, and provide the local stability of educational and community services that our community wants from its institutions. On Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup>, I met with the Board Finance Committee and held initial discussion on a plan for the District. We continued this conversation at another meeting on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Federal Relief Bill - With the likely passage of the new relief bill likely this week, we should get firm calculations on DBSD's (and the Borough's) additional federal funds soon. At this point we anticipate ~\$400,000 for the District and are using that figure in our two-year draft budget plan.
- d. Health Insurance Plan Renewal - Each year, the renewal of our health plan with PEHT is a piece of financial uncertainty. We received confirmation that the quote will be provided at the end of March and that the increase this year will be less than 10%. We hope it is far less than 10% as payments for employee health insurance account for over 10% of our annual budget.

#### 4. Facilities

- a. Anderson Roof - Interior Alaska Roofing inspected the roof last month. They were not able to find pooled water on the top of the roof by the boiler room. Based on the locations of the two leaks, they believe that this new water is the result of heat loss between Sector 1 (shop area) and Sector 2 (locker rooms) of the roof. The renovation work on Sector 2 was completed this summer. The work on Sector 1 is scheduled for this summer. When Sector 1 is completed, they will also address the issue of heat loss between the two sections.
  - b. Hydrolyser - We are processing a purchase order for this item. At a meeting of the Zero Landfill Initiative, I shared with the group about this machine and the cleaning chemical it produces. There was significant interest from some large hotel operators. I offered to provide product to them once we've installed this device and dropped strong hints of financial support. I could see the large operators likely to test the product and then, if they feel it works for them, to install their own at their facilities.
  - c. Solar Power - Curtis and I are investigating and updating a low priority project we have considered to install solar panels at Tri-Valley to lower our monthly electric bill. Recent local projects, a project in the works in Nenana, and the local initiative, Solarize Denali, can provide us with updated information. At this point, the initial cost and payback time make such a project unlikely unless we can secure grant funds to lower the initial cost of installation.
  - d. Siemens Control Panel - Due to fiscal uncertainty with FY22 we will not pursue this update at this time. If a control panel fails, it can be replaced with updated equipment within a fairly short window of time with funds from our CIP Reserve Fund.
  - e. CIP Application - DEED updated their guidelines for the application in the CIP Major Maintenance Grant Program. We are reviewing and updating our current narratives to adhere to these new guidelines. The new guidelines will apply to project applications submitted this coming September.
  - f. Transportation RFP - We held a pre-bid conference on Monday, March 1st. Two companies were present. We anticipate bids from at least three companies.
  - g. Door Locks - No update
  - h. Tri-Valley Generator - No update
  - i. Cantwell Land Access - No update
5. School Calendar - The School Board introduced two versions of a FY22 school calendar for consideration. They both have the same start and end dates, Wednesday August 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>, while they have different dates for spring break. A quick comparison document between the two DBSD options and included information on spring break from other large districts in the state will

be included in the next update to Board Docs. Public comments on this agenda items can be sent to [schoolboard@dbsd.org](mailto:schoolboard@dbsd.org)

6. Student Activities - Last week I received noticed that the host for the regional basketball team, Tanana, was struggling to secure a Fairbanks location for the tournament. I met with the Tanana and Alaska Gateway (Northway) superintendents, and AD from YKSD (Minto and Huslia). We reviewed options, used our personal connections to quickly explore these possibilities. When the dust settled, the only location we could secure and begin the final, needed planning was Tri-Valley. The event will be during spring break, Thursday - Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. All student athletes must have a negative test with 72 hours of their first game. Many of the student athletes from the other teams have received one or both doses of the vaccine (16 and older). This is also true for the limited number of spectators who will be allowed to attend the games of their child. While Tanana is still "hosting" I know the TVS AD Valerie White and Principal Nathan Pitt now have a big lift to help this event be safe and successful.
7. Personnel
  - a. Certified Staff
    - i. DBSD teacher Gretchen Sticker did not return her contract for next year and will concluding her service to our students at the end of this school year.
    - ii. I accepted the resignation, effective February 16<sup>th</sup> of Carmen Russo, elementary teacher at Anderson.
    - iii. I accepted the resignation, effective February 26<sup>th</sup> of Susan Carlson, elementary teacher for our remote students.
    - iv. We accepted the resignation of Craig Kasemodel, PEAK Anchorage, effective at the end of this school year.
    - v. I transferred, for next school year, Kaitlyn Weitzel, teachers at Tri-Valley, to the open science position.
    - vi. I hired, pending Board approval, Beth Norman for the long-term substitute position in Anderson. Beth started on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.
    - vii. I hired, pending board approval, Kirsten Hills for the open, remote learning long-term sub position. Kirsten started this week.
  - b. Classified Staff
    - i. We accepted the resignation of Anastasia Brease, Teaching Assistant in Anderson, effective 12 April 2021.
  - c. Exempt Staff
    - i. No update

Sincerely,

Dan Polta  
Denali Borough School District

# DENALI BOROUGH

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Email: [dbgovt@mtaonline.net](mailto:dbgovt@mtaonline.net)  
Website: [www.denaliborough.org](http://www.denaliborough.org)



*Clay Walker, Mayor*

## **March 2021 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly**

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

### **March 12 COVID -19 Mass Vaccination Point of Dispensing (POD) Clinic**

- In partnership with the Division of Public Health, Interior Community Health Center and others, the Denali Borough is supporting a COVID-19 POD Friday, March 12 at the Tri-Valley Community Center. There are 440 total appointments to receive a first dose of the Moderna vaccine. As of Monday the 8<sup>th</sup>, 250 people have registered and 190 appointments remain open. **This clinic, and the April 9 second dose clinic, are the only clinics the Division of Public Health has committed to support.** I encourage all eligible residents to consider this offer of vaccination against COVID-19. And let's all thank the tireless organizers and volunteers who are mounting this herculean effort.

### **COVID Testing and Vaccination Planning/Funding Efforts**

- The borough continues to explore arrangements for future provision of vaccine in the area, but we are not a registered provider of the vaccine. We will be looking to health care providers to offer these services and are pursuing opportunities for funding support.
- A new Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) program which utilizes federal funding to support local testing and vaccination efforts is not a grant program, but structured through unique Memorandum of Agreements. Borough staff attended a "kick off" meeting with DHSS and we plan to apply for this funding prior to the March 15 deadline.
- CARES monies are 99.5 percent expended, so this new program will be the primary mechanism for funding COVID testing and vaccination efforts in the borough in the next twelve months.
- We have received preliminary inquiries from businesses about supporting testing and/or vaccinations for the visitor industry and are coordinating efforts with Chamber Director Vanessa Juszczak.

### **FEMA Request for Public Assistance**

- The borough has submitted a request to FEMA for assistance with expenses incurred in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect this to be a lengthy process.

### **Massive Federal Aid Package Provides Least Support to Counties Most Impacted by COVID-19**

- That is the headline I'm touting for the \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill which cleared the U.S. Senate this weekend. The bill, which includes \$65.1 billion in direct, flexible support to America's counties, parishes and boroughs, does not correlate economic aid to economic damage, but only uses population and a low-income metric to arrive at the allocation formula. Our lobbying efforts to change the formula, through our Congressional Delegation, the National Assn. of Counties (NACo), and others, proved unsuccessful.

- On a call with Senator Murkowski regarding this issue on 2/19, she agreed that Denali and Skagway are the two most impacted counties in the country, yet we receive a “pittance” in the relief bill. We lost \$4 million in revenue last year, will lose millions more this year and our relief allocation, spread out over two years, is \$410,000. Many counties which lost no revenue are set to receive millions.
- The Senate did include a provision of support specifically for public land counties, which I will learn more about on a NACo call today.

### **Budget Work**

- In advance of the scheduled Finance Committee and Assembly meetings regarding both the Fiscal Year 2021 (current year) amendment and the FY 2022 budget development, the budget team has been meeting regularly. In the months ahead we will amend our current budget to best reflect known conditions and approve the FY 2022 budget, which will be another budget constrained by decreased revenue, but this time without the level of support CARES provided last year.

### **Antler Creek Trailhead/Trail**

- Monthly meetings of the project partners (DOT, NPS and DB) continue. Construction of the parking area is on schedule for late summer 2021. Round two of a grant application to fund trail and trailhead improvements is in development. The borough did submit an application to DNR for a trail easement across the state land portion of the Antler Ridge Trail.

### **Trainings/Professional Development**

- Borough Planner Marsha Lambert and a few Planning Commissioners attended the virtual 2021 Alaska Planning Association Conference.
- At their February 17<sup>th</sup> work session, the Denali Borough Planning Commission exercised a robust training regarding the new Conditional Use Permit process, led by borough counsel.
- Solid Waste Operations Manger Scott Wright and Equipment Operator Paul VanDyke completed the requisite coursework to re-certify as Managers Of Landfill Operations (MOLO) under the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA).

### **Street Naming Public Process**

- The borough street name maps, with proposed place holder changes, have been published and posted both online and at the borough posting places. A 30-day comment period is open March 1-March 31, during which proposals for new street names are welcome. An online “New Street Name Proposal Form” is found on our website under Addressing. Public meetings regarding proposed street names are scheduled for early April.

### **Other Meetings Attended:**

- Alaska Trails Initiative is building support for trails funding found in the Governor’s General Obligation Bond proposal. Many meetings regarding inclusion of Denali area projects occurred.
- Myself and staff have attended the ECHO meetings held by DHSS, focusing on Local Government response and coordination.
- Weekly Denali Area Healthcare zoom meetings continue.
- February Denali Borough School Board meeting.
- Zoom meeting with Superintendent Polta to discuss borough and school finances.

Happy March, happy fun in the sun and snow! As always, feel free to contact me or staff with questions.

-Clay