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**Denali Borough Assembly
Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
McKinley Community Center, Denali, Alaska
March 11, 2020**

PUBLIC HEARING

Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the public hearing to order at 6:10 PM.

ORDINANCE 20-04: Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Amendment

There was no comment

ORDINANCE 20-05: Mayor's Salary

There was no comment

REGULAR MEETING

Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:11 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Clay Walker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Assembly members present: Krista ZAPPONE, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Tallon SHREEVE, Jake HILL, Jeff STENGER, Eileen HOMES, Jill BOELSMA, and Lisa MINER.

Absent: Joe CHATFIELD. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

Mr. HILL MOVED to excuse Joe CHATFIELD. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Gauvin commented that he is grateful for the livestream and wants to thank Dave Evans for his service and welcome Lisa Miner. He reviewed a packet given to assembly members regarding Otto Lake land uses with suggested policies for the borough to adopt to alleviate the impact of ATV traffic on trails. The packet also showed photos of recent flooding on Lester & Kilian roads and their desire to be involved in mitigation of that hazard. He also noted an inconsistency in the Land Management Plan regarding subarea 2, recreation acreage and the possible lease acreage.

Vanessa Juszczak with the Denali Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor Center, reported on the new tagline for the visitor center, "Discover Denali", and the new website: discoverdenali.org. She also reported local business cancellations are at 50% because of the coronavirus pandemic and that it will have a huge impact on local businesses.

1 **AGENDA**

2 Ms. BOELSMA MOVED to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was
3 seconded.

4
5 The VOTE to approve the agenda by show of hands was unanimous.
6

7 **MINUTES**

8 **FEBRUARY 12, 2020 WORK SESSION, PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING**

9 **MINUTES**

10 Ms. ZAPPONE MOVED to approve the February 12, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.
11 The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to approve was unanimous.
12

13 **REPORTS**

14 **JANUARY 2020 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

15 Ms. BOELSMA MOVED to receive the January 2020 Financial Report. The motion was
16 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to receive was unanimous.
17

18 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

19 Superintendent Dan Polta provided the attached written report (attachment A).
20 He also reported on the coronavirus and the impacts of it on the school system.
21

22 **MAYOR REPORT**

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

25 Additional comments included:

- 26 • A teleconference with the Department of State and Homeland Security regarding the
27 coronavirus and situational awareness as well as considering system and operational
28 continuity, containment, public health outreach and seasonal tourism downturn.
- 29 • He will be attending an interior Mayors meeting at CAFS April 8th
- 30 • The Alaska LNG Environmental Impact Survey results are out
- 31 • Land Management plans and the Annual Land Work Plan are coming soon to the
32 assembly for review
33

34 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

35 Assembly members thanked everyone who was present for their participation and thanked
36 Dan Polta for his report on the coronavirus and thanked James Gauvin for his informative
37 packet. Also:
38

39 Jill BOELSMA and Jake HILL congratulated Dave DeCaro for receiving the Mayor's
40 Community Service Award at Winterfest 2020.

41 Tallon SHREEVE and Krista ZAPPONE reported on what they learned while at the Alaska
42 Municipal League legislative conference and suggest others attend in the future as those in
43 Juneau are engaged in local municipalities.

1 Jeff STENGER and Lisa MINER thanked the Mayor for his report, Jeff is happy to see that
2 Cantwell school will remain open for the 2020/2021 school year.
3 Jared ZIMMERMAN thanked public health workers for their service during this outbreak.
4 Eileen HOLMES reported that the Anderson DMV is open Wednesdays & Thursdays from
5 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

6
7 **COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

8 Jennifer LeMay, with LeMay Engineering, presented the Denali Borough and City of
9 Anderson Hazard Mitigation Plan draft update. The plan looks at the natural hazards that
10 could affect the Denali Borough and the City of Anderson. The draft plan will be posted on
11 the borough website by the end of the month. Comments can be given to Chris Noel at the
12 borough office, or Jennifer LeMay at: (907) 350-6061. Once the plan is finalized the
13 assembly will adopt it by resolution and it will then go to FEMA for final approval and at that
14 point the borough can apply to receive grant funding related to natural hazards.

15
16 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN call for a break at 7:40 PM.
17 The meeting resumed at 8:00 PM.

18
19 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

20 **ORDINANCE 20-06: Bison Gulch Project Allocation**

21 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-06. The motion was seconded. Mayor
22 Walker reviewed the project and the recommended allocation.

23
24 The roll call VOTE to introduce Ordinance 20-06 was unanimous.

25
26 Ms. BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-06. The motion was seconded. The
27 VOTE by show of hands to postpone was unanimous.

28
29
30 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

31 **ORDINANCE 20-04: Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Amendment**

32 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-04. The motion was seconded.

33
34 The roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

35
36 **ORDINANCE 20-05: Mayor’s Salary**

37 Ms. BOELSMA MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-05. The motion was seconded.

38
39 The roll call VOTE to approve was unanimous.

40
41 **RESOLUTIONS**

42 **RESOLUTION 20-04: Supporting the relocation of the derelict bus from the west side**
43 **of the Teklanika River**

1 Mr. SHREEVE MOVED to approve Resolution 20-04. The motion was seconded. Mayor
2 Walker reviewed the resolution background.
3
4 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to add wording under “Be it further resolved...
5 “The assembly supports the state moving the bus”
6 The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous
7
8 Jeff STENGER MOVED to change the wording to “Supports removing the bus from its
9 current location” The two motions read as follows:
10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Denali Borough Assembly supports the State of Alaska
11 working with state and federal agencies, as well as non-profit organizations, toward a plan
12 to remove the bus from its current location.
13 The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous
14
15 Jake HILL MOVED to adjust the amendment title to reflect the new wording as follows:
16 **A RESOLUTION OF THE DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REGARDING**
17 **THE TEKLANIKA FOOTBRIDGE PROPOSAL AND SUPPORTING THE**
18 **REMOVAL OF DERELICT FAIRBANKS CITY BUS 142 (THE BUS).**
19 The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous
20
21 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to add a “Be it further resolved” section to include signage
22 messaging, to read as follows:
23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Denali Borough supports the State of Alaska placing
24 safety messaging signage at the Stampede Trail and near the Teklanika River crossing.
25 The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous
26
27 The roll call VOTE to approve Resolution 20-04 as amended was unanimous.
28
29 **OTHER BUSINESS**
30 **LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL**
31 a) AMCO License #5221: Tonglen Lake Lodge Renewal Application
32 b) AMCO License # 5470: Cantwell Lodge Renewal Application
33 c) AMCO License #1969: Kantishna Roadhouse Renewal Application
34 d) AMCO License #170: Transfer and Renewal Application from Mountain View to Vitus
35
36 Lisa MINER MOVED to not-protest the renewal of liquor license numbers 5221, 5470, 1696
37 and the transfer and renewal of liquor license number 170. The motion was seconded.
38
39 The VOTE by show of hands to not-protest was unanimous.
40
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1 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

2 Superintendent Dan Polta added that negotiations with the teacher’s union concluded in
3 only two days and noted the danger of the virus affecting the elderly more than children.
4

5 Chris Noel thanked the contractors with LeMay Engineering for their presentation and also
6 gave a coronavirus update regarding emergency planning. He noted disasters start locally
7 but there is much state support, this virus is 10-20 times more deadly than the flu, he
8 reminded those present to mitigate the outbreak with preventive measures such as hand
9 washing, less community interaction, keep elder’s communication channels open via phone,
10 facetime, etc., and noted planned table top exercises for emergency agency coordination.
11

12 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

13 Assembly members thanked LeMay Engineering for their presentation and thanked
14 everyone for coming, along with these additional comments:

15 Lisa MINER was thankful for the virus information and is glad Cantwell school will not be
16 closed.

17 Jake HILL thanked the Gauvins for their comments, thanked the assembly, Chris Noel
18 and borough staff for their work and stated “wash your hands.”

19 Eileen HOMES stated that she is encouraged by people voicing their opinions.

20 Krista ZAPPONE likes working together with the assembly with all the differing opinions
21 involved with being on the assembly.

22 Jared ZIMMERMAN thanked the deputy clerk for filling in and is also happy to see that
23 Cantwell school will not close this year. He noted the quirks with the Denali Borough
24 using plastic chairs at meetings, etc. and how that perhaps helps with funding and the
25 borough budget.

26 Jeff STENGER was pleased with the work that was accomplished tonight and thanked
27 the Gauvins for speaking as well as Mr. Polta.

28 Tallon SHREEVE noted that things are serious but he is also relaxed and thankful to see
29 a fuller picture regarding the current epidemic.

30 Jill BOELSMA was thankful for the food provided and advised people to start practicing
31 hand washing now, and cleaning surfaces, being mindful of people at risk, planning for
32 how to work from home, separating from community and remembered a quote by Kim
33 White to “stay healthy.”
34

35 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

36 Wednesday, March 25, 2020: Grant Review Committee Meeting at the Tri-Valley
37 Community Center, Healy, AK, starting at 6:00 PM.
38

39 Wednesday, April 8, 2020: Regular Meeting at the Tri-Valley Community Center, Healy, AK
40 starting at 6:00 PM.
41
42
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1 **ADJOURN:**
2 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was
3 adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:26 PM.
4

5
6 APPROVED: _____
7 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer
8

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10
11 ATTEST: _____
12 Connie MacMaster, Borough Deputy Clerk
13

14
15 Date Approved: _____



**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, March 11th, 2020**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

Please accept this written report for the month of March.

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Thank you to Alesha Ferguson, Angel Hayes, and Amanda Austin for attending the annual special education conference, hosted by DEED in Anchorage at the end of February.

2. Coronavirus -

- a. Last week Nurse Karri sent a message out to our community regarding the virus, its known risks, and steps to take regarding personnel hygiene that can help limit the exposure and spread of this and any similar illness (like the cold and flu). Key points include practicing regular hand washing, avoiding touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth, covering your cough, and maintaining some distance from people who cough or are expressing other signs of illness. If an individual student, staff, or parent is ill, they should stay at home to rest, recover, and limit spread of any illness. These are solid health practices for this and any other illness. Karri is updating our bathroom reminder signs to keep this advice fresh.
- b. On an institutional and system level, I've participated in meetings with the Commission of Education, DEED staff, and officials from the Department of Health and Human services. Their advice is exactly the advice and information shared by Nurse Karri.
- c. Regarding questions of school travel. At this point, we are not implementing travel restrictions. Anchorage and some other districts have canceled international travel. DBSD has no such travel scheduled. Superintendents around the state are monitoring the situation and each stands ready to implement travel restrictions if the situation changes and such action is warranted. It is also important to note, that individuals can also make personal choices and not travel if that is their safety level.
- d. Regarding questions on school closure. Current situations do not warrant a closure, nor is there a specific trigger that would lead to a closure or

Mission Statement

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

recommendation to the Board for a closure. The question would rest on the facts on the ground, student and staff safety (both in and out of school), and the educational needs of the students and our ability to provide for those. By monitoring information on the virus and its spread, we will be able to review the situation in DBSD and act appropriately.

- e. We are working with our custodial staff to ensure that we have adequate disinfectant supplies on hand and on order and are approving overtime as needed in order to allow more time for wipe downs and disinfecting as a precautionary measure.
- f. This week the leadership team conducted table talk exercises to consider possible scenarios and responses.

3. Finances

- a. FY20 Budget - We continue to track our end of year projection and continue to expect an operational surplus of ~\$80,000.
- b. Students with Intensive Needs - We filed our appeal to DEED regarding the recent denial of intensive needs status for one of our students. DEED should respond to our appeal no later than the end of March.
- c. FY21 Budget - At the February board meeting the Board amended and then approved the FY21 budget to include the operation of Cantwell School. Following the actions at the February board meeting, we completed the technical update of the budget for transmittal to the Denali Borough. After all adjustments the budget contains an operational deficit of ~\$425,000 and will be covered from the district's unrestricted carryover. We will continue to look for additional expenses reductions that can be implemented next year. The Board will also be considering a resolution regarding the ongoing operation of our small schools and conditions under which they would revisit that commitment.

4. Facilities

- a. Tri-Valley System Monitoring - We continue to work with Siemens on a quote for updated monitoring software which would also include automated call out alerts at times of system shut down.
- b. Anderson Roof - Our engineering firm, Northform, is moving ahead with final design work on the Anderson Roof. We are on schedule for construction this summer.
- c. Generator Update Project - Curtis continues his work with DEED to redesign the deliverable on this project on our CIP list. We are transforming the project to the format where we could do a single bid to both design and construct the projects. We are also building in three construction phases, one for each school. These changes would allow us to work on this project in partnership with the Borough, updating one generator at a time, while maintaining the potential reimbursement from DEED under the CIP grant program.

- d. Automated Door Locks - At the end of February an incident occurred that increased the urgency and scope of this project. We discovered that in Anderson, an unauthorized person was entering the school at night with the use of a key. All related information has been shared with State Troopers. All the locks on the exterior doors have been changed and removed from the master key system. New keys for those locks have been issued to current staff. If we had the automated fobs in place, we would have been able to confirm whose fob (key) was used to unlock the door used. That would have provided a clear path to investigate to identify the individual. Further the system could have been quickly programmed to deactivate that fob, forever. The change out of the locks cost the district a total of \$1,000 in parts and labor costs, as well as the opportunity cost of the time spent changing the locks and investigating the incident.

5. FY21 School Calendar

- a. At the February meeting the Board introduced two options for the 2020-21 school calendar. One option is for a traditional school year as we have had for the past several years. The other option would shift 10 student days to additional professional development days. These days are placed on Fridays with high levels of known student activity travel. The Board is collecting input on these options via a survey sent to students, parents and staff.

6. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff
 - i. We hired, pending Board approval, Eli Holmes for the secondary English/Language Arts and Social Study position in Anderson.
 - ii. We continue to interview candidates for the position of literacy coach.
- b. Classified Staff
 - i. We hired, pending Board approval, Letitia Stratton for the open lunch/recess TA position at Tri-Valley
 - ii. We accepted the resignation, effective the end of April, of Nicole Allard, one of our TA's at Tri-Valley
- c. Exempt Staff
 - i. We hired Eric Filardi for the Principal/Teacher in Anderson.

Sincerely,

Dan Polta
Denali Borough School District

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

March 2020 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

Alaska Municipal League (AML) Legislative Meeting (Juneau, February 18-20)

- Assembly Members Tallon Shreeve and Krista Zappone joined me in this week of learning, listening, engaging and advocating.
- As a group, we heard from and engaged with House leadership, including Speaker Edgmon, Rep. Johnston, Rep. Ortiz and Rep. Johnson. We had a session with Senate leadership, including Sen. Coghill, Sen. Von Imhoff, Sen. Micciche, and Sen. Begich. U.S. Senator Murkowski visited and spoke and took questions as did Governor Dunleavy. Office of Management and Budget Director Neil Steininger, Legislative Finance Director Pat Pitney, Department of Transportation Commissioner John MacKinnon, and more, also presented to the group of ninety or so local government officials.
- Our borough delegation also participated in separate legislative meetings with Representative Talerico, Senator Bishop, the rest of the interior delegation, and a few additional meeting - for a total of ten meetings. I also joined City of Nenana Mayor Josh Verhagen in a meeting with Governor Dunleavy. Additionally, I participated in the AML Board meeting with the Governor.
- The meetings were filled with positive engagement, advocacy for the borough positions, and hearing the challenges upon the legislature as the options to address the fiscal imbalance shrink. Here is a link to the Finance Director's presentation, which helps illustrate the challenges: <https://www.akml.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AML-Presentation-2-19-20-Pitney.pdf>

20th Annual Denali Winterfest (February 21-23)

- The Denali Education Center hosted a fun kickoff celebration Friday night at McKinley Community Center and Denali National Park reported strong attendance at their numerous Saturday events in the Park. Healy Hockey hosted games all weekend and the Tri-Valley Community hosted Bigfoot Fest on Sunday. The Denali Borough hosted a Community Dinner and Bingo Saturday night at the Tri-Valley Community Center, which was a success thanks to the many helpers and participants. Denali Preschool and Learning Center cooked and served a good spaghetti dinner with all the fixings, for a fundraiser. Holland America Princess donated the food and Doyon/Aramark donated the serviceware. The Tri Valley 5th grade class provided delicious deserts for a donation. And the Native Village of Cantwell brought the BINGO, which was a bit hit. The prizes were local gift cards and over 100 players, from near and far, enjoyed the games. Thanks to all for a fun weekend!

7th Annual Denali Borough Mayor's Community Service Award

- The selection committee reviewed the nominations and selected this year's awardee. The award itself was a beautiful framed Jimmy Tohill print of a Denali mountain scene. Thanks for the donation, Jimmy and Vicki!
- This year's awardee was McKinley Volunteer Fire Department Chief Dave DeCaro. The nomination included eight letter detailing the passion, enthusiasm, and positive leadership Dave brings to the department. The nomination also detailed the many improvements the department has made under his guidance. Thanks Chief DeCaro for all you do!

Alaska Tourism Industry Association (ATIA) Denali Working Group Meeting

- Along with the Denali Borough and the State Legislature, ATIA has been calling for the National Park Service (NPS) to develop a plan to repair the damaged Park Road for this coming season and beyond. This working group held an update meeting February 27th, which I attended telephonically. Acting NPS Regional Director Don Striker shared the plan and timeline, which includes equipment on site currently. A contractor will move into Toklat Road Camp in April to carry out repairs and perform scaling activities, with a hoped for on-time opening. Good news is that the rate of slippage slowed considerably with the long stretch of cold temperatures. More updates will follow.

NACo Legislative Conference (Washington, DC, February 28-March 4)

- Public Lands Steering Committee Meeting all day Saturday
 - As this is my first year on this committee, this was my first in person meeting. It was productive and informative. Topics included this year's resolutions, PILT funding, the Small Counties PILT Parity Act, NPS Maintenance funding, wildfire season and prevention project funding. We also heard from the Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment from the Department of Agriculture and the new Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.
- On Sunday, I attended a conference work session titled, "Coming to a Legislature Near You", which detailed statehouse efforts to pre-empt local control on a variety of topics. One, which is currently being floated in Juneau, is to place statewide term limits on school board service. Counties/boroughs maintain this is a local question. Vacation rentals are another realm where state houses are limiting what local jurisdictions can regulate, and even collect. Broadband and the 5G roll out is a high priority for many places which involves coordination between levels of government.
- The Monday general session speakers included Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, Rep. Connolly (VA) and Sen. Coons (DE). I attended a Monday session regarding USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant Programs and shared the information with staff and others. I attended an afternoon session titled "Reinventing Recycling", which detailed trends and directions in the market, post-Chinese National Sword policy. I shared this information with staff and the Zero Landfill Initiative Board.
- The Tuesday general session speakers included Col. Colin Powell (retired), Rep. Katko (NY), Rep. Murphy (FL) and the President of The United States Donald J. Trump. President Trump was the first sitting president to address a NACo conference since President Clinton in 1996. His administration has repeatedly let county officials know that they want to work with and to assist local governments. He spoke to successes in working with counties to break down federal barriers and achieve results, among other topics.
- Other Tuesday sessions attended included "What to do When Disaster Strikes: an Insider's Look at FEMA", which addressed preparedness programs, incident management resources

and post-disaster assistance programs. Many county officials expressed difficulties working through the programs, especially the assistance programs, which are being revamped. I also attended a Defense Installation Counties Summit, which mainly focused on environmental and land use planning aspects of defense installations within a borough.

- After conference on Wednesday, I met with Governor Dunleavy's State and Federal Affairs Director Kip Knutson, whose experience was helpful in guiding effective communications regarding the borough's priorities. That afternoon, I met with Congressman Young and his staff, Senator Murkowski and her staff, and Senator Sullivan and his staff. All meetings were productive and helpful – primary topics included Park Road maintenance needs, PILT program changes, funding of transportation projects, and funding of federal transportation programs which the borough is finding useful, such as FLAP, CTP and forestry's CWPP.

Meeting with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Fairbanks (March 6)

- I met in person with DNR staff members to discuss The Bus and to consider potential options and solutions. It was a good first meeting on the topic, with likely more to follow.

Happy March, happy return of the sun. As always, feel free to call me or staff if you have any questions.

-Clay