

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**
2 **Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting**
3 **Virtual Meeting**
4 **May 12, 2021**
5

6 **PUBLIC HEARING**

7 **ORDINANCE 21-04: FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

8 There were no comments.
9

10 **ORDINANCE 21-05: FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET**

11 Brad Randall and Sam Kimmell with the Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department asked the
12 assembly to fully fund the Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department grant request.
13

14 **REGULAR MEETING**

15 **CALL TO ORDER**

16 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:06 PM.
17

18 **ROLL CALL**

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

23 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

24 The following members of the public submitted written comment as attached:

- 25 • Charmi Weker (See ATTACHMENT A)
- 26 • Kobe Farm Community (See ATTACHMENT B)
- 27 • Bruce Hamilton (See ATTACHMENT C)
- 28 • Robert and Joan Darling (See ATTACHMENT D)
- 29 • James and Susan Gauvin (See ATTACHMENT E)

- 30

31 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

32 Jake HILL MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded.
33

34 The MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA PASSED by unanimous consent.
35

36 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1 **APRIL 14, 2021 ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING AND APRIL 28, 2021 SPECIAL**
2 **MEETING**

3 Dominic CANALE MOVED to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2021 Regular Meeting
4 and the April 28, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded.

5
6 The MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED by unanimous consent.

7
8 **REPORTS**

9 **PARTNER REPORTS**

10 Seamus Siddal with Horizon Medical introduced himself and described the COVID-19
11 testing and vaccination services they will be offering this summer season to residents and
12 visitors to the Denali Borough.

13
14 Vanessa Juszczak with the Denali Chamber of Commerce and Discover Denali reported the
15 following:

- 16 • The business community is seeing strong reservations for the upcoming summer
17 season.
- 18 • Visitors are reporting a statewide challenge for renting a vehicle while they are in the
19 State.
- 20 • Reduced number of transit bus tours into Denali National Park has caused many
21 visitors to find other opportunities to experience Denali.
- 22 • Hiring seasonal employees has been a challenge for many of the local small
23 businesses.
- 24 • The Denali Chamber of Commerce will be placing mobile kiosks near some popular
25 locations to help educate visitors.
- 26 • The Denali Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a banquet on May 23rd.

27
28 **FINANCE REPORT**

29 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to receive the February and March Financial Reports. The motion
30 was seconded.

31
32 The MOTION to receive the February and March Financial Reports PASSED by unanimous
33 consent.

34
35 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

36 Mayor Walker reported that the Planning Commission reviewed the concerns and questions
37 that were expressed during the Road Name Change meetings. The Commission will review
38 the Street Name section of Denali Borough Code during their May 19th meeting.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT

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

MAYOR REPORT

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

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly members offered the following comments:

- Thanked those that provided reports.
- Expressed appreciation for school and borough staff.
- Expressed appreciation for the Planning Commission and their continued work on the road name process.
- Expressed appreciation for the public engagement.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST

There were no communication and appearance requests.

DRAFT ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 21-06: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN

Jake HILL MOVED to introduce Ordinance 21-06: Capital Improvement Project Plan.
The motion was seconded.

Mayor Walker highlighted some of the projects identified in Ordinance 21-06.

The roll call VOTE TO INTRODUCE PASSED unanimously.

Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to postpone Ordinance 21-06: Capital Improvement Project Plan.
The motion was seconded.

The MOTION TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

ORDINANCE 21-07: EMERGENCY APPARATUS ALLOCATION

1 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 21-07: Emergency Apparatus Allocation.
2 The motion was seconded.

3
4 Mayor Walker reviewed the two pieces of emergency apparatus recommended for funding.

5
6 The roll call VOTE TO INTRODUCE PASSED unanimously.

7
8 Jake HILL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 21-07: Emergency Apparatus Allocation.
9 The motion was seconded.

10
11 The MOTION TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

12
13 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

14 **ORDINANCE 21-04: FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

15 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to amend Ordinance 21-04 by adding half of the permanent
16 investment fund earnings to the Parks and Recreation Fund in the amount of \$59,243.

17
18 The MOTION TO AMEND PASSED by unanimous consent.

19
20 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve Ordinance 21-04: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget
21 Amendment.

22 The motion was seconded.

23
24 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 21-04 PASSED unanimously.

25
26 **ORDINANCE 21-05: FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET**

27 Jake HILL MOVED to approve Ordinance 21-05. The motion was seconded.

28
29 Brad Randall and Sam Kimmell with the Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department described the
30 need for full grant funding from the Denali Borough to provide the Summer Medic Program.
31 There was much discussion on the logistics of the Summer Medic Program.

32
33 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED TO AMEND Ordinance 21-05 to increase the grant funding
34 amount to the Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department to \$240,000.

35 The motion was seconded.

36

1 The MOTION TO AMMEND PASSED with Assembly members ZAPPONE and
2 ZIMMERMAN opposed.

3
4 The assembly discussed some of the other grant requests.
5

6 Jeff STENGER MOVED to amend Ordinance 21-05 to add non-profit grant funding for the
7 Kobe Farm Community in the amount of \$8,000. The motion failed for lack of a second.

8
9 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to have a Version B of Ordinance 21-05 brought to the June
10 Assembly meeting with amended values included.
11 The motion was seconded.

12
13 The VOTE to have a VERSION B brought to the Assembly for the June meeting PASSED
14 by unanimous consent.

15
16 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to POSTPONE Ordinance 21-05.
17 The motion was seconded.

18
19 The VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

20

21 **RESOLUTIONS**

22 There were no Resolutions to consider.

23

24 **OTHER BUSINESS**

25 **PRESIDING OFFICER APPOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

26 Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman appointed Assembly Members ZAPPONE, SHREEVE,
27 HILL and CANALE as the Finance Committee.

28

29 **DISCUSSION: HYBRID MEETING MODEL (mix of in-person and virtual meeting 30 structure)**

31 Mayor Walker reported that the Planning Commission will hold their May meeting using a
32 hybrid structure and the Assembly can consider using this structure at a future meeting.

33

34 **LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

35 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to not-protest the following liquor license renewal applications:

- 36 • License #3920: Denali River Cabins
- 37 • License #5209: McKinley Village Lodge

- 1 • License #5489: Burger Shack
- 2 • License #5673: McKinley Creekside Cabins
- 3 • License #671: 49th State Beverage Dispensary
- 4 • License #4946: 49th State Brewing Co.
- 5 • License #2694: Totem Inn
- 6 • License #3724: North Star Inn
- 7 • License #4308: Nenana View Bar and Grille
- 8 • License #4313: Dinner Theatre
- 9 • License #4898: Panorama Pizza
- 10 • License #4876: Courtyard Café
- 11 • License #4901: Grizzly Bar and Grill
- 12 • License #4902: Fannie O's Saloon

13 The motion was seconded.

14

15 The VOTE to not-protest PASSED by unanimous consent.

16

17 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

18 Cantwell area resident Gordon Carlson commented that an accommodation for pedestrians
19 is the reason for the Mile 231 Bridge Project and there is no reason to continue with the
20 project if the pedestrian accommodation is not being realized.

21

22 Kobe area resident Dorothy DeBlauw thanked the Assembly for considering the Kobe Farm
23 Community grant and invited all the members to visit the area and see the road condition.

24

25 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

26 Assembly members commented on the following:

- 27 • Expressed appreciation for a productive and cordial meeting.
- 28 • Expressed appreciation for the Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department for their
29 service to the community and for their engagement in the meeting discussion.
- 30 • Expressed appreciation for all the public engagement.

31

32 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

33 The next Assembly meeting(s) will be:

- 34 • Wednesday, June 9, 2021: Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM

35

36 **ADJOURN**

1 Dominic CANALE MOVED to adjourn.

2 The motion was seconded.

3

4 The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:46 PM.

5

6

7 APPROVED: _____

8 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

9

10 ATTEST: _____

11 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: _____

Kobe Road

Charmi Weker <sirvault@yahoo.com>

Sat 5/1/2021 6:55 AM

To: Amber Renshaw <arensaw@denaliborough.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 email a copy of this to the mayor and all assembly members. Thank you.

To the mayor and Denali Borough assembly members;

I am writing in hopes that you will reconsider the grant request for work on Kobe Road. As you know the previous two summer seasons we have had work done on the road. In order to maintain what we have started we need more gravel hauled and spread. Without that we stand a chance of sliding a bit backward in the improvement of this road. Also we have a gravel permit granted from DNR that expires at the end of five years. This will be our third summer and we do not want to waste this opportunity to obtain gravel. And probably the most important reason of all is that Denali Borough owns land adjacent to and on both sides of Kobe Road. Local hunters and outdoors people who don't live off of this road do utilize it. It would be prudent for the borough to improve this access not only to help in increasing land sales but because it is the right thing to do.

Please reconsider our grant request.

Sincerely,

Charmi Weker

Date: May 3, 2021

To: Mayor Clay Walker
Assembly Members

From: Kobe Farm Community
RE: FY 2022 Matching and Nonprofit Grant Applications

This is a request that our grant applications - matching and nonprofit - be reconsidered for this year's budget.

The bottom line for the matching grant for Kobe Farm Community nonprofit is \$30,000.00. The bottom line for the non-profit grant is \$8,000.00. KFC understands the financial situation of the borough this year and we would appreciate any amount that the borough could grant.

Funds given this year will help this project to maintain what has been accomplished during the last two construction seasons - hauling gravel and ditching and culverts.

Camp Challenge is a facility located on Kobe Road. It serves children, ages 8 and up, with summer camps, plus adult retreats, etc. This summer it has projects planned for their property that require big equipment. They are willing to let KFC help with the cost of this equipment that can be used on road improvement. They are willing to share costs with KFC of mobilization and equipment rental. They have volunteer operators. Grant funding to KFC would enable our nonprofit to partake of the equipment and volunteer help.

Denali Borough has land on both sides of Kobe Road and Rochester Road. Road improvement can help sell the land. Road improvement is an investment that will pay dividends if and when the borough decides to sell land.

Kobe Road is a road that is used by many people from the area and beyond. It is the main road in for emergency responders - fire and otherwise. We have counted as many as 26 rigs in the pull out during moose season and they are going up and down muddy Kobe Road.

Funds from the Borough Grant program will continue the road improvement. As you know, road construction is capital intensive. Any amount will get more accomplished on this project.

KFC received \$10,000 federal stimulus in 2020. The contractor's bill was \$12,255. The balance was paid by KFC members. (Don DeBlauw gave an invoice, pending, to KFC for dozer and motorgrader work totaling \$5,120, and he is aware that there are no funds to pay him.) There was also an approximate in-kind amount of \$3,500 for labor, truck, tractor and chainsaw time in 2020. This nonprofit needs the support of the borough and funds to work towards completion of this project.

We are asking that our request for funding be reconsidered, and that KFC be granted an amount.

Thank you.

Kobe Farm Community

Kobe Road Project and KFC (Amber: Pls Fwd to the appropriate persons)

bljhamilton2@gmail.com <bljhamilton2@gmail.com>

Tue 5/4/2021 5:00 PM

To: Amber Renshaw <arensaw@denaliborough.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.

Dear Mayor, Clerk and Assembly Members,

Please reconsider the grant for the Kobe Road project.

Since 1998, we have operated a non-profit youth camp at 1.5 mile Kobe Road. Our camp is at an extremely crucial point this summer for the following reasons:

On the heels of Covid lockdowns, shelter-at-home orders and quarantines, our children are in desperate need of our camp ministry. We not only provide a lot of outdoor activities that the kids find very enjoyable, we also provide spiritual support and counseling for these children, our most precious investment for the future. (And it isn't just the children in need of some sunshine and spiritual therapy, right?)

With the Kobe Road grant funds, the improvements that started two summers ago can continue and allow us to build a new cabin, haul in supplies and bring in campers, safely. This year, we have 2 volunteer groups coming from the states to build safe, warm cabins for the campers. They are flying up at their own expense and donating their time and some of the materials.

Every year, kids from Fairbanks, North Pole, Nenana, Healy, Clear/Anderson and a few villages along the Yukon River attend Camp Challenge. Many who attended in years past are now responsible, resident adults of Alaska. A few of our former campers now serve on our camp staff.

We host 6 summer camps and one winter retreat but could do even more for our communities and our great state if the road was improved. Presently, just getting to the property is our biggest challenge at Camp Challenge, pun intended. 😊 However, thanks to the Debloughs and their helpers, the road has been improving little by little for the past 2 seasons. As all of you know, our summers last about 3 minutes up here so we must take advantage of every second! 😊

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request and thank you for all the work you do to make our community a better place.

Your Friend, slightly north of Nenana
Bruce Hamilton
President, Open Bible Ministries, Inc
907-378-9103

May 3, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Please reconsider the Kobe Farm Community for your grants. The help would be greatly appreciated. There is an Open Bible Ministry that is located on Kobe Road. They have construction plans for their camp this summer. The improvements to Kobe Road will benefit this ministry. They have offered to let KFC share in the expense and use of equipment, which is obviously a benefit to KFC as well. We would be able to build on the hard work you have helped us create the last two years. We need to be able to haul the gravel to Kobe Road to continue our construction on our road as well as use the gravel permit for the free gravel. The gravel permit is limited to five years and this would be year three. Such a savings!! The Denali Borough does own land on both sides of Kobe Road. Improving Kobe Road will increase the value of your land as well.

It would be a shame to lose all the hard work KFC has put into Kobe Road. As a landowner on this road ourselves, we appreciate the improvements. The benefit goes further. The access to the fire department and medical equipment is invaluable. Time is of the essence for emergency response and having to fight the road is costly and unacceptable as it could be lifesaving. We are grateful for the emergency response we have and this would be invaluable if we can continue the work on Kobe Road.

We realize the pandemic has caused hardships everywhere. We do hope you will be able to reconsider the grants for Kobe Road. We thank you and appreciate your considerations.

Sincerely,

Robert and Joan Darling

comments for May Assembly meeting

Susan Gauvin <got_younger@yahoo.com>

Tue 5/11/2021 3:30 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.

Hi Amber,

Can you share our comments below with the Assembly? Thank you!

First, we want to thank the Assembly and Planning Commission on their continued work on the addressing system which will be a great benefit to the borough when it is implemented.

In addition, we wanted to respond to last month's budget update from Mayor Walker that the Parks and Rec Fund budget of \$10,000 was not funded. Could this be funded in the future via a Land Use Fee on commercial operators on Borough land?

If there was a "commercial ATV fee" similar to those used by DNR and BLM as suggested in the past, this would generate ~\$100k per year for the borough based on the commercial ATV trips originating in the Otto Lake area alone. That is based on a normal tourist season with 20,000 ATV trips and matching current BLM fees of \$5 per participant (reference BLM Handbook H 2930-1/ page 1/20). This would cover the current Parks and Rec budget several times over.

It is frustrating to see these budget deficits when there are actionable solutions available and the commercial ATV impacts are still unlimited and unregulated. If changes had been implemented in 2016 as proposed, the borough might have a \$500k surplus rather than a \$10k deficit.

Here we are at the start of another tourist season. We would like to know when we can expect the Borough to make changes that have an impact.

Thank you,
James and Susan Gauvin
Dry Creek, Healy, Alaska



**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, May 12th, 2021**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Teacher Appreciation Week - Thank you to all of our teachers, whether they lead a classroom, assist a certified teacher, keep our schools clean, maintain our facilities, or work in our school offices. Your dedication to the students in our community are seen and appreciated. While this week may be Teacher Appreciation Week, your work and our thanks go on every day.
- b. Usibelli Coal Mine - Usibelli Coal Mine supported welder Travis Ghurt to help attach the new hydraulic lifts for the TVS coal bin. While doing this, Travis and another UCM employee saw that the original system and equipment was extremely dangerous and did not have the proper pressure thresholds. UCM provided the proper equipment and fixed this safety risk. We appreciate the help to repair the coal bin and to ensure the ongoing safety of our staff and students.

2. 2021 Smart Start -

- a. We submitted our application for a CLIA waiver. This will allow DBSD to process coronavirus tests and allow us to receive funds to support DBSD based testing. The funds can be used for both supplies and personnel. The District has been awarded \$115,000 which can be used to support school-based testing for the coming school year.
- b. Vaccine Access - On the 9th of April, Pfizer asked the FDA to expand the emergency use authorization for its vaccine to be extended to include people ages 12-15 years old. This request is based on results from phase III trials in people in that age group. The FDA may act on this in several weeks.
- c. ARPA Funding - I am reviewing the district requirements under the American Rescue Plan for the additional federal funds. We will learn the final award amount on May 24th.

3. Finances

- a. FY21 Budget - Reviewing the end of year expenses and summer projects we have been able to update our FY21 projections and foresee an

Mission Statement

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

operational surplus of ~\$130,000. There is still uncertainty in our student allotment and could add to or reduce this amount. If we continue with a surplus, we will add to our unrestricted carryover. Changes in statutes allow an unlimited amount of funds to carryover from one fiscal year to the next, until 2025 at which time the 10% comes back into effect, unless changed by other pending legislation.

- b. FY21 Budget Revision - Based on the updated end of year projections we are preparing a formal revision of the FY21 Budget for the Board to consider at the May meeting.

4. Facilities

- a. Anderson Roof Project - No Update
- b. Transportation RFP - We continue to work with First Student on a contract for services for the next 5 years. Their formal contract proposal included several provisions which were completely unacceptable as they would expose the district to disastrous financial risk.
- c. Hydrolyzing Machine - This is fully operational. We are producing our own cleaning and disinfecting product. We are rolling this out to our building sites. When we used this to clean the district office conference room for PEAKS testing, we were very impressed with its effectiveness. We already have three partners coordinating with us for a supply to use this summer. We continue to offer this at no cost to our local non-profit partners and minimal cost/donation to interested commercial organizations.
- d. Solar Power - No update
- e. Tri-Valley Generator - No update
- f. Door Locks - No update
- g. School Water Samples - Our first drop off of our water samples was successful and arrived at the testing lab within the appropriate timeframe
- h. Coal Bin - Repairs completed (see thank you's above).
- i. Weather Stations - We installed and activated a weather station at each school. If our settings are correct, these should be findable on Weather Underground.

5. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff
 - i. I accepted the resignation of Jody Stamps, Special Education Teacher at Tri-Valley, effective at the end this school year. We are recruiting for a special education teacher at Tri-Valley.
 - ii. We hired, pending Board approval, Jennifer Graham for the open part-time teaching position at Tri-Valley.
- b. Classified Staff
 - i. No updates
- c. Exempt Staff

- i. No updates
- d. Temporary Staff
 - i. We are recruiting for a lead teacher for our extended school year for specific students who qualify for this service.

Dan Polta
Superintendent
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

May 2021 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

Tax Applicability within Denali National Park

- The fairness question prompted by the implementation of the new alcohol tax (5% on a six pack on one side of the river, but not on the other side), led to re-consideration of the long-held presumption on the part of the Denali Borough that sales within the national park are tax exempt. The borough has never imposed the overnight accommodations (OA) tax upon the campgrounds sold within the park, for example.
- After preliminary research revealed such sales taxes were likely due within the park, I solicited an opinion from our borough legal counsel on the question of the applicability of both alcohol sales tax and overnight accommodations tax within Denali National Park.
- The opinion clearly laid out the case that sales within Denali National Park are not federally exempt. I sent a letter stating the borough's position to the Park Superintendent and the Concessionaire General Manager. The National Park Service concurred with our opinion and agreed that the Concessionaire shall, with reasonable notice, move toward collecting these taxes from the public and remitting those taxes to the borough. Agreed upon implementation dates are July 1 for the alcohol tax, and the 2022 visitor season for the OA tax, as the reservations are already booked for this season.
- We appreciate the responsiveness and professionalism of all parties and believe that this fair, across the board, tax implementation will serve the area well going forward.

MP 231 Safety Enhancement Project Update

- The project is undergoing a significant re-design, which currently keeps the existing structurally-sound bridge in place. The greatly reduced construction cost makes this project fundable in the near term.
- The design adds highway turn lanes at the new, to be constructed, wayside within the park, at the Old Parks Highway intersection and bridges the connection between the Village Lodge and the Grizzly Bear, thus eliminating the pedestrian highway crossing. A separate dedicated pedestrian bridge, sited in the "old right of way, downstream" is proposed to connect the commercial district with the national park and the enhanced trail network.
- Treating the intersection at the lodges, a northbound right turn lane will be added and an acceleration lane will be added southbound. In order to construct that lane up the hill, DOT has requested the borough consider conveying them an acre of our land on the west, uphill side. I have requested that DOT appraise that land and provide the borough fair compensation. We support this project and do not want to put up hurdles, but that is an appropriate and fair way forward. Also, one which will take some time and process, as the Assembly will approve any transfer of our land.

FEMA and DHSS funding updates

- Borough staff are meeting weekly with FEMA representatives developing Public Assistance projects which can account for expenses such as the COVID Testing program of the last year. Reprogramming previous CARES expenditures will help extend the usage of those monies.
- The borough and the State of Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services (DHSS) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the provision of COVID testing and vaccination services going forward through March 2022.

Contract with Horizon Medical Services

- The borough and Horizon Medical Services, who operate the Canyon Clinic, have partnered to provide the necessary COVID testing and vaccination services needed to support the community and the visitor season this summer. The funding agreements referenced above will reimburse the borough for the incurred expenses.

May and June Vaccination Clinics

- Horizon is hosting regular vaccination clinics currently located at the Tri-Valley Community Center. Vaccination services will be provided on May 14, May 20, June 4, June 11 and June 17.
- Currently all three authorized vaccines are being provided. Visit horizonmedicalak.com for more information and to make your appointment today.

Governor Initiative – “Sleeves Up For Alaska”

- Governor Dunleavy and the DHSS team have kicked off a new initiative with a goal to increase vaccine rates in Alaska by 25% through May. Horizon is planning to expand offering through the summer beyond the clinics, even utilizing a mobile COVID testing and vaccination unit.
- The Denali Borough started the month with a 53% rate, so our goal is to reach 78%. Currently we have raised the rate to 56%.

Legislative Update

- The House has passed the operating budget to the Senate. To date, Community Assistance is funded and the budget does not propose new cost shifts to boroughs. Major school maintenance funding would be included in the forthcoming capital budget.
- The allocation of the over \$1 Billion the state is receiving in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) is also ahead. The state, like the borough, will receive their funds in two tranches, allocating half of those monies this year. We are advocating for consideration of using a portion of those funds to help support the state’s most disproportionately impacted communities, such as the Denali Borough.

ARPA Funds

- The borough learned our total relief figure is as expected - \$407,000 split over two years. With lost tax revenues of over \$4 million last year, this relief, while appreciated, does not nearly meet the level of impact and need. We expect to use the funds to backfill lost tax revenue.
- We are still waiting to hear what our allocation will be of the \$1.25 in Public Lands Counties aid.

Denali Working Group in support of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

- Thanks to those serving on this Working Group. We met again on May 11 and plan to further hone the draft Denali Chapter of the Statewide Plan.

Land Annual Work Plan

- Land Planner Marsha Lambert has drafted the Annual Work Plan relating to borough lands, which is a little later this year due to all the other projects, including Street Addressing. The Planning Commission will review the plan at their next meeting, then it will come to the Assembly.

Other Meetings and such of note attended since last meeting:

- April 15-16 Alaska Trails Conference
- April School Board Meeting
- April Planning Commission Meeting
- Monthly Bison/Antler Project Update Meeting
- April 30 Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Assn. Board of Trustees Meeting
- May 6 Ribbon-cutting Ceremony at Clear SFS's new Fire Hall and Emergency Comm. Center

Happy May, Happy Hearing the Robin's Song. As always, feel free to contact me or staff with questions.

-Clay