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**Denali Borough Assembly  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Anderson School  
Anderson, Alaska  
November 13, 2019**

8 **REGULAR MEETING**

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

10  
11 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

13  
14 **ROLL CALL**

15 Assembly members present: Don DEBLAUW, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Krista ZAPPONE  
16 (arrived at 6:08 PM), Tallon SHREEVE, Joe CHATFIELD (arrived at 6:17 PM), Jill  
17 BOELSMA, Jake HILL and Eileen HOLMES. Absent: David EVANS. Mayor Clay Walker  
18 was also present.

19  
20 Jake HILL MOVED to excuse David EVANS. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by  
21 show of hands was unanimous.

22  
23 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

24 There was no public comment.

25  
26 **CERTIFY THE NOVEMBER 6, 2019 REGULAR ELECTION**

27 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to certify the November 6, 2019 regular election results. The motion  
28 was seconded. The roll call VOTE to certify was unanimous.

29  
30 **OATH OF OFFICE**

31 Denali Borough Clerk Amber Renshaw led newly elected assembly members Tallon  
32 SHREEVE, Lisa MINER and Jeff STENGER in the oath of office. The new assembly  
33 members were seated at the assembly table.

34  
35 **AGENDA**

36 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was  
37 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to approve the agenda was unanimous.

38  
39 **MINUTES**

40 **OCTOBER 9, 2019 WORK SESSION, PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING**  
41 **MINUTES**

1 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the October 9, 2019 work session, public hearing and  
2 regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of  
3 hands to approve was unanimous.

4  
5 **REPORTS**

6 **SEPTEMBER 2019 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

7 Jake HILL MOVED to receive the September 2019 Financial Report. The motion was  
8 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to approve was unanimous.

9  
10 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

11 Mayor Clay Walker stated that the planning commission passed a resolution regarding  
12 regional airport planning and that the commission will continue to discuss land use  
13 conditional uses and land management plans.

14  
15 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

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

18  
19 **MAYOR REPORT**

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

22  
23 In addition to the written report, Mayor Walker informed the assembly of a public request for  
24 the assembly to consider supporting an effort to place a footbridge across the Teklanika  
25 River along the route to the “Into the Wild” bus.

26  
27 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

28 Assembly members welcomed the newly elected assembly members and thanked David  
29 Evans, Don DeBlauw and Vernon Carlson for their years of service as local elected  
30 officials, in addition to the following comments:

- 31 • Eileen HOLMES stated that she would like to see a “meet the candidates” forum  
32 before the next regular election.
- 33 • Jared ZIMMERMAN asked that borough district maps be available at all polling  
34 locations for the next regular election.

35  
36 **COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

37 There were no communication and appearance requests.

38  
39 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

40 **ORDINANCE 19-18: Appropriate State Homeland Security reimbursable grant funds**

41 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 19-18. The motion was seconded. The roll  
42 call VOTE to introduce was unanimous.

1 Jake HILL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 19-18. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by  
2 show of hands to postpone was unanimous.

3

4 **ORDINANCE 19-19: Appropriate Hazard Mitigation Plan reimbursable grant funds**

5 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 19-19. The motion was seconded. The roll  
6 call VOTE to introduce was unanimous.

7

8 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 19-19. The motion was seconded. The  
9 VOTE by show of hands to postpone was unanimous.

10

11 **ORDINANCE 19-20: Denali Borough Code Chapter 3.21 Titled Management of Grant  
12 Funds**

13 Jake HILL MOVED to introduce Ordinance 19-20. The motion was seconded. Mayor Walker  
14 reviewed some of the recommended changes. Assembly members asked staff to review the  
15 application process with the intent to make the requested information more relevant and  
16 useful to determine funding approval. The roll call VOTE to introduce was unanimous.

17

18 Jill BOELSMSA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 19-20. The motion was seconded. The  
19 VOTE by show of hands to postpone was unanimous.

20

21 **ORDINANCE 19-21: Repeal Denali Borough Code Chapter 5.50 Titled Matching Grant  
22 Committee**

23 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 19-21. The motion was seconded. The  
24 roll call VOTE to introduce was unanimous.

25

26 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 19-21. The motion was seconded. The  
27 VOTE by show of hands to postpone was unanimous.

28

29 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

30 There were no pending ordinances to consider.

31

32 **RESOLUTIONS**

33 There were no resolutions to consider.

34

35 **OTHER BUSINESS**

36 **SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT PLAN**

37 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the updated Solid Waste Equipment Plan. The motion  
38 was seconded. Mayor Walker and Denali Borough Solid Waste Operations Manager Scott  
39 Wright reviewed the updated plan which includes the purchase of a used D8. The VOTE by  
40 show of hands was unanimous.

41

42 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1 Don DeBlauw congratulated the newly elected assembly members, congratulated Mr.  
2 Baxter Mercer on receiving the No One Left Behind award, and expressed concern about  
3 borough involvement in any potential footbridge across the Teklanika River.

4

5 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

6 Assembly members thanked those in attendance, expressed appreciation for Assembly  
7 Member DeBlauw and Assembly Member Evans for their service, expressed concern  
8 about borough involvement in any potential footbridge across the Teklanika and  
9 suggested that a work session may be an appropriate venue to discuss the proposed  
10 Teklanika footbridge project further, in addition to the following comments:

11

12 Jeff STENGER stated he was excited to serve on the assembly.

13

14 Tallon SHREEVE announced that he purchased the Coghill General Store in Nenana.

15

16 Jake HILL thanked borough staff for their work.

17

18 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

19 Next work session, public hearing and regular assembly meeting will be on Wednesday,  
20 December 11, 2019 at the Tri-Valley School Library, Healy, Alaska starting at 6:00 PM.

21

22 **ADJOURN:**

23 Jake HILL MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned by  
24 unanimous voice vote at 7:57 PM.

25

26

27 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
28 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

29

30

31

32 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
33 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

34

35

36

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



# Denali Borough School District

P.O. Box 280 • Healy, Alaska 99743 • (907) 683-2278 • FAX (907) 683-2514

## **Superintendent's Report Denali Borough Assembly Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

Please accept this written report for the month of November.

### 1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Congratulations to our new Assembly and School Board members. I look forward to working with you in your new roles.
- b. Congratulations to Tricia Turley. Tricia was a state finalist for Presidential Award For Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).
- c. Thank you to the Native Village of Cantwell for providing DBSD with a \$1500 donation and to Usibelli Coal Mine for donation \$2,500 dollars to support the visit of Nick Hansen to work with our students later this year. Nick is the Eskimo Ninja from American Ninja Warrior. Nick works with students and presents a vision and path to overcoming adversity and engaging in a positive life.
- d. Thank you to Audible.com and DEED. Through a partnership with the Department and Audible our high school students and teachers will be able to access a large library of audible books for free.
- e. Thank you to Denali National Park. DNP donated some older computers which will be used in our CTE technology courses.

### 2. Finances

- a. FY19 Audit – We received the final audit report for FY19. It is a “clean” audit and we will review it this month with the Finance Committee and will present it to the Board in November.
- b. FY20 Enrollment – The “October Count” period ended on October 25<sup>th</sup>. While a reconciliation process is underway to resolve conflicts when students are reported as enrolled in two or more districts, our projections for state revenue for this school year are now solid. Enrollment showed slight variations at each school when compared with our approved budget. Overall the changes will result in a slight increase in state aid of ~\$100,000 from our approved budget. This is due largely to conservative projections for PEAK and a higher final enroll in PEAK than last year. This also has the implication that the amount provided by the Denali Borough for this

#### Mission Statement

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

APPENDIX A

school year remains under (and very close to) the 23% percent cap. Of special note, enrollment at Cantwell during the count period was 10 students.

- c. FY20 Public Education Funding Lawsuit on Forward Funding – This case reached conclusion of its first legal stage. The superior court judge ruled in favor of the legislature’s position that forward funding for education was legal and constitutional and that the Governor is bound by law to enact the appropriation in statute. The Dunleavy administration is appealing this ruling to the Alaska Supreme Court.
- d. FY20 Budget Revision - This month the Board will consider a revision to our FY20 budget. This revision will update the revenue following the October Count period and none expense changes, especially in personnel.
- e. DEED Literacy Grant - The State extended the due date for the literacy grant until Friday, December 6th. DBSD will apply for this grant. If successful, DBSD will receive additional financial assistance to support our efforts to improve student achievement in literacy skills for the next 5 years.
- f. FY21 Budget Assumptions - The Board of Directors will consider and adopt the budget assumptions for FY21 during its November meeting. These include programmatic adjustments, enrollment projections, and capital projects to undertake. The assumptions provide the framework for the administration to compose the first draft of next year’s budget. The budget itself will be presented, reviewed, and modified in the December, January, and February meetings. After adoption by the School Board, our budget is transmitted to the Assembly for consideration of the local contribution from the Denali Borough.

### 3. Facilities

- a. AHFC Grant for Teacher Housing – We will not pursue this grant opportunity this year. We were not able to attend required training events for the application process. We will continue to consider ways we can support young professionals entering our school community to secure quality local housing.
- b. TVS Heating - This month we discovered another issue impacting our heating system in addition to malfunctioning zone valves. The level of glycol in the system was low, therefor lowering the pressure in the system and hence its effectiveness and accuracy. We added the glycol we had on hand and are ordering more. Additionally, we are now trying to find where the glycol is going as there are no visible leaks. We received replacement valves to return the system to full automation. After installing the first valve, it also malfunctioned. Siemens is now debugging the programs that run the system. If this does not resolve the issue they will send a technician out to work on the problem on-site
- c. Transit Vehicles - I am connecting us with Fairbanks and Nenana who both use “Transit” vehicles for student activity transportation. Use of these vehicles could allow us to carry more students in a single vehicle, reducing

our need for as many drivers and lower long-term costs if we can maintain a smaller fleet of vehicles.

- d. Activity Bus - The rear lights on our activity bus are malfunctioning. Lights which should be and have been standard running lights began behaving like break lights. After an initial repair, the lights reverted to the on-off pattern. We have removed the bus from service until we are certain we have fixed this issue.
- e. Automated Door Locks - We continue our research and work on automatic door locks for our schools.
- f. Blue Expedition - This vehicle is still out of service. We are sending it to Fairbanks for an analysis and repair quote on its breaks.

#### 4. Strategic Planning

- a. No Update

#### 5. 4-Day School Week -

- a. This committee met again and continued its work researching and developing a proposal for a four-day school week for the School Board to consider.

#### 6. Professional Development

- a. JoHanna Sestito recently attend a conference on Special Education Law in Washington. She presented some of her learning at the joint in-service in October with Nenana.
- b. AASB Maintenance Conference - Curtis Hammel and Eric Story attended the annual conference in Anchorage in October. In addition to general training and updates, they also made connections with several companies that can help the district with some of our ongoing projects.
- c. Also in October, several of our staff members are attending the EL Education National Conference in Atlanta. They are Tricia Turley, JoHanna Sestito, Nathan Pitt, Paula Newton, Kass Mirosh, and Marie Gore.
- d. This month several staff members attended the bi-annual Cross Content Conference in Anchorage. These professionals are Gretchen Striker, Kaitlyn Weitzel, Lori Brewer, Uwe Hoffman, Kesslyn Tench, Karen Martin, Craig Kasemodel, and Judy Sweeney.
- e. Principals' Conference - Jeni Mason and Nathan Pitt attended the annual Principal's Conference, also in Anchorage in October they will also did some crossover at the Cross Content Conference.
- f. AKRise - Karen Martin is presenting at the principals' conference on AKRise and this opportunity to support professional networks across our state.
- g. NEA Fall Event - This past weekend, at the invitation of DEA and NEA-Alaska, I attended the NEA Fall Event along with Christy Piercy and Craig Kasemodel. The focus of the weekend was Trauma Engaged Instruction

with keynotes and sectionals on various aspects of Adverse Childhood Experiences, how to provide protective factors, and care giver self-care.

- h. In-service November 4<sup>th</sup> - John LeCavalier visited our district for this entire week. On our November 4<sup>th</sup> in-service, Kass Mirosh led our staff in an art and literacy project. The learning targets of the project including I can use Models, Critique and Feedback to improve student achievement. Our project and learnings were shared with the community on Monday November 11<sup>th</sup> during the Tri-Valley concert as part of a larger Celebration of Learning that was on display.

## 7. Personnel

### a. Certified Staff

- i. We met with DEA and discussed our upcoming labor negotiations. Both parties agree to try Interest Based Bargaining. We are working to coordinate a neutral facilitator from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services.
- ii. In addition, we agreed to come together in joint educational work prior to negotiations to learn about different options in health care plans such a Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) and Health Saving Accounts (HSAs). We invited DESPA to participate in these educational meetings as well and they plan on arranging participants. I will also invite the borough administration as they would like to lower the costs of their health plans too.

### b. Classified Staff

- i. We opened a full time TA position at Cantwell. This position is intended to provide needed support for significant educational needs surrounding a student.
- ii. We opened a part time TA position at Tri-Valley. This position is intended to provided needed support students who recently were identified in needing special education services.

### a. Exempt Staff

- iii. No Updates

Sincerely,

Dan Polta  
Denali Borough School District

## **DENALI BOROUGH**

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*Clay Walker, Mayor*

### **November 2019 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly**

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

#### **Mayors' Meeting**

- On November 6, I met with Mayor Verhagen of the City of Nenana, Mayor Ward of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and Mayor Welch of the City of North Pole to discuss topics of mutual interest. Mayor Thompson of the City of Anderson and Mayor Matherly of the City of Fairbanks were invited but unable to attend. Nenana was a wonderful host. We would like to continue to build these bonds, avenues of communication, and work together. The Denali Borough will host the next get together in a few months.

#### **National Association of Counties (NACo) Public Lands Steering Committee**

- I have been re-appointed to this committee, which guides NACo's policy toward federal lands and federal lands payment programs, specifically the PILT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) program, which is currently our second largest source of revenue. I am happy to continue service on this committee as we have important amendments to the PILT program in progress.
- Commitments of service include attending committee meetings monthly telephonically and in person in conjunction with NACo's conferences.

#### **PILT Class Action Settlement**

- The class action lawsuit we joined, at no cost to the borough, was resolved in favor of the plaintiff counties due back payments. The borough received \$8,806 to account for program underpayments made in fiscal years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

#### **No One Left Behind Awards Banquet**

- The North Pole and Lathrop High School JROTCs and a number of community partners did a great job putting together this banquet to honor emergency responders throughout the Fairbanks area. The awards went to fire fighters, emergency medical responders, public safety officers and emergency dispatchers. Tri-Valley VFD Assistant Fire Chief Baxter Mercer was presented an award for his dedicated service to fire and ems response here in the Denali Borough. Congratulations Baxter! I was happy to be there to support.

#### **Alaska Tourism Industry Association Stan Stephen's Stewardship Award**

- Congratulations to the Denali Education Center for winning this award for their key role in the Zero Landfill Initiative. Subaru, Denali National Park, the Denali Borough and many other partners work together to reduce waste and improve diversion rates, but it is the Denali Education Center who very effectively manages the broader program.

### **Missile Defense Agency Special Use Airspace Request Update**

- The Planning Commission passed a resolution, in line with the borough submitted comments, stating that *if* the Missile Defense Agency needs to render Clear Airport useless through the expansion of restricted airspace, they should help fund both a site selection study for, and construction of, a replacement airport. Expect a similar resolution at your next meeting. This position is shared by the State of Alaska Department of Transportation, who owns and maintains the Clear Airport.

### **All Staff Day of Training**

- The borough office was closed on October 31 and all staff were invited to participate in a full day training which included sessions on critical thinking, ethics, emergency preparedness, cyber security and more. Also, we had some fun with a Luau theme.

### **Mondays with the Mayor Topics**

- The past three episodes of this video series, hosted on You Tube, were on the topics of Major School Maintenance, Non-Profit Grant Funding, and Elections.

### **Annual Report from Mayor**

- A 2019 Annual Report went out to every postal box holder in the borough. The report can be found on our website and is included in this packet.

### **From Emergency Planner/Project Coordinator Chris Noel:**

#### **Hazard Mitigation Plan update-**

The Assembly is considering the allocation ordinance necessary to enter into a contract with a vendor, to complete the update of our Hazard Mitigation plan. We have a request for proposals out to qualified firms. We expect to begin the update process promptly after passage of the ordinance. The plan update will involve a public survey early next year, as well as discussion at a spring time assembly and city council meeting. We encourage the Assembly to consider events over the past few years (flooding, fires etc) and participate in the update process. This might include identifying ways we can mitigate the risks of these events, and including mitigation funding in the FY 2021 budget.

#### **Local Emergency Planning Committee Association and State Emergency Response Commission meeting: I**

attended both meetings on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The main agenda item for both was how to meet the statutory requirements of LEPCs in the absence of State funding. At the Denali Borough, this was a \$12,000 reduction in typical annual grant funding, which we have historically used to cover administrative expenses of coordinating and maintaining the LEPC committee. Title 42 of US code, and Alaska Statute 26.23 contemplate the requirements of LEPCs and the SERC. These requirements center around an obligation for industry, (in conjunction with local partners such as fire and ems, elected officials, healthcare, etc) who manufacturer, store, or utilize hazardous substances to participate in a process of planning for emergencies involving these substances. An additional mandate centers around the communities right to know of the presence of these substances in their community, and their ability to take part in the emergency planning process. The Denali LEPC has historically received less than ten Tier II reports annually, from industry obligated to report on these substances. The State moved to an online reporting system in 2017, and the public has access to this information by visiting the Borough office. Currently transporters of hazardous materials, including trucking companies and the railroad are not required to report on substances traveling through our borough. The State is aware of this gap in information and the associated risk, and is working to address it by adding a requirement for transporters to report, and undertaking a commodity flow study to accurately map the transport of haz-mat throughout the state. We also discussed the statewide trend of LEPC's taking a more "all hazards" approach to emergency planning, a trend that is strongly supported by the state. We expect the Denali LEPC to continue to meet and work towards the requirements. Our next LEPC meeting will be held at the Borough office on Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM.

**A Veteran's Day Prayer**

Proud of our nation, they answered her call –  
Defending the freedom and safety for all.  
On land or on sea, or in jets high above,  
They went out of duty and honor and love.  
But however they served, Lord, wherever they went,  
Please bless them and help them to know what it meant!  
And help us to thank them on Veterans Day –  
For we owe them far more than we ever could say.

Happy November...Happy Thanksgiving. As always, feel free to call me or staff if you have any questions.

-Clay