

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**
2 **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**
3 **Virtual Meeting**
4 **October 14, 2020**
5

6 **PUBLIC HEARING**

7 Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman called the public hearing to order at 6:05 PM.
8

9 **ORDINANCE 20-03 Version B: Baseline addressing system**

10 There were no comments.
11

12 **ORDINANCE 20-17: Denali Borough Code Chapter 3.25 Overnight Accommodations**
13 **Tax**

14 There were no comments.
15

16 **REGULAR MEETING**

17 **CALL TO ORDER**

18 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:06 PM.
19

20 **ROLL CALL**

21 Assembly members present: Jake HILL, Lisa MINER, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Tallon
22 SHREEVE, Joe CHATFIELD, Jeff STENGER (arrived at 6:22 PM), Eileen HOLMES and Jill
23 BOELSMA. Absent: Krista ZAPPONE. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.
24

25 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to excuse Assembly member ZAPPONE. The motion was
26 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.
27

28 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

29 Denali Chamber of Commerce and Denali Recovery Alliance Director Vanessa Juszczak
30 provided an update on Chamber of Commerce and Recovery Alliance activities including
31 the new website.
32

33 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

34 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by
35 show of hands and voice confirmation to approve the agenda was unanimous.
36

37 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1 **SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND SEPTEMBER 23, 2020**
2 **WORK SESSION MINUTES**

3
4 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2020 and
5 September 23, 2020 Meeting. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and
6 voice confirmation was unanimous.

7
8 **REPORTS**

9 **JULY AND AUGUST 2020 FINANCE REPORT**

10 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to receive the July and August 2020 Finance Reports. The motion
11 was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

12
13 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

14 Mayor Walker reported that the Planning Commission reviewed the Slate Creek parcel of
15 Denali Borough lands and approved an easement request in the Slate Creek area during
16 their September meeting.

17
18 **EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT**

19 Mayor Walker explained that Emergency Manager Chris Noel was on assignment
20 fighting the August Complex Fire in California and the Emergency Manager Report will
21 be included in the Mayor Report.

22
23 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

24 Superintendent Dan Polta verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written
25 report (Attachment A).

26
27 **MAYOR REPORT**

28 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report
29 (Attachment B).

30
31 **CARES ACT PROGRAMS REPORT**

32 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written Mayor
33 Report (Attachment B).

34
35 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

36 Assembly members offered the following comments:

- 37 • Thanked Three Bears for asking customers to wear masks while shopping.
38 • Thanked those that provided reports.

- Thanked Assembly member Jill BOELSMA for her years of service on the Assembly.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST

Laurie Gieck with Cook & Haugeberg provided a letter to the Assembly regarding the annual financial audit.

DRAFT ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 20-18: Bison Gulch/Antler Creek easement request

Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-18. The motion was seconded.

Assembly members discussed the project and the desire to see restroom facilities included in a future design.

The roll call VOTE to introduce was unanimous.

Jake HILL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-18. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.

ORDINANCE 20-19: Center for Tech and Civic Life COVID Response for Elections Grant

Jill BOELSMA MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-19. The motion was seconded.

The roll call VOTE to introduce was unanimous.

Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-19. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation was unanimous.

ORDINANCE 20-03 Version B: Baseline addressing system

Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-03. The motion was seconded.

There was discussion about different options for addressing. Healy area resident Angel Hayes voiced support for an addressing system and encouraged the assembly to seek public input and feedback.

The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to postpone was unanimous.

ORDINANCE 20-17: Denali Borough Code Chapter 3.25 Titled Overnight Accommodations Tax

Jake HILL MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-17. The motion was seconded.

1 The roll call VOTE to approve Ordinance 20-17 was unanimous.

2

3 **RESOLUTIONS**

4 There were no Resolutions to consider.

5

6 **OTHER BUSINESS**

7 **APPROVE THE 2020 DENALI BOROUGH ELECTION BOARD JUDGES**

8 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve the Denali Borough 2020 Election Board. The motion
9 was seconded.

10

11 The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to approve was unanimous.

12

13 **Marijuana License Renewal Application: License #11382; Denali Cannabis Cache**

14 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to not protest Marijuana License #11382; Denali Cannabis Cache.
15 The motion was seconded.

16

17 The VOTE by show of hands and voice confirmation to approve was unanimous.

18

19 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

20 There was no public comment.

21

22 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

23 Assembly members commented on the following:

- 24 • Expressed appreciation for the civil discourse during Assembly meeting
25 discussion.
- 26 • Encouraged the community to continue mitigation efforts to keep our community
27 safe from COVID-19.
- 28 • Appreciates the discussion regarding addressing in the Denali Borough and looks
29 forward to making a decision.

30

31 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

32 The next Assembly meeting will be on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 6:00 PM;
33 Virtual Work Session, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

34

35 **ADJOURN**

36 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned
37 by unanimous voice vote at 9.00 PM.

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APPROVED: _____

Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _____

Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: _____



**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, October 14th, 2020**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. A deep thank you to all of our students, parents, and staff for the hard work to shift and pivot to distance learning in our Borough. The shift was not easy, even with our experience from last spring. The increase in organizational and planning work amidst the increased worry about the presence of the coronavirus in our community weighs on us all. Thank you all again for your commitment to the education of the children in our community.
- b. Thank you to Nurses Keith and Barker, and our other community health professionals for performing so many coronavirus tests this month. The testing programs from the Borough, ICHS, Cantwell and Clear clinics is an essential tool to help our friends and family know their health status and take measures needed to help ensure the safety of our community.
- c. Thank you to Usibelli Coal Mine for providing a donation to DBSD to help us continue offering early learning kits to the pre-school age children in our Borough.
- d. Thank you to Vern Carlson for his service to the Denali Borough School Board. Having "retired" from the Board last year, Vern continued to serve on the Board when the winner of last year's election declined the seat. Vern was appointed to fill that seat until the next election. Vern is not running for the Board this November.

2. Smart Start 2020 -

- a. Health Level Advisory Committee - As you know we've been operating under the High (Red) risk level for the past several weeks and students have been participating in distance learning. We understand the challenges this creates for students and parents/guardians and know this is not the form of schooling they'd prefer. Its not the form we'd prefer either. We look forward to the time when our local and statewide case numbers drop back down and permit us to return to the buildings for in-person learning.
- b. Protocol and Framework Review - We completed a review of our Smart Start protocols and framework. The protocols are administrative actions

Mission Statement

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

and the framework is the broader Board approved decisions. We are in the process of sending our school communities a short survey to gather information from them on our standing protocols and the proposed changes. I am also coordinating a small focus group of stakeholders in order to have a more in depth conversation to understand various perspectives from our communities. We should have the feedback process completed before the board meeting next week.

- c. School Activities - We have not included a draft update on our protocols for school activities in the review mentioned above. We are in the development of updated protocols but are still waiting for updated Smart Start documents to be issued by DEED. Following our meeting with the Commissioner last week, I know that he and staff were meeting with DHSS about these possible changes. When DEED publishes this information, we will do another internal review of the mitigation plans we drafted. I will am also consulting directly with DHSS on our plans to help determine their fit for our community.

3. Finances

- a. FY20 Audit - Reena and reviewed the draft audit. It is a clean audit with no findings. We are working with Altman Rodgers to correct some errors in the figures they included. Once confirmed, they will finalize their report to the Board.
- b. FY21 Budget - Reena and I completed an initial review of this year's budget and entered adjustments for known variances. Additional information will be updated as we continue working through the items and confirming estimates. Nonetheless, we are comfortable with presenting overall picture of where we stand this year. Our FY21 revenue will increase to ~\$12,700,000. This is largely driven by enrollment increases in PEAK and to a lesser degree Cantwell. These increases offset the decreases from lower enrollment at Tri-Valley. Our FY21 expenses are projected to be ~\$12,600,000. These are increases are largely driven by additional employee costs to help serve additional students and provide for the cohorting and supports needed during the coronavirus response. As you see from those estimates we project budget that is close to balanced. This is in comparison to the FY21 Budget as approved which contained an operational deficit of ~\$400,000.
- c. Unrestricted Carryover - The unrestricted carry over we anticipate from the FY20 Audit is ~\$1.5 million. If our overall budget projects continue to hold we will need to monitor our carry over this year and take actions to bring it under the 10% limit in state statute. As you recall, this limitation was waived last year to help districts prepare for possible short falls in revenue over expenses this year. Approximately half of the districts are experiencing drops in enrollment and revenue and the other half are seeing increases.

- d. Full Value Determination - DBSD received notice of an increase to the Full Value Determine of the value of real and personal property in the Borough. This increased the assessed value from ~\$360 Million to ~\$400 Million. This change will also increase the Required Local Contribution from the Borough to the District by ~\$100,000 per year, starting in FY22. This increase to the District is offset by a dollar for dollar reduction in state aid will no net impact on the District. It does shift the costs of operating DBSD more onto the shoulders of the Borough.

4. Facilities

- a. Tri-Valley Boiler - Alpine Plumbing and Heating inspected our boiler and confirmed the appropriate temperature settings on the safety switches we installed following the incident last summer.
- b. Anderson Roof Project - Phase 1 of this project is complete. Phase 2 will take place next summer.
- c. Server Room Fire Suppression - Taylor Fire replaced an air compression in the water line above the server room. This maintains air rather than water in the pipes above that room until a high temperature sprinkler head activates. Both the “dry” fire suppression system and back up “wet” system are fully operational.
- d. Electrostatic Sprayers - The remaining 3 electrostatic spray guns arrived and are being distributed to our remaining sites.
- e. Siemens Control Panel Upgrade - We are repricing the cost to upgrade the system control panels in Tri-Valley. The software for the panels is no longer being updated. We considered an upgrade last spring and deferred it given the fiscal uncertainty at the time.

5. Legal Notices

- a. National Education Lawsuit - A lawsuit was filed in New York that identifies every public school district in the country as a defendant. The case, as filed, is intended to be a class action lawsuit. It alleges illegally discriminatory practices during distance learning in the spring of 2020 related to the delivery of special education services. No Alaskan is a named defended, nor is any Alaska district specifically named. The first step in the lawsuit is for the court to determine if it can stand as a class action suit. This case is being monitor by the district’s legal counsel we will be provided updates accordingly
- b. Trademark Dispute - We were contacted this Fall regarding allegations that we are using a trademarked logo. After conducting some research on the history of our use of the Viking image with its hair off to the side and in consultation with the District’s attorney, we contacted the owner of the trademark and are developing a phase out period of our use of this image.

6. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff

- i. We hired, pending Board approval, Alexandro Galbier, for the open position in PEAK. He will be placed in the Wasilla office.
 - ii. We hired, pending Board approval, Susan Carlson for the long-term substitute for the ES Remote Learning position.
 - iii. To help with the increased special education needs in PEAK and locally, we contacted Christy Piercy. Christy agreed to end her long-term leave without pay, and begin working remotely, 1/2 time, to support the needs in PEAK. During our ongoing search for a full-time special education teacher to serve our local needs, Christy will also be working the other 1/2 time, remotely, to provide support in our Borough. We appreciate her willingness and ability to serve our students while still focusing on her continuing personal needs.
 - iv. We continue to search for a local, full time special education teacher to serve needs at Cantwell and Healy remote and homeschool based needs).
- b. Classified Staff
- i. We hired, pending Board approval, Anna Logan for the open position of secretary in PEAK Anchorage.
 - ii. We hired, pending Board approval, Seneca Glen, for the open part-time TA position at Tri-Valley.
 - iii. We hired, pending Board approval, Jennifer Hancock, for the open part-time TA position at Tri-Valley and the part-time technology assistant position. These positions will be combined making her a full-time employee.
 - iv. We hired, pending Board approval, Emile Toledano, for the open full-time TA position at Cantwell. Emile currently works for First Student and is assigned to drive the Cantwell bus route. First Student agreed to allow the bus to be parked at Cantwell during the day, rather than return to Healy. This facilitates Emile working for DBSD.
 - v. We are seeking a full-time remote learning TA.
- c. Exempt Staff
- i. We have assigned the curriculum responsibilities previously held by Alesha, to Karen, and continued to develop the updated job description.

Sincerely,
Dan Polta
Denali Borough School District

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

October 8, 2020 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

COVID-19 Positive Cases and Risk Levels

- As of this date, the Denali Borough 14-day case rate count per 100,000 people stands at 25, which puts the borough in the high -risk level, by Center for Disease Control (CDC) and State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) standards. On the other hand, our testing positivity rate, another key metric used to determine risk level, currently stands at 3.1%, which is below the CDC threshold of heightened concern of 5%. Both of these metrics are currently trending downward.
- The Division of Public Health has advised that our heightened case rate mirrors a statewide trend. In comparison, Fairbanks currently has a case rate near 40 and a positivity rate over 11%.
- In response, the borough has published press releases informing the public of cases, risk levels, and encouraging protective mitigation measures. The borough office is currently exercising those measures by opening to the public by appointment only.

State COVID-19 ECHO, Denali Borough Health Care Working Group, Coordination, Supplies

- Myself and other borough staff are regular participants in the State's DHSS ECHO Local Government zoom meetings regarding COVID-19 response. Also, the weekly zoom meetings of coordination and information sharing between local health care providers, hosted by the borough, continue to prove valuable.
- Our resource requests, such as additional testing supplies and PPE, continue to be promptly fulfilled by the State Emergency Operations Center. The borough received over two thousand cloth masks, which we have been distributing widely. If any group or individual wants a supply, just let us know.

“Locally Executed, State Managed, and Federally Supported”

- That is the disaster response motto we heard repeatedly from the federal government throughout the coordination of the COVID-19 response. I continue to advocate for federal relief which can support the tremendous impact of lost revenue to the Denali Borough. I received communication from Senators Sullivan and Murkowski recently in response to this request. The next federal relief package is not currently progressing in Congress.

Bison/Antler Trailhead Parking Lot Project (Federal Lands Access Program Funded project)

- The Department of Transportation (DOT) Virtual Open House for this project closes October 9. Monthly meetings between the project partners – DOT, Denali Borough and National Park Service – to coordinate the project and progress toward a preferred design continue.

Healy Spur Road Community Transportation Program (CTP) Project/ MP 231 Safety Enhancement Project/ 2020-2013 DOT STIP Amendment 1

- The Healy Spur Road Rehabilitation Project rehabilitates and repaves the road and improves the range of mobility and safety through the addition of widened shoulders to both sides of the road. The CTP application garnered Planning Commission and Assembly support. The recently published amendment of the State’s 2020-2023 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) includes this project, with the design phase of the project scheduled for this coming year. The borough has contributed our 9.03% share of this CTP project.
- The STIP amendment also included additional Phase 4 (construction) monies for the long-planned Mile 231 Enhancement Project. FY22 scheduled sums go from \$10M to \$13M, which is still short of full funding for the project as designed. I submitted comments of support for these amendments, and these projects, which are the only STIP projects located within the Denali Borough

Alaska Municipal League Annual Conference

- This virtual conference, with the theme “Fires, Foundations, and Futures” will run from November 9-20. Registration is now open. One can register for different segments of the conference. The “Newly Elected Officials Seminar” always contains great information, even for experienced elected officials. For more information, visit: <https://www.akml.org/conferences-events/annual-local-government-conference/>.

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Inspection Annual Inspection of the Denali Borough Landfill

- Included in your packet is a copy of the 2020 DEC Inspection Report. We received a score of 99%. For five straight years our score has been either 100% or 99%. Many thanks to our dedicated staff, especially Solid Waste Operations Manager Scott Wright and Equipment Operator Paul VanDyke.

Other meetings attended this past month:

- September Denali Borough School District Board of Directors meeting
- September Denali Borough Planning Commission meeting
- September AML Joint Insurance Association Board of Trustees meeting
- September National Association of Counties (NACO) Public Lands Steering Committee meeting
- October AML Board of Directors meeting and weekly Fiscal Policy Working Group meetings
- October Denali Borough Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting
- Meeting with Congressman Young’s staff regarding federal funding of infrastructure projects
- Meeting with Denali Chamber Vanessa Juszczak, Denali Chamber of Commerce Director, and Tim Dillon, Executive Director of Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District regarding Economic Development Organizations - their structures, funding sources, goals, and partnerships.

Happy October, happy change of seasons. As always, feel free to call me or staff if you have any questions.

Stay well,

Clay