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**Denali Borough Assembly  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Tri-Valley Community Center  
Healy, Alaska  
October 9, 2019**

**REGULAR MEETING**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Assembly members present: Don DEBLAUW, Jared ZIMMERMAN, David EVANS (arrived at 6:10 PM), Tallon SHREEVE, Joe CHATFIELD and Eileen HOLMES. Absent: Jill BOELSMA, Krista ZAPPONE and Jake HILL. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

Tallon Shreeve MOVED to excuse Jill BOELSMA, Krista ZAPPONE and Jake HILL. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Vanessa Juszczak, Director of the Denali Chamber of Commerce, announced that the chamber will organize a community Trunk or Treat event on Halloween at the Tri-Valley Community Center parking lot and are upgrading their website. Mrs. Juszczak also invited everyone to attend the Middle School Basketball tournament coming up at the Tri-Valley School.

**AGENDA**

Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to approve the agenda was unanimous.

**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 WORK SESSION, PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2019 work session, public hearing and regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to approve was unanimous.

**REPORTS**

**AUGUST 2019 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to receive the August 2019 Financial Reports. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands to approve was unanimous.

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**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

Planning Commissioner Erik Haugen reported the following:

- The Planning Commission continues to work through the draft land management plan.
- Local option zoning was passed by the commission.
- Discussion continues on condition use permit language.
- Received public comment regarding a regional airport and the commission will continue discussion.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

Superintendent Dan Polta provided the attached written report (attachment A).

Denali Borough School Board member Vernon Carlson reported that this will be his last assembly meeting and thanked the assembly for their support to the school district over the years. Mr. Carlson wished Don DeBlauw and David Evans the best of luck as they end their terms on the assembly.

**MAYOR REPORT**

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

**ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Assembly members thanked the public for their attendance and participation and thanked David Evans, Don DeBlauw and Vernon Carlson for their years of service as local elected officials, in addition to the following comments:

- Don DEBLAUW stated that it has been a privilege to serve on the assembly.
- David EVANS stated that there is much yet to be accomplished here in the Denali Borough and he has faith that the assembly and Mayor will continue doing good work for our residents.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

There were no communication and appearance requests.

**DRAFT ORDINANCES**

There were no draft ordinances to consider.

**PENDING ORDINANCE**

There were no pending ordinances to consider.

**RESOLUTIONS**

There were no resolutions to consider.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1 **DENALI BOROUGH REGULAR ELECTION JUDGES**

2 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to approve the 2019 Denali Borough Regular Election Judges.  
3 The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

4  
5 **APPOINT CANVASS COMMITTEE AND SET DATE FOR THE CANVASS COMMITTEE**  
6 **MEETING**

7 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to approve the Denali Borough regular election judges as the  
8 canvass committee. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was  
9 unanimous.

10  
11 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to set the canvass committee meeting for Monday, November 11,  
12 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Denali Borough office.

13  
14 **LIQUOR LICENSE #5853 WOOD RIVER LODGE AND #475 DENALI GRIZZLY BEAR**

15 Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to not-protest liquor license #5853 and #475. The motion was  
16 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

17  
18 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

19 None

20  
21 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

22 Assembly members thanked those in attendance, and expressed appreciation for  
23 Assembly Member DeBlauw and Assembly Member Evans for their service, in addition  
24 to the following comments:

25  
26 David EVANS expressed appreciation for Presiding Officer ZIMMERMAN and his  
27 service as presiding officer. Mr. EVANS encouraged the planning commission to work on  
28 community and borough planning, including a municipal facility. Mr. EVANS encouraged  
29 the assembly and the Mayor to seek community businesses and organizations to partner  
30 with and plan for the construct of additional community buildings that could improve the  
31 quality of life for our residents.

32  
33 Don DEBLAUW said it has been a pleasure serving on the assembly and thanked the  
34 assembly for the non-profit funding provided to the Kobe Farm Community.

35  
36 Tallon SHREEVE stated that he looks forward to continued discussion on a regional  
37 airport.

38  
39 Joe CHATFIELD stated that he supports the conversation of a regional airport and looks  
40 forward to seeing some solid data collection to help determine the best location.

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42 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

43 Next regular assembly meeting will be on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at the  
44 Anderson School, Anderson, Alaska starting at 6:00 PM.

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**ADJOURN:**

Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 6:53 PM.

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

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

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, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

Please accept this written report for the month of October. I'm sorry that I am not present for your meeting. I am in Anchorage attending two workshops with the Alaska Municipal League this week. The first is on the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) and the second is on Sharing Successes and Savings in Operations and Partnerships with Municipalities and School Districts.

### 1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Congratulations to Reena Voivedich for becoming a Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations. Reena completed this course work over the past year, passed her certification exams, and received this endorsement.
- b. Thank you to our staff who presented to their colleagues at our 4th annual joint in-service hosted this year by Nenana. They are Kaitlyn Weitzel, Gretchen Striker, Paula Newton, JoHanna Sestito, Samantha Ward, Karri Keith, Candace Mudge, Jeni Mason, Nathan Pitt and Kerry McIver.
- c. Thank you to the choir students of Anderson, Cantwell, Tri-Valley and Nenana for performing for the Fall Superintendents' Conference in Fairbanks on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup>. They were under the joint direction of Candace and Darren Mudge.
- d. Thank you to Denali Borough Mayor, Clay Walker, for joining the conference later on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> and participating in a panel discussion with other local mayors on the partnership between local municipalities and school districts and how these serve our students.

### 2. Finances

- a. FY19 Audit – We are awaiting the receipt of our audit report at any time.
- b. FY20 Enrollment – We are in the middle of the formal October Count period. These 20 school days, ending October 25<sup>th</sup>, are used to determine our official enrollment and funding level from the State. Our current enrollment figures are in line with our approved budget. Uncertainty remains until the close of the count period with regard to total number of

### Mission Statement

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

students and the number of students with intensive needs being served by the District.

- c. FY20 Public Education Funding Lawsuit on Forward Funding – The opposing sides in this lawsuit presented arguments to the Superior Court. A ruling is expected no later than November 8<sup>th</sup>. Should the Administration’s position be affirmed, Governor Dunleavy has said he would honor the funding of the BSA but not the \$30 Million on time grant to K-12. This would reduce state aid to the District by ~\$150,000.
- d. At its September meeting, the School Board passed a motion to use the established encumbrances from FY19 to pay the local costs of the Cantwell Roof. These funds were available to be encumbered from underspending by our PEAK families from their allocated student allotments. This means that the district will not request funds from the Denali Borough for the 20% match for this project as approved in Ordinance 19-02.
- e. iPad and Computer Sale – This summer we completed a local sale of surplus electronics which the Board approved in March. The sale brought in approximately \$5,000.

### 3. Facilities

- a. AHFC Grant for Teacher Housing – We are registering for the AHFC grant program that provides funding to local governmental entities to support the construction, remodeling, and purchasing of housing by the entity to use to house certain public employees, such as teachers. We are not sure that we will move forward with the application this grant cycle but want to learn more about this program, its requirements, and the opportunities.
- b. New Expedition - The new expedition arrived and is in service. This purchase from last year is part of our annual replacement cycle to maintain an up to date and reliable fleet of vehicles for our student and staff travel.
- c. The surplussing and sale of our oldest expedition was approved by the Board. We issued a local notice with a minimum price. If no local response is received, then we will post this sale on GovDeals.
- d. UAF Engineering Students – Mayor Walker was contacted by UAF regarding a visit to the Borough by UAF engineering students. As part of the visit they may do sample work on one or multiple projects in the Borough. In addition to suggesting some Borough focused projects, he discussed this opportunity with me and may also suggest items related to the school district for them to consider such as the Tri-Valley roof, a track around the soccer field, and improvements to the parking and traffic flow. With any project, we do not anticipate a final, professional design, but it could be a good and interesting start, as well as provide a great opportunity for additional partnerships and connections.
- e. Automated Door Locks - We are investigating the installation of automatic door locks for our classrooms and buildings. These locks would operate on a key fob signal rather than a physical key. It would allow individual fobs to be programed for the doors needed for that person. In addition to

simplifying our key rings and key management it would also simplify the current issue of re-keying that is needed when someone loses a key (such as an external contractor).

#### 4. Strategic Planning

- a. I am checking in with the three mini-action teams this month to check in on their progress drafting additional action plans for our strategies on Communication, Technology, and Collaborations.

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

- a. We formed a committee following the request last spring from the School Board to generate an option for a four-day school week for the Board to consider for future school years. We have met three times so far to review literature on other districts which have implement four-day weeks. This will build our background knowledge before we begin working through the technical questions of design and develop an option for the Board to consider.

#### 6. Professional Development

- a. School Safety and Wellness Summit - Staff members Stephanie Stickle, Karri Keith, Jody Stamps, Jeni Mason and Dan Polta attended the 2nd annual School Safety and Wellness Summit hosted by DEED from September 18-20th in Anchorage. The conference brought together districts from around the state to learn about the impact of trauma on our students, how to increase positive, supporting relationships, how to improve building security, and many other aspects of safety and wellness that impact the children in the State.
- b. Interior Educators' EdCamp - Saturday September 28th Samantha Ward, Nathan Pitt, and Karen Martin participated in the Interior Educators' EdCamp. An EdCamp is a short one-day conference in which the attendees generate the topics to study and work on at the event itself.
- c. As mentioned in the appreciations, we held our 4th annual joint in-service with Nenana. This provides us an opportunity to join our friends in Nenana for collaborative learning. During this event we also schedule open time to allow and encourage our staff to find and follow up on natural collaborations between our classrooms and students.
- d. JoHanna Sestito recently attend a conference on Special Education Law in Washington. She presented some of her learning at the joint in-service.
- e. Karen Martin attended two out-of-state conferences for instructional coaches (one of which was support by the district). Unrelated to Karen's role with DBSD she was also invited to present at a conference with National Geographic in Washington DC this weekend of October 5th.

#### 7. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff

- i. No updates
- b. Classified Staff
  - i. We opened a TA position at Tri-Valley to support the literacy and numeracy learning needs at Tri-Valley, pending Board approval we hired, as an internal transfer Stacie Kovach for this position.
  - ii. We hired Kaitlyn Weitzel, pending Board approval, for part of the open TA position at Tri-Valley. Kaitlyn is currently employed by DBSD as a part-time teacher and this TA position is in addition to that position.
  - iii. We hired Nicole Allard, pending Board approval, for the remaining part of the open TA position at Tri-Valley.
  - iv. We hired Jen Graham, pending Board approval, for 4 hour/week TA position at Tri-Valley for pre-school. This is in addition to her current role as a lunch/recess aide.
  - v. We hired Kayla Bokhart, pending Board approval, for 2.5 hour/week TA position at Tri-Valley for pre-school and for 10 hours/week lunch/recess aid.
  - vi. We hired Windy Thorn, pending Board approval, for 6.5 hour/week TA position at Cantwell for pre-school. This combined both pre-school positions at Cantwell outlined in our grant with DEED.
  - vii. We transferred Michael Nelson to the 2 hour/week preschool position at Anderson and expanded his hours slightly.
  - viii. We hired Bethany Jones for the 4 hour/week preschool position at Anderson.
  - ix. We hired Austin Piercy for the open TA position at Anderson.
- a. Exempt Staff
  - x. No Updates

Sincerely,

Dan Polta  
Denali Borough School District

## DENALI BOROUGH

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*Clay Walker, Mayor*

### October 2019 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

### Denali Borough Seal Featured in National Publication

- The weekly newspaper, County News, published by the National Association of Counties (NACo), featured the Denali Borough Seal and included information about the borough and the meaning of the seal's components. Thanks to Ree Nancarrow for designing such a beautiful and meaningful seal!
- Check it out on page 15 of the newspaper at this link: [https://www.naco.org/sites/default/files/documents/CN\\_09162019\\_LO\\_72.pdf](https://www.naco.org/sites/default/files/documents/CN_09162019_LO_72.pdf)

### Meetings attended since last Assembly meeting

- Attended the September 12 **Denali Borough School District Board** meeting at Anderson School and delivered comments relating to school funding, state contributions, the School District's Capital Improvement Program, and major school maintenance. I noted that at the current level of borough contributions to the major school maintenance fund (\$60,000 this year), it would take the borough 70 years to fund the estimated \$4.2 million of the top three projects (Anderson roof repair, Tri-Valley roof repair and generator replacements). If we want to ensure our schools are warm and dry, without state assistance or bonding, we will need to increase our savings level.
- Attended the September 18 **Denali Borough Planning Commission** meeting. The Commission discussed different ideas in relation to the potential loss of Clear Airport due to the potentially expanded airspace restrictions around Clear Air Force Station. They also moved the Local Option Zoning code revisions on to the Assembly and held the new Conditional Use Permit code proposal for further review.
- Attended a September 19 teleconference of **NACo's Western Region Conference** (I sit on NACo's Public Lands Steering Committee). We received an update on the September PILT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) Fly-In, which advocates for continued payment of this important program. There is momentum toward a long-term solution, an endowment approach which would provide a level of stability for the program, which is currently appropriated annually. I inquired about the status of the new Small Counties Parity Act, which the Denali Borough Assembly supported. There appears to be a way to roll those changes into the Appropriations Bill, which is being pursued. Senators in key positions such as Senator Murkowski and Senator Manchin (WVa) are supportive of the Act. Also, we learned of the status of the new Transportation and Infrastructure Bill, which will replace the FAST Act, which expires September 2020. The new bill will focus on resilient infrastructure and include programs for community needs such as transportation alternatives and trails.

**DOT/NPS/FHA-WFL FLAP PEL Project Kick-Off** (translation: The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Denali National Park secured a Federal Lands Access Program grant to conduct a Planning and Environmental Linkage Study for the Parks Highway Corridor from Cantwell to Ferry. Federal Highways Administration's Western Federal Lands Division, based in Vancouver, WA, came up for two days of site visits and project kick-off.)

- This multi-year project will work with the communities and stakeholders to identify needs and opportunities along the corridor and accomplish the necessary planning and environmental legwork to have safety and enhancement project ready for future funding. I participated both days and am excited to have an excellent team working on identifying and addressing transportation safety and access needs here. Community outreach meetings are to be scheduled for spring 2020.

### **Clear and Healy River Airports**

- I met with the Northern Region DOT Aviation Team to discuss issues relating to both Clear (the proposed expansion of restricted airspace potentially limiting its usability) and Healy River Airports (DOT is issuing leases but does not have site control through any land use agreement). The two facilities are tied together because if Clear Airport needs to be replaced and Healy River cannot be expanded to serve that role, then there is the potential that a new facility would take the place of both. The proximate limit of redundancy, defined by the Federal Aviation Administration as no closer than 30 miles from one another, factors into this connection.
- If Clear Airport needs to be relocated, the DOT Aviation Team recommends engaging an airport site selection study. An airport planning study is extensive and includes collecting data on potential locations, including wind data, investigating geotechnical conditions, social conditions, and more. These studies take about two years and include a deliberative process which solicits public input.

### **Alaska Defense Forum**

- The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) and the Association of Defense Communities sponsored the first Alaska Defense Forum October 2-4. Attendees/presenters included General Saxe (who commands the Alaska National Guard), General Andrysiak (who commands the US Army Alaska), base commanders, State Commissioners, a wide range of elected officials (mayors, state legislators including Rep. Talerico, Senators Murkowski and Sullivan), as well as academic, business and community partners. The forum also included tours and mission briefs at Eielson AFB and Fort Wainwright, which I appreciated and valued.
- The upcoming addition of two F 35 squadrons (totaling 54 aircraft) at Eielson plus the additional refueling capabilities is a significant development and expected to grow the FSNB economy by five percent. The combination of the F35s at Eielson and the F22s at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson make Alaska home to the greatest assemblage of fifth generation air power in the nation. Combining this strategically located presence with the most sophisticated radar on earth (the new Long Range Discrimination Radar at Clear AFS), the missile capabilities at Fort Greely, and the largest training range in the nation, make Alaska ready to lead the nation's defense into the next century. Another important role of these capabilities is to lead our state's natural disaster readiness.

### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Comments relating to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Alaska LNG Project**

- I did submit comments on behalf of the borough prior to the October 3 deadline. The comments supported recommended impact mitigation efforts such as noise and lighting reductions at the Healy Compressor Station and placing a pedestrian facility atop the proposed pipeline bridge spanning the Nenana River at Moody. We asked that additional visual impact mitigation efforts be considered in light of the fact that 6 of the 11 identified high visual impact points along the route are within the Denali Borough and that natural scenic vistas are a key component of our economy. We also concurred with the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation that the Denali Alternative is the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative routing. Finally, we noted that more work lies ahead in terms of land use (the project sites miles of pipe and acres of work camps on borough land without any assurance or agreement), connectivity (the project as described has no interconnection or "off-take" location planned between the Fairbanks lateral and the ENSTAR connection at Big Lake -- we commented that the Denali Borough should have an "off take"), and local revenue (there is no impact aid planned or Payment In Lieu of Taxes framework in place and the DEIS identified the construction impacts to be negative for public services in the Denali Borough).

### **Antler Creek Ground Lease**

- In 2018, the State of Alaska assigned an existing lease of 10 acres of land, behind the current Denali RV Park, to the Denali Borough. Those ten acres were conveyed to the borough through the Municipal Land Entitlement program. As the RV Park is changing hands, the lease is being assigned to the new owner. Together with legal counsel, we have worked through an assignment and modification of the lease. The primary modification is to include the potential of a new lease at the termination of the existing lease; one that meets our existing leasing code requirements. By code, the Assembly approves all leases. This assignment of an existing lease was administratively approved, but any new lease at the end of the current term will come before the assembly for approval.

### **Mondays with the Mayor**

- In an effort to better communicate with the public and inform folks on matters of interest, we started a new series called “Mondays with the Mayor”. The intention is to post a less than five minute video chat every Monday (there will be times when the video is created prior to that Monday). The first posting related to the origin of the borough and the second to the forward funding of our annual budget. The postings are hosted on a You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4imoeB-EDRo> . One can subscribe to the channel to receive the latest installments. Many thanks to Amber Renshaw, who brought this idea back from a clerks’ conference and to our new intern from Tri-Valley School, Denali Planty, who is the production assistant.

### **Staff Conference Attendance**

- Our Planner Marsh Lambert attended the Confluence Conference in Talkeetna, which focused on planning and partnerships which can help build an outdoor recreation economy, both local and statewide.
- Our Treasurer Wendi Planty is attending a PERS (Public Employee Retirement System) forum put together by the Alaska Municipal League. The unfunded liability which is shared by the state and the municipalities will, as always, be a significant topic. Wendi is also attending a session planned for the next day on the municipal-school district relationship which will focus on potential cost savings and ways that we can leverage our limited resources.

### **Census 2020 Denali Borough Outreach Meeting October 16, 5 pm Tri-Valley Community Center**

- Barb Miranda, State Census Outreach Coordinator, will present to and engage the community regarding the importance of the 2020 Census as well as the employment opportunities. Please come and learn how your participation in the Census will benefit your community, state, and nation.

Happy October. As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions.

- Clay