I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on January 17, 2009, at Settlers Bay Lodge, Mile 8 Knik-Goose Bay Road, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Mayor Curtis D. Menard.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1 *(Deputy Mayor)*
Mr. Pete Houston, Assembly District No. 2
Ms. Michelle R. Church, Assembly District No. 3
Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Robert Wells, Assembly District No. 6
Mr. Tom Kluberton, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Brenda Henry, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Menard inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Kluberton.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Ms. McKechnie:

- introduced Ms. Karen Kirk, Growth Company, the facilitator for the meeting; and
- Introduced Ms. Brenda Henry, the new Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk.

Ms. Kirk spoke to her roll as the facilitator for the meeting.

A. Review of 2008 Goals/Objectives

Mr. Duffy provided an update of the 2008 goals/objectives as follows:

- Rail Extension;
- Transportation;
- Valley Community for Recycling Solutions;
- Define Performance Measures;
- Boroughwide Ordinances:
    - Setbacks;
    - Tower Revision;
    - Flex Zoning;
    - Oil & Gas;
    - Gravel;
    - Lighting;
- Septage/Treatment Plant;
- Corridor Management Plan (formerly known as "Glitter Gulch");
- Hatcher Pass;
- Roads;
- Sales tax;
- Bed tax;
- Utilization of Port MacKenzie (Port and Ferry Docks); and
- Regional Energy Plan.

(The special meeting recessed at 12:36 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.)

B. Establishing 2009 Goals/Objectives and Timelines/Strategic Plan

The Assembly discussed and came up with the following goals/objectives for 2009 (these are listed in the order that received the most Assembly concurrence when rating the goals/objectives):

2009 Goal/Objectives	Ranking in Order of Assembly Concurrence
Borough Space • resolve Office Space for Borough	12
Public Works Overhaul • staff road service area/fire service area boards; and • roads CIP budget	10
Tax Revenue Sources • entertainment • fuel • bed tax	10

• sales • liquor • resource separation • plastic bags • impact fees • mill rate reduction	
Planning • air pollution • waiver plats • noise ordinance • maintain rural character	10
Roads/Transportation • Regional Aviation Systems Plan • transit	10
Revenue Cap Overhaul • improve road service area / fire service area / bed tax	9
Hatcher Pass Development	9
Trails – Comprehensive Program	8
Strategic Planning • meet 3 times per year • new tracking report • assess cost efficiencies	7
Conservation Subdivision	7
Port Development	7
Agriculture Development	7
Increase Employment in the Private Sector	6
Open Space Funding Methods • non-resident tax	4
Regional 911 Call Center (fix)	4

Deputy Mayor Woods queried if there was any objection to adopting the Assembly 2009 Goals/Objectives.

There was no objection noted.

Mr. Duffy:

- advised that the Strategic Plan would be revised based on the Assembly's 2009 goals and objectives;
- stated that the Strategic Plan is not employee driven, but rather Assembly driven; and
- explained how the Strategic Plan would be revised.

C. Purchasing of Easements *(Requested by Assemblymember Bettine)*

Assemblymember Bettine requested clarification on whether there was a written policy regarding the process for purchasing easements.

Mr. Duffy:
- advised that there is a policy on the purchasing of easements; and
- spoke to the need to have discussions regarding easements versus right-of-way.

Assemblymember Bettine queried if the Assembly could expect a report.

Mr. Duffy advised that the Assembly could expect a report, as this is part of the trails program and the overhaul of the Public Works Department.

D. Assembly Meeting Process/ Scheduling of Meetings *(Requested by Assemblymember Bettine)*

Assemblymember Bettine:
- spoke regarding the Assembly meetings lasting late into the night;
- advised that a member of the public relayed to her that the Assembly "stops making sense" when the meetings last after 10 p.m.;
- proposed that one of the regular meetings of the month start earlier in the day; and
- spoke to the number of meetings the Assembly has.

Assemblymember Ewing spoke to concerns regarding having Assembly meetings when it is inconvenient for the public to attend.

Assemblymember Houston spoke to concerns on conducting business when members of the public are not able to attend.

Assemblymember Bettine:
- noted that the Assembly already holds some meetings during the day;
- advised that the meetings would be advertised properly; and
- spoke to how her constituents contact her.

Discussion ensued regarding the scheduling of Assembly meetings.

E. Revenue Diversification *(Requested by the Assembly)*

(This topic was covered under Establishing 2009 Goals/Objectives and Timelines/Strategic Plan.)

F. Borough Trails *(Requested by Assemblymember Woods)*

(This topic was covered under Establishing 2009 Goals/Objectives and Timelines/Strategic Plan.)

G. Funding Relief *(Requested by Assemblymember Ewing)*

Assemblymember Ewing:

- provided a presentation regarding a concept on how to fund Hatcher Pass;
- questioned the reason that the School District did not conduct a request for proposals on their new phone system;
- spoke in favor of taxing entertainment; and
- noted that he paid as much at 12 percent sales tax while in Seattle;

H. Method of Estimating Local RSA Road Capital Improvement Projects *(Requested by Assemblymember Bettine)*

Assemblymember Bettine:

- requested that the Manager bring this topic back to the Assembly at a future time;
- provided examples of poor capital improvement funding; and
- spoke to the complaints that are received from the road service area board of supervisors.

Mr. Duffy advised that project estimating is still being done the same way as it was in the 1970's.

Assemblymember Bettine noted that there is also a staffing issue with the road service areas..

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke regarding the Knik-Fairview connection, impact fees, and the importance of getting the public involved and educated with regards to new tax proposals: Mr. Gary LaRusso.

VII. MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assemblymember Wells:

- advised that he would not be present at the January 20, 2009, meetings as he will be in Washington D.C.; and
- stated that he will have the Assembly's Federal Priorities and will follow the Assembly's priorities when at meetings.

Assemblymember Houston spoke in favor of rotating the Assembly Districts that the planning sessions are held in.

Assemblymember Bettine noted the need to schedule the next planning session.

Assemblymember Ewing commented that the meeting was very informative.

Assemblymember Kluberton:

- stated that the Assembly did a great job of covering all the areas discussed at the meeting;
- opined that it was a good idea to hold these planning sessions more than one time a year; and
- stated that sometimes when the Assembly changes the plan/priorities, it can be hard for staff to switch directions as quickly as the Assembly can.

Assemblymember Church queried when the Assembly would receive the changes to the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Duffy advised that he would like the Assembly to have the Strategic Plan prior to the budget process.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

CURTIS D. MENARD, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 02/03/09