

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on January 28, 2005, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 12 noon by Deputy Mayor Jim Colver for the purpose of convening as a committee of the whole to discuss economic development.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1  
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4  
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5  
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District 6 (*Deputy Mayor*)

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2  
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3  
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Borough Clerk  
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Deputy Mayor Colver inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Helen Munoz, a member of the Senior Citizen Advisory Board.

**V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved to establish a committee of the whole for the specific purpose of discussing economic development in the Borough. This committee shall meet on February 14, 2005, and March 14, 2005, at 12 noon and any additional meetings will be at the call of the Mayor or Assembly.

VOTE: The motion to establish a committee of the whole passed without objection.

*(The Assembly entered committee of the whole at this time.)*

Mr. Duffy:

- reported that he has met with Dr. Dauphinais, Matanuska-Susitna College Director, to brief him on the retreat and the Assembly's goals;
- stated that Dr. Dauphinais was pleasantly surprised by the Assembly's goal and welcomed the idea;
- noted that the idea was timely in terms of their campus planning;
- commented that Dr. Dauphinais was able to inform the Chancellor that the Borough was interested in health sciences and a nursing program;
- stated that the Chancellor announced at the Palmer Chamber of Commerce that the Matanuska-Susitna College would have a nursing program in 2006;
- noted that Dr. Dauphinais asked for some time to inform other interested parties about the Assembly's goals on a four-year institution;
- stated that he asked Dr. Dauphinais for suggestions on a consultant to work with because this is a specialized field;
- reported that Dr. Dauphinais stated that he had an individual working with him on another project that has experience taking two-year colleges to four-year colleges;
- stated that he has asked this individual to provide the Assembly with a scope of work on taking the Matanuska-Susitna College to a four-year college;
- commented that he should have a final version of the scope of work to bring forward to the Assembly for review in his next Manager's report.

Assemblymember Simpson queried regarding Dr. Rich (potential consultant) drafting the scope of work for himself.

Mr. Duffy replied that he told Dr. Rich what the Borough is interested in.

Assemblymember Simpson inquired if he was devising the scope work that the Borough would use for the request for proposal or would he ultimately be the contender for the position.

Mr. Duffy:

- replied that he believes that Dr. Rich is definitely a contender;
- opined that if you look to the State, the pool of people will have ties to the existing system which could be problematic;
- commented that if this individual could do the work, it would be a sole source; and
- noted that looking at his credentials, he believes that he could do it.

Discussion ensued regarding a consultant to study converting Matanuska-Susitna College to a four-year college.

Deputy Mayor Colver stated that if there are more higher education options available more people may remain in the Borough.

Assemblymember Woods:

- discussed a private medical training center in the Borough; and
- inquired if this would be a viable option.

Deputy Mayor Colver;

- inquired if the Borough has ever asked for federal funding for educational research; and
- spoke regarding pilot programs to help build a facility or for research purposes.

Mr. Duffy replied that the Borough has not asked for federal funding for educational research.

Assemblymember Simpson:

- spoke to the need to meet with Dr. Dauphinais to hear his perspective with the information received from the prospective consultant; and
- stated that the Assembly would lay the ground work for the project and the community would pick it up and run with it.

Mr. Duffy:

- replied that he is relying on Dr. Dauphinais to help with the project;
- stated that he can ask Dr. Dauphinais to attend the next meeting to hear his ideas; and
- noted that the proposed scope of work would be included in the Manager's report for the February 1, 2005, regular Assembly meeting.

Assemblymember Simpson requested that an analysis of the procurement process be included in the Manager's report.

Assemblymember Woods queried whether or not the medical training facility would be separate from the university and included in this goal.

Assemblymember Simpson stated that the industry was identified as part of the goal.

Discussion ensued regarding a medical training facility.

Assemblymember Kvalheim inquired if any business or college, such as a charter college, would be eligible to provide medical technician training.

Mr. Duffy replied that they would be able to provide medical technician training.

Assemblymember Kvalheim suggested inviting David Parks, a member of the University of Alaska Board of Regents, to these meetings.

Deputy Mayor Colver suggested sending a notice of the meetings to the student government at the Matanuska-Susitna College.

Assemblymember Simpson requested that Administration get clarification from Dr. Dauphinais on what they believe the Borough's working relationship with them will be on this project.

Mr. Duffy stated that he will be meeting with Dr. Dauphinais and will be drafting a resolution that states that the University agrees with the Assembly on this project.

**MOTION:** Assemblymember Simpson moved to exit committee of the whole in order to reconvene in the special meeting format at this time.

**VOTE:** The motion to exit committee of the whole passed without objection.

*(The Assembly exited committee of the whole at this time.)*

#### **VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)**

The following person spoke regarding economic development in the Borough and being self-sufficient and discussed waste treatment in the Borough: Ms. Helen Munoz.

#### **VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Assemblymember Woods discussed the benefits of having an action plan.

Ms. McGehee reviewed the revised Assembly meeting schedule for February and March.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The special meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

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TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

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MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: February 15, 2005