

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SPECIAL MEETING
ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 8, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on October 8, 2002, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Timothy L. Anderson. The purpose of the special meeting was to certify the October 1, 2002, election results and swear in the newly elected assembly members.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. J. Bruce Bush, Assembly District No. 1
Ms. Sara Jansen, Assembly District No. 2 (Deputy Mayor)
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Mr. Dan Kelly, Assembly District No. 4 (arrived at 6:04 p.m.)
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6
Ms. Kelly Lankford Ladere, Assembly District No. 7 (via teleconference)

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra A. Dillon, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Mr. David Germer, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. John Aschenbrenner, Assistant Borough Attorney
Ms. Elizabeth Friedman, Assistant Borough Attorney
Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, Deputy Borough Clerk
Mr. Jim Swing, Public Works Director
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Ms. Sandra Garley, Planning Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director
Mr. Jack Krill, Interim Director of Public Safety

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Betty Vehrs, a member of the audience.

IV. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

A. Certification of October 1, 2002, Regular Borough Election

Ms. Dillon:

- commented regarding the increase in borough precincts and the complexity of the October 1, 2002, election;
- stated that the clerk's office successfully met the challenge;
- noted the number of election officials needed, an increase of approximately 40 workers;
- recognized all departments that aided the clerk's office with the election process;
- gave special recognition to the staff of the public works department;
- acknowledged the outstanding maps produced by the GIS department;
- acknowledged the clerk's staff for all their efforts;
- acknowledged the members of the canvass board for successfully completing their tasks; and
- spoke to Geraldine Keeling's participation in the election process as absentee voting official, election official for the Palmer precinct, and chairperson of the canvass board.

Ms. Keeling, Canvass Board Chairperson:

- spoke to the recent state redistricting and borough reapportionment, noting that the state did not complete their tasks until July 2002;
- acknowledged the time challenge in completing the detailed work of organizing the election;
- commented regarding the Schrock precinct and the number of ballot types in that precinct alone;
- noted the importance of the maps;
- stated that the canvass board met beginning last Wednesday;
- commented regarding the observer process;
- explained that the canvass board received seven official challenges and that all challenges were answered to the satisfaction of the challenger; copies of the challenges were provided to all persons involved;
- noted that due to state redistricting eleven voters did not have their names included in full precinct registers due to lack of house numbers on their property or they were registered at mile marker addresses;
- stated that all voters could be located in the precinct registers and that the list of names were sent to the Division of Elections for updates;
- commented regarding West Edlund Road being mislabeled as to the correct district - 24 voters resided in the area, only three voted, all received the right ballot due to the precinct maps that were provided;
- reported that the canvass board processed 195 total questioned;
- noted the importance of voting in the correct precinct;
- reported that 419 absentee ballots were processed;
- stated that some ballots did come in after the deadline on Friday, October 4, 2002; nine ballots came back undeliverable;
- reported regarding the three personal representative ballots received, noting that one was not counted due to the voter not signing the final step saying that they voted;
- explained the personal representative step processes and actions of the personal representative that caused the ballot not to be counted - noting that federal, state, and borough regulations were researched and the final conclusion being that it was not appropriate to count the personal representative ballot with the power of attorney provided as the voter was clearly able to sign the absentee envelope; and
- stated that a recount was requested regarding the Assembly District No. 4 race.

Ms. Dillon:

- thanked Ms. Keeling and presented her with roses in appreciation for all her efforts and the efforts of the canvass board; and
- read the canvass board report into the record noting the race totals and proposition outcomes.

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved to accept the report of the canvass board and to certify the election results as read into the record by the clerk, with the exception of the Assembly District 4 race.

Ms. Jansen queried regarding who initiated the propositions.

Ms. Dillon explained that two of the propositions were initiated by petition, the third was initiated administratively.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection.

Ms. Dillon:

- advised that the recount for Assembly District No. 4 will begin Friday morning at 9 a.m. in the first floor conference room of the borough building; and
- expects results by the end of the day on Friday and that the results of the recount will be brought to the assembly for certification on October 15, 2002.

Assemblymember Colver queried as to how the recount would be conducted.

Ms. Dillon clarified the recount process, noting that the recount would be done by hand count.

Mayor Anderson stated that the recount was being advertised for Friday.

B. Swearing in of Newly Elected Officials

Ms. Dillon swore in re-elected Assemblymember Jody E. Simpson.

Mayor Anderson opened audience participation.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

The following spoke regarding the reduced maintenance of the Parks Highway in the Willow area and safety concerns of the residents, especially related to school bus and student safety: Robert Johnson.

Assemblymember Ladere asked the clerk to prepare a resolution addressing the issues that Mr. Johnson raised regarding road maintenance.

There being no others who wished to testify, Mayor Anderson closed audience participation.

VI. MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assemblymember Ladere commented regarding the road maintenance cuts in the Willow area.

Assemblymember Kelly inquired if regular business would be conducted at the October 15, 2002, assembly meeting, and if assembly certification would be addressed after the regular business items had been addressed.

Ms. Dillon clarified that certification of Assembly District No. 4 would take place at the beginning of the meeting under "Special Orders of the Day."

Assemblymember Kelly:

- stated that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the residents of the borough;
- commented that one assembly member can make a difference in the borough and that each assembly member serves more than just their district;
- remarked that he has conducted himself with honor during his term;
- expressed his pleasure at working with fine supporting staff; and
- concluded that he has learned a lot during his three-year term on the assembly.

Assemblymember Bush expressed best wishes to Assemblymember Kelly and congratulated Assemblymember Simpson for her re-election to Assembly District No. 5.

Assemblymember Colberg also wished Assemblymembers Kelly and Simpson well.

Assemblymember Colver:

- commented that he is looking forward to working with all newly elected officials;
- remarked that Assemblymember Kelly would be missed; and
- congratulated the clerk's office and the canvass board for a job well done.

Assemblymember Simpson:

- thanked her family, friends, and others for all their support during her campaign;
- stated that she is looking forward to the next three years and that she is glad to be back on the assembly for another term;
- wished Assemblymember Kelly well, concurring that one assembly member can make a difference; and
- thanked the clerk and the canvass board for their efforts in ensuring a successful election.

Assemblymember Jansen

- stated that she is extremely pleased that Assemblymember Simpson was re-elected;
- commented that Assemblymember Simpson has done an excellent job for her constituents and has conducted herself

with integrity;

- concurred that Assemblymember Kelly has served with honor;
- wished Assemblymember Kelly the best of luck;
- stated that the Assembly District No. 4 race has brought back memories of the last regular election due to the nature of the close race;
- spoke regarding her confidence in the canvass board process;
- expressed her pleasure of having an excellent administration and assembly; and
- remarked that she is excited about projects that are underway and future projects.

Mayor Anderson:

- thanked Geraldine Keeling and the canvass board for all their hard work;
- congratulated Assemblymember Simpson regarding her re-election;
- commented that Assemblymember Simpson's hard work during her previous term has been commendable;
- thanked Assemblymember Kelly for all the time he has invested in the borough; and
- spoke regarding Assemblymember Kelly's contributions and hard work.

Mayor Anderson (continued):

- commented that he will be changing the assembly seating as of the next regular meeting;
- presented the borough seal to Assemblymember Kelly for his years of service;
- concluded by acknowledging all the candidates who participated in the 2002 election; and
- invited everyone for cake and punch in the foyer to celebrate the certification.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

SANDRA A. DILLON, Borough Clerk