

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SPECIAL MEETING
ASSEMBLY DECEMBER 3, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on November 21, 2002, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough First Floor Conference Room, Palmer, Alaska. The special meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Mayor Anderson. The purpose of the special meeting was to telephonically interview applicants for the borough attorney position.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Timothy Anderson, Mayor
Ms. Sara Jansen, Assembly District No. 2 (Deputy Mayor)
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Ms. Kelly Lankford Ladere, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent:

Mr. Bruce Bush, Assembly District No. 1
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra A. Dillon, Borough Clerk
Ms. Patricia Von Ah, Human Resources Manager

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Anderson 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 Mr. Jack Snodgrass.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Telephonic Interviews Re: Applicants for Borough Attorney Position

Mayor Anderson

- stated that the assembly would be interviewing the final candidate, Steven Schweppe; and
- reiterated the interviewing process and questions that was used at the previous telephonic interviews on November 21, 2002.

Assemblymember Jansen reminded the assembly that the only questions being asked are those on the interview question handouts.

Mayor Anderson explained the interview process with Mr. Schweppe and introduced each assembly member.

Mr. Schweppe was asked the following questions:

1. What class of Borough is the Matanuska-Susitna Borough?

2. What powers does the Borough possess?
3. What is the Borough Manager's role with respect to the Assembly?
4. What commercial contract experience have you gained in your prior positions?
5. How does the Borough interface with the cities within its jurisdiction?
6. What are some of the more common ethical principles an elected official must abide by?
7. Describe your understanding of the Open Meetings Act.
8. What is an executive session?
9. If you were to identify your worst attribute, what would that be?
10. How would you prioritize the many demands of this position?
11. Describe the difference between "required" and "optional" exemptions from property tax.
12. Describe your experience with employee issues including complaints, grievances, mediation, and arbitration.
13. Discuss your experience in labor contract negotiations.
14. Briefly discuss your experience in construction law.
15. What personal qualities do you have that would help you to succeed in this position?
16. What are your expectations of this position?
17. Why are you interested in this job?
18. Discuss a time when you made an unpopular decision. How did you handle the situation and what did you learn from it?
19. What did you like least about your last/current job? How did you overcome it or otherwise succeed in spite of it?
20. Do you have any questions for us?

Mayor Anderson:

- explained that the assembly would be selecting candidates today for scheduling personal interviews; and
- concluded the interview with Mr. Schweppe.

Assemblymember Simpson stated that she would like to interview Ms. Williams and Mr. Schweppe.

Assemblymember Kvalheim informed that she would also like to interview Ms. Williams.

Assemblymember Colberg voiced his support to interview Mr. Schweppe and Mr. Eriksen.

Assemblymember Jansen stated that she would be in favor of interviewing the three candidates: Ms. Williams, Mr. Schweppe, and Mr. Eriksen.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colberg moved to schedule interviews with Mr. Schweppe, Mr. Eriksen, and Ms. Williams before December 25, 2002.

Discussion ensued regarding the process of setting up interviews.

Ms. Dillon:

- informed that Assemblymember Colver would be gone until January; and
- read Assemblymember Colver and Assemblymember Bush's recommendations reported at the November 21, 2002 meeting.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion as passed without objection.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

(There were no persons who wished to testify.)

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Jansen thanked Mr. Snodgrass for the e-mail he sent out informing applicants of the interviews.

Ms. Dillon advised that she would be working with Ms. Von Ah to arrange the interviews and would advise the assembly accordingly.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

SANDRA A. DILLON, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: December 17, 2002