

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on March 15, 2005, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Timothy L. Anderson.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1
Mr. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2 (*via teleconference at 7 p.m.*)
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Teresa S. Williams, Borough Attorney
Ms. Janice A. Case, Deputy Borough Clerk
Ms. Marian Romano, Assistant Borough Manager
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Don Shiesl, Public Works Director
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director
Mr. Murph O'Brien, Planning and Land Use Director
Mr. Jack Krill, Jr., Fire Chief

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Anderson:

- noted that Ordinance Serial No. 05-037 would be removed from the introductions at the request of the sponsor; and
- stated that Resolution Serial Nos. 05-033 and 05-034 would be separated and renumbered as items b1 and b2 under the consent agenda.

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

A. Special Assembly Meeting: 03/01/05

Mayor Anderson inquired if there were any corrections to the special meeting minutes of March 1, 2005.

GENERAL CONSENT: The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

B. Regular Assembly Meeting: 03/01/05

Mayor Anderson inquired if there were any corrections to the regular meeting minutes of March 1, 2005.

GENERAL CONSENT: The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. AGENCY REPORTS

1. Reports from cities

Wasilla City

Councilmember Mark Ewing:

- reported that there has been a lot of attention on preserving the history of Wasilla without the use of taxpayer money;
- stated that the City is currently working on the budget and their goal is to lower the mill rate to .03 mills;
- noted that they are paving seven miles of collector roads within the City;
- commented that a priority for the City is locating areas that need traffic signals;
- discussed the Borough crating a task force to research having a multi-use trail through the entire Borough;
- stated that Palmer City Mayor Combs is planning on filming a video to attract high technology business and high paying jobs in the Valley;
- stated that they will be holding a joint cities meeting on March 24, 2004, at 6 p.m. at the Palmer Depot to discuss sales tax and joint trail use; and
- wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

School Board President Chmielewski:

- referred to the letter Mr. Doyle sent to Mr. Duffy on a joint task force for the Borough code, specifically to address school site selections;
- stated that the School Board is interested in working with the Borough to find a way to allow them to do a better job in making site selections for schools; and
- stated that the School Board will be approving the budget on March 16, 2005.

Mr. Duffy inquired regarding projections on school enrollment used in the proposed budget.

School Board President Chmielewski:

- stated that they are estimating an 800 student increase next year; and
- explained the projected number used for student enrollment.

Mayor Anderson inquired if the budget is based on the most recent legislative discussion.

School Board President Chmielewski:

- stated that the proposed budget is based on the Governor's budget, which allocated \$4,860 per student; and
- noted that they are still following the legislative discussions taking place regarding school funding.

3. Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau - Ms. Bonnie Quill

Ms. Quill:

- stated that the Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau has optimistic projections about the number of visitor arrivals this summer;
- reviewed the various conventions they have attended promoting the Matanuska-Susitna Borough;
- reported that they are continuing to invest in the website;
- stated that there has been a significant increase in traffic to the website;
- noted that the Internet is the dominate resource for travel research;
- encouraged the members of the Assembly to visit the website;
- stated that the draft fiscal year 2006 budget includes new international market programs, increased television advertising, and additional funds for the website; and
- stated that the Board of Directors has passed a resolution supporting the new convention center in Anchorage because it would increase the number of visitors to the Borough.

1. Reports from cities (continued)

City of Houston

Councilmember Angela Rosas:

- reported that the second police officer is scheduled to come online this summer;
- noted that they are looking into potentially hiring a third part-time officer;
- stated that there are several new businesses opening in the city of Houston;
- noted that the population has reached 1,367; and
- commented that they are keeping apprised of the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority in order to plan for the increase influx of traffic.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on School Issues

Mayor Anderson noted that the Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on School Issues has not met since the last report.

2. Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO)

Mayor Anderson noted that the Regional Transportation Planning Organization has not met since the last report.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

Mr. Duffy:

- noted that six bids were received for the construction of the Wasilla Area Elementary School;
- stated that the next ship is scheduled to arrive at Port MacKenzie on March 17, 2005;
- stated that he, Mr. Gillespie, and Ms. Clayton met with Governor Murkowski's Chief of Staff, Jim Clark, to provide a briefing on the Borough's prison expansion proposal;
- noted that they also discussed other projects and efforts of importance to the Borough;
- noted that he will be in Juneau on Thursday to brief the Legislative Delegation on the proposed prison expansion;
- stated that he has provided sample Animal Care and Regulation reports in the Manager's report;
- noted that a report for snow removal in the Borough is included in the Manager's report at the request of Mr. James Skinner;
- stated that he recently met with former Anchorage Mayor George Werch with the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA);
- noted that the KABATA will be conducting a telephone survey of 400 residents of the Borough and 400 residents of the Municipality of Anchorage;
- stated that the KABATA is also requesting that the toll plaza be located on the Borough side; and
- commented that he recently hired a temporary employee to help with informational brochures, newsletters, and to help standardize press releases for the Borough.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Ms. Williams:

- stated that the new assistant attorney started yesterday; and
- noted that she will be out of the office for unexpected surgery.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McGehee:

- reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule for March and April;
- stated that it is her understanding the Administration has some research that they need to conduct before any more Committee of the Whole meetings on economic development are scheduled;
- noted that the agendas for the March 24, 2005, work sessions are attached;
- stated that the Alaska Municipal League meeting information is attached;
- noted that she is still trying to schedule a group photo of the Assembly for April;
- asked that the Assembly contact her if they are planning on being absent for any of the meetings in April so that she could schedule a group photo; and
- noted that an updated tracking report is attached.

Mr. Duffy noted that approximately four hours will be needed for the March 24, 2005, work session regarding forest management.

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved to reschedule the March 24, 2005, work session regarding forest management to 3 p.m. and the March 24, 2005, work session regarding the review of the emergency services and public works budgets to 7:30 p.m.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

1. MSB Board/Committee Minutes:
 - a. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board: 01/05/05
 - b. Enhanced 911 Advisory Board: 01/11/05
 - c. Greater Talkeetna Road Service Area Board of Supervisors No. 29: 01/13/05, 02/10/05
 - d. Library Board: 02/19/05
 - e. Local Emergency Planning Committee: 12/15/04, 01/26/05
 - f. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 01/20/05, 02/17/05
 - g. Planning Commission: 02/07/05
 - h. Platting Board: 12/02/04, 12/09/04, 12/16/04, 01/06/05, 02/03/05
 - i. Senior Citizens Advisory Board: 01/17/05

2. Community Council Correspondence:
 - a. Glacier View Community Council: 02/24/05
 - b. Trapper Creek Community Council: 02/23/05
 - c. Willow Area Community Organization: 02/14/05

The citizen and other correspondence was presented and no comments were noted.

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

1. IM No. 05-074: AN INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM PROVIDING A BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF THE SOUTH DENALI IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

Assemblymember Colver inquired regarding the Borough's role in deciding the South Denali Implementation Plan.

Mr. Duffy:

- explained that this is an environmental impact study;
- noted that an environmental impact study needs to have a preferred alternative;
- stated that the National Park Service, Alaska State Parks, and the Borough have been working in the community and holding hearings;
- noted that a cost analysis and a resource analysis was done;;
- stated that the preferred alternative was chosen in large part because of the cost of the project and comments that were received;
- explained that the environmental impact study will go through a public comment process and then come back to the Assembly to make a choice; and
- noted that the Assembly's choice will then be forwarded to the National Park Service and be included in the record of decision.

Discussion ensued regarding the alternate sites for the South Denali Implementation Plan.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. INTRODUCTION (For public hearing – 04/05/05, 7 p.m., Borough Assembly Chambers)
 1. Resolution Serial No. 05-029: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 THROUGH 2011.
 - a. IM No. 05-057
 3. Ordinance Serial No. 05-038: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MSB 4.28.020(C), ENHANCED 911 ADVISORY BOARD, TO PROVIDE FOR APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES THROUGH THE MAYORAL RECOMMENDATION AND ASSEMBLY CONFIRMATION PROCESS. (*Sponsor: Mayor Anderson*)
 - a. IM No. 05-066

4. Ordinance Serial No. 05-039: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$28,132,377 TO FUND 400, SCHOOL PROJECTS, FOR THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND INSTALLATION OF SCHOOL AND RELATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH.
 - a. Resolution Serial No. 05-030: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE 2005 SERIES A GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BOND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.
 - (1) IM No. 05-068

5. Ordinance Serial No. 05-040: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) TO FUND 445, PROJECT NO. 55008, FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF STREAM BANK STABILIZATION MEASURES ALONG THE MATANUSKA RIVER.
 - a. Resolution Serial No. 05-031: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) APPROPRIATION, TO FUND 445, PROJECT NO. 55008, FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF STREAM BANK STABILIZATION MEASURES ALONG THE MATANUSKA RIVER.
(Sponsor: Assemblymember Woods)
 - (1) IM No. 05-073

Ms. McGehee read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearings for April 5, 2005.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

(The regular meeting recessed at 6:50 p.m. and reconvened at 7:10 p.m.)

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS (to begin at 7 p.m.)

A. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (Three minutes per person.)

(There were no persons to be heard.)

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three minutes per person.)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 05-031: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,000 FROM THE WASILLA-LAKES FIRE SERVICE AREA (FSA) FUND BALANCE, FUND 250, TO THE FSA CAPITAL PROJECT FUND 405, PROJECT NO. 45169, TO PURCHASE A NEW ENGINE AND EQUIPMENT.

- a. Resolution Serial No. 05-025: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 45169, FUND 405, TO PURCHASE A NEW ENGINE AND EQUIPMENT.

(1) IM No. 05-051

Mr. Brodigan provided a staff report.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

There being no one present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kvalheim moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 05-031 and Resolution Serial No. 05-025.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

2. Ordinance Serial No. 05-032: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REAPPROPRIATION OF \$3,935 FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2005 CAPITAL PROJECTS, PROJECT NO. 10151, FUND 435, TO THE ANIMAL CARE AND REGULATION DIVISION FISCAL YEAR 2005 OPERATING BUDGET, 200-160-606, TO PURCHASE LIVE ANIMAL TRAPS AND EQUIPMENT.

a. IM No. 05-055

Mr. Brodigan provided a staff report.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

There being no one present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 05-032.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

3. Ordinance Serial No. 05-033: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REAPPROPRIATION OF \$575,000 FROM THE LAND MANAGEMENT FUND BALANCE, FUND 203, \$120,000 FROM THE AREAWIDE FUND BALANCE, FUND 100, AND \$155,000 FROM THE NON-AREAWIDE FUND BALANCE, FUND 200, TO FUND 450 FOR A CONTINGENCY RESERVE FOR THE PORT MACKENZIE DEEP DRAFT DOCK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

a. IM No. 05-060

Mayor Anderson noted that this legislation will require a two-thirds vote since it reappropriates funds from the land management fund balance.

Mr. Duffy:

- stated that these funds were previously approved by the Assembly and not spent;
- noted that one of the conditions of the legislation previously approving these funds was that any remaining funds be returned to the land management fund on December 31, 2004;
- stated that because the project was delayed due to the early winter and delayed arrival of other major steel components, the project was not completed before December 31, 2004;
- noted that work still continued on the project and that the dock has been completed with the exception of some minor work that will be completed in the spring; and
- stated that these funds would pay for work that has been completed.

Assemblymember Allen inquired if the contingency fund would pay for claims issues.

Mr. Duffy replied that these funds would pay for actual work that has been completed, which is approximately \$200,000.

Assemblymember Colver:

- stated that when the contingency was initially approved, the funds that were set aside were not supposed to be spent without authorization from the Assembly;
- noted that the Assembly did not approve a change order authorizing the additional work; and
- inquired regarding the amount of the existing unsettled claims.

Mr. Duffy replied that the claims have not been settled.

Discussion ensued regarding the contingency fund.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of the contingency fund to pay for unanticipated expenses: Ms. Jean Woods.

There being no others present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 05-033.

Mayor Anderson inquired why the work was not paid for with the initial funds set aside for the contingency fund.

Mr. Duffy replied that the funds were transferred back to the land management fund after December 31, 2004.

Mayor Anderson asked when the original legislation was adopted.

Assemblymember Simpson stated that the Assembly adopted and a motion to reconsider failed on the original legislation on June 15, 2004.

Mayor Anderson clarified that the project was due to expire on December 31, 2004.

Ms. Clayton stated that due to the delays, the project was not completed until after the expiration.

Assemblymember Colver inquired why a change order for the additional work was not included in the legislation.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- a change order for the additional work; and
- funds for the outstanding claims.

(The regular meeting recessed at 7:37 p.m. and reconvened at 7:48 p.m.)

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved a primary amendment to add to the end of section 2, "These funds shall first be used to pay for a pending change order, not to exceed \$200,000 and the remainder used to settle all pending claims before authorizing any additional change orders."

Assemblymember Colver spoke to the primary amendment.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Assemblymember Vehrs voiced concern regarding the checks and balances in place.

Assemblymember Simpson spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 05-033.

Assemblymember Colver stated that the Assembly should have received a memorandum of a financial plan on the costs to finish the project.

Mayor Anderson inquired if an action memorandum is usually brought before the Assembly to approve a change order.

Mr. Duffy replied that an action memorandum is usually sent before the Assembly for a change order unless there is an emergency.

VOTE: The main motion as amended passed without objection.

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

The following person spoke regarding taking care of the basic things first in the Borough such as septic treatment: Ms. Helen Munoz.

The following person spoke regarding the appointments for the Willow Fire Service Area No. 35 Board of Supervisors and spoke in support of Ms. Laurie McCutcheon and Mr. George Jennings: Ms. Kel Jennings.

The following person spoke regarding the property tax increases within the last two years: Mr. Clarence Furbush.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. MOTION TO APPEAL COURT RULING RE: TAX CAP INITIATIVE. *(Motion pending from 02/15/05, Assemblymember Colver)*

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Colver moved to appeal the court's ruling regarding the tax cap initiative litigation.

Assemblymember Colver opined that the judge's decision is not really clear.

Assemblymember Colberg:

- stated that the assessments have generated a lot of interest in the tax cap initiative;
- noted that the Judge was clear that the initiative should go to the voters;
- commented that other municipalities in the State have enacted similar legislation;
- discussed the effects of the increasing assessments throughout the Borough; and
- opined that the residents of the Borough should be allowed to vote on this issued.

Assemblymember Vehrs stated that at this point the petition on the tax cap initiative is the only vehicle that the public has to voice their opinion.

Members of the Assembly generally supported taking the question to election.

Mayor Anderson spoke in support of allowing the residents to vote on this issue.

VOTE: The motion failed unanimously.

(Assemblymember Allen exited the meeting at this time.)

B. CONSENT AGENDA (Resolution Serial No. 05-033 was pulled from the consent agenda and addressed separately. See pp. 12 of 15)

1. RESOLUTIONS

a. Resolution Serial No. 05-032: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR PROJECT NO. 20266, VEHICLE PURCHASE, TO ALLOW FOR THE PURCHASE OF A DUMP BOX.

(1) IM No. 05-056

- b2. Resolution Serial No. 05-034: A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MAIN LINE WATER EXTENSION BY THE CITY OF WASILLA BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS TO SERVE THE GARDEN TERRACE SUBDIVISION AND OTHER AREAS ALONG THE ROUTE.
 - (a) IM No. 05-061

- c. Resolution Serial No. 05-035: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW LEGISLATIVE OFFICE COMPLEX AND AUTHORIZING THE MANAGER TO PREPARE A PROPOSAL FOR SITING AND FINANCING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMPLEX. (*Sponsor: Assemblymember Kvalheim*)
 - (1) IM No. 05-064

- d. Resolution Serial No. 05-036: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR PROJECT NO. 15007, COMMUNITY POOLS REPAIR AND RENOVATION.
 - (1) IM No. 05-070

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

- a. AM No. 05-028: RETROACTIVE APPROVAL OF LATE FILED DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION AND SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS FOR MS. ELLEN ARLENE CLEMENTS, MS. MARGARET C. JOHNSON, MR. DAVID M. BRITZ, MR. PETER G. HUTTON, AND MS. SUELYNN HIGHT.

- b. AM No. 05-030: AWARD OF BID NO. 05-075 TO PIERCE MANUFACTURING INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$373,445 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FIRE APPARATUS FOR THE CENTRAL MAT-SU FIRE DEPARTMENT.

- c. AM No. 05-032: AWARD OF BID NO. 05-100 TO ALL-WRIGHT CONSTRUCTION INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,885 FOR THE REMODEL OF THE OFFICE AT THE BIG LAKE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING.

Ms. McGehee read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk.

Assemblymember Colver commended Assemblymember Kvalheim for bringing forward Resolution Serial No. 05-035.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

- b1. Resolution Serial No. 05-033: A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MAIN LINE WATER AND SEWER EXTENSION BY THE CITY OF PALMER BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS TO SERVE THE NEW VALLEY HOSPITAL AND OTHER AREAS ALONG THE ROUTE.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Colver declared a conflict of interest on Resolution Serial No. 05-033 because his firm is a sub-contractor on this project.

RULING: Mayor Anderson ruled that Assemblymember Colver had a conflict of interest and would be recused from voting on this issue.

(Assemblymember Colver exited the meeting at this time.)

MOTION: Assemblymember Vehrs moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 05-033.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

(Assemblymember Colver returned to the meeting at this time.)

C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

Mayor Anderson made the following recommendations:

Agricultural and Forestry Advisory Board

Lorene Lynn

Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Rhonda Atkins

Big Lake FSA No. 33

Bruce Babcock

Willow FSA No. 35

Doyle Holmes

Richard Pralle

Mayor Anderson requested the following confirmations:

Board of Adjustment and Appeals

Janet Flanders

Planning Commission

Brit Lively

Port Commission

Resignation of Ronald DesGranges

Wasilla Lakes FSA No. 130

Daniel Tucker

Caswell Lakes RSA No. 15

Resignation of Nancy Crowden

Circle View and Stampede Estates Flood and Water Erosion Control SSA No. 131

Removal of Durward Cannon

Talkeetna Sewer and Water SSA No. 36

Sheryl Tollefsen

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to confirm the Mayor's appointments, removals, and resignations up for confirmation this evening.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

(There was no other new business.)

X. RECONSIDERATION

(There were no reconsiderations presented.)

XI. VETO

(There were no vetoes presented.)

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(There was no executive session.)

XIII. MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assemblymember Kvalheim requested that the Mayor check into the \$20,000 property tax exemption in Anchorage.

Assemblymember Colberg stated that an action memorandum or an informational memorandum really should be coming forward for the port issue.

Mr. Duffy stated that an explanation will be forthcoming.

Assemblymember Vehrs:

- stated that she has been receiving a lot of phone calls regarding the assessments and questions on how the Borough is spending their funds;
- commented that she has also been receiving suggestions for alternative forms of revenue; and
- stated that she appreciates and encourages these comments.

Assemblymember Colver:

- stated that he has also been receiving a lot of calls regarding assessments;
- stated that the Assembly needs to do their best to off-set the mill rate;
- noted that he went to Washington D.C. last week for a few days and met with Congressional staff; and
- discussed the Borough projects included in the transportation bill.

Mayor Anderson:

- stated that he has also been receiving calls on the assessments;
- commented that the residents could count on the Assembly to do their best to lower the mill rate to compensate for the increased assessments;
- noted that he will be out of town on April 5, 2005, in Washington D.C. with the Manager and some Assembly members;
- stated that he was in Washington D.C. this week to receive the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife, Assistant Director's Conservation Award in recognition for the Borough's outstanding contribution to the conservation of aquatic habitat; and
- noted that the Borough is one of five communities to receive the award.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

/s/

JIM COLVER, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/

MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: April 5, 2005