

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on April 19, 2011, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The special meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of discussing reapportionment mapping.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Warren Keogh, Assembly District No. 1
Mr. Noel Woods, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Ron Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Cindy Bettine, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*arrived at 4:05 p.m.*)
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC, Borough Clerk
Ms. Elizabeth Gray, Acting Borough Manager
Mr. John Aschenbrenner, Deputy Borough Attorney
Ms. Christine Nelson, Planning and Land Use Director
Ms. Pam Graham, Grants and Project Coordinator
Ms. Susan Howard, GIS Supervisor

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor DeVilbiss 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 Mr. Steve Culligan, a member of the audience.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. REAPPORTIONMENT MAPPING

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to enter into the committee of the whole.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly moved into the committee of the whole at 4:01 p.m.

The body discussed the draft reapportionment plan.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to exit committee of the whole.

VOTE: The motion passed and the Assembly exited committee of the whole at 4:38 p.m.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to send the draft April 14, 2011 Assembly district plan to the State as the intended districts based on population totals and target populations per the 2010 census.

Assemblymember Ewing spoke to concerns with moving forward without knowing what the State intends to do.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved a primary amendment insert the word "Redistricting Board and Division of Elections" after the word "state."

Assemblymember Bettine:

- requested that any member that intends to vote no, to please reconsider; and
- spoke to the importance of presenting a unified front, as the plan is only a draft.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion passed as amended without objection.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to concerns with Title 27 versus Title 16: Mr. Butch Moore.

The following person spoke in support of following the Borough's geographic boundaries for reapportionment: Mr. Steve Culligan.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- spoke to conflict questions that have been coming up as of late;
- noted that the Board of Ethics has done a complete revision to MSB 2.70, which the Assembly intends to review when the budget is completed;
- stated that some conflicts are beginning to impede the business of the body;
- advised that there are a couple of ways the Assembly could handle this;
- stated that one would be to suspend the code until the revision has been addressed by the Assembly and default to State law;
- noted that the responsibilities of the Board of Ethics could be moved to the Office of Administrative Hearings, so that there is a way to get quick turn around on opinions requested of the Board; and

- stated that he would bring back legislation to the Assembly for their review, if that is something the Assembly would like to move forward with.

There was no objection noted.

Assemblymember Colver:

- stated that he agrees that the process needs to be streamlined;
- spoke to the issue of the Borough funding a hearing officer and a prosecutor for the Board; and
- opined that there should be a vetting process, where it could be determined if there is a legitimate complaint to go forward.

Assemblymember Ewing:

- requested that the Attorney bring back legislation to put ethics inquiries before the Office of Administrative Hearings; and
- opined that there needs to be a better approach to vetting complaints or conflicts of interest.

Assemblymember Keogh:

- queried where this would leave the Board of Ethics; and
- further asked if legislation would be a temporary fix.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- stated that there is a lot of discussion regarding conflicts; and
- opined that the Assembly should do something to address this issue.

Assemblymember Arvin spoke to his support of the need to address the issue of conflicts in a timely manner.

Assemblymember Bettine stated that she is in support of the Attorney's proposal and of streamlining the ethics process.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.


LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 05/03/11