

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on April 30, 2009, at Central Mat-Su Fire Station, 101 West Swanson Avenue, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Lynne Woods for the purpose of holding public hearings on the budget.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1 (*Deputy Mayor*)  
Mr. Pete Houston, Assembly District No. 2  
Ms. Michelle R. Church, Assembly District No. 3  
Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4  
Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5 (*Arrived at 6:09 p.m.*)  
Mr. Robert Wells, Assembly District No. 6 (*Arrived at 6:06 p.m.*)  
Mr. Tom Kluberton, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk  
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager  
Ms. Elizabeth Gray Assistant Borough Manager  
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney  
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk  
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director  
Mr. Keith Rountree, Public Works Director  
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director  
Ms. Linda Brenner, Community Development Director  
Mr. Mark Mayo, Planning and Land Use Director  
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director  
Mr. Dave Hanson, Economic Development Director  
Ms. Joell Church, Records Management Officer  
Ms. Sharon Huckins, Administrative Secretary

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Deputy Mayor Woods 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. Ken Slausen, Chair, Wasilla-Lakes Fire Service Area Board of Supervisors.

#### V. PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Duffy provided a staff report.

- A. Ordinance Serial No. 09-009 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONIES FROM THE CENTRAL TREASURY FOR THE BOROUGH OPERATING FUNDS, ENTERPRISE FUND, AND CAPITAL FUNDS, AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF LEVY FOR ALL BOROUGH FUNCTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2009, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2010.

Deputy Mayor Woods opened the public hearing

Mr. Ken Slausen, Chair, Wasilla-Lakes Fire Service Area Board of Supervisors:

- spoke regarding making a recommendation of the mill rate;
- stated that it is hard to determine what the mill rate should be; and
- noted that all the information is not always available.

Assemblymember Houston queried if there was a solution to not having all the information when it is needed.

Mr. Slausen:

- stated that it would help to know what the assessed valuation is earlier in the year;
- noted that if they did, public hearings could be held and the numbers could be presented to the Assembly at an earlier date; and
- spoke to the budget cycle being later and later in the year.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- how Wasilla Lakes Fire Service used to be able to assess the tax rate; and
- how the budget cycle works.

Mr. Mike Perry:

- spoke in support of the school district budget;
- stated that teachers provide the community with finely educated students;
- noted that those students that remain within the Borough, contribute to their community; and
- thanked the Borough for the funding that was received last year.

Ms. Lisa Jurasek:

- spoke in support of the School District budget; and
- opined that it is crucial for the School District to receive full funding.

Mr. Michael Carson:

- spoke in support of the School District budget; and
- thanked the Assembly for their continued support.

Ms. Pamela Spears:

- spoke in support of the School District budget;
- stated that full funding for the school district is imperative; and
- noted that many vital classes will be cut without full funding.

Mr. Carl Schleich:

- spoke in support of full funding for the School District budget;
- noted that students who stay in the valley contribute to their community;
- opined that the Assembly should have confidence in a performance based budget;
- stated that with the zero based budget, Wasilla High School will loose four teachers;  
and
- thanked the Assembly for the hard work they do.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine: moved to postpone the public hearing for Ordinance Serial No. 09-009 to May 7, 2009 at 6 p.m.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

## VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

*(There was no one present who wished to testify.)*

## VII. MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Mr. Duffy requested that Ms. Clayton review the memorandum titled "Additional School District Revenues and Stimulus Funds."

Ms. Clayton:

- stated that she was asked what additional funds and supplemental appropriations were received by the School District;
- stated that the total approved budget was for \$213,999,584;
- related that supplemental funds of \$5,100,000 were approved by the Assembly on January 20, 2009;
- stated that a second supplemental request was approved on April 27, 2009 in the amount of 4,700,000;
- advised that the total School District Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 was \$223,799,584; and
- stated that the proposed State foundation amount for fiscal year 2010 is \$120,377,338.

Assemblymember Ewing:

- noted that there are good educators in the Borough;
- spoke to their input regarding the budget being invaluable; and
- thanked everyone for participating in the budget process.

Assemblymember Kluberton:

- thanked Mr. Keith Rountree, Public Works Director, for his work on Hawk Lane in Houston;
- thanked the public for participating in the budget process;
- spoke to the Alaska State Fish and Game presentation that is forth coming; and
- noted that the Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee is going well.

Assemblymember Houston:

- stated that he has thoroughly enjoyed his time on the Assembly;
- wondered if there was a way to get the information to the fire service areas in a more timely manner;
- noted that he likes the balance in the budget;
- stated that he thinks the teachers do a fabulous job in educating Borough youth; and
- queried if there was a budget to look at that outlined a zero loss of educators.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- stated that she would like to see the School District budget separated out in order to determine if a "no hire" for the School District is feasible;
- spoke to the stimulus funds that are coming forth;
- noted that perhaps the stimulus funds would provide additional relief for the School District;
- stated that she has concerns with the public assuming that the mill rate will be down; and
- commented that she hopes the public understands that the mill rate will change, but the Assembly has no way of knowing how much until the budget process is complete.

Assemblymember Wells:

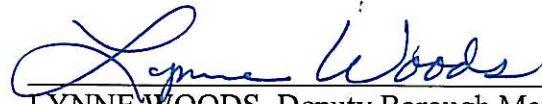
- thanked the public for their participation in the budget process;
- spoke to the State sponsored meeting on the Hatcher Pass Management Plan;
- stated that the focus of the meeting was that Hatcher Pass use is recreational; and
- stated that he appreciated that Manager adding to the appropriation of funds, in order to find a balance between what the School District needs are and the needs of the tax payers.

Deputy Mayor Woods:

- spoke to the need to review trails management at the May 9, 2009 meeting;
- spoke to the concerns constituents regarding trails and trail management;
- noted that she has been studying the budget closely in order to not waste any money and to invest in building our community; and
- thanked the public for their participation in the budget process.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

  
LYNNE WOODS, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 06/02/09