

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 13, 2008, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Mayor Curtis D. Menard for the purpose of discussing the Management Review Audit and continued deliberations 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
- Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
- Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5 (*arrived at 12:17 p.m.*)
- Mr. Robert Wells, Assembly District No. 6 (*arrived at 12:40 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. Marian Romano, Assistant Borough Manager
- Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
- Ms. Cheryl D. Marino, Deputy 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. Nancy Hereford, Land and Resource Management
- Mr. Brad Sworts, Transportation and Environmental Manager
- Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Financial Analyst

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Menard inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kvalheim requested that audience participation be taken up prior to the items of business.

There was no objection noted.

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

(Assemblymember Bettine arrived at 12:16 p.m.)

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. George Stewart, a member of the audience.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to the Borough's publications in the Anchorage Daily News: Ms. Cherie Leblanc-Shue, Anchorage Daily News.

The following person spoke in support of privatizing the landfill: Mr. Mokie Tew.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding for the School District's budget: Ms. Anne Kilkenny, Mr. George Stewart, and Mr. George Troxel.

Assemblymember Bettine queried the amount of funding needed to keep the current School District programs.

Mr. Troxel:

- commented that he did not have the requested amount with him; and
- noted that full funding would enable the School District to retain the programs that they offered last year as well as offer more programs.

Discussion ensued regarding the School District's budget.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. MANAGEMENT REVIEW AUDIT

Mr. John Hambides, Dhillon Management Services, provided an overview of the Emergency Services portion of the Management Review Audit.

(Assemblymember Wells arrived at 12:40 p.m.)

Assemblymember Kluberton:

- queried the liability of the Borough;
- queried the recommendation of additional staff to enhance operations, and
- queried the delegation of authority procedure.

Mr. Hambides:

- commented on the elevated risks associated with the current operations;
- noted that no goals or objectives were clearly defined; and
- spoke to the need for a well-defined delegation policy.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- queried the need for an independent review of the Emergency Operations Plan; and
- queried the budget amount needed to fund the recommendations.

Mr. Hambides:

- stated that there is a shortfall with the Emergency Services Department's management and operations;
- noted that an additional staff member is not needed; and
- opined that an independent review of the Emergency Operations Plan would not be a big expense.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the monitoring of the Emergency Services Department; and
- the feasibility of adding a staff member.

Mr. Matt Dhillon, Dhillon Management Services, provided an overview of the Solid Waste Division's portion of the Management Review Audit.

Assemblymember Bettine queried the transfer station personnel off-hours at the Big Lake transfer site.

Mr. Dhillon stated that the numbers include normal leave time.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the Solid Waste Division's transfer site employees;
- employee compensation;
- on-call coverage at the transfer sites; and
- raising the rates at the transfer sites.

Assemblymember Church queried if there was funds in the budget to conduct an audit on two departments per year.

Mr. Duffy:

- spoke to the need for the Strategic Plan to be created first; and
- noted the need to continue with the High Performance Organization process.

(The meeting recessed at 1:37 p.m. and reconvened at 1:51 p.m.)

Mr. Brodigan and Ms. Romano provided a presentation regarding the revenue for E-911.

Assemblymember Bettine requested that a meeting be scheduled regarding the Solid Waste Division on June 3, 2008, at 3 p.m.
There were no objections noted.

B. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

1. Ordinance Serial No. 08-008: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONIES FROM THE CENTRAL TREASURY FOR THE BOROUGH OPERATING FUNDS, ENTERPRISE FUNDS AND CAPITAL FUNDS AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF LEVY FOR ALL BOROUGH FUNCTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2008, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2009. *(Main motion pending from: 05/01/08)*

Amendment No. 7A

Areawide: Emergency Services (100.160.300.425.200) (Tab B, Page 117)

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Emergency Services, Building Rental, by striking \$222,200 and inserting in its place \$200,000, for a decrease of \$22,200.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved a primary amendment to adopt the technical amendments as presented by Administration:

- Page B-16, 100-000-000-449-100, Transfers-City of Palmer: proposed at \$123,835, amended by \$53,844 (increase), for an adjusted amount of \$177,679.
- Page B-16, 100-000-000-449-200, Transfers-City of Wasilla: proposed at \$151,435, amended by \$64,831 (increase), for an adjusted amount of \$216,266.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Amendment No. 8

Areawide: Greater Palmer Consolidated FSA: (259.000.000.XXX.XXX) (Tab G, Page 62-63) Areawide Fund (100.000.000.368.220) (Tab B, Page 12)

MOTION: Assemblymember Houston moved a primary amendment to the Greater Palmer Consolidated FSA and the Areawide Fund as follows:

- 411.200, Temp Wages, by striking \$1,429, leaving a balance of \$0;
- 411.300, Medicare, by striking \$21, leaving a balance of \$0;
- 412.600, Workers Compensation, by striking \$139, leaving a balance of \$0;
- 412.700, SBS Contribution, by striking \$88, leaving a balance of \$0;

- 414.200, Expense Reimbursements Outside Borough, by striking \$200, leaving a balance of \$0;
- 414.400, Travel Tickets, by striking \$400, leaving a balance of \$0;
- 429.200, Training/Conference Fees, by striking \$250, leaving a balance of \$0;
- 443.100, Administration/Audit Fees, by striking \$34,098 and inserting \$8,280, for a decrease of \$25,818;
- 446.400, Capital Transfer by striking \$1,525,000 and inserting \$25,000, for a decrease of \$1,500,000; and
- 368.220, Areawide, Service Areas, by striking \$643,238 and inserting \$617,420, for a decrease of \$25,000.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Amendment No. 9

Non-Areawide Services: Animal Care (200.100.606.411.100/200.100.606-412's) (Tab D, Page 17)

MOTION: Assemblymember Church moved a primary amendment to amend the Non-Areawide Fund, Animal Care, to add a permanent part-time (20 hours per week) Volunteer Technician; increasing wages by \$18,444 and increasing Benefits by \$15,903.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymembers Woods, Bettine, and Wells in opposition.

Amendment No. 10

Areawide: Assembly – Clerk – Election/Records Management (100.100.105.411.100, 100.100.105.412's / 100.100.106.411.100, 100.100.106.412's) (Tab B, Page 24 and page 27)

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved a primary amendment to amend the Areawide Fund, Election/Records Management as follows:

- 105.411.100, decreasing wages by \$14,755 leaving a balance of \$81,180;
- 105.412's, decreasing benefits by \$12,693 leaving a balance of \$62,967;
- 106.411.100, decreasing wages by \$22,132, leaving a balance of \$98,594; and
- 106.412's, decreasing benefits by \$19,040, leaving a balance of \$74,227.

VOTE: The primary amendments failed with Assemblymembers Bettine, Woods, and Wells in favor.

Amendment No. 11

Areawide: Information Technology (100.115.121.426.600) (Tab B, Page 60)

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved a primary amendment to amend the Areawide Fund, Informational Technology, Computer Software, by striking \$696,001 and inserting \$521,001, for a decrease of \$175,000.

VOTE: The motion failed with Assemblymembers Bettine and Wells in favor.

Amendment No. 12

Areawide: Emergency Services – Telecommunications Network (100.160.126.429.900) (Tab B, Page 115)

MOTION: Assemblymember Kvalheim moved a primary amendment to amend the Areawide Fund, Emergency Services, Telecommunications Network, under other contractual, to strike \$813,615 and to insert \$413,615, for a decrease of \$400,000 and put the \$400,000 into a reserve for dispatch services.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Amendment No. 14

Non-Areawide: Assembly– Economic Development (200.100.114.429.900) (Tab C, Page 15)

MOTION: Assemblymember Church moved a primary amendment to amend the Non-Areawide Fund, Economic Development, under other contractual, to strike \$90,000 and to insert \$75,000, for a decrease of \$15,000.

MOTION: Assemblymember Wells moved a secondary amendment to amend the Non-Areawide Fund, Economic Development, under other contractual, to strike \$90,000 and to insert \$80,000, for a decrease of \$10,000.

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed with Assemblymembers Woods, Bettine, and Wells in opposition.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed as amended with Assemblymembers Woods, Bettine, and Wells in opposition.

(The meeting recessed at 4:21 p.m. and reconvened at 4:37 p.m.)

Amendment No. 15

Education Operating: Areawide (204.000.000.367.110) (Tab J, Page 3) and (100.000.000.445.220) (Tab B, Page 16)

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved a primary amendment to strike \$44,711,888 and insert in its place \$46,495,666 for an increase of \$1,783,778.

VOTE: The primary amendment failed with Assemblymembers Woods, Houston, and Wells in support.

Amendment No. 16

Education Operating: Areawide (204.000.000.367.110) (Tab B, Page 3) and (100.000.000.445.220) (Tab B, Page 16)

MOTION: Assemblymember Kluberton moved an amendment to strike \$44,711,888 and insert in its place \$45,603,777 for an increase of \$891,889.

VOTE: The primary amendment failed with Assemblymembers Woods, Wells, and Kluberton in support.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to accept the Manager's proposed fiscal year 2009 budget for the School District.

VOTE: The motion passed with Assemblymembers Wells and Woods opposed.

(Assemblymember Kluberton exited the meeting at 5:02 p.m.)

Amendment No. 17

Areawide: Capital Projects/Grants, Emergency Services (Tab N, Page 3)

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved an amendment in the Capital Projects/Grants, to decrease the Emergency Services office furniture account by \$45,000, command vehicle by \$60,000, and extended cab by \$60,000, for a total budget reduction of \$165,000.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Wells moved to reconsider the technical amendments that were approved on May 8, 2008.

VOTE: The motion to reconsider the technical amendments failed with Assemblymembers Wells, Bettine, and Woods in favor and Assemblymembers

Houston, Kvalheim, and Church opposed. (Tie vote) The motion failed with Mayor Menard invoking his voting privilege in the negative.

Amendment No. 18

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved a primary amendment to amend Section 9 of Ordinance Serial No. 08-008, Appropriation for Reservation of Fund Balance, to decrease the reservation by \$134,545 from \$18,213,278 to \$18,078,733, which is the amount equal to a minimum of 25 percent of all budgeted operating expenditures of the fiscal year 2008 budget, excluding the budgeted operating expenditures of the School District.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved to set the areawide mill rate at 10.326 with a rebate of .681 and the non-areawide mill rate at .383.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved a secondary amendment to set the areawide mill rate at 9.645 and the non-areawide mill rate at .383 and strike the rebate.

VOTE: The secondary amendment failed with Assemblymembers Kvalheim, Bettine, and Wells in favor and Assemblymembers Houston, Woods, and Church in opposition. (Tie vote) The motion failed with Mayor Menard invoking his voting privilege in the negative.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymembers Bettine and Wells opposed.

VOTE: The main motion to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 08-008 as amended passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved to reconsider Ordinance Serial No. 08-008.

VOTE: The motion to reconsider failed unanimously.

C. INTRODUCTION (For public hearing – 05/20/08, 7 p.m., in the Borough Assembly Chambers)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 08-070: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MSB 8.52.020, AND ADOPTING MSB. 8.55.110, TEMPORARY NOISE PERMIT.

a. IM No. 08-128

Ms. McKechnie read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearing for May 20, 2008.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VII. VETO

A. MOTION TO OVERRIDE ANY POSSIBLE MAYORAL VETO ON FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET ITEMS (ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 08-008)

(There were no vetoes presented.)

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie:

- noted that it had been suggested that the Assembly be on their own in between meetings to get their dinner; and
- discussed the Assembly's meeting schedule.

Discussion ensued regarding meeting dates.

Assemblymember Woods requested that the Borough Attorney's evaluation be set for 4 p.m. on June 17, 2008.

There was no objection noted.

Mr. Duffy:

- commented on the need for a strategic plan;
- requested a meeting regarding the strategic plan; and
- thanked the Assembly for the great budget discussion.

Assemblymember Wells thanked the Finance Department for all of their work on the budget.

Assemblymember Bettine noted that it was a good meeting and discussion.

Assemblymember Woods spoke to the Job Corps Run flyer.

Assemblymember Church:

- spoke to the Job Corps Run; and
- thanked the Finance Department for their work on the budget.

Assemblymember Kvalheim:

- thanked the Finance Department for their work on the budget; and
- noted that she is grateful that the mill rate was reduced.

Assemblymember Houston:

- spoke to the School District's prioritization; and
- requested a synopsis of this fiscal year's deliberation to be given to the Assembly at next year's budget meetings.

Mayor Menard thanked the Finance Department, Mr. Duffy, and the Clerk's Office.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.


CURTIS D. MENARD, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 06/03/08