

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on September 9, 2008, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Curtis D. Menard for the purpose of holding a joint Assembly/School Board meeting.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1 (*Deputy Mayor*) (*arrived at 6:12 p.m.*)  
Ms. Michelle R. Church, Assembly District No. 3  
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4  
Ms. Cindy Bettine, Assembly District No. 5  
Mr. Robert Wells, Assembly District No. 6 (*via teleconference*)  
Mr. Tom Kluberton, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly member absent and excused was:

Mr. Pete Houston, Assembly District No. 2

School Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Sarah Welton, Seat B (*School Board President*)  
Ms. Patricia Purcell, Seat D (*via teleconference*)  
Ms. Colleen Hamblen, Seat F  
Mr. Myrl Thompson, Seat G

School Board members absent and excused was:

Mr. Jim Colver, Seat A  
Ms. Susan Pougher, Seat C  
Ms. Cheryl Turner, Seat E

Borough staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk  
Mr. John, Duffy, Borough Manager  
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney  
Ms. Amanda E. Charles, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk  
Mr. Mark Mayo, Planning Director  
Ms. Linda Brenner, Community Development Director  
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director  
Mr. Keith Rountree, Public Works Director  
Mr. Bill Klebesadel, Project Management and Engineering Division Manager

School Board staff in attendance were:

Mr. George Troxel, Superintendent of Education

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved without objection.

### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Bettine.

### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke regarding the Trunk Road extension south and possible issues therein:  
Mr. Pat Lyman.

The following person spoke regarding various routes to connect Nelson Road extension to Fairview Loop: Ms. Monika Swan.

The following person spoke regarding the acquisition of her property on Linlu Lane due to the Nelson Road extension: Ms. Theresa Armestad.

### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Building Construction Progress [*pursuant to MSB 2.12.075(A)*]**

Mr. Rountree:

- spoke regarding the legislative grants list for 2009;
- provided a construction update on Susitna Valley High School;
- stated that the latest meeting with the insurance company took place on July 16, 2008, regarding Susitna Valley High School;
- advised that the construction of Susitna Valley High School would be complete in 2009;
- commented on awards for the Career and Technical High School;
- reported on the heating system for Houston High School;
- addressed the additions and renovations for Wasilla Middle School; and
- commented on the bid process for the Big Lake Elementary re-roof and asbestos abatement project.

Assemblymember Church asked if best value would be used when bidding the project.

Mr. Rountree:

- stated that it is low bidder for smaller projects;
- added that best value is for the large ticket bond items;

- commented on the flooring project for Snowshoe Elementary School;
- reported on Wasilla High School Phase III;
- stated that construction is continuing on South Palmer Elementary School and provided a number of construction highlights; and
- reported on the Nelson Road extension west to Fairview Loop.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- referred to the 2009 designated legislative grants; and
- queried if Public Works had to be involved with the technical updates.

Mr. Rountree stated that Public Works was only involved with the facility projects.

Assemblymember Bettine asked if there were any projects on the list which Public Works had requested for the School District.

Mr. Rountree stated that Public Works had not requested any of these projects on behalf of the School District.

Assemblymember Wells queried if the glycol was in place at Houston High School.

Mr. Rountree:

- stated that glycol on the interior is no longer in place; and
- clarified that the glycol was still in place for the exterior because of the potential for freezing.

Assemblymember Church queried the project to upgrade substandard roads to the standards set forth in the Subdivision Construction Manual.

Mr. Rountree:

- stated that there is a 1991 Subdivision Construction Manual which is in place; and
- explained that it defines how a road of a certain classification needs to be built.

Assemblymember Church asked if all the projects from the list had funding.

Mr. Duffy stated all the projects on the list received funding during the last legislative session.

Assemblymember Kluberton:

- stated that Houston High School was initially a \$34,000 project to recover from glycol contamination and then to install a heat exchanger; and
- queried what the stenciling of the pipes involved.

Mr. Rountree stated that the stenciling would provide a chart for the flow of the pipes.

Assemblymember Bettine queried if the grants could be used for upgrades, which are chosen by the road service area.

Mr. Rountree:

- stated that the funds could be applied to capital programs; and
- noted faults in the current grant program.

Mr. Klebesadel:

- provided a brief history on the Trunk Road extension south;
- noted that he had maps available which depict the road proposals under discussion this evening;
- addressed the maps;
- stated that the goal is to connect Trunk Road to either Fairview Loop or Seward Meridian Parkway;
- provided a report on the different options available for the connection and the issues therein; and
- spoke regarding platting restrictions.

Discussion ensued regarding the Trunk Road extension south and issues with Nelson Road.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- expressed her concern that the Alaska Railroad will on some occasions pay for a crossing and on other occasions they do not; and
- asked that the Manager address the issue with the Alaska Railroad.

Mr. Klebesadel:

- stated that Sweeping Vista's master plan was approved over a year ago;
- spoke to concerns with how the corridor effects the Sweeping Vista's master plan; and
- spoke regarding the overall transportation concerns of the area as it pertains to the railroad.

B. Commission on Salaries and Emoluments (*Requested by: Assemblymember Wells*)

Assemblymember Wells:

- noted that this is a new part of code that had been adopted to review the salaries and emoluments of the elected officials, Planning Commission, and Platting Board;
- requested that the School Board add themselves for the commission to review; and
- stated that the School Board could adopt a resolution in support and the Assembly could amend the ordinance to include the School Board.

Mr. Spiropoulos affirmed the statements.

Assemblymember Woods:

- noted that there has been 55 Assembly meetings to date;
- spoke to the large amount of time that is needed by all the bodies to meet the growing demands of the community; and
- noted the need for the members to be fairly compensated.

School Board President Welton:

- noted that the Clerk had provided her a copy of the ordinance; and
- stated that she would have it distributed to the School Board members and it would be discussed in depth at a later date.

C. Use of School Grounds *(Requested by: Assemblymember Bettine)*

Assemblymember Bettine:

- spoke to concerns with the improper use of school grounds at Big Lake Elementary School;
- noted the need for all citizens to be able to access the basketball courts and other public facilities on school grounds;
- commented on “pocket parks;”
- recognized the fact that vandalism is occurring on school grounds; and
- asked that the School Board look at allowing the public to make use of the schools’ outdoor public facilities.

School Board Member Thompson:

- stated that he had visited the sites; and
- asked if the additional costs for up-keeping the property had been considered by the community.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- stated that the property is partially maintained by the Borough; and
- noted that this issue needs to be addressed.

Mr. Duffy:

- stated that the Borough’s adopted Public Facilities Plan states that schools need to have large school sites; and
- explained that the policy explains that the reason the schools need such large sites is because they are to be used as park facilities.

Assemblymember Bettine stated that there needed to be a resolution to this issue.

School Board President Welton:

- expressed her concerns for a possible increase in vandalism to the schools; and
- noted that if the security bonds pass at the polls, they may have the means to monitor the school grounds more closely.

Mr. Troxell:

- opined that the School Board Members, the public, and administration from both bodies would be supportive;
- suggested performing a needs assessment; and
- noted that a major problem is finding the funds to perform the assessment.

Mr. Duffy stated that he could draft a proposal with Mr. Troxell to address this issue and then bring it back to the bodies.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- areas the security bonds will cover;
- the practicality of having a needs assessment performed; and
- fencing around schools.

D. School District Fund Balance (*Requested by: School Board President Welton*)

School Board President Welton:

- stated this item was on the agenda to explore the possibility of the School District retaining some of the funds at the end of the year; and
- spoke to the need to retain a balance from year-to-year.

Assemblymember Church offered her support for building a fund balance for the School District.

School Board President Welton noted that the School District wanted to have the funds in case of an emergency.

Assemblymember Kluberton noted that the School Board is actually talking about building a reserve.

School Board President Welton stated that the School Board is not currently allowed to have a reserve.

Assemblymember Woods queried the authority that stated the School District could not have reserve funds.

Assemblymember Wells stated that it was mandated within Borough code.

Assemblymember Bettine queried if the School District reports to the Borough's finance department throughout the fiscal year.

Ms. Clayton:

- stated that there is an audit performed each year of the School District and of the Borough; and
- noted that the School District does have the availability to build a reserve fund.

Mr. Troxell commented on the difficulty in the current budgeting system as it pertains to building a reserve fund as it rolls over from year-to-year.

Discussion ensued on ways to build a reserve fund for the School District.

## VII. SCHOOL BOARD, MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

School Board President Welton:

- thanked the bodies for the great communication; and
- commented on International Students Day.

Assemblymember Kvalheim:

- noted that this would be her last Joint Assembly/School Board meeting; and
- commented on the changes in the joint meetings since she first joined the Assembly.

Mr. Spiropoulos reminded the Assembly that he and Mr. Aschenbrenner would be out of the office during the next week.

Assemblymember Wells:

- stated that he would like to see a resolution from the School Board requesting to be added to the Commission on Salaries and Emoluments; and
- requested legislation be drafted allowing the School District to start a reserve fund.

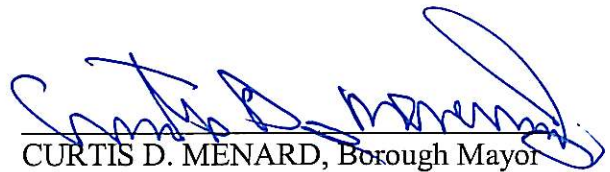
Mayor Menard:

- noted that he has been receiving calls regarding the noise level ordinance from the model airplane;
- stated that he would like to send a letter on behalf of the Mayor and the Assembly, to the Alaska State, Department of Transportation, thanking them for all their work in the Borough this year; and
- asked if the Assembly had any objection.

There was no objection noted.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting recessed at 7:50 p.m.

  
CURTIS D. MENARD, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 10/21/08