

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on September 10, 2013, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District Administration Building, 501 North Gulkana, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of conducting a joint Assembly/School Board meeting.

**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. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4 (*attended telephonically*)  
Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5  
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused:

Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*Deputy Mayor*)  
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6

School Board Members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Debby Retherford, Seat A  
Ms. Sarah Welton, Seat B  
Ms. Susan Pougher, Seat C  
Mr. David Cheezem, Seat G

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie McKechnie Borough Clerk  
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager  
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager  
Mr. Terry Dolan, Public Works Director  
Mr. John Aschenbrenner, Assistant Borough Attorney  
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk  
Mr. Terry Dolan, Public Works Director  
Mr. Jeff Walden, Project Manager  
Mr. Brad Sworts, Transportation Engineer.

**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 Ms. Lonnie McKechnie, Borough Clerk.

#### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

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

#### **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

##### **A. Building Construction Progress and Review Capital Construction Plan (Per MSB 2.12.075)**

Mr. Jeff Walden, Project Manager for the Borough, provided a report regarding building construction progress and the capital construction plan.

Assemblymember Salmon noted that Wasilla High School's new football field was beautiful.

Assemblymember Keogh complimented staff for getting the add-on roof replacements done so quickly.

Dr. Paramo:

- spoke to the good working relationship between School District staff and Borough staff for the bond projects; and
- stated that children in Assembly District No. 7 sent thank you cards for their new playground equipment.

Assemblymember Halter queried the name of the sports team for Joe Redington Senior High School.

Dr. Paramo:

- stated that no decision has been made yet, but that it would probably relate to mushing; and
- noted that they did request that the school colors be a shade of violet in honor of Mrs. Redington's first name.

Assemblymember Halter queried if the new school would have a sports complex.

Mr. Walden noted that it had not yet been designed, but would be in close proximity of the schools.

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if the road access would be sufficient.

Mr. Walden advised that the access would be off Knik Knack Mud Shack Road in order to avoid going through subdivisions.

School Board Member Cheezem:

- noted his pleasure that the Assembly had allocated funds for earthquake safety inspection at older schools; and
- queried the status of the inspections.

Mr. Walden:

- advised that the project grant expiration date is December 1, 2013;
- related that the project is in the Purchasing Division to be put out to bid;
- spoke to concerns that were raised by the granting agency; and
- stated that staff is waiting for an engineering firm to come on board to complete the study by December 1.

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

Dr. Paramo:

- related that student enrollment was projected at 17,500 and it is currently at 17,671;
- noted that funding is based on average daily membership;
- advised that 1,400 of those students will be calculated at 80 percent due to students who are homeschooled; and
- noted that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District is the only large district in the State that has grown.

Mr. Moosey:

- thanked the School Board for allowing the Borough to use their facilities while the Borough's are under construction; and
- spoke to conversations with the School District to work on mutual priorities.

School Board Member Cheezem thanked the body for the joint meeting.

School Board Member Welton:

- thanked the body for the opportunity to discuss joint business; and
- spoke to her appreciation of the thank you cards concerning the new playground equipment.

School Board Member Retherford:

- related that for their last meeting, the School Board travelled to Glacier View School;
- stated that it provides a good opportunity for those residents to see members in their home location, rather than driving many miles to participate in meetings;
- noted that they try to do that a couple of times a year; and
- thanked the Assembly for the joint meeting.

School Board President Pougher:

- thanked the body for the joint meeting;
- opined that it is always good to discuss mutual business; and
- stated that the School District is looking forward to a good year.

Assemblymember Halter:

- spoke to the Susitna Valley High School wood boiler project not being compatible for use with the school due to heat intensity issues;
- noted that there was a meeting to discuss whether or not it would be a good idea to transfer the grant funds to the Talkeetna Library project where it would work;
- stated that the residents have concerns with changing the boiler to the library;
- thanked staff for their hard work on the project, as he was a strong advocate for it to happen; and
- opined that it would provide local jobs, but understands that the project will probably not happen.

Assemblymember Woods stated that he appreciates the joint meetings.

Assemblymember Salmon:

- stated that it is always a pleasure to meet with the School Board;
- opined that they have always done well by children;
- spoke to his appreciation of the working relationship with the School District; and
- stated that he looks forward to the joint meetings.

Assemblymember Keogh:

- noted that he enjoys the joint meetings as well;
- spoke to his surprise that it was such a small agenda;
- related that Swanson Elementary, Big Lake Elementary and Colony High School were the three schools that were re-roofed;
- spoke to a survey of the fastest growing counties/parishes/boroughs in the United States, with there being 750 of them;
- related that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is ranked No. 13 overall; and
- thanked the School Board members for the meeting.

Assemblymember Colligan:

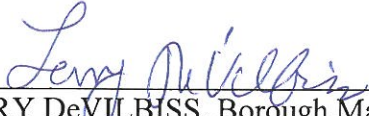
- thanked the body for the joint meeting; and
- stated that he looks forward to working together during the next legislative session to ensure what is best for everyone.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- spoke to concerns regarding a wood fire boiler system and being able to find someone who would fulfill the wood contract;
- noted that the school in Tok has been the model for such a system and that they have been unable to find someone to fulfill the wood contract, which is a huge problem;
- opined that manufactured pellets would be much more efficient and be eventually exportable;
- spoke to the Disaster Preparedness Exposition that will be at Mat-Su College this weekend and invited the body to attend; and
- related that tomorrow is National Anthem Day and that he would be participating in festivities at Swanson Elementary.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

  
LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 10/15/13