

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on November 18, 2003, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Timothy L. Anderson.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. J. Bruce Bush, Assembly District No. 1
Mr. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (Deputy Mayor)

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra A. Dillon, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Teresa S. Williams, Borough Attorney
Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, Deputy Borough Clerk
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Don Shiesl, Public Works Director
Mr. Jack Krill, Emergency Services Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Mayor Anderson noted that AM No. 03-228 would be pulled from the agenda at the request of administration.

Mr. Duffy called the attention of the Assembly to AM No. 03-234 regarding the transition plan for the new Emergency Services Director's position.

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Nick Begich, a member of the audience.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

Mayor Anderson referenced the minutes of the October 28, 2003, special joint Assembly/Planning Commission/Platting Board minutes and asked if there were any corrections thereto.

GENERAL CONSENT: The minutes of the October 28, 2003, special joint meeting were approved as presented without objection.

Mayor Anderson referenced the minutes of the November 4, 2003, regular Assembly meeting and asked if there were any corrections thereto.

GENERAL CONSENT: The minutes of the November 4, 2003, regular Assembly meeting were approved as presented without objection.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. AGENCY REPORTS

1. Reports from cities

(There were no reports presented.)

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

School Board President Chmielewski:

- reported regarding the finance advisory committee meetings that are being held;
- noted that the last meeting of the finance advisory committee would be held on Thursday;
- stated that a written report of the finance advisory committee will be shared with the Assembly;
- noted that the School District would be holding town meetings on December 4 at Wasilla Middle School at 6 p.m. and on December 11 at Palmer High School at 6 p.m.;
- stated that the question of discussion revolve around the statement, "If budget constraints were an issue in our community what is it we would want for education programs and services for our children";
- spoke regarding potential overcrowding issues at some area schools and possible alternatives to the overcrowding;
- reported that Judy Youngquist, a teacher at Tanaina Elementary School, was presented with Teacher of the Year Honors;
- reported regarding school district arbitration with teachers;
- informed that a report would be developed by the arbitrator in a fairly short time after arbitration has been concluded; and
- stated that the School District will begin arbitration with the principals group.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on School Issues

Assemblymember Allen stated that no meetings have been held since the last report was given.

2. Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO)

Mayor Anderson (co-report with Assemblymember Simpson):

- reported that a meeting was held yesterday in Anchorage; and
- noted that items of discussion included: the Knik Arm Crossing and the placement of rail on the bridge; the continuing long-range transportation planning between Mat-Su and Anchorage; and the end of funding from the Alaska State Department of Transportation for the RTPO.

Assemblymember Simpson:

- requested that a discussion on the dual-use vessel for Port MacKenzie and ferry landings be included in the agenda for the next RTPO meeting; and
- stated that the next RTPO meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2004.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Duffy:

- reported that the Port Director has arranged a meeting with a number of state and federal agencies to discuss the possibility of completing a resource analysis to determine wetland and other resource related impacts and mitigation measures as a means of qualifying for a general permit for all development within the port district;
- spoke regarding a letter of qualification received on the Hatcher Pass Ski Resort project;
- referenced a Coal Bed Methane sample ordinance as an attachment to the manager's report;
- advised that the Coal Bed Methane Project Team has scheduled additional meetings in the Borough tentatively on December 9 and 17, 2003, with an afternoon session to be held from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Central Public Safety Building and an evening session to be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at Cottonwood Creek Elementary School;
- referred to a proposal that he developed for the Assembly to handle time-sensitive legislation;
- stated that he would be on vacation through December 12, 2003, and that Finance Director Tammy Clayton would be Acting Manager during this time;
- referenced last year's federal and state legislative priorities as an attachment to the report;
- asked members of the Assembly to have any requests and information forwarded to his Administrative Assistant by December 2 so that he could present a revised state and federal priority list to the Assembly during the December 16, 2003, meeting; and
- reported regarding the review of the reorganization of the Department of Emergency Services.

Assemblymember Simpson inquired regarding scheduling a goal setting meeting for the Assembly.

Ms. Dillon noted that she is waiting to hear back from the facilitator for a goal setting retreat and is trying to schedule a retreat in January.

Mr. Duffy advised members of the Assembly that the School District has an additional 143 students and has inquired about additional funding.

Discussion ensued regarding how a request for additional funding might be addressed by the Borough if received.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Ms. Williams:

- spoke regarding attachments to e-mails that she has been sending and noted that she would now be sending attachments in both Word and WordPerfect; and
- inquired if all members of the Assembly had received a copy of the memo regarding the Platting Board.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. Dillon:

- noted that any agenda items for the Joint Assembly/School Board meeting on December 9 must be submitted before the holiday;
- spoke regarding scheduling the Assembly retreat;
- reported that the Newly Elected Officials training that took place in Nome in conjunction with the Alaska Municipal League (AML) conference was very successful;
- stated that she and the Deputy Clerk had participated in an earthquake simulation disaster drill today; and
- referenced the tracking report and asked the Assembly to let her know of any deletions or additions.

Assemblymember Simpson expressed reservation about having an open forum for questions and answers of the presenters from members of the public during scheduled assembly work sessions, stating that this has traditionally not been the practice of the assembly during a work session format.

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved to have discussion during Coal Bed Methane work sessions contained to the Assembly, staff, and any presenters invited.
(See p. 7 of 15)

Discussion ensued regarding:

- past practice of the Assembly to not take public comments or questions during work sessions, as work sessions have been traditionally established to allow the body to hold informal discussion and to educate themselves on specific subjects without holding a regular or special meeting;

- placing “Audience Participation” on a work session agenda;
- the possibility of accommodating public comment in some other manner in conjunction with assembly work sessions;
- action that can be taken in a special meeting; and
- special and regular meeting agendas already providing a venue for public comment.

Assemblymember Simpson clarified the intent of her motion to be specific to Coal Bed Methane work sessions.

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved the previous question (to stop debate).

VOTE: The motion to stop debate passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion passed with Assemblymembers Allen and Kvalheim opposed.

(The regular meeting recessed at 6:58 p.m. and reconvened at 7:09 p.m.)

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS (to begin at 7 p.m.)

A. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (Three minutes per person.)

(There were no persons to be heard.)

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three minutes per person.)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 03-168: AN ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$10,000 FROM THE GREATER WILLOW ROAD SERVICE AREA CAPITAL PROJECTS, FUND 410, PROJECT NO. 30042, TO FUND 276, GREATER WILLOW OPERATING BUDGET, TO PAY OFF THE REVOLVING LOAN.
 - a. IM No. 03-254

Mr. Duffy provided a staff report stating that the Willow Road Service Area has reappropriated funds to pay off a previous loan.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

There being no one who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Vehrs moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 03-168.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

2. Ordinance Serial No. 03-169: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$7,280 FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,

OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY, TO FUND 480, PROJECT NO. 20325, FOR OLD KNIK TOWNSITE INTERPRETIVE SIGNS PROJECT.

- a. Resolution Serial No. 03-110: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$7,280 FOR RESEARCH, DESIGN, AND PRODUCTION OF THREE INTERPRETIVE PANELS AT KNIK MUSEUM FOR THE OLD KNIK TOWNSITE.
- (1) IM No. 03-255

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

There being no one who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 03-169 and Resolution Serial No. 03-110.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

- 3. Ordinance Serial No. 03-170: AN ORDINANCE FOR THE RECLASSIFICATION AND APPROVAL FOR SALE OR RETENTION OF FOUR BOROUGH-OWNED TRACTS OF LAND IN THE TRAPPER CREEK, SUSITNA RIVER BRIDGE, AND WILLOW AREAS.
- a. IM No. 03-256

Mr. Swanson provided a staff report regarding Ordinance Serial No. 03-170.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

There being no one who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Vehrs moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 03-170.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

- 4. Ordinance Serial No. 03-171: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$300,000 OF INTEREST EARNINGS ON THE 1998 SERIES A, GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS TO FUND 400, SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS, PROJECT NO. 40128, TO FUND THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF TURN LANES ON PITTMAN ROAD TO MEADOW LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. *(Sponsor: Assemblymember Vehrs)*
- a. IM No. 03-257

Ms. Clayton provided a staff report regarding Ordinance Serial No. 03-171.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

There being no one who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Vehrs moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 03-171.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

(There were no persons present who wished to testify.)

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved to reconsider the motion to have discussion during Coal Bed Methane work sessions contained to the Assembly, staff, and any presenters invited. *(See p. 4 of 15)*

VOTE: The motion to reconsider failed with Assemblymembers Kvalheim, Allen, and Colberg in favor and Assemblymembers Bush, Vehrs, and Simpson opposed. (Tie vote) The motion passed with Mayor Anderson invoking his voting privilege in the affirmative.

MOTION: Assemblymember Allen moved a primary amendment to strike the words “Coal Bed Methane” and to insert the word “all.”

Discussion continued regarding consistency in Assembly practices, the importance of public input, and an appropriate forum for public input.

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved the previous question (to stop debate.)

VOTE: The motion to stop debate passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion as amended passed with Assemblymember Kvalheim opposed.

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved to reconsider the main motion as amended.

VOTE: The motion to reconsider failed unanimously.

(The regular meeting recessed at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened at 7:29 p.m.)

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

1. MSB Board/Committee Minutes:
 - a. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 09/18/03
 - b. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board: 10/27/03

- c. Planning Commission: 11/03/03
- d. Wasilla-Lakes Fire Service Area Board of Supervisors: 09/08/03
- 2. Community Council Correspondence:
 - a. Butte Community Council: 07/09/03, 08/13/03, 09/10/03
 - b. Trapper Creek Community Council: 10/09/03

(The citizen and other correspondence was presented and no comments were noted.)

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

- 1. IM No. 03-251: AN INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM REGARDING STAFFING CHANGES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES.
- 2. IM No. 03-270: CHANGE ORDER NO. 4 TO SWALLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INCORPORATED IN AN AMOUNT OF \$75,232.70 FOR THE PORT MACKENZIE VIBRACOMPACTION, GRAVEL CAP AND SAFETY LADDERS, PROJECT NO. 70001.

(The informational memorandums were presented and no comments were noted.)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(There was no unfinished business.)

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. INTRODUCTION (For public hearing - 12/02/03, 7 p.m., Borough Assembly Chambers)
 - 1. Resolution Serial No. 03-113: A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF THE JOINT ASSEMBLY/SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL ISSUES.
 - a. IM No. 03-230
 - 2. Ordinance Serial No. 03-172: AN ORDINANCE RECLASSIFYING APPROXIMATELY 87 ACRES NEAR TRAPPER CREEK FROM "FOREST MANAGEMENT LANDS" TO "PUBLIC RECREATION LANDS."
 - a. IM No. 03-259
 - 3. Ordinance Serial No. 03-173: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$278.10 FROM GCI COMMUNICATIONS TO A NON-LAPSING CAPITAL FUND 480, PROJECT 20312, FOR UPGRADING AND ENHANCING THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH LIBRARIES.
 - a. IM No. 03-261

4. Ordinance Serial No. 03-174: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS, 2004 SERIES A, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$15,895,000, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR SCHOOL AND RELATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH AND TO PAY COSTS OF ISSUING THE BONDS, FIXING CERTAIN DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS, AND AUTHORIZING THEIR SALE.
 - a. IM No. 03-262
5. Ordinance Serial No. 03-175: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS, 2004 SERIES B, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$6,305,000, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR SCHOOL AND RELATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH AND TO PAY COSTS OF ISSUING THE BONDS, FIXING CERTAIN DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS, AND AUTHORIZING THEIR SALE.
 - a. IM No. 03-263
6. Ordinance Serial No. 03-176: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION PORT BONDS, 2004 SERIES C, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000,000 TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR PORT MACKENZIE DOCK AND ROAD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH AND TO PAY COSTS OF ISSUING THE BONDS, FIXING CERTAIN DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS, AND AUTHORIZING THEIR SALE.
 - a. IM No. 03-264
7. Ordinance Serial No. 03-177: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$21,000 FROM SWALLING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INCORPORATED TO THE PORT MACKENZIE PROJECT FROM THE SALE OF SHEET PILES.
 - a. IM No. 03-269

Ms. Dillon read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kvalheim moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearings for December 2, 2003.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

(Resolution Serial No. 03-117 was pulled from the consent agenda and addressed separately. *See p. 11 of 15.*)

1. RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution Serial No. 03-114: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE ACQUISITION, MANAGEMENT PLAN, SITE

PREPARATION, DESIGN, AND ENGINEERING FOR A SUTTON COMMUNITY CENTER AND LIBRARY.

(1) IM No. 03-265

b. Resolution Serial No. 03-115: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE.

(1) IM No. 03-267

c. Resolution Serial No. 03-116: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REVISED SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT RENEWAL AND RENOVATION PROJECTS.

(1) IM No. 03-268

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

a. AM No. 03-222: THE VACATION OF APPROXIMATELY 270 FEET BY 30 FEET WIDE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF EAST FRANCES LANE, LOCATED WITHIN THE SOUTHEAST ¼ SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 18 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST, SEWARD MERIDIAN, ALASKA; LOCATED IN THE GATEWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA.

b. AM No. 03-225: RETROACTIVE APPROVAL OF DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION FOR CATHY L. GARRETT ON TAX ACCOUNT NUMBER: 4649B01L009A FOR TAX YEAR 2003.

c. AM No. 03-226: CONTINUATION OF THE SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR A NEW SUTTON LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER.

d. AM No. 03-227: APPROVAL OF A CHANGE ORDER TO SIMPLEX GRINNELL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,590 FOR THE PALMER HIGH SCHOOL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM PROJECT, PROJECT NO. 40140.

f. AM No. 03-229: AWARD OF PROPOSAL NO. 04-030 TO GREAT NORTHERN ENGINEERING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,310 FOR ANIMAL CARE AND REGULATION HVAC AND ELECTRICAL UPGRADES.

g. AM No. 03-230: AWARD OF PROPOSAL NO. 04-054 TO HDR ALASKA, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000 FOR THE FISH PASSAGE CROSSING DESIGN PROJECT AT CROOKED LAKE AND KINGFISHER LAKE OUTFLOWS AND CARDIFF LANE AND LUPINE LANE CULVERTS.

h. AM No. 03-233: APPROVING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AND THE CHICKALOON TRIBE FOR A LOW-INCOME HOUSING PROJECT.

- i. AM No. 03-234: TRANSITION PLAN FOR THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR.

Ms. Dillon read the consent agenda into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Allen moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

- d. Resolution Serial No. 03-117: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MANAGER TO SUBMIT TO THE STATE OF ALASKA AN APPLICATION FOR A FEDERAL GRANT FOR THE PLANNING FOR PROTECTION OF THE PALMER HISTORIC DISTRICT.
(1) IM No. 03-272

MOTION: Assemblymember Colberg moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 03-117.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Colberg requested a conflict of interest ruling, as he had previously conducted some legal work for the city of Palmer on a variance.

Ms. Williams provided legal counsel and advised that Assemblymember Colberg did not have a conflict of interest.

RULING: Mayor Anderson ruled that Assemblymember Colberg did not have a conflict of interest.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

Mayor Anderson made the following recommendations:

Animal Care and Regulation Board

Patricia (Kate) Dixon

Mayor's Blue Ribbon Fisheries Committee

Michael Sears

Beryozava School Site Selection Committee

Betty Vehrs

Mid-Valley Pathways Alternative School Site Selection Committee

Betty Vehrs

Vocational Education Center Site Selection Committee

Bill Allen

Greater Willow Road Service Area No. 20

Donald L'Huillier

Mayor Anderson requested the following confirmations:

Historical Preservation Commission

Resignation of Charlene Schmidtkunz

Library Board

Resignation of Michael Kelly

Amy Epple

Dave McLaughlin

Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Police Powers

Joseph Masters

Chase Trail Special Service Area No. 134

Beth Pike

Peg Foster

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved to confirm the Mayor's appointments and resignations up for confirmation this evening.

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved to divide the question to remove Amy Epple from the confirmations and to postpone confirmation to the December 16, 2003, regular meeting.

VOTE: The motion to divide the question passed without objection.

MOTION: First segment of the motion: to postpone the confirmation of Amy Epple to the Library Board to the December 16, 2003, regular meeting.

VOTE: The first segment, to postpone the confirmation of Amy Epple to the Library Board to a time certain of December 16, 2003, passed without objection.

MOTION: Second segment of the motion: Confirm the Mayor's appointments and resignations up for confirmation this evening.

VOTE: The second segment, to confirm the Mayor's appointments and resignations up for confirmation this evening, passed without objection.

D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

(There was no other new business.)

X. RECONSIDERATION

(There were no reconsiderations.)

XI. VETO

(There were no vetoes presented.)

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(There was no executive session held.)

XIII. MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assemblymember Simpson:

- commented that the Department of Natural Resources has recorded easements on the Iron Dog Trail and thanked everyone involved;
- stated that she would like to see Emergency Services Director Jack Krill removed from station 6-1 as soon as possible;
- opined that it is good that E-9-1-1 dispatch funds are being looked into;
- spoke regarding the Resource Conservation and Development Council (RCND) seminar on Thursday;
- inquired when the new library system would be going online;
- requested a presentation on the Knik Arm Ferry and plan to be given during the next Matanuska-Susitna Borough/Municipality of Anchorage meeting; and
- wished Mr. Duffy a happy birthday.

Assemblymember Bush:

- extended birthday wishes to Mr. Duffy;
- commented that he would like to send a directive to the Park, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board to look at the issue of linking the trail system in his area with the main trail system; and
- spoke regarding snowmachine use of the trails by people in his area.

Assemblymember Colberg:

- extended birthday wishes to Mr. Duffy;
- spoke to a letter from Helen Munoz and asked that it be added to the Manager's tracking report regarding whether or not the Borough should be handling solid waste and what would a recommendation would be as to whether the Borough should be addressing solid waste as opposed to depending on Anchorage;
- stated that the AML conference was interesting;
- noted that Dan Contini received the AML Employee of the Year Award;
- stated that the Governor's talk about the budget was interesting; and
- commented that the budget discussion also included using a percentage of the Permanent Fund Dividend to address the deficit.

Assemblymember Vehrs stated that the Newly Elected Officials training was very comprehensive and well presented.

Assemblymember Allen:

- spoke regarding the AML conference in Nome;

- commented that he learned he had gone to high school with Assemblymember Vehrs;
- stated that he attended the Mayors' conferences and the Managers' conferences while at AML;
- spoke regarding the Newly Elected Officials' training and stated that Ms. Dillon and the clerks from Fairbanks and Kenai did an outstanding job with the presentation;
- expressed that he is excited that a letter of qualification has been received regarding Hatcher Pass; and
- thanked Assemblymember Bush for taking time out of his vacation to gain more education on Coal Bed Methane.

Assemblymember Kvalheim commented that she also had a great time in Nome during the AML conference and that Ms. Dillon did a fantastic job with the Newly Elected Officials training.

Mayor Anderson:

- commented that the AML conference was good;
- spoke regarding the beautiful community center in Nome where the AML conference was held;
- stated that the Mayors' conference was successful;
- noted that he was elected to the office of 2nd Vice-president of the Conference of Mayors;
- commented in regard to Dan Contini receiving AML's Employee of the Year Award;
- stated that AML is looking at holding the next conference in Sitka;
- thanked Mr. Duffy and Ms. Dickinson for their attendance at the Department of Natural Resources Coal Bed Methane meetings;
- advised that he will be speaking at the Economic Development Conference on Thursday; and
- noted that he would be out on vacation until December 6 and would therefore not be in attendance during the December 2, 2003, Assembly meeting.

Assemblymember Allen requested that a letter be sent to the city of Nome on behalf of the Borough commending the city for their hospitality while hosting the AML conference.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

JIM COLVER, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

SANDRA A. DILLON, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: December 16, 2003