

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on December 14, 2004, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Jim Colver 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
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent were:

Mr. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2

School Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Rob Wells, Seat A
Ms. Sarah Welton, Seat B
Ms. Linda Menard, Seat C
Mr. Jeff Trotter, Seat D
Mr. Mike Chmielewski, Seat E (*School Board President*)
Mr. Daniel Contini, Seat G

School Board members absent and excused were:

Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, Seat F

Borough staff in attendance were:

Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Teresa S. Williams, Borough Attorney
Ms. Janice A. Case, Deputy Borough Clerk
Ms. Marian Romano, Assistant Borough Manager
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Don Shiesl, Public Works Director
Mr. Murph O'Brien, Planning and Land Use Director
Mr. Keith Roundtree, Engineering Division Manager

Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director
Ms. Linda Brenner, Recreational Services Manager

School Board staff in attendance were:

Mr. Jack Sherman, Assistant Superintendent of Business
Ms. Kim Floyd, Public Information Specialist
Mr. Mike Schwartz, Facility Coordinator
Mr. Scott Schwald, Director of Operations and Maintenance
Mr. George Troxel, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Connie Lutz, Executive Director of Curriculum and Assessment

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Colver:

- added item (B)(1) School Bonding Authority Draft to the agenda;
- noted that Representative Carl Gatto would be presenting Sandra A. Dillon, CMC, with a Legislative Citation after the Pledge of Allegiance; and
- inquired if there were any additional changes to the agenda.

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Sandra A. Dillon, CMC, former Borough Clerk.

V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

A. Presentation of Legislative Citation to Sandra A. Dillon by Representative Carl Gatto

Representative Gatto presented Ms. Dillon with a Legislative Citation for her contributions to the Borough, the State, and to the community, signed by all of the members of the State Legislator.

Ms. Dillon stated that it is an honor to receive the Legislative Citation and thanked Representative Gatto and the House and Senate members for conveying the honor upon her.

(The special meeting recessed at 6:12 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.)

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

The following person acknowledged the additional funds the Assembly provided to the School District last year and requested that the Assembly consider the additional supplemental funding request for the School District: Ms. Kathy Summers, President of the Mat-Su Education Association.

There being no others who wished to speak, audience participation closed.

VI. ASSEMBLY ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTION (For public hearing – 01/04/05, 7 p.m., Borough Assembly Chambers)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 05-006: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MANAGER TO ISSUE A 100-FOOT RIGHT-OF-WAY ON A ROUTE MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TO THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, AND THE MATANUSKA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC., ACROSS BOROUGH LAND AND TO AUTHORIZE THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA TO ALSO ISSUE A 100-FOOT RIGHT-OF-WAY ACROSS FORMER BOROUGH LAND THAT HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA WITH RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS TO THE MATANUSKA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC., FOR AN ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE FROM 49th STATE STREET TO THE TRUNK ROAD/PARKS HIGHWAY INTERSECTION AREA.
 - a. IM No. 05-007

Ms. McGehee read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colberg moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearing for January 4, 2005.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VII. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Annual budget (*pursuant to MSB 2.12.075(A)*)

(There was no discussion on this item.)

B. State Legislative Action (*pursuant to MSB 2.12.075(A)*)

1. School Bonding Authority Draft

Assemblymember Kvalheim stated that she has drafted a resolution regarding the school bonding authority and debt reimbursement and would like to receive comments from the Assembly and School Board members.

Deputy Mayor Colver:

- stated that a couple of school site requests have been received; and
- voiced concern regarding being unable to receive bond reimbursement for school sites unless they are purchased within 18 months of closing the sale of the bonds.

Assemblymember Simpson inquired if the School Board has discussed bond proposals with the Legislative Delegation.

School Board Member Wells:

- stated that the School Board has discussed priorities for the upcoming session with the Legislative Delegation;
- noted that Senator Green encouraged the School District to take full advantage of the bond program that is set to expire on December 31, 2004; and
- opined that the bonding program will be the top priority in order to keep up with the growth of the Borough.

Discussion ensued regarding the school bonding draft authority and purchasing sites for future schools.

Deputy Mayor Colver stated that he would like to be added as a sponsor of Assemblymember Kvalheim's draft resolution.

Assemblymember Simpson opined that the School Board should pass the resolution before it is addressed by the Assembly.

School Board President Chmielewski noted that the next School Board meeting is on January 5, 2005.

Deputy Mayor Colver:

- stated that the Assembly could address it on January 4, 2005, and the School Board could address it on January 5, 2005; and
- discussed the importance of addressing it before the State Legislative session begins.

C. Joint Use Agreements Update (*Requested by School District Administration*)

Mr. Sherman:

- reported that the School District and the Borough have been meeting to work on various joint use agreements;
- noted that they have recently approved the joint use agreement for legal services; and
- stated that they will continue to work on several other possibilities over the next few months.

Assemblymember Woods inquired regarding the possibilities that they will be looking at in the near future.

Mr. Duffy:

- stated that they are researching vehicle maintenance;
- noted that they are moving forward with the libraries; and
- commented that IT is also looking at additional ways to combine services.

Mr. Sherman stated that they are working together in a joint trust for insurance.

Deputy Mayor Colver inquired as to a time line for the consolidation of some of the services, such as vehicle maintenance.

Mr. Duffy replied that they should be able to have a commitment by the next joint Assembly/School Board meeting for the vehicle maintenance.

(School Board Member Contini exited the meeting at this time.)

D. 1 Percent Art Update *(Requested by School District Administration)*

Ms. Lutz:

- provided an update on the 1 percent for art projects;
- stated that there have been 12 schools involved since 1998 with a total of 27 projects; and
- reviewed the schools that have completed the 1 percent for art projects.

Assemblymember Vehrs inquired when the projects from the 1994 to 2001 bonds would be completed.

Ms. Lutz:

- stated that they are currently in litigation with the artist for Wasilla Middle School for not completing the artwork on time;
- discussed the time frames for the other projects still underway;
- stated that the 1994 to 1999 bonds should be completed by this time next year;
- noted that they include the students and community members in the process of selecting the artwork, which takes more time; and
- commented that they have not had any problems or vandalism of the art.

Discussion ensued regarding the 1 percent for art projects.

E. Supplemental Funding Request *(Requested by School District Administration)*

Mr. Jack Sherman:

- encouraged the Assembly to consider the supplemental funding request; and
- noted that with the additional students the supplemental funding would amount to \$836,860.

Deputy Mayor Colver inquired what the School District would do with the supplemental funds.

Mr. Sherman replied that it would depend on when the funds were received.

Ms. Clayton:

- stated that they have met with School Board President Chmielewski, School Board Member Wells, Ms. Romano, and Mr. Sherman regarding the completion of the audit and the supplemental funding request; and
- noted that the audit should be completed by the first of January.

Discussion ensued regarding the supplemental funding request.

F. Construction (*Requested by School District Administration*)

Deputy Mayor Colver noted that both Wasilla High School Phase III and Portables would be discussed simultaneously.

- a. Wasilla High School Phase III
- b. Portables

Mr. Shiesl:

- stated that the School District has requested 25 more portables;
- noted that the School District is able to build five portables;
- stated that the additional funding for the 20 portables would be approximately \$1.4 million;
- commented that he has an outdated list of 20 different areas that need to be renovated at the Wasilla High School;
- noted that the cost of these areas is approximately \$2 million;
- stated that there are no funds available;
- spoke to some possible funding sources;
- noted that some of the construction projects would have to be closed out, including the 1 percent for art projects, before the funds would be available; and
- stated that there are additional projects that need to be completed as well.

Assemblymember Colberg asked that if the Borough came up with the funds for the portables would they be able to guarantee that the funds were used for portables.

Mr. Duffy stated that the requirement could be placed in the legislation.

School Board Member Wells:

- referred to the legislation adopted by the Assembly creating a fund for long term renewal and renovation; and
- inquired if the projects for Wasilla High School would be considered long term renewal and renovation.

Mr. Duffy replied that Administration is not proposing funding that fund for the next year.

Mr. Shiesl:

- reviewed current construction projects;
- discussed funding problem for Wasilla Area Elementary School; and
- stated that the design firm is looking at different options for cutting costs.

Discussion ensued regarding funding for construction projects.

Assemblymember Kvalheim referred to a proposed resolution she drafted regarding portables for the next Assembly meeting.

G. Discussion Re: Invitation to Dr. Scott Goldsmith to Present His Study of the Projected Population Growth of the Borough (*Requested by Assemblymember Allen*)

Deputy Mayor Colver explained Assemblymember Allen wanted to invite Dr. Goldsmith to present his study of the projected population growth of the Borough to the Assembly and other boards such as the School Board, Planning Commission, and Platting Board.

School Board Member Wells spoke in support of inviting Dr. Goldsmith to present his study.

Mr. Duffy:

- stated that the Borough has exceeded Dr. Goldsmith's last highest projected growth for the Borough in the last ten years;
- suggested also inviting Neil Freid to discuss his projections; and
- noted that Dr. Goldsmith and Mr. Freid use different models to make their projections.

Deputy Mayor Colver inquired if there was any objection to extending the invitation.

Assemblymember Colberg inquired if there would be a cost associated with the presentation.

Mr. Duffy replied that there would be no cost.

No objection was noted.

H. Community Enrichment Briefing (*Requested by Administration*)

Ms. Linda Brenner provided a report on the community enrichment program.

Assemblymember Vehrs:

- thanked Ms. Brenner for her hard work;
- stated that Ms. Brenner has made the transition to the Community Enrichment Program easy; and
- commented that the money is being well spent.

Assemblymember Simpson inquired regarding the outcome of the initial revenue projection.

Ms. Brenner:

- replied that they have not made as much revenue as originally projected;
- explained that the fees cover the materials and instruction for the classes;
- noted that they are still working on receiving a monthly report on the status of the programs in each of the communities;
- commented that the classes are paying for themselves; and
- stated that a facility fee is not charged when a janitor is normally scheduled to be at the school.

School Board Member Menard:

- inquired regarding the roller skating program at the Talkeetna Elementary School; and
- asked if it was held in the gym.

Ms. Brenner affirmed that the roller skating is held in the gym and that it was approved by the principal of the school.

Discussion ensued regarding the Community Enrichment Program.

I. 20-year Population Forecast (*Requested by School District Administration*)

Mr. O'Brien reviewed the 20-year population forecast provided by the Municipality of Anchorage.

J. Reservation of School Sites and Public Facilities within Title 16 (*Requested by Assemblymember Colver*)

Mr. O'Brien reported that there are some limitations to requiring developers to set aside land for public facilities.

Deputy Mayor Colver stated that the Borough would need to look at how other communities have handled this type of process.

Mr. Duffy:

- stated that an impact fee ordinance could be developed;
- noted that there are some limitations to these ordinances; and
- commented that many communities throughout the United States have impact fee ordinances.

Deputy Mayor Colver:

- stated that setting aside land for public facilities could be a part of the developers planning efforts;
- commented that the ordinance could have a provision requiring developers to work with the Planning Department to develop a master plan with public facilities; and
- stated that the Borough needs to look at different ways of acquiring the land.

Assemblymember Vehrs:

- stated that this is an area where the Borough has the opportunity to work with the developers; and
- noted that she would like to explore this concept with the developers and get their input to find ways to work with them.

Discussion ensued regarding the reservation of land for school sites and public facilities.

VIII. SCHOOL BOARD, MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

School Board Member Wells stated that the School Board will continue to look for alternatives to brick and mortar schools.

School Board Member Menard wished everyone a merry Christmas.

School Board Member Trotter suggested property donations as a possibility for school sites.

School Board Member Welton:

- stated that she has been busy attending the school Christmas programs;
- encouraged everyone to attend the programs; and
- wished everyone happy holidays.

School Board President Chmielewski:

- discussed the growth of the Borough in the past 25 years;
- spoke to the importance of planning for growth;
- stated that it is essential that the Borough and School Board have great communication;
- encouraged the Assembly to attend the School Board meetings; and
- wished everyone happy holidays.

Assemblymember Kvalheim:

- welcomed School Board Member Trotter; and
- wished everyone happy holidays.

Assemblymember Woods:

- stated that the subject of schools are very important;
- congratulated School Board Member Trotter on his appointment to the School Board; and
- wished everyone happy holidays.

Assemblymember Simpson:

- welcomed School Board Member Trotter;
- opined that impact fees would be more easily defended with projected alternative numbers to compare; and
- noted that the projected numbers would also give the Borough a better chance with bonding requests to the State Legislature.

Assemblymember Colberg:

- welcomed School Board Member Trotter;
- discussed the positive and negative effects of an impact fee;
- spoke to local funding becoming more of a source in the future; and
- wished everyone a merry Christmas.

Assemblymember Vehrs:

- discussed the importance of helping the people understand the cost of the services the Borough provides;
- stated that the Midnight Sun Learning Center is doing well;
- spoke to the impacts of the growth in the Borough; and
- wished everyone a merry Christmas.

Mr. Duffy welcomed School Board Member Trotter and wished everyone happy holidays.

Ms. McGehee:

- welcomed School Board Member Trotter;
- wished everyone happy holidays;
- noted that the resume for the facilitator has been provided; and
- stated that she is working to solidify January 8, 2005, for the goal setting retreat.

Deputy Mayor Colver:

- discussed the increased pressure on the tax base to provide more public facilities and services;
- spoke to a higher percentage of a commercial tax base; and
- wished everyone a merry Christmas.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: January 4, 2005