

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on January 9, 2014, at the Borough Assembly Chamber, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, 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. Jim Sykes, Assembly District No. 1
Mr. Matthew Beck, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*Deputy Mayor*) (*arrived at 6:01 p.m.*)
Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7 (*arrived at 6:01 p.m.*) (*attended telephonically*)

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District 4

School Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Deborah Retherford, Seat A
Sarah Welton, Seat B
Susan Pougher, Seat C
Ole Larson, Seat D
Tiffany Scott, Seat E
Dr. Donna Dearman, Seat F
Ray Michaelson, Seat G

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Clerk
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Michael Brown, Capital Projects Director
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director

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 Mr. Perry Bennett, a member of the audience.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

(There was no one present who wished to speak.)

VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Annual Budget, Preliminary Discussion, State Legislative Action Needed *(MSB 2.12.075)*

Dr. Deena Paramo, Superintendent:

- spoke to the District's 2014 - 2015 Legislative priorities;
- spoke to education funding;
- spoke to the impact of employee health insurance costs to the District's budget; and
- spoke to the District's education programming initiatives.

(Assemblymember Halter exited the meeting at 6:12 p.m.)

Mr. Luke Fulp, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations:

- spoke to the District's preliminary fiscal year 2015 budget;
- reported on the increase in instructional funds made available to school districts from the state of Alaska;
- discussed funding from the state of Alaska to offset the cost of health insurance while solutions are considered to manage the rising cost of employee health insurance; and
- spoke to revenue and expense assumptions with respect to budget development.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the District's long term financial forecast;
- the base student allocation funding in Alaska;
- the positive partnership between the Borough and School District and the impact it has had on the passage of school bonds; and
- the rising cost of employee benefits and energy.

B. Susitna Valley High School Ice Rink Update *(Requested by School District)*

Dr. Paramo spoke to funding for the construction of a outdoor ice rink at Susitna Valley High School.

Assemblymember Colver:

- spoke to the benefits of an ice rink to the those living in the upper Susitna; and
- related that a basic outdoor rink with bleachers would serve the community well.

VII. SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

School Board Member Scott:

- related that she looks forward to working with the Assembly on legislative priorities; and
- thanked the body for the opportunity to meet to discuss joint items of business.

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

School Board Member Dearman spoke in appreciation of the opportunity to meet jointly with the Assembly.

School Board Member Retherford:

- spoke to the value of investing in schools; and
- thanked the body for the joint meeting.

School Board Member Larson thanked the Assembly for the joint meeting.

School Board Member Michaelson:

- spoke to the success of Borough schools; and
- thanked the Assembly for the opportunity to meet.

School Board Member Pougher expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet jointly with the Assembly.

(The meeting recessed at 6:59 p.m. and reconvened at 7:10 p.m.)

VIII. ASSEMBLY ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. **Resolution Serial No. 14-006:** A Resolution Supporting The Use Of A General Contractor/Construction Manager Delivery System For The New Dena'ina Elementary School.

1. IM No. 14-024

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 14-006.

Assemblymember Arvin requested a staff report on the general contractor/construction manager delivery system.

Mr. Brown provided a staff report.

Assemblymember Colver:

- spoke in opposition to the general contractor/construction manager delivery system at this time; and
- added that the Assembly needs a better understanding of the model before it is implemented by staff.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- spoke to his professional experience in the construction industry;
- added that he is not familiar with the general contractor/construction manager delivery system; and
- further added that it is not his intent to micromanage staff.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- new school construction under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards;
- the timeline for new school construction;
- the benefits and the Borough's experience with the general contractor/construction manager delivery system;
- the design build method compared to the general contractor/construction manager delivery system; and
- the need to schedule a work session to learn more about the general contractor/construction manager delivery system.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to postpone indefinitely Resolution Serial No. 14-006.

Ms. Clayton provided a staff report on the bond package schedule for school construction projects.

VOTE: The motion to postpone Resolution Serial No. 14-006 indefinitely failed with Assemblymember Colver in support.

VOTE: The main motion passed with Assemblymember Cover opposed.

IX. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie:

- reported that the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources is not available to meet with the Assembly on January 21, regarding House Bill 77;
- added that she is working to schedule the meeting on either January 15, 16, or 17;
- further added that she will let the Assembly know when a meeting date is confirmed;
- reported that she will be out of the office on bond closing January 14 through 16; and
- asked if the Assembly wished to schedule a work session on January 21, at 4:30 p.m. regarding the general contractor/construction manager delivery system.

There was no objection noted.

Assemblymember Salmon:

- spoke to the Assembly approving Certificates of Participation to fund the construction of a new public safety building in the Borough; and
- opined that a new process is not always bad just because it is new.


Assemblymember Beck:

- reported he will be out of town January 16 through 29;
- added that he may participate telephonically in the January 16, Assembly meeting;
- opined that the Assembly has not taken an official position on House Bill 77; and
- opined that as a matter of protocol, the Mayor was remiss in sending a letter to Governor Parnell lauding the goals of House Bill 77, without the consent of the Assembly.

Mr. Hayes announced that a map identifying school projects and public facility project sites has been distributed to the Assembly.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.


LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 02/04/14