

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on March 17, 2015, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss.

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*)
Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4 (*arrived at 6:14 p.m.*)
Mr. Dan Mayfield, Assembly District No. 5
Ms. Barbara Doty, Assembly District No. 6
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk
Mr. Mike Brown, Capital Projects Director
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Terrance Dolan, Public Works Director
Ms. Eileen Probasco, Planning and Land Use Director
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director
Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director
Mr. Michael Brown, Capital Projects Director
Mr. Eric Wyatt, Information Technology Director
Ms. Debra Wetherhorn, Administrative Secretary II

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 Chief Mahlon Greene, District Chief for Caswell Lakes and Willow Fire Stations.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- A. Regular Assembly Meeting: 02/17/15
- B. Special Assembly Meeting: 02/21/15
- C. Regular Assembly Meeting: 03/03/15

Mayor DeVilbiss inquired if there were any changes/corrections to the regular meeting minutes of February 17, 2015, the special meeting minutes of February 21, 2015, or the regular meeting minutes of March 3, 2015.

GENERAL CONSENT: The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. AGENCY REPORTS

1. Reports from cities

Wasilla City

Mayor Bert Cottle:

- related that the new Wasilla City Library ground breaking is March 31 at 2:30 p.m. at the corner of Crusey Street and Swanson Avenue in Wasilla;
- thanked the Assembly for their support of the new library project;
- stated that Mayor DeVilbiss has been invited to speak at the ceremony;
- advised that the City is looking for camp ground hosts for the Lake Lucille campground;
- noted that the job is scheduled for thirty day intervals, with a \$500 stipend, free water, sewer and electric;
- related that April 10 through April 14, the Friends of Wasilla Library will be having their annual book sale at the American Legion, Post 35, located at mile post 36 on the Parks Highway; and
- noted that the funds raised have always gone toward the library.

Palmer City

Mr. Joe Hannan, City Manager:

- announced that PDC Engineering is moving into the city of Palmer;
- requested consideration of the continuing partnership of the Borough and cities regarding libraries;
- spoke to a front page Frontiersman article regarding development of the Bella Vista Subdivision and water issues;

- advised that the city of Palmer would like to partner with the Borough and the State to ensure water infrastructure in that area;
- spoke to residential construction that is occurring within the city of Palmer; and
- invited the body to eat at the “Two Girls and a Grill” food wagon that is located at the Palmer Airport.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

Dr. Deena Paramo, Superintendent:

- thanked Mayor DeVilbiss for providing feedback regarding the School District’s math curriculum;
- stated that on March 31, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Valley Pathways School, there is a regional conference within the state of Alaska concerning a study that is regarding benefits and advantages of prototypical schools in Alaska;
- advised that interviews will be conducted this week to replace Tiffany Scott, who moved back to Kotzebue; and
- stated that there are only nine weeks left of school.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on School Issues

(There was no report provided.)

2. Joint MSB Assembly/MOA Assembly Transportation Subcommittee

(There was no report provided.)

3. Assembly Public Relations

(There were no reports provided.)

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation
2. Strategic Planning Issues

Mr. Moosey:

- spoke to recent negotiations with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA);
- advised that there is no resolution as of yet regarding the ferry, but that discussion went well;
- summarized numerous other meetings that he went to while in Washington, D.C.;
- spoke to his concerns with Senate Bill 64, which will halt any school construction funding for five years;
- spoke to his concerns with Senate Bill 42, regarding personal use fisheries; and
- noted that he was looking for direction on how the body would like those issues addressed.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- noted that the meeting with FTA was engaging;
- summarized the history of the FTA demand letter;
- stated that the Borough will be getting a written response from FTA, after which time negotiations will begin;
- advised that he will provide updates as the issue progresses;
- advised that settlement should be discussed in an executive session within the next two months;
- stated that the Ketchikan lawsuit was stayed by the Supreme Court, but that he has not yet had an opportunity to speak to the Ketchikan Attorney to find out why;
- advised that the stay means that for the coming fiscal year, the local and maximum contribution is still in place;
- noted that there are a lot of bills pending in Juneau;
- stated that he received an email inquiring if the Borough wants to take a position on whether there should be a 12 plant or 24 plant per household limit; and
- noted that if the body would like to weigh in on that, to please let him know.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie:

- spoke regarding the upcoming meeting schedule;
- stated that the dates and locations of the two budget public hearings had to be switched due to facility availability;
- noted that the agenda for the March 24 joint Assembly/Planning Commission meeting is attached; and
- reminded the body that she will be out of the office March 24 through April 7.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

1. MSB Board/Committee Minutes:

- a. Central Mat-Su and West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: Resolution Serial No. 15-01
- b. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: Resolution Serial No. 15-01
- c. Planning Commission: 10/06/14
- d. Platting Board: 12/04/14
- e. Transportation Advisory Board: 12/17/14, Resolution Serial No. 15-02
- f. Trapper Creek RSA Board of Supervisors: 05/21/14, 08/13/14, 11/05/14, Resolution Serial No. 14-02
- g. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 11/10/14, 12/08/14

2. Community Council Minutes:

- a. Sutton Community Council: 02/26/14, 03/26/14, 04/30/14, 05/28/14, 06/25/14, 07/25/14, 08/27/14, 09/25/14, 10/29/14, 11/19/14, 12/17/14

The citizen and other correspondence were presented and no comments were noted.

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

(There were no informational memorandums presented.)

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

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. 15-020:** An Ordinance Creating A Portion Of North Suzanna Street Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 537, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.

- a. IM No 15-030

Mayor DeVilbiss opened the public hearing.

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

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 15-020.

VOTE: The motion failed unanimously.

- 2. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-021:** An Ordinance Creating A Portion Of Wagner Subdivision Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 556, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.

- a. IM No. 15-031

Mayor DeVilbiss opened the public hearing.

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

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 15-021.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

3. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-031:** An Ordinance Amending MSB 4.58, Health And Social Services Board.
 - a. IM No. 15-051

Mayor DeVilbiss opened the public hearing.

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

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 15-031.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

4. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-032:** An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance Of State Of Alaska Lease Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2015 (Goose Creek Correctional Center Project) In An Amount Not To Exceed \$195,000,000; Approving The Form And Substance Of A First Supplement To Trust Indenture, A Second Amendment To Lease Purchase Agreement, A Refunding Trust Agreement And A Bond Purchase Agreement; Authorizing An Offering Document; Making Certain Findings And Determinations; Authorizing The Execution Of Documents And Instruments Necessary Or Convenient To Accomplish The Foregoing; And Containing Other Provisions Relating To The Subject.
 - a. IM No. 15-059

Mayor DeVilbiss opened the public hearing.

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

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 15-032.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

The following persons spoke to concerns with single source bids for generators: Mr. Nicholas Graves, NC Power Systems; and Mr. David Cunningham.

The following persons spoke in support of Resolution Serial No. 15-029: Mr. Mike Klawitter, Nancy Lake Homeowners Association President; Mr. Rene Gonzalez; Ms. Tamara Boeve; Mr. Randall Kowalke; Mr. Nathan Graber; Mr. Steve Charles; Mr. Ed McCain; Mr. Victor Carlson; Mr. William Mailer; and Ms. Kathy Mailer.

The following person spoke to concerns with Resolution Serial Nos. 15-030 and 15-032: Ms. Sara Williams.

The following persons spoke in opposition to Resolution Serial No. 15-032: Mr. Randy LaRose, Ms. Savon Duchein, Mr. Darryl Dreher, Jeanine Erickson; and Ms. Samantha Rogers.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process: Mr. Eugene Haberman.

The following persons spoke in opposition to Resolution Serial No. 15-029: Mr. James Huston and Mr. Doyle Holmes.

(The meeting recessed at 7:20 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.)

Mr. Moosey introduced Ms. Sarah Heath, who staffs Governor Walker's Office that is located in the Borough.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

a. **Resolution Serial No. 15-025:** A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work For Project No. 45167 To Include The Purchase Of An Enclosed Trailer To Haul And Store Willow Rescue Snow Machines And Equipment.

(1) IM No. 15-052

d. **Resolution Serial No. 15-028:** A Resolution Supporting The Alternate Route Past Point Mackenzie For The Alaska Liquid Natural Gas Pipeline.

(1) IM No. 15-067

e. **Resolution Serial No. 15-029:** A Resolution Approving A Loan From The Fire Service Area Revolving Loan Fund, Fund 605, In The Amount Of \$200,000 To The Willow Fire Service Area, Fund 258, To Provide The Funds Necessary To Purchase Property For The New Nancy Lake Warm Storage Fire Station.

(1) IM No. 15-069

g. **Resolution Serial No. 15-031:** A Resolution In Support Of A Cost Of Community Services Study To Provide Information For Development Of The Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. *(Sponsored By Assemblymember Sykes)*

(1) IM No. 15-074

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

a. **AM No. 15-013:** Approving An Amendment To The Road Service Area Road Improvements; Road Maintenance And Repair Capital Projects, Summer 2015 List.

b. **AM No. 15-019:** Approval To Enter Into A Purchase Agreement With The Owner Of Lot 1, Block 2, Shadowmere Estates, Phase I, To Purchase Land In The Amount Of \$30,000 For Future Construction Of A New West Butte Trail Parking Facility (MSB006958).

- c. **AM No. 15-021:** Approval Of A Contract Amendment To The Boutet Company In The Amount Of 330,792.23, To Extend The Contract To December 31, 2016, For Construction Management Services.
- d. **AM No. 15-022:** Award Of Invitation To Bid No. 15-099B To Swalling Construction Company, Inc. In The Amount Of \$2,595,850 For Kroto Creek Bridge No. 2161 Replacement.
- e. **AM No. 15-025:** Award Of Bid No. 15-096B To Valley General Construction, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$339,278 To Upgrade Juniper, Spruce, Cottonwood, Cranberry, And Rose Streets To Borough Standards.

Ms. McKechnie read the above legislation into the record.

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

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

- b. **Resolution Serial No. 15-026:** A Resolution Approving The Financial Responsibility For The M/V Susitna For April, May, And June 2015.
 - (1) IM No. 15-057

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 15-026.

VOTE: The motion passed with Assemblymembers Arvin and Sykes opposed.

- c. **Resolution Serial No. 15-027:** A Resolution Supporting House Bill 87 And Senate Bill 32, An Act Relating To The Sale Of Timber On State Land, And Providing For An Effective Date. *(Sponsored by Mayor DeVilbiss)*
 - (1) IM No. 15-065

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 15-027.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

- f. **Resolution Serial No. 15-030:** A Resolution Creating Alternate Seats For The Marijuana Advisory Committee. *(Sponsored by Mayor DeVilbiss)*
 - (1) IM No. 15-071

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 15-030.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter called for the question (to stop debate).

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VOTE: The motion passed with Assemblymembers Doty, Sykes, and Halter opposed.

- h. **Resolution Serial No. 15-032:** A Resolution To Submit Advisory Questions To The Qualified Non-Areawide Voters Of The Borough At The October 6, 2015, Regular Borough Election To Determine Whether The Public Supports The Prohibition Of Marijuana Cultivation Facilities, Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facilities, Marijuana Testing Facilities, And/Or Retail Marijuana Stores. *(Sponsored By Mayor DeVilbiss)*
(1) IM No. 15-075

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 15-032.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved to postpone Resolution Serial No. 15-032 to June 16, 2015.

VOTE: The motion to postpone failed with Assemblymember Colligan in support.

VOTE: The main motion failed unanimously.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Resolution Serial No. 15-023:** A Resolution Testing A New Seating Arrangement For The Assembly. *(Sponsored by Assemblymember Sykes)*
1. IM No. 15-061

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Sykes moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 15-023.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter called for the question (to stop debate).

VOTE: The motion failed with Assemblymembers Halter, Colligan, and Arvin in support.

VOTE: The main motion failed with Assemblymembers Doty, Sykes, and Beck in support.

IX. VETO

(There were no vetoes presented.)

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. INTRODUCTIONS (For public hearing – 04/07/15 Assembly Chambers)

1. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-036:** An Ordinance Amending Title 43, Subdivisions, To Address Housekeeping And Procedural Items Outlined In The Planning Department Staff Memorandum Dated March 1, 2013. *(Sponsored by Assemblymember Beck)*
a. IM No. 15-058

2. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-037:** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional Grant Funds In The Amount Of \$15,461.92 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Grant, Project No. 45158, Fund 425, For Reimbursement Of Communications Equipment.
 - a. **Resolution Serial No. 15-033:** A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Grant, Project No. 45158, Fund 425, To Include Reimbursement For Communications Equipment.
 - (1) IM No. 15-066
 3. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-038:** An Ordinance Appropriating \$404,304 To Fund 400, For Issuance Costs From The Proceeds Of The 2015 Series "A" School Refunding General Obligation Bonds.
 - a. IM No. 15-072
 4. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-039:** An Ordinance Placing A Moratorium On The Acceptance And Processing Of Applications To Dispose Of Fee Simple Interests Of Previously Disposed Agricultural Property. *(Sponsored by Assemblymember Sykes)*
 - a. IM No. 15-073
- B. INTRODUCTIONS (For public hearing – 04/21/15, Assembly Chambers)
1. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-023:** An Ordinance Creating North Westfork Drive Road Paving Local Improvement District No. 562, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.
 - a. IM No. 15-047
 2. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-024:** An Ordinance Creating Country Ridge Estates Road Paving Local Improvement District No. 563, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.
 - a. IM No. 15-048
 3. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-025:** An Ordinance Creating East New Field Drive Road Paving Local Improvement District No. 564, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.
 - a. IM 15-049
 4. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-034:** An Ordinance Creating A Portion Of West Greensward Drive Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 549, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.
 - a. IM No. 15-063

5. **Ordinance Serial No. 15-035:** An Ordinance Creating A Portion Of Stepan Lake Non-Contiguous Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 554, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.
 - a. IM No. 15-064

Ms. McKechnie read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearings for April 7, 2015, and April 21, 2015, respectively.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

Mayor DeVilbiss requested the following appointments for confirmation:

Enhanced 911 Advisory Board
Rebecca Frey
Marijuana Advisory Committee
Darryl Dreher
Mark Rempel
Sarah Williams
Ed Gravley
Crystal Nygard
Lance Ketterling
Savon Duchein
Lisa Albert-Konecky
John Anderson
John Norris
Link Fannon
Ronda Marcy
Brandon Montano
Rebecca Rein
DeLena Johnson
Lyn Carden

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to confirm the Mayor's appointments.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

(There was no other new business.)

- E. REFERRALS (For referral to the Planning Commission for 90 days or other date specified by the Assembly)

(There were no referrals presented.)

XI. RECONSIDERATION

(There was no reconsideration presented.)

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Moosey:

- advised that he will report back to the body regarding the generator acquisition issue;
- spoke to a meeting scheduled with WesPac regarding a possible lease at Port MacKenzie for liquid natural gas;
- requested direction on how the body would like him to proceed with addressing Senate Bill 64, which proposes a moratorium on new school construction for five years;
- requested direction on how the body would like him to proceed with addressing Senator Bill 42, regarding personal fisheries;
- noted that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Fish and Wildlife Commission has a lot of very smart and capable members;
- stated that he would like to keep them from the political issues that surround making recommendations for board appointments to the State Fisheries Board;
- related that he does not want their value to be diminished by participation in political issues when they are so valuable on scientific issues; and
- advised that he would prefer to be the one to make recommendations to Governor Walker.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the purview of the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission;
- the need to clarify the duties of that Commission;
- that the Commission is an advisory board in nature; and
- the impacts Senate Bills 64 and 42 would have on the Borough.

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if there was any objection to Mr. Moosey representing the interests of the Borough regarding Senate Bills 42 and 64.

There was no objection noted.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- noted that the body has a communication policy and that a letter should be sent to the Legislature;
- opined that it should be adhered to in all instances; and

- opined that Mr. Moosey should propose an amendment to Senate Bill 64 that says it does not apply to districts that are growing.

Assemblymember Beck:

- stated that he was glad that the body is opposed to Senate Bill 64; and
- opined that because there is such a potential for an impact to the Borough that a person should testify before the Legislature rather than just sending a letter.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- that Senate Bill 64 does not impact prior bond commitments;
- that Senate Bill 64 has a provision for the municipality of Anchorage to get reimbursement for schools that are already under development;
- how an amendment could be crafted that would decrease the impact to the Borough;
- the growth rate of the Borough and how growth impacts the need for more schools;
- that the Borough and the School District both have their own lobbyist in Juneau;
- the desire to have the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission testify before the Legislature;
- the work of the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission; and
- the opinion that the Manager should solicit input from the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding Senate Bill 42.

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved to have the Manager represent the Borough and to have him consult the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission and the School Board prior to making any representation before the Legislature regarding Senate Bills 42 and 64.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Ms. McKechnie advised that she hopes to have the new podium by the next regular meeting.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- spoke to how quickly the marijuana issue is moving;
- noted that he is looking forward to the work that the Marijuana Advisory Committee will do;
- reiterated the need for the body to adhere to the communication policy;
- opined that Mayor DeVilbiss needs to be careful when sharing his opinion in public, as it is easy for the public to misconstrue the Mayor's opinion as that of the Assembly;
- spoke to concerns regarding the timing of Assembly resolutions in support of legislation in Juneau;
- opined that the State Lobbyist should advise the Assembly on which legislation they should weigh in on;
- read the Assembly's communication policy into the record; and
- spoke to the need to honor the wish of the voters of Alaska regarding marijuana issues.

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- opined that the Willow Fire Service area is the most ill equipped in the Borough;

- spoke to looking forward to the insurance rating lowering and having better fire service in that area; and
- wished Assemblymember Halter happy anniversary.

Assemblymember Halter:

- thanked Assemblymember Mayfield;
- related that he and his wife were married in Nome in 1985;
- wished his wife a happy anniversary;
- spoke to his desire to take the politics and divisiveness out of the Willow Fire Service Area issue;
- opined it is a major step forward to purchase the building;
- stated that if Mr. Mayor intends to veto the legislation to please do so during this meeting so that he can move to override the veto to keep the building purchase moving forward;
- spoke to the amenities that the building has;
- stated that he wants the mill rate for the Willow Fire Service Area set at 2.75 for fiscal year 2016, which will build up the reserve quickly;
- opined that it is a very low mill rate compared to the road service area mill rate in the same area;
- noted that the square foot cost for the building is \$89 per foot, while the Willow Library remodel was \$475-\$535 a square foot; and
- reiterated that it is a good deal for the service area.

Assemblymember Mayfield wished the body Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Assemblymember Beck:

- thanked the public for their participation in the meeting;
- opined that Assembly District No. 7 is well represented;
- spoke to concerns with the disconnect between the Willow Fire Service Area Board of Supervisors and the residents in that area;
- spoke to concerns with the sole source procurement of generators;
- spoke in support of a new podium;
- stated that he thinks it is a brilliant idea to have a step in front of the dais for the public to be able to step up on to speak to the Assembly;
- stated that he has faith in the Marijuana Advisory Committee to provide a good recommendation to the Assembly; and
- noted that there are many aspects to the marijuana issue that he had never considered.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- spoke to a letter he received regarding a large increase in the value of house assessments;
- noted that he has received a lot of public comment regarding the issue;
- stated that he would like to have any information regarding whether there has been a change in the way assessments are conducted; and
- spoke to the large volume of professional work that the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission has done on behalf of the Borough.

Assemblymember Doty:

- thanked the Willow community for their participation in the meeting;
- opined that the marijuana issue is quite large with a lot of science;
- stated that she believes that with the decriminalization of marijuana, it will provide an opportunity for better research;
- related that she has seen medical marijuana be very successful in some uses, but that it is a complicated issue;
- spoke to looking forward to the new Wasilla Library opening;
- stated that she appreciates Mr. Moosey coming forward and requesting clarification on how the body would like to proceed in regard to the senate bills that were discussed this evening; and
- spoke to the need for assessments to be fair and equal and allow the public time to address concerns when they arise.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- related that he has received a number of calls concerning the increase of electric bills;
- requested the Manager to have a representative from Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) come and speak to that;
- stated that due to the public notification that MEA did, that costs should have been decreased due to the Eklutna generation station rather than increase;
- stated that he would also like a report on the status of the high mast power lines through Wasilla;
- stated that he has never seen members of a road service area or a fire service area come and ask for a mill levy increase;
- spoke in support of obtaining a new fire station for the Willow community; and
- stated that it was a good meeting.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- spoke to a meeting with Governor Walker's Office in which a payment in lieu of taxes agreement was reached;
- stated that he was glad to see that the bid issue raised tonight will be addressed; and
- related that he has been invited to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 8 regarding hemp regulation.

Assemblymember Sykes queried the nature of the Mayor's testimony.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- stated that he would be testifying in support of separating hemp from marijuana and in support of cultivation of hemp;
- advised that he does not intend to veto the legislation regarding the Willow Fire Service Area; and
- spoke to the possibility of the building being acquired in a different manner.

Assemblymember Halter advised that it is not possible.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- spoke to a population comparison he did between Meadow Lakes and Willow;
- spoke to concerns with a sustainable operation if there are too many fire stations;
- stated that he does not think that an increased mill levy will support the service area;
- stated that he likes to be up on the dais during meetings;
- noted that it allows him to very easily see what is happening in the audience; and
- related that he is glad that the body will continue to use the facility as it was built.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- summarized the Mayor's veto powers regarding the budget;
- noted that when the Mayor strikes or reduces appropriation items, there is no automatic mechanism for a corresponding reduction in the mill rate;
- stated that the issue comes up each year; and
- stated that the body could consider bringing forward legislation that would adjust that automatically.

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if that could be done through the budget or if it should be separate legislation.

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that it should be a separate code ordinance.

Assemblymember Beck requested to sponsor that legislation.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- stated that he has not yet received the chart of grants he requested;
- noted that he wants that information prior to budget season;
- stated that he wants all the budget documents available for the public on the Borough's website;
- stated that he agrees with the Mayor's concerns regarding sustainability; and
- noted that the study he has requested will provide answers to the sustainability issue.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- noted that the Alaska Municipal League and the Conference of Mayor's are two totally separate things; and
- advised that the conference was a statement of the Mayor's not the municipalities.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- stated that he appreciates the clarification; and
- opined that it still needs to be very clear when the Mayor is speaking on behalf of himself or on behalf of the Assembly; and
- stated that if there is no disclosure that it could easily be seen that the Mayor's comments are a representation of what the Assembly wants.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(There was no executive session held.)

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.


LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 04/07/15