



Planning Session for 2013 Priorities

Mat-Su Borough Assembly November 2012 Planning Session Report

Session Facilitated & Report Prepared by:

Karen Carswell Kirk, M.Ed.
Consultant / Trainer
November 18, 2012

Retreat Location / Date / Time:

Wasilla Sports Complex
November 17, 2012
12:00p-2:15p

Attendees:

Borough Mayor: Larry DeVilbiss (arrival at 1:15p)
Borough Clerk: Lonnie McKechnie
Borough Manager: John Moosey
Borough Attorney: Nicholas Spiropoulos
Borough Assembly Members:
Warren Keogh
Noel Woods
Ronald Arvin (absent)
Steve Colligan
Darcy Salmon
Jim Colver
Vern Halter

PLANNING RETREAT REPORT

Agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance
- V. Items of Business
 - a. Committee of the whole
 - i. Assembly Planning Session – Establishing 2013 Priorities
 - b. Unfinished business
 - i. 2013 State legislative priorities
 - c. Road trade with the state / Seward Meridian maintenance
- VI. Audience Participation
- VII. Mayor, Assembly and Staff Comments
- VIII. Adjournment



V. Items of Business:
Assembly Planning Session – Establishing 2013 Priorities

➤ **Status of 2012 goals**

- Mr. Moosey delivered brief status of 2012 goals

1st Priority

- Port Expansion
- Rail Extension
- Bridge

- Ordinance Changes / Regulatory Reform

2nd Priority

- Major Land Sale Project
- Road Bonds
- Tourism Infrastructure (private sector jobs)
- Implement Economic Development Plan

3rd Priority

- Streamline / Re-organize Government*
- Borough Space
- Review Boards & Commission Status

Strong Interest / Continued Focus

- Agricultural Development*
- Emergency Services*
- Coal Project
- Port Authority (set benchmarks)
- 4 year University
- Public Meeting Process (open to public)
- River Erosion (proactive plan)
- Ferry
- Budget Process
- Hatcher Pass



➤ **Discuss 2013 priorities**

- Assembly members were each given an opportunity to state and explain their top priorities for 2013
 - Keogh
 - River management
 - Access road (Pioneer Peak)
 - Improvements to Glenn highway (Long Lake...)
 - Coal impact assessment
 - Halter
 - Port protection
 - Tourism infrastructure (Fisheries)
 - Parks highway (Spenard Builders Supply to Big Lake)
 - Road bonds
 - Woods
 - Top priorities from 2012
 - Port
 - Rail
 - Bridge
 - Ordinance changes
 - Water pipe extension
 - Hatcher pass (re-evaluate process)
 - Colver
 - Top priorities from 2012
 - Port
 - Rail
 - Bridge
 - Ordinance changes
 - Tourism infrastructure (Fisheries)
 - Administrative note:
 - Address customer service at borough
 - Colligan
 - Ferry
 - Roads
 - Fisheries (Be specific about how monies will be spent)
 - Strong interest:
 - Streamline govt. processes (ie: receipt of electronic payments)
 - 2year budget process
 - River erosion (conduct analysis before action is taken)
 - Emergency services (review of best practices)



- Salmon
 - Top priorities from 2012
 - Port
 - Rail
 - Bridge
 - Legislative contacts and relationships
 - Health & Social Services
 - SART
 - Public Housing

- Utilizing the compiled list from all members, Assembly members then ranked their top 3 priorities. The results of this ranking was as follows:

➤ **Establish 2013 Priorities**

- (in order of priority)

- **Continue:**

- Port Expansion
- Rail Extension
- Bridge
- Ordinance changes
- Address Ferry (removal)

- **Top 3 2013 additions:**

- Road infrastructure
 - Parks highway (Spennard Builders Supply – Big Lake)
 - Glenn highway improvements (Long Lake...)
 - Bogard Road
 - School access roads (Pioneer Peak)
 - Road / Bond management
- Tourism infrastructure
 - Fisheries
 - Enhance
 - Need 'sideboards'
 - Hatcher pass (address)
 - South Denali project
- Rivers
 - Address management
 - Address erosion / flooding



- **Additional 2013 Priorities:**

- Port Protection
- Legislative contacts and relationships
- Coal impact assessment
- Health & Social Services
 - SART
 - Public Housing
- Emergency Services
 - Timeframe (management review)
 - Plan for development
- Public water & sewer planning (ie: water pipe extension)
- Town site (re: Bridge)
- **Administrative:**
 - Streamline (re-organize) government processes (ie: receipt of electronic payments)
 - Address need for positive, proactive, professional customer service at borough

SUBJECT: A resolution of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly approving state legislative priorities for 2015.

AGENDA OF: August 26, 2014

ASSEMBLY ACTION:
 RS 14-073 & IM 14-138 were amended & adopted without objection. 10-28-14
 Amended & adopted 11-19-14

MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Present to the Assembly for consideration.

APPROVED BY JOHN MOOSEY, BOROUGH MANAGER:

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
1	Originator	AL/JM	
2	Borough Attorney	JS	
3	Borough Clerk	JM	8/18/14

ATTACHMENT(S): Fiscal Note: Yes ___; No X
Resolution Serial No. 14-073(8pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Each year the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough considers and approves a list of legislative and capital priority projects and requests for the state legislative delegation. The following proposed list of projects and requests for calendar year 2015 is presented to the Assembly for consideration.

LIST:

- MSB SEPTAGE AND LEACHATE FACILITY, PHASE I - \$2.2 million
- PORT MACKENZIE RAIL EXTENSION - \$120 million
- MSB SCHOOL ACCESS TRANSPORTATION BOND (2013) - \$14.4 million
- PORT MACKENZIE DOCK PILE PROTECTION AND IMPRESS SYSTEM - \$4 million
- SOUTH GATEWAY VISITOR CENTER - \$5 million
- SEWARD MERIDIAN PARKWAY EXTENSION NORTH, PHASE 2 (PALMER-WASILLA HIGHWAY TO SELDON ROAD) - \$30 million
- MSB SUBSTANDARD ROAD AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS - \$10 million

- MUSEUM DRIVE EXTENSION (PARKS HIGHWAY CONNECTOR) - \$4 million
- FISH PROTECTION - \$2 million
- CONSOLIDATED FLEET SERVICES COMPLEX - \$11 million
- GOVERNMENT PEAK RECREATION AREA - \$6.65 million
- BALD MOUNTAIN MOTORIZED USE PARKING AREA AND TRAILHEAD DEVELOPMENT - SITZE ROAD PARKING AND TRAIL - \$1.25 million
- SOUTH DENALI VISITOR CENTER - \$8 million in State funds with \$20 million in Federal Matching Funds
- EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER - \$5 million
- PALMER AND WASILLA SWIMMING POOL RENOVATIONS - \$12 million
- PARKS HIGHWAY WASILLA ALTERNATIVE CORRIDOR - ADVANCE ROW ACQUISITION - \$10 million
- WEST LAKES FIRE SERVICE AREA - STATION 7-3 - PARKS HIGHWAY STATION- \$3.5 Million
- WASILLA-LAKES FIRE SERVICE AREA - SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING CENTER - \$3 Million

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Consideration and approval of a set of state legislative priorities for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Brenda Henry

From: Lonnie McKechnie
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2014 1:03 PM
To: Darcie Salmon; Jim Colver; Jim Sykes; Larry DeVilbiss; Matthew Beck; Ron Arvin; Ron Arvin; Steve Colligan; Vern Halter
Cc: Borough.Directors; Brenda Henry; Jamie Newman
Subject: Reconsideration - State Legislative Priorities

Mayor and Assembly:

FYI - I was notified by Assemblymember Colver that he will be reconsidering Resolution Serial No. 14-073, State Legislative Priorities. This will be placed on the November 19 agenda and the written reason for the reconsideration will be included in the packet.

Thank you,

Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC
Municipal Borough Clerk
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
(907) 861-8683

Sponsored by: Borough Manager
Postponed to 10/28/14: 08/26/14
Amended: 10/28/14
Adopted: 10/28/14
Reconsideration Filed: 10/28/14
Reconsideration Passed: 11/19/14
Amended: 11/19/14
Adopted: 11/19/14

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 14-073**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY APPROVING
STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2015.

MSB SEPTAGE AND LEACHATE FACILITY, PHASE I - \$2.2 million

The Borough wishes to begin the process to construct a septage and leachate treatment facility to address the disposal of septage created by the 93 percent of the Borough residents who rely on septic tanks for wastewater disposal as well as leachate disposal from the Borough landfill. Currently all septage and leachate is taken into the Municipality of Anchorage, where it receives minimal treatment before discharging to Cook Inlet. Phase I of the project includes the acquisition of land required to support septage and leachate disposal and engineering design. Phase 2 is for construction of a new treatment facility. The Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board has established criteria and a process for site selection. Funding for Phase 1 - Septage and Leachate Treatment Facility engineering design and possible land acquisition is estimated at \$2.2 Million. Phase 2 construction funding is approximated to be \$17.4 Million. The project is supported by the MSB Septage Treatment and Disposal Study (HDR, 2008) and will benefit the vast majority of Borough residents. The timeframe for the Septage and Leachate Treatment Facility (dependent upon funding) is 2020 for completion and beginning operations. This request will fund land acquisition and begin engineering design for the proposed facility.

PORT MACKENZIE RAIL EXTENSION - \$120 million

The 32.5 mile rail line extension connecting the Borough's Port MacKenzie to the Alaska Railroad Corporation's (ARRC) existing mainline track near Houston is a joint project of the Borough and ARRC. The project includes a 1.5 mile bimodal loop, one of the longest rail and road loops in Alaska for 100-car trains and semis carrying bulk materials.

The rail extension provides an economic transportation route from Interior Alaska to tidewater at Port MacKenzie. Rich mineral deposits locked in the Interior will have a cost effective transportation alternative to trucking. Project cargo, bulk resources, and fuel exports will develop further at Port MacKenzie due to the economies of rail. Although dependent on the funding, the project could be completed as early as 2017. Total project cost is estimated at \$303.5 million. Remaining funds required to complete the project are \$120 million. A breakdown of the request is as follows: estimated \$40 million for segment 2, estimated \$15 million for segment 5, and estimated \$65 million for ballast, ties, rail, and loop.

MSB SCHOOL ACCESS TRANSPORTATION BOND (2013) - \$14.4 million

Continued population growth has created a substantial and immediate need for road improvements identified in the Long Range Transportation Plan. These projects will prevent congestion and unsafe conditions.

In October 2013, Matanuska-Susitna Borough voters approved a bond package to provide 50 percent of the estimated funding for important transportation improvements to access to area schools, contingent on the State funding the remaining 50 percent:

- o Lucille Street and Pathway Upgrade for Tanaina Elementary;
- o South Trunk Road Extension Bridge for access to Machetanz Elementary School;
- o Seward-Meridian Parkway Intersection Improvements for access to Cottonwood Creek Elementary School;
- o Trunk Road Connector for access to Pioneer Peak Elementary School; and
- o Vine Road and Hollywood Road Intersection Improvements for access to Goose Bay and Knik Elementary Schools.

During the 2014 session, the State Legislature provided matching funds of \$1.6 Million to fund the construction of Clay Chapman Road/Knik Knack Mud Shack Road for access to the new Knik-Goose Bay Middle and High School.

PORT MACKENZIE DOCK PILE PROTECTION AND IMPRESS SYSTEM - \$4 million

This project will install 50 pipe pile sleeves, 14 fender pile sleeves, and an impress current anode system to protect the dock piles from completely losing the hot-dipped galvanized coating. This will slow down the deterioration of the piles due to scour and ice impact, as well as material loss due to corrosion. The initial zinc coatings on the deep-draft dock support and fender

piles are mostly worn off as documented by engineers. Each pile sleeve repair will consist of two high density polyethylene half-sleeves, 30-feet in length, fastened with three sleeve clamps. The impressed current anode system will be installed mid-way between the deep-draft dock and the sheet pile barge dock to protect both docks. The project will extend the useful life of the deep-draft dock and barge dock approximately another 20 years, thus saving/deferring tens of millions of dollars on future repair and replacement of the piles. The US Army Copy of Engineers permit application is in process. The project could be completed within two years.

SOUTH GATEWAY VISITOR CENTER - \$5 million

The goal of the project is to create a lively, attractive, well-designed space where residents and visitors can directly experience the wealth of cultural, natural, recreational and business amenities in the Mat-Su Valley. It is envisioned as a destination in its own right situated on a bluff with a dramatic view of Pioneer Peak and the surrounding area. Potential partners are involved in the preliminary planning phases. Over 780,000 annual visitors enter the Borough each year and by providing a singular destination with information could be enticed to prolong their stays in the Mat-Su, translating to greater economic activity for the Borough. A feasibility study was completed with funding from the National Scenic Byways program.

SEWARD MERIDIAN PARKWAY EXTENSION NORTH, PHASE 2 (PALMER-WASILLA HIGHWAY TO SELDON ROAD) - \$30 million

Seward Meridian Parkway (SMP) is one of only two north-south arterial corridors in the Borough's transportation network. The project will upgrade the current two-lane road with no shoulder to a four-lane road with shoulders, a separated path, a bridge over Cottonwood Creek, and safety improvements at intersections extending from the Parks Highway to Seldon Road. Phase 1, the Parks to Palmer-Wasilla Highway is complete, and Phase 2, from the Palmer-Wasilla Highway to Seldon Road is anticipated to begin in 2015. Thousands of Borough residents will benefit from this project through increased efficiency of traffic flow (faster travel time, safer travel, lower levels of vehicle emissions, and improved access to businesses, schools, and emergency services facilities). The project is supported by the MSB Long Range Transportation Plan and Official Streets and Highways Plan. The project will also extend SMP from Bogard Road to Seldon Road providing improved access to the Alcantra National Guard Armory and three existing schools. Alaska State

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities estimates this project to cost approximately \$30 million.

MSB SUBSTANDARD ROAD AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS - \$10 million

Many roads within the Borough are in poor repair, lack sufficient right-of-way, sight distance, gravel base, or do not meet minimum design standards. These roads are often and more frequently becoming minor arterials and collectors, and must be upgraded to accommodate the traffic. These improvements will improve the overall functionality and safety of the Borough road system. Many of the roads are part of community transportation plans and the Borough's Long Range Transportation Plan. The project requires ongoing funding and construction until the roads are updated to meet minimum standards.

MUSEUM DRIVE EXTENSION (PARKS HIGHWAY CONNECTOR) - \$4 million

The Parks Highway from Wasilla to Big Lake is being upgraded to a four-lane highway by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities due to high accident rates and traffic congestion. A frontage road system is required to pull local traffic off the Parks Highway. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough owns collector roads that run parallel with the Parks Highway corridor and could be used as frontage roads, but the collector roads are not connected. The Borough has identified four collector roads along this that could be used as frontage roads if connected to relieve the Parks Highway of a significant amount of local traffic. Museum Drive Extension is one of the four roads. The two mile project would extend Museum Drive west from Parks Highway MP 47 to intersect with Vine Road and then link up with Marigold Drive at Sylvan Road. The recent rapid growth in this area has resulted in an increase in local traffic and traffic crashes.

FISH PROTECTION - \$2 million

Salmon populations are declining in the Mat-Su as evidenced by the state designated stocks of concern, frequent sport fishing closures, and associated business losses. The causes for the declines are not understood at this point which is the reason why this project is designed to address multiple fisheries issues. Included in this project are actions to research fishery movements in Cook Inlet, habitat protection activities, and fish passage restoration projects. Research activities would study the movements of the mixed salmon species that live in Cook Inlet waters with the outcomes designed to improve fisheries management.

CONSOLIDATED FLEET SERVICES COMPLEX - \$11 million

Currently, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough operates three fleet maintenance operations: These three operations utilize facilities that are old and are not "purpose-built" to perform an efficient and effective fleet maintenance mission; rather, they are warm storage spaces that have been converted and adapted to fleet maintenance operations. A new facility needs to be designed to allow for a 24-hour operation so as to deliver the level of "after-hours" customer service necessary to keep these important fleets operating at maximum efficiency. The facility used to service the Emergency Services fleet is located in a building the Borough does not even own; the lease expires in 2017. Funding is sought to review the current situation and renovate or design a new, consolidated fleet services structure. This consolidated facility will service the Public Works Department, the Emergency Services Department, and Community Development Department's Parks/Recreation/Trails Division.

GOVERNMENT PEAK RECREATION AREA - \$6.65 million

This project will fund key capital improvements in the Government Peak Recreation Area. Natural gas will be extended to the Transit Center and North Mountain Trails Drive, and the parking lot will be paved. A professional and citizen advisory team is working with the Borough to conceptualize a Master Plan for the area based upon the Hatcher Pass Government Peak Unit Asset Management and Development Plan approved in 2012. Development, if feasible, will be in the southeast quadrant of the borough lands, east of the transit center. The gas line will have the capacity to support future development in the area.

BALD MOUNTAIN MOTORIZED USE PARKING AREA AND TRAILHEAD DEVELOPMENT - SITZE ROAD PARKING AND TRAIL - \$1.25 million

These funds will be used to enhance recreational opportunities for snowmachine use (motorized use) in the Hatcher Pass Management Area. The funds will be used to construct or improving parking and trailheads.

SOUTH DENALI VISITOR CENTER - \$8 million in State funds with \$20 million in Federal Matching Funds

The project will open up the south side of Denali National Park by constructing a year-round recreation facility with the dual purpose of a warming facility for snowmobilers, and information for hikers and tourists. The facility will have road access throughout the year, as opposed to the north side of the park which closes for the winter. The Center is a partnership between

the State of Alaska, National Park Service, Borough, and private entities. The project is supported by the Y Community Comprehensive Plan as well. Tourists are projected to spend an additional \$44 Million in the Borough once the Center opens its doors. Total cost of the project is \$35 Million.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER - \$5 million

The Borough is in the planning stages for a permanent Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which will accommodate the Emergency Management Division staff year-round and serve as the EOC for disaster events, disaster exercises, and training. Disaster events are now managed from a temporary facility that does not meet the majority of the requirements of a contemporary EOC facility: Survivability, Redundancy, Communications, Flexibility and Open Architecture, and Security. A permanent EOC facility will ensure that the EOC is "hot" and immediately available to address any disaster event. The new facility will be approximately 10-12,000 square feet to accommodate offices, training spaces and most importantly all the technological and informational data and services necessary for a strong response effort. The ability to rapidly gather, and process incoming messages and to communicate and display this incoming information is critical to sound decision-making. As the myriad of information is processed and the incident management team responds to the event the timely sharing of the information with the State of Alaska and the local communities, and on-going record-keeping of the event activities is crucial. A permanent EOC will ensure the Borough is adequately prepared to meet these challenges.

PALMER AND WASILLA SWIMMING POOL RENOVATIONS - \$12 million

The recent Pool Assessment Study documented that both the Palmer and Wasilla Pools' operating systems and physical plants have reached obsolescence. The pools host over 150,000 visitors annually through instruction of thousands of children in swimming lessons, lifeguarding classes, and open recreational swim hours. The heating/cooling, electrical, plumbing, pool liners, roof, lighting, as well as other systems and fixtures, could fail at any time. Additionally, the pools are out of code compliance in terms of fire safety and ADA accessibility. If significant repairs are not completed in a very short time frame the Borough faces closed facilities due to extensive state of disrepair and lack of preventative maintenance. Extensive upgrades and repairs are necessary, although the construction of

a new aquatic facility may be more cost effective. Funding Needed: \$12 Million for Renovation; \$19 Million for New Facility.

PARKS HIGHWAY WASILLA ALTERNATIVE CORRIDOR - ADVANCE ROW ACQUISITION - \$10 million

Identify corridor for controlled access facility and purchase right-of-way to preserve the corridor for future alternate free-flow highway facility around Wasilla. General funds are needed to preserve a corridor before development in the area makes such a future corridor cost prohibitive.

WEST LAKES FIRE SERVICE AREA - STATION 7-3 - PARKS HIGHWAY STATION- \$3.5 Million


Construction of a new 24,000 square foot fire station at MP 51.3 of the Parks Highway, with facilities for 24-hour staffing of responders, centralized administrative offices, rooms for training and meetings, and several bays to stage emergency response apparatus. The strategic location sits at the confluence of three communities, Big Lake, Meadow Lakes, and the City of Houston. Sited adjacent to the Parks Highway it will provide for a more rapid response to emergencies in the primary FSA of West Lakes, as well as the other communities that we provide mutual and automatic aid to. Currently the West Lakes FSA has a very limited ability to provide 24-hour staffing out of any fire station. Office space is converted closets and storage rooms at three stations and two stations do not have any office space at all. Training has to be split between stations because the training rooms are too small to hold all of the responders. During winter months vehicles must be parked outdoors.

WASILLA-LAKES FIRE SERVICE AREA - SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING CENTER - \$3 Million

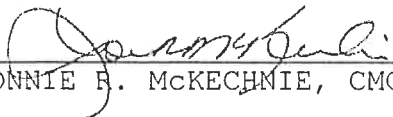
This project will complete Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Southcentral Regional Emergency Services Training Center Development Plan. This project includes the construction of a road system and a water system - including burying water lines and installing hydrants on the property, site clearing for the relocation of two training towers, the development of an emergency helicopter landing pad, the installation of utilities, the design and construction of a warehouse, the construction of a paved vehicle extrication site, a hazmat training site, and the purchase of training site equipment. The training and certification of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Department of Emergency Services on-call responders is critical in developing and maintaining an effective emergency response system. The

current 501 on-call responders answer the emergency calls within their respective communities. The community relies on their level of training to mitigate all types of situations. The total price for the facility is \$5.7 Million.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 28 day of October, 2014.


LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE E. MCKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk
(SEAL)

Final Vote:

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Sykes, Beck, Colligan, Mayfield, Colver, and Halter

Reconsideration Vote:

YES: Sykes, Beck, Colligan, Mayfield, and Colver

NO: Halter

Original Vote:

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Sykes, Beck, Arvin, Colligan, Mayfield, Colver, and Halter