

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

<b>Chairman</b> – LaMarr Anderson (01)	Mark Stahl (03)	Steven Sawyer (06)	Kenneth Hoffman (10)
<b>Vice Chair</b> – Stephen Brown (08)	Kim Bergey (04)	Adam Jenski (07)	Thomas Bergey (11)
Amanda Salmon (02)	Jozef Slowik (05)	Benjamin Swimm (09)	VACANT (12)

## **AGENDA**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS (back half)**  
**Call In #: 1-907-290-7880**  
**Participant Code: 442 980 929#**

**November 15, 2023**  
**4:30 P.M.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Limit 3 minutes)
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. October 18, 2023
- V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS
  - A. Staff Report – Joe Metzger
  - B. Work Session
    1. Smaller Subdivisions (less than 40 acres)
      - a. Pros/Cons
      - b. Homesites
      - c. Ag Related Structures
    2. More than 4 parcels allowed to be subdivided
      - a. Pros/Cons
  - C. 2024 Agricultural Advisory Board Meeting Schedule
- VI. MEMBER COMMENTS (Limit to 3 minutes)
- VII. NEXT MEETING
  - December 20, 2023
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**October 18, 2023**

### **DSJ BUILDING**

**4:30 P.M.**

### **LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL**

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Members present and establishing a quorum were: LaMarr Anderson, Amanda Salmon, Mark Stahl, Kim Bergey (via phone), Jozef Slowik, Steve Sawyer, Adam Jenski, Kenneth Hoffman, and Thomas Bergey (via phone)

Members absent and excused: Stephen Brown and Benjamin Swimm

Staff present: Joseph Metzger, Asset Manager

Margie Cobb, Department Administrative Specialist

#### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Agenda approved as presented.

#### **III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Limit 3 minutes)**

Ben Adams: Requested Board reconsider subdividing parcels and spoke to his request.

Beverly Cutler: Spoke in favor of the Board subdividing parcels.

Rob Wells: Spoke in favor of the Board subdividing parcels.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. September 21, 2022

Mr.Sawyer moved, Mr. Stahl 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes approved.

#### **V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

##### **A. Staff Report**

- Mr. Metzger welcomed Ms. Salmon to the Board; he also mentioned Mr. Stahl and Mr. Sawyer will be retiring from the Board after the December meeting. He suggested the Board consider who to invite to complete an application for the vacancies. The last vacant seat currently is for a non-voting youth intern.
- No additional applications from Title 13 property owners; He plans to send a mailing to Title 13 owners to ensure they know they can apply for Title 13 Conversion to Title 23.
- There is currently a Title 23 property for sale; potential buyers are calling him.
- Sale of Pt. MacKenzie farms on hold, per Assembly directive.

- Working closely with Borough Legal Division on ag-related matters.
- Shared Legislation from 2015 stating what this Board is directed to focus on.

Question was asked whether the Borough knew the utilization of agriculture properties for agriculture purposes. Mr. Metzger said he did not, but Assessments Division may know.

#### B. Work Session Follow up

##### 1. Updated MSB Agricultural Lands Map

- Good progress has been made to identify Title 23 property owners.
- New map includes State agriculture properties and other agriculture-assessed properties within the Borough

##### 2. Smaller Subdivisions (less than 40 acres)

##### 3. More than 4 parcels allowed to be subdivided

##### 4. Where do we go from here/next steps

- Discussion on the above confirmed Items 2 and 3 will be the direction that this Board will discuss and consider moving forward. There was a consensus that there needs to be diversity in the Borough for both large agriculture parcels (cattle, hay, etc.) and small agriculture parcels (smaller crops). Additional research is necessary to forecast future farming needs. Discussion included possibly looking at, in the future, additional tax breaks for farmers.
- Board members to bring recommendations to next meeting to begin addressing the above. Recommendations emailed to Mr. Metzger will be shared with the rest of the Board.

#### VI. MEMBER COMMENTS (Limit to 3 minutes)

Members mutually shared appreciation for the good discussion and different perspectives. Additional comments:

- Mr. Stahl: Inquired on vacant seats coming up.
- Mr. Jenski: Noted the Assembly does need to become better informed on agriculture matters so they can make appropriate decisions. He inquired on whether the process to fill upcoming vacant seats could start now.
- Ms. Bergey: Shared the upcoming Alaska Farm Bureau Annual Conference, November 10-12 at the Egan Center, a great opportunity to connect with agriculture producers from all over the state.

#### VII. NEXT MEETING

November 15, 2023

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

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LaMarr Anderson, Chairman      11/15/2023

ATTEST:

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Margie Cobb  
Department Administrative Specialist



**Agriculture Advisory Board  
Meeting Schedule  
2024**

**Lower Level Conference Room  
Dorothy Swanda Jones Administration Building  
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

**All meetings will be on a need to meet basis. If it is decided that the Board needs to meet the meeting date will be as follows:**

<b>2024 Monthly Meeting Schedule</b>	
<b>Agenda Cut-off</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>
January 2, 2024	January 17, 2024
February 5, 2024	February 21, 2024
March 4, 2024	March 20, 2024
April 1, 2024	April 17, 2024
April 29, 2024	May 15, 2024
<i>No Meetings - June, July, August</i>	
September 3, 2024	September 18, 2024
October 1, 2024	October 16, 2024
November 4, 2024	November 20, 2024
December 2, 2024	December 18, 2024