

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, Alaska 99645

## CHAIRPERSON

Jessica Viera, Acting

## VICE CHAIR

Vacant



## BOARD MEMBERS

Patti Fisher  
Tamika Ledbetter  
Marcie Obremski  
Terry Boyle

## AGENDA

### COMMISSION ON SALARIES AND EMOLUMENTS ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS 350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

## REGULAR MEETING

10 A.M.

DECEMBER 14, 2023

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. October 14, 2021
  - B. October 20, 2021
  - C. October 22, 2023
- V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION
- VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS
  - A. Elect Chair
  - B. Elect Vice-Chair
  - C. Discussion regarding the salaries and emoluments of the Mayor, the Assembly, the School Board, the Planning Commission, and the Platting Board.
  - D. Resolution Serial No. 23-001, A Resolution of the Commission on Salaries and Emoluments Regarding compensation for the Mayor, the Assembly, the School Board, the Planning Commission, and the Platting Board.

VII. COMMISSION COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

A meeting of the Commission on Salaries and Emoluments was called to order in Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska at 12 p.m. by Acting Chair Patricia Fisher

Commission members present and establishing a quorum were:

Patricia Fisher  
Linda Conover  
Jessica Viera  
Terry Boyle

Commission members absent and excused:

Marcie Obremski

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Brenda J. Henry, CMC, Assistant Borough Clerk

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Acting Chair Fisher queried if there were any changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as presented.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no minutes to approve.

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

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

**V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**A. Election of Chair**

Ms. Conover nominated Ms. Fisher as Chair.

There was no objection noted

**B. Election of Vice Chair**

Mr. Boyle nominated Ms. Conover as Vice Chair.

There was no objection noted.

C. Discussion Regarding Purview of the Board

Ms. Henry spoke to the purview of the Board. Suggested a process by which the Commission could make recommendations. Requested that if they would like any other information, to please let her know.

Each member described their background and why they joined the Commission.

D. Discussion Regarding the salaries and emoluments of the Mayor, the Assembly, the School Board, the Planning Commission, and the Platting Board.

Chair Fisher stated that she would like comparisons for the Anchorage and Fairbanks mayoral duties.

Mr. Boyle requested mayoral duties for the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

E. Possible Amendments to Commission on Salaries and Emoluments Resolution No. 21-001

1. Resolution Serial No. 21-001: A Resolution of the Commission on Salaries and Emoluments recommending compensation for the Platting Board, the Planning Commission, the School Board, the Assembly, and the Mayor.

Chair Fisher queried if there was any objection to waiting until all members are present before any action is taken on the resolution.

There was no objection noted.

**VI. BOARD COMMENTS**

There were no comments noted.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
COMMISSION ON SALARIES AND  
EMOLUMENTS**

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**PATRICIA FISHER, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**BRENDA J. HENRY, CMC**  
Assistant Borough Clerk

**Minutes Approved:**

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

A meeting of the Commission on Salaries and Emoluments was called to order in Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska at 2 p.m. by Acting Chair Patricia Fisher

Commission members present and establishing a quorum were:

Patricia Fisher  
Linda Conover  
Jessica Viera  
Terry Boyle  
Marcie Obremski

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Brenda J. Henry, CMC, Assistant Borough Clerk

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Fisher queried if there were any changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as presented.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no minutes to approve.

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no one present who wished to testify.

**V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion Regarding the salaries and emoluments of the Mayor, the Assembly, the School Board, the Planning Commission, and the Platting Board.
- B. Possible Amendments to Commission on Salaries and Emoluments Resolution No. 21-001
  - 1. Resolution Serial No. 21-001: A Resolution of the Commission on Salaries and Emoluments recommending compensation for the Platting Board, the Planning Commission, the School Board, the Assembly, and the Mayor.

MOTION: Ms. Conover moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 21-001.

Ms. Henry reminded members that at the last meeting, there was discussion regarding amending the title to include the Deputy Mayor. Queried if that was something the Commission still wanted to do.

There was no objection noted.

Ms. Henry advised the Commission that a member had requested for Mayor Halter to outline his duties. Stated that when she reached out to Mr. Mayor, that he requested to come speak to the Commission in person. Noted that he will attend the October 22, 2021, meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Conover moved a primary amendment to recommend an increase the Platting Board compensation to \$75 dollars per meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Obremski moved a secondary amendment to strike \$75 and insert \$100.

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed as amended.

MOTION: Ms. Conover moved a primary amendment to recommend an increase the Planning Commission compensation to \$100 per meeting.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Chair Fisher stated that she would like to recommend an increase the School Board compensation of \$350 per month.

There was no objection noted.

MOTION: Ms. Viera moved a primary amendment to recommend an increase to the School Board President compensation to \$400 per month.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Ms. Conover moved a primary amendment to recommend an increase the Assembly compensation to \$20,000 annually.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Ms. Viera moved a primary amendment to recommend an increase the Deputy Mayor compensation to \$23,000 annually.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Ms. Conover moved to postpone Resolution Serial No. 21-001 to a time certain of October 22, 2021.

VOTE: The motion to postpone passed without objection.

**VI. BOARD COMMENTS**

There were no comments noted.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
COMMISSION ON SALARIES AND  
EMOLUMENTS

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PATRICIA FISHER, Chair

ATTEST:

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BRENDA J. HENRY, CMC  
Assistant Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved:



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

A meeting of the Commission on Salaries and Emoluments was called to order in Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska at 2:01 p.m. by Chair Patricia Fisher

Commission members present and establishing a quorum were:

Patricia Fisher  
Linda Conover  
Jessica Viera  
Terry Boyle  
Marcie Obremski

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Brenda J. Henry, CMC, Assistant Borough Clerk  
Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director  
Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC, Borough Clerk

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Fisher queried if there were any changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as presented.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no minutes to approve.

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no one present who wished to testify.

**V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion Regarding the salaries and emoluments of the Mayor, the Assembly, the School Board, the Planning Commission, and the Platting Board.
- B. Possible Amendments to Commission on Salaries and Emoluments Resolution No. 21-001
  - 1. Resolution Serial No. 21-001: A Resolution of the Commission on Salaries and Emoluments recommending compensation for the Platting Board, the Planning Commission, the School Board, the Assembly, and the Mayor.

MOTION PENDING: Ms. Conover moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 21-001.

Mayor Halter spoke to the time he spends working as Borough Mayor.

The Commission asked questions of Mayor Halter.

Ms. Henidel spoke to the budget amendment made by Assemblymember Yundt that proposed to increase the Mayor's salary to \$73,157.

The Commission asked questions of Ms. Heindel.

Ms. McKechnie advised that should a lower figure be adopted for the Mayor's salary that the difference would remain in that fund.

Mayor Halter exited the meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Viera moved a primary amendment to recommend an increase to the Mayor's salary of \$75,000.

VOTE: The motion failed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Viera moved a primary amendment to recommend an increase to the Mayor's salary of \$65,000.

VOTE: The motion passed with Ms. Conover in opposition.

MAIN MOTION: Passed as amended with Ms. Conover in opposition.

Ms. Henry advised that if members would like to add a personal statement to the Commission's resolution, to please email it to her no later than November 5, 2021, so she could attach it to Assembly Ordinance Serial No. 21-040.

Mr. Boyle stated that he is pleased with the recommendations the Commission voted on.

Ms. Conover noted that although she voted in opposition to the recommendation to the Mayor's salary that she is pleased with the efficiency of the Commission.

Ms. Viera spoke to her pleasure that the Commission was able to make a recommendation so efficiently.

Ms. Obremski stated that it was a pleasure to work with the body.

Chair Fisher stated that she enjoyed the work of the Commission.

Ms. Henry advised that normally, the Chairperson is on hand at the Assembly meeting to answer questions of the Commission. Advised that Assembly Ordinance Serial No. 21-040 would be on the November 16, 2021, Assembly agenda.

Chair Fisher queried if there was any objection to her attending the meeting on behalf of the Commission.

There was no objection noted.

Ms. Henry requested permission to cancel the October 25, 2021, 2 p.m. Commission meeting, due to the Commission having already made their recommendation.

There was no objection noted.

## **VI. BOARD COMMENTS**

There were no comments noted.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
COMMISSION ON SALARIES AND  
EMOLUMENTS**

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**PATRICIA FISHER, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**BRENDA J. HENRY, CMC**  
Assistant Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved:

Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
COMMISSION ON SALARIES AND EMOLUMENTS  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 23-001**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH COMMISSION ON SALARIES AND EMOLUMENTS RECOMMENDING NO CHANGES IN COMPENSATION, SALARIES, OR EMOLUMENTS FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

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WHEREAS, the Commission on Salaries and Emoluments is required by code to meet no less than every two years; and

WHEREAS, the last time the Commission met was in October of 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recommended increases as follows:

Body	Value of compensation prior to recommendation	Recommended Increase	Was the recommendation taken?
Platting Board	\$50	\$100	Yes
Planning Commission	\$50	\$100	Yes
School Board Members	\$275	\$300 with retention of current emoluments	Unknown. The Assembly does not have purview over District salaries. Recommendation was provided to Administration
School Board President	\$300	\$400 with retention of current emoluments	Unknown. The Assembly does not have purview over District salaries. Recommendation was provided to Administration
Assembly Members	\$13,300	\$20,000 with	No. Assembly

		retention of current emoluments	made no changes to their salary
Deputy Mayor	\$15,100	\$23,000 with retention of current emoluments	No. Assembly made no changes to Deputy Mayor salary.
Mayor	\$29,975	\$65,000 with retention of current emoluments	Yes, was increased by Ordinance Serial No. 21-040 to \$65,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission on Salaries and Emoluments recommends no changes to compensation, salaries, or emoluments for the Planning Commission, the Platting Board, the School Board, the Assembly, or the Mayor for the next two years.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this \_\_\_\_ day of December, 2023.

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PATTI FISHER, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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BRENDA J. HENRY, MMC,  
Assistant Borough Clerk