Minutes of the Public Hearing
Denali Borough Assembly
Tri-Valley Community Center
January 13, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: The public hearing was called to order by presiding officer Clay Walker at 6:00 PM

ROLL CALL: Assembly members present: Armeda BULARD, Robert KOHLSDORF, Clay WALKER, John WINKLMANN, Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI, Vickie LAUSEN, Bob MUELLER, Cyrus COOPER and Eileen HOLMES.

There were no items on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT The public hearing was adjourned at 6:01 PM.

APPROVED: _____
Clay Walker, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _____
Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: FEBRUARY 10, 2010

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Denali Borough Assembly
Tri-Valley Community Center
January 13, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: Presiding Officer Clay WALKER called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Mayor David Talerico led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Assembly members present: Robert KOHLSDORF, Clay WALKER, Armeda BULARD, John WINKLMANN, Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI, Cyrus COOPER, Bob MUELLER, Vickie LAUSEN and Eileen HOLMES.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kris Capps, Arts Liaison for Denali Borough School District, presented Assembly members with information regarding nominations for the Interior Alaska Mayors' Awards for the Arts. She also encouraged those present to complete the Tri-Valley High School students' Economic Impact Household Survey. Ms. Capps stressed that supporting Arts and Humanities activities is good for the local economy. In March, Les Yuex Noir, a vocal group known throughout the world, will be in the Denali Borough to offer workshops and community performances through the sponsorship of Denali National Park.

Julia Potter, Community Organizer with Denali Citizen's Council, urged the Assembly to consider including Eight Mile Lake within the boundaries of the Stampede Recreation Area, and stated that the Recreation Area would be funded by the state, with no financial obligation on behalf of the Borough.

Pat Winklmann, Healy resident, spoke of the possibility of incorporating trails as part of the In-State Gas Program Stand Alone Route through the Denali Borough. Ms. Winklmann has a petition with over a hundred signatures to include trails in the pipeline plan, and encouraged those present to add their names.

Susan Braun, Stampede Road resident, spoke in support of Resolution 10-04 to include Eight Mile Lake in the Stampede Recreation Area.

Hannah Ragland, Stampede Road resident, spoke in favor of including the Eight Mile Lake area in the Stampede Recreation Area. Ms. Ragland spoke of the amount of trash that is left in the pull-out near Eight Mile Lake, indicating heavy use of the area.

Steve Jones, McKinley Village area resident, urged the Assembly to introduce Resolution 10-04, and to pass it quickly in order to get it to the legislature in a timely manner.

Nan Eagleson, resident at Mile 228 George Parks Highway, spoke in support of the Stampede Recreation Area with the inclusion of the Eight Mile Lake area. Ms. Eagleson spoke of the benefits this would bring, including wildlife management.

Jerryne Cole, resident at Mile 227.5 George Parks Highway, spoke in support of the addition of the Eight Mile Lake sections to the proposed Stampede Recreation Area. Ms. Cole cited the recreation

already occurring in the area, as well as the advantage to locals and visitors alike of having a managed area.

AGENDA

Armeda BULARD MOVED to approve the agenda, John WINKLMANN second. The VOTE to approve the agenda by show of hands was unanimous.

December 9, 2009 Assembly Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

Armeda BULARD MOVED to approve the minutes as submitted. Cyrus COOPER seconded. The VOTE to approve the minutes by show of hands was unanimous. Cyrus COOPER asked that the minutes include a statement that, because an audio recording was not made of the meeting, the minutes were created from memory and short hand notes. Mr. COOPER also noted that on Page 2, Line 39, the record should show that his was a dissenting vote. Robert KOHLSDORF pointed out that on Page 1, Line 41, the record should show Jim Strong is an Anderson resident. Vickie LAUSEN asked that Page 5, Line 46 show her comment to state the importance of reprioritizing the budget. The VOTE to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2009 meeting by show of hands was unanimous.

REPORTS: November 2009 Financial Report

Eileen HOLMES MOVED to receive the financial report, Armeda BULARD second. John WINKLMANN asked several clarifying questions regarding interest on accounts, Overnight Accommodation Tax deposits, employee benefits, as well as identification of check recipients and deposits made. Teresa USIBELLI asked about employee benefits and the balance of the Solid Waste account. Cyrus COOPER noted that the budget is growing, most recently by one-sixth, and asked about the liquidity of Borough holdings, and suggested that investments that earn more interest be considered. John WINKLMANN noted that the loss in interest from prior years is a concern. The VOTE to receive the financial report by show of hands was unanimous.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor David Talerico reported that, in response to a break-in at the landfill gate, video surveillance will be added to the front gate. The rehabilitation of the George Parks Highway from Milepost 240 - 262 was removed from the Department of Transportation STIP list last year but is now in the Governor's capital budget. The budgeted amount is $7.5 million. There was discussion on whether this amount was enough to do everything that was listed in the STIP such as passing and turning lanes. There has been no progress on the appeal to the Alaska Department of Resources on property in the Rex Bridge area. Borough legal counsel will likely structure a meeting with DNR to discuss the issue. On January 14, a forum on jobs and economic growth will be held in Fairbanks, and Assembly members are invited to attend. Denali National Park will be waiving admission on Memorial Day weekend for veterans and active duty military. Mayor Talerico asked Assembly members for ideas on a way for the Denali Borough to join in honoring those in service to our country. USKH has been working on data files, and will be presenting their pilot project to the Planning Commission in the near future. Assembly members will be notified when that presentation will take place.

Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI MOVED to direct the Mayor to consult with Borough legal counsel for a legal letter on his opinion on the Borough's position on the properties located near the Rex Bridge that were purchased from the state of Alaska by private citizens but are Borough Municipal Land Entitlements. The letter is to be distributed to the Planning Commission and the Assembly. John WINKLMANN second. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

SCHOOL REPORT

Denali Borough School District Superintendent Kim Langton reported on school district events and stressed the importance of contacting legislators in support of education funding.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Resignation of Planning Commissioner Jim Anderson. Vickie LAUSEN MOVED to accept Jim Anderson's resignation from the Planning Commission. Robert MUELLER seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

Mayor Talerico recommended the appointment of Steve Jones to Seat B and Elizabeth Usibelli to Seat F of the Planning Commission. John WINKLMANN MOVED to appoint Steve Jones and Elizabeth Usibelli to the Planning Commission. Armeda BULARD second. Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI asked if she should abstain. It was determined she could participate in the vote. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

John Miner gave his personal perspective on a number of Planning Commission issues including Alaska Railroad lands in the Tri-Valley Subdivision, a Borough-wide trail plan, the number of seats on the Planning Commission and the proposed Stampede Recreation Area.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Mayor Talerico recommended the appointment of Mathew Wells to the Recycling Committee. John Winklmann MOVED to appoint Mathew Wells to the Recycling Committee. Robert KOHLSDORF seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Armeda BULARD thanked all in attendance for coming to the meeting, and thanked Assembly members for the grant program for Denali Borough communities. The Cantwell community now has new wrestling floor mats and two new lunch tables due in part to a grant to the Cantwell Sports program.

Cyrus COOPER thanked all in attendance for coming to the meeting, and noted that it is good to see people who are involved in their community. Mr. Cooper would like to see the Borough participate in honoring veterans and active military in conjunction with the Denali National Park Memorial Day weekend event. There is interest in the Denali Borough to form a military affairs committee.

Eileen HOLMES thanked all who called, emailed, and spoke at the meeting to let the Assembly know what people want in the Borough.

Robert MUELLER noted that motorcycle groups make a run through the Denali Borough on their way to Byers Lake every Memorial Day.

Clay WALKER noted that there is a joint work session with the Denali Borough School District School Board on January 19 at 6:00 pm. Mr. WALKER thanked those present for coming out and participating in local government, and pointed out that volunteers are needed from the north and south ends of the Borough to fill Planning Commission seats.

John WINKLMANN thanked all in attendance for coming to the meeting and providing input on issues. He noted that there is a move afoot to reduce the size of the Planning Commission, and that perhaps code should be changed to reflect that, if a seat is open for more than three months, the requirement for residence within a specific geographic area be waived.

Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI MOVED to direct the Borough Clerk to post a notice to the public seeking those interested in serving on a trails committee. John WINKLMANN seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

Robert KOHLSDORF reported that he recently had lunch with Jeff Otteson, head of the Department of Transportation in Juneau, to discuss the George Parks Highway project and guardrails on the Rex Bridge overpass. It is possible that something will be done about guardrails on Rexanna road and driveways.

Vickie LAUSEN thanked all in attendance for coming to the meeting, and thanked fellow Assembly members for serving. Ms. LAUSEN apologized to Borough staff for moving ahead on a Chamber of Commerce issue without having the facts straight.

Presiding Officer Clay WALKER called a meeting recess at 8:04 pm.
The meeting reconvened at 8:21 pm.

Communication and Appearance Request:

1.) Eileen HOLMES moved to allow Scott Thompson, City of Anderson Emergency Services, to speak earlier on the agenda, as he has another meeting this evening. Cyrus COOPER seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous. Mr. Thompson informed the Assembly that the City of Anderson Emergency Services request for $15,000 for the purchase of doors and windows was met through another source, and requested that those funds be converted to allow the City of Anderson Emergency Services to purchase a brush truck. Cyrus COOPER asked about the quality of the vehicle to be purchased for that amount. Mr. Thompson noted that the funds requested may be used to supplement funds from the City of Anderson Emergency Services to purchase a vehicle that would meet the needs of the Department. Eileen HOLMES MOVED to convert the designation of $15,000 for the City of Anderson Emergency Services from doors and windows to a brush truck. Armeda BULARD seconded. The VOTE by roll call was unanimous.

2.) Garry Hutchison, CPA, Kohler, Schmitt & Hutchison, presented results of the Fiscal Year 2009 financial audit for Denali Borough. Mr. Hutchison reported that there were no major issues with the Borough's financial audit, and that the management letter made a few suggestions regarding documentation and other minor issues. There was a significant improvement in the recording of inventory of fixed assets in FY2009. The Denali Borough is in strong financial condition. The auditor would like to see an active finance committee to help with challenges.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 10-01: An ordinance amending the Denali Borough budget for fiscal year 2010. John WINKLMANN MOVED to introduce Ordinance 10-01. Cyrus COOPER seconded. The VOTE by roll call was 3 ayes and 6 opposed as follows: Ayes: Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI, Cyrus COOPER and John WINKLMANN. Opposed were Eileen HOLMES, Armeda BULARD, Robert KOHLSDORF, Vickie LAUSEN, Clay WALKER and Robert MUELLER. Motion failed.

ORDINANCE 10-02: An ordinance amending the Denali Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.10.090, titled Excess Liability - Lapse of Appropriations.
John WINKLMANN MOVED to introduce Ordinance 10-02. Cyrus COOPER seconded. The VOTE by roll call was 8 – 1 as follows: Ayes: Robert KOHLSDORF, Vickie LAUSEN, Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI, John WINKLMANN, Robert MUELLER, Eileen HOLMES, Cyrus COOPER, Robert KOHLSDORF, Vickie LAUSEN and Clay WALKER. Opposed: Armeda BULARD. Motion passes.

Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI MOVED to postpone Ordinance 10-02 to the next meeting. Eileen HOLMES seconded. The VOTE by roll call was unanimous.

RESOLUTIONS:
RESOLUTION 10-01: A resolution supporting the Port Mackenzie Rail Extension.
Eileen HOLMES MOVED to adopt Resolution 10-01. Cyrus COOPER seconded. The VOTE by roll call was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 10-02: A resolution urging the Alaska Legislature to support passage of bills that provide additional tourism marketing funding.
Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI MOVED to adopt Resolution 10-02. Cyrus COOPER seconded. Cyrus COOPER MOVED to amend to change wording in the fourth whereas to: "Whereas the visitor industry contributes critical municipal infrastructure tax revenues." Vickie LAUSEN seconded. The VOTE on the amendment was unanimous. The VOTE by roll call on the main motion to was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 10-03: A resolution in support of the creation of the Denali Borough Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Team.
Eileen HOLMES MOVED to adopt Resolution 10-03. Armeda BULARD seconded. The VOTE by roll call was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 10-04: A resolution to include Eight Mile Lake within the boundaries of the Stampede State Recreation Area. HB 104
Vickie LAUSEN MOVED to postpone. Robert MUELLER seconded. Topics of discussion included notification of area landowners, and how a change to the proposed area would affect the legislative process. The VOTE by show of hands to postpone to the next meeting was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS

1.) Liquor Licenses:

Type:	Restaurant Eating Place Public Convenience Seasonal
License:	Black Bear Coffeehouse – Lic#3754
Location:	Mile Post 238.5 Parks Hwy
Owner:	S Elizabeth Barrett
Agent:	S Elizabeth Barrett

Robert KOHLSDORF MOVED to approve the Black Bear Coffeehouse Liquor License. John WINKLMANN seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

Department of Transportation (DOT) Safe Routes to Schools Program.
Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI MOVED to request that the Borough staff look into what part of this grant would be available to us now. John WINKLMANN seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

Review and approve a response letter to Mr. Shreeve from the Denali Borough Assembly in regard [illegible] Assembly. Vickie LAUSEN seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous. Discussion followed on a number of changes to the letter. Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI MOVED to direct staff to "clean up" the letter and send it on Borough letterhead. John WINKLMANN seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

Summer Tourism
Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI reported on visitation statistics that show a decline of ten percent in Denali visitation from 2006 to 2008, and proposed that the Assembly work with the Chamber of Commerce and the National Park Service to promote tourism in the Denali Borough. We need to campaign to in-state travelers to promote the Denali Borough and it will take money to do so.

John WINKLAMNN agrees with USIBELLI and added that 90 percent of our revenue stream is dependent on tourism. He added that we need to promote trails. The people that visit Anchorage are more impressed with the trails that they have than anything else that they offer.

Jason Motyka, of the Denali Chamber of Commerce, spoke of the need to work together to capture tourism dollars, and urged the Assembly to consider their responsibility to support tourism within the Borough. The Chamber would like to hire someone to work part time to help promote tourism in the Borough. He thinks that $10,000 – $20,000 would help them do this.

Vickie LAUSEN MOVED to schedule a work session with the Denali Chamber of Commerce to discuss tourism issues just prior to the February 10, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Assembly in McKinley Village. John WINKLMANN seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

Public comments.
Teri Simmons, Branch Manager for First National Bank of Alaska, addressed questions that were raised earlier in the meeting regarding interest rates.

Barbara Brease, Healy resident, spoke in support of the Stampede Road Recreation Area with the inclusion of the Eight Mile Lake area. Ms. Brease noted that there are a large number of bird species that breed in the Eight Mile Lake area.

Susan Braun, Stampede Road resident, noted that she did not receive notice as a resident of the earlier proposed Recreation Area. Ms. Braun stated that it was not the responsibility of the Borough to contact residents, as the Recreation Area would be a state issue.

Assembly Comments
Vickie LAUSEN commented that there is a grant writing class offered in Fairbanks in March. Plans for Winterfest are going well. Ms. LAUSEN stated the importance of visiting legislators in Juneau, and encouraged all Assembly members to go.

Robert KOHLSDORF commented on the cold weather – indoors and out.

Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI passed on to the Borough Clerk correspondence she had received from a lawyer soliciting the business of the Denali Borough. Ms. USIBELLI thanked fellow Assembly members for the good meeting.

John WINKLMANN spoke of the need to travel to Juneau to lobby legislators. He feels that if an Assembly member travels to Juneau, then it should be approved by the Assembly. Otherwise, the costs should be taken elsewhere. He encouraged everyone to keep watching the budget because it will come back in a few months. It is the Assembly's budget once the Assembly adopts it.

Clay WALKER noted that Overnight Accommodations Tax revenues are 75 – 80% of the total Borough revenues not 90% as mentioned at the last meeting.

Robert MUELLER thanked fellow Assembly members for a good meeting.

Eileen HOLMES commented that there was an unoccupied house fire in Anderson recently, and that the Anderson and Clear Fire Departments responded. Ms. HOLMES informed the Assembly that she will be absent for the February 10 2010 Assembly work session and regular meeting.

Cyrus COOPER thanked citizens for coming to the meeting and participating in their local government, and expressed his thanks for a good meeting.

Armeda BULARD thanked all for coming and making this a good meeting.

NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING: The next regular meeting will be held at the McKinley Community Center on February 10, 2010; Public Hearing at 6:00 PM, and regular meeting to follow. A work session with the Denali Chamber of Commerce will precede the meeting at 5:30 pm.

ADJOURN: The presiding officer declared the regular meeting adjourned at 10:42 PM.

APPROVED: _____
Clay Walker, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _____
Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: FEBRUARY 10, 2010