

Minutes of the Public Hearing
Denali Borough Assembly
Cantwell School
July 14, 2010

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7 CALL TO ORDER: The public hearing was called to order by deputy presiding officer Bob Mueller at
8 6:00 PM
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10 ROLL CALL: Assembly members present: Robert KOHLSDORF, Armeda BULARD, John
11 WINKLMANN, Bob MUELLER and Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI. Absent: Cyrus COOPER, Clay
12 WALKER, Eileen HOLMES and Vickie LAUSEN.
13

14 ORDINANCE 10-09: An ordinance amending the Denali Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter
15 3.45, titled Business Licenses.
16

17 There were no public comments.
18

19 ORDINANCE 10-10: An ordinance amending the Denali Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter
20 5.05.070 titled Budget.
21

22 There were no public comments.
23
24

25 ADJOURNMENT: The public hearing was adjourned at 6:01 PM.
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30 APPROVED: 
31 Clay Walker, Presiding Officer

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34 ATTEST:  Date Approved: AUGUST 11, 2010
35 Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk
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3 **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**
4 **Denali Borough Assembly**
5 **Cantwell School**
6 **July 14, 2010**
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9 CALL TO ORDER: Deputy Presiding Officer Robert MUELLER called the regular meeting to order
10 at 6:02 PM. Mayor David Talerico led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
11

12 ROLL CALL: Assembly members present: Robert KOHLSDORF, Armeda BULARD, John
13 WINKLMANN, Robert MUELLER and Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI. Absent: Cyrus COOPER, Clay
14 WALKER, Eileen HOLMES, and Vickie LAUSEN.
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16 Armeda BULARD MOVED to excuse Mr. Cooper, Mr. Walker, Ms. Holmes and Ms. Lausen. Robert
17 KOHLSDORF seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.
18

19 PUBLIC COMMENTS

20 There were no public comments.
21

22 AGENDA

23 Robert KOHLSDORF MOVED to approve the agenda as submitted. John WINKLMANN seconded.
24 The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.
25

26 MINUTES

27 June 9, 2010 Assembly Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

28 Armeda BULARD MOVED to approve the minutes as submitted. Robert KOHLSDORF seconded.
29 The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.
30

31 REPORTS: May 2010 Financial Report

32 John WINKLMANN MOVED to receive the financial report. Armeda BULARD seconded. The VOTE
33 by show of hands was unanimous.
34

35 MAYOR'S REPORT

36 Mayor David Talerico provided Assembly members with a Landfill report for the year, and noted that
37 public hauler deliveries have decreased, total tonnage for the year is just under what was estimated,
38 and that the electric usage cost is quite high and includes a 41% fuel surcharge.
39

40 Mayor Talerico received several comments regarding a resolution that was proposed as an agenda
41 item at the last meeting. Because the resolution was not introduced, there is no authorization to the
42 comments received. Several comments have been received regarding shooting ranges. One
43 suggestion was to locate a shooting range in a material site which is owned by the Denali Borough.
44

45 The Alaska Railroad may be willing to partner with Usibelli Coal Mine and the Denali Borough to
46 provide a site for the Derelict and Unwanted Vehicles Project. The site may allow for vehicles to be
47 crushed and loaded right next to the tracks. The Mayor expressed hope of working something out
48 within the next couple weeks.

1 The Mayor reported that the Borough's annual trip into Denali National park is scheduled for August
2 28, and invited Assembly members to participate. He requested those who will participate to RSVP
3 by August 1.
4

5 Mayor Talerico reported that a bear has been regularly tearing up the fence at the Landfill, causing
6 approximately \$5,000 in damage. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has suggested that the
7 bear be tasered. Mayor Talerico expressed his concern for the safety of Landfill employees and
8 patrons.
9

10 Bids for a dump truck for the Landfill have been received, and trucks that fit the specifications of the
11 bid have been inspected. Saw Construction offered the bid that was selected, and the truck will be
12 picked up soon. The amount of the grant for the truck was more than that requested, and allowed
13 for the purchase of other equipment, including a pressure washer.
14

15 Last week, an inspection of the Landfill was conducted. The Landfill score 354 points out of a
16 possible 360, receiving a 98%. On another note, there are a number of items that have been
17 dropped at the Cantwell Transfer Station that need to be hauled to the Landfill by the staff.
18

19 All legislative appropriations for the Denali Borough were approved, including three for the School
20 District, two for fire departments, and another for the Landfill dump truck. All grants were written to
21 the Denali Borough, giving the Borough responsibility for administrating the grants.
22

23 SCHOOL REPORT

24 Vern Carlson, Denali Borough School District (DBSD) School Board member, introduced Kimberly
25 Berge, new DBSD Superintendent. Ms. Berge thanked the Borough for their support for the recently
26 approved legislative grants, and full funding for the school district. Enrollment for Denali PEAK is
27 estimated to be over 200, and the District is implementing a recruitment plan for this program. The
28 plan will be more robust next year.
29

30 SEAT APPOINTMENTS:

31 Trail ways Committee: Nancy Covell
32

33 Mayor Talerico recommended Nancy Covell to the Trail ways Committee. Armeda BULARD
34 MOVED to appoint Nancy Covell to the Trail ways Committee. John WINKLMANN seconded. The
35 VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.
36

37 ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

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39 John WINKLMANN questioned if landfill employees have bear protection.
40

41 Armeda BULARD reported that she attended the Alaska Municipal League (AML) Board of
42 Directors work session on May 8, and had information on what was done available for those who
43 are interested. On July 12, a southern district work session was held in Cantwell regarding
44 shooting ranges. The consensus of Cantwell community members attending was that there was
45 a need for a shooting range in their community. The main hurdle would be locating land for a
46 site. Ms. Bulard and the Mayor will contact the Cantwell Village Council regarding land. Ray
47 Atkins contacted Joe Nava, and he would be willing to come to a meeting to discuss the topic of
48 shooting ranges. Ms. Bulard welcomed Kim Berge to the Denali Borough, and thanked those in
49 attendance for coming to the meeting.

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2 John WINKLMANN MOVED to request Borough administration appoint a group or an individual
3 to contact the Cantwell Village Council and AHTNA, Inc. to discuss land for shooting ranges, and
4 to work jointly with the Assembly on this issue. Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI seconded. The
5 VOTE by show of hands was 4-1 as follows: Ayes – John WINKLMANN, Armeda BULARD,
6 Teresa USIBELLI, Robert KOHLSDORF; Nays – Robert MUELLER. The motion passed.
7

8 Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI asked if the Denali Borough would be sending representatives to the
9 AML Board meeting in August. Ms. Bulard and Mayor Talerico will be attending as AML Board
10 members. Ms. Chepoda Usibelli questioned the minutes of the May 18 Planning Commission
11 meeting regarding leases to Golden Valley Electric Association.
12

13 Robert KOHLSDORF reported that Eileen Holmes is in Great Falls, Montana where her husband
14 is awaiting possible surgery.
15

16 Robert MUELLER no comment.
17

18 Communication and Appearance Request:
19

- 20 1.) Correspondence from Jim Gorski, Borough Attorney, dated June 10, 2010, in reference to
21 Borough payment to Panguingue Creek Homeowners Association for liability insurance and
22 road repair.
23

24 The opinion of Borough legal counsel is that it is improper for public funds to be used to
25 reimburse Panguingue Creek Homeowners Association for liability insurance and road
26 repair/snow plowing. A point of discussion that followed was the question of reimbursing
27 other entities for liability insurance and if grant applications should be altered for more
28 clarification. Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI MOVED to invite legal counsel to attend the next
29 Assembly meeting to ensure the Borough is not funding outside of its powers. John
30 WINKLMANN seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.
31

- 32 2.) Correspondence from Dale Nord, Cantwell Volunteer Fire Department, request for category
33 changes of remaining funds for Borough Grant number 10-FD-AF-CVFD
34

35 Marge Nord, of the Cantwell Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD), informed the Assembly that
36 CVFD was requesting a re-categorization of funds which were spent in fiscal year 2010. It
37 was noted that the fiscal year ended June 30. Armeda BULARD MOVED to grant CVFD
38 their request for a re-categorization of funds for Fiscal Year 2010 Grant 10-FD-AF-CVFD.
39 Bob MUELLER seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.
40

41 Deputy Presiding Officer Robert MUELLER called a meeting recess at 7:20 pm. The meeting
42 reconvened at 7:34.
43

44 PENDING ORDINANCES:
45

46 ORDINANCE 10-09: An ordinance amending the Denali Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter
47 3.45, titled Business Licenses.
48

1 Robert KOHLSDORF MOVED to postpone Ordinance 10-09 to the next meeting. John
2 WINKLMANN seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

3
4 ORDINANCE 10-10: An ordinance amending the Denali Borough Code of Ordinances, Chapter
5 5.05.070 titled Budget.

6
7 John WINKLMANN MOVED to postpone Ordinance 10-10 to the next meeting. Robert
8 KOHLSDORF seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

9
10 RESOLUTIONS:

11
12 There were no resolutions on the agenda.

13
14 OTHER BUSINESS

15 1.) Discussion on Homeland Security Grants and the Denali Borough Budget.

16 John WINKLMANN informed the Assembly that he would like to see grants accounted for in
17 the budget. By Assembly consensus, the Mayor will approach legal counsel regarding the
18 issue and it will be discussed at the next Assembly meeting.

19 2.) USKH Contract: Change order request for an additional \$23,500.

20 Mayor Talerico drew the Assembly's attention to a communication he received from USKH
21 requesting a change order request for their Geodatabase Project contract to increase
22 compensation in the amount of \$23,500 and to extend the completion date to September 1,
23 2010. It was noted that the initial contract completion date was May 30, 2010, and the
24 request is dated June 21, 2010. There have been no changes in the circumstances of the
25 initial contract. Armeda BULARD MOVED to pass the request to the Planning Commission,
26 and to request that the Commission's findings be submitted to the Assembly prior to their
27 August meeting. Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was
28 unanimous.

29
30 3.) State of Alaska, House Bill 357 relating to the sale of land owned by the Alaska Railroad that
31 is not necessary for railroad purposes.

32
33 House Bill 357 was passed on June 15, 2010 and will go into effect on September 15, 2010,
34 and gives the Alaska Railroad Board the ability to lobby legislators to release leased Alaska
35 Railroad land to the leaseholder. Much of the land leased by the Railroad is within the Denali
36 Borough. This Bill enables a community or individual in this situation to lobby the Railroad
37 Board, who may then approach the state legislature to release the property. Mayor Talerico
38 expressed his view that it is in the best interest of the Borough to convert leased lands to
39 private ownership. John WINKLMANN disclosed that he is a leaseholder, and stated that he
40 will work on a resolution to bring forward at the next meeting regarding this issue. Teresa
41 Chepoda USIBELLI disclosed that she holds a sublease and noted that not only residences
42 are on leased lands, but that a cemetery and a recreational park located at Otto Lake are on
43 leased land, as well.

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2 PUBLIC COMMENTS
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4 Gordon Carlson, resident of Cantwell, expressed his desire to see community elders helped with
5 their trash at the Transfer Station. Mr. Carlson also suggested that outside contractors working
6 within the Denali Borough be required, by contract, to purchase a Denali Borough business
7 license.
8

9 Julia Potter of Denali Citizens Council (DCC) invited all present to attend DCC's annual meeting
10 on July 24 at the Nord Haven Hotel. Chris Rose will be the guest speaker, and will be discussing
11 renewable energy futures in the Railbelt.
12

13 Jared Zimmerman, Panguingue Creek Homeowners Association (PCHA), thanked the Assembly
14 for funding their budget request for FY2011. He would like more insight on the liability insurance
15 issue from the Borough attorney at the next meeting. Mr. Zimmerman expressed PCHA's
16 concern for how proposed coal bed methane gas exploration would affect their area, and asked
17 the Assembly to engage with them to help voice their concerns.
18

19 Hannah Ragland, DCC Board member, spoke regarding the Healy gas exploration license and
20 expressed concern that those who have been residents for less than five years have not had an
21 opportunity to comment. DCC has requested that the Alaska Department of Natural Resources
22 extend the comment period, and that current residents be allowed to comment on the license.
23 Ms. Ragland noted that the Matanuska Susitna Borough was able to quash similar development
24 in their borough. Those wishing for more information regarding any of these issues are
25 encouraged to go to denailcitizens.org.
26

27 ASSEMBLY COMMENTS
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29 Robert KOHLSDORF thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting, and stated that he
30 has been nominated for the Board of Directors of Railbelt Mental Health and Addictions. Mr.
31 Kohlsdorf expressed his view that he does not know if there is a solution to the shallow gas
32 development issue, but that it is not going away.
33

34 Teresa Chepoda USIBELLI asked that the Assembly receive the names of Denali Borough
35 Business License holders.
36

37 Armeda BULARD thanked those in attendance for staying through the meeting, and encouraged
38 all to vote on the primary ballot on August 24. Ms. Bulard spoke against the Anti-Corruption Act
39 that will be on the ballot.
40

41 John WINKLMANN thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting. He noted that he
42 believes there is room for improvement on the Ordinance 10-09, and that he will bring comments
43 to the next meeting.
44

45 Robert MUELLER thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting.
46

47 NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING: The next regular meeting will be held at the Anderson School on
48 August 11, 2010; Public Hearing at 6:00 PM, and regular meeting to follow.
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1 ADJOURN: The presiding officer declared the regular meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

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4 APPROVED: 
5 Clay Walker, Presiding Officer

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8 ATTEST: 
9 Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk

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12 Date Approved: AUGUST 11, 2010
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