

Minutes of the Public Hearing  
Denali Borough Assembly  
Cantwell School  
March 11, 2015

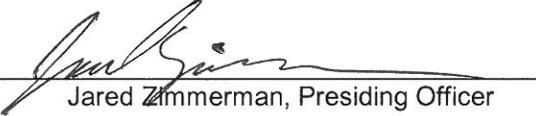
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7 CALL TO ORDER: The public hearing was called to order by Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman at  
8 6:07 PM  
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10 ROLL CALL: Assembly members present: Joe CHATFIELD, David EVANS, Jared ZIMMERMAN,  
11 Krista ZAPPONE, Jill BOELSMA, Kimberly BURROWS and Don DEBLAUW. Absent: Paddy  
12 TATUM.  
13

14 ORDINANCE 15-01: An ordinance creating Denali Borough Code of Ordinances Title 10, titled  
15 Vehicles and Traffic, and creating Chapter 10.05 allowing for permanent registration of motor  
16 vehicles older than eight years and for permanent registration of non-commercial trailers  
17

18 Gordon Carlson, Cantwell resident, spoke in opposition to Ordinance 15-01, commenting that  
19 verifying residency may be an issue and that the ordinance enables those permanently registering  
20 vehicles to get something for nothing.  
21

22 ADJOURNMENT: The public hearing was adjourned at 6:09 PM.  
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25

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27 APPROVED:   
28 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer  
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32 ATTEST:  Date Approved: April 08, 2015  
33 Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk  
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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Denali Borough Assembly  
Cantwell School  
March 11, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER: Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman called the regular meeting to order at 6:09 pm. Mayor Clay Walker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Assembly members present: David EVANS, Joe CHATFIELD, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Don DEBLAUW, Krista ZAPPONE, Jill BOELSMA, and Kimber BURROWS. Absent: Paddy TATUM. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

David EVANS MOVED to excuse Ms. Tatum. Krista ZAPPONE seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

Seat Appointments:

Assembly Seat C: Tallon Shreeve

Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to nominate Tallon Shreeve for appointment to Assembly Seat C. David EVANS seconded.

Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman invited applicants for Assembly Seat C to introduce themselves. Tallon Shreeve introduced himself, stating that he has lived in Alaska all his life, and in Healy for ten years. Charles Terry introduced himself, stating that he has lived in Healy for five years, works at Usibelli Coal Mine, and is seeking appointment based on the importance of participating to have a voice in local issues.

David EVANS MOVED to nominate Charles Terry for appointment to Assembly Seat C. Joe CHATFIELD seconded.

The VOTE by paper ballot was as follows: Tallon Shreeve - . Krista ZAPPONE, Jill BOELSMA, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Joe CHATFIELD, David EVANS; Charles Terry – Don DEBLAUW, Kimber BURROWS. Tallon Shreeve received five votes, Charles Terry received two votes.

The Denali Borough Clerk administered the oath of office to Mr. Shreeve, who then took his seat on the assembly.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marge Nord, Cantwell resident, asked that the assembly pass an ordinance to prohibit marijuana sales in the borough, commenting that a petition will be brought to the assembly regarding the issue.

John Ross, Healy resident, commented that a petition opposing Resolution 15-01 with over 160 signatures was presented to the assembly at a recent work session on the resolution, and that additional signatures had been gathered since that time, which he provided to the assembly. Mr. Ross thanked those present who oppose the resolution, and commented that actions of the assembly should reflect a community voice. Mr. Ross commented that supporters of the resolution

1 have stated concerns about trail degradation, wolf protection, and traditional use of the area, all of  
2 which he believes to be invalid. Mr. Ross encouraged the assembly to look into a permit for trail  
3 rehabilitation that a concessionaire using the area has obtained from the Alaska Department of  
4 Natural Resources (DNR), and noted that the Alaska Department Fish and Game allows hunters  
5 and trappers to take ten wolves per year from the area, which indicates there is no perceived danger  
6 to the wolf population. Traditional use of the area continues, but if a recreation area is created and  
7 there is no funding to manage use, the area may be closed off. Mr. Ross concluded by commenting  
8 that public safety issues presented by “the bus” could be alleviated by removing the bus from the  
9 area.

10  
11 Tony Graham, Jr., Healy resident, spoke in opposition to Resolution 15-01, and commented that he  
12 appreciated the work session regarding the resolution where Alaska State Parks Superintendent  
13 Brooks Ludwig was present to answer questions. Mr. Graham concluded by stating that there is  
14 more opposition than support to be seen on paper regarding this resolution.

15  
16 AGENDA

17 David EVANS MOVED to approve the agenda as presented. Jill BOELSMA seconded. The VOTE  
18 by show of hands was unanimous.

19  
20 MINUTES

21 February 11, 2015 Denali Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

22  
23 Kimber BURROWS MOVED to approve the February 11, 2015 minutes as presented. Don  
24 DEBLAUW seconded. A typographical error on page four was noted. The VOTE by show of hands  
25 to approve the minutes was unanimous.

26  
27 REPORTS

28 January 2015 Financial Report

29 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to receive the January 2015 financial report. Kimber BURROWS seconded.  
30 The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

31  
32 Healy Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Project Ad hoc Committee Report

33 Committee Chair Kimber Burrows reported that the next meeting of the committee will be March 23,  
34 2015, at 5:30 pm and that the committee is making progress identifying areas as troublesome,  
35 looking at pedestrian movements in identified areas, and developing improvements to each location.  
36 The committee is developing a survey of Healy residents to gather input.

37  
38 MAYOR’S REPORT

39 Mayor Clay Walker welcomed Tallon Shreeve to the assembly, and thanked those present for  
40 participating in the public process. Mayor Walker reported that the Alaska Railroad will be working  
41 with the United States Geological Survey to monitor ice breakup at the Ferry railroad bridge to study  
42 the effects of river realignment. Next winter there may be construction to improve the bridge pier and  
43 footings.

44  
45 An invitation has been extended to the Alaska Department of Transportation to attend a future  
46 assembly meeting to discuss summer highway projects. Following an inspection that showed no red  
47 flags, an offer of \$107,000 was made to the Municipality of Anchorage for a landfill rock truck.

1 The Deputy Clerk/Financial Clerk position has been offered to Amber Renshaw. The position has  
2 been reconfigured to offer support and backup to the clerk and treasurer positions, a change that will  
3 be reflected in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budget.

4  
5 Mayor Walker reported Winterfest was a successful event, with a borough hosted chili dinner on  
6 Saturday night along with a talent show and band. Public safety booths provided information to  
7 attendees during the events. Mayor Walker thanked everyone who helped with fundraisers during  
8 Winterfest, especially Barbara Walters who was presented with the 2015 Mayor's Community  
9 Service Award.

10  
11 A Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting will be held on March 3, and the borough will host  
12 an all fire chiefs meeting on March 31.

13  
14 Assembly member David Evans and Mayor Walker attended the Alaska Municipal League  
15 Legislative Fly-In conference in Juneau, where they met with legislators and attended educational  
16 sessions, including a discussion on marijuana legislation. A definition has been developed of public  
17 spaces, and the main regulatory mechanism in use is zoning. Overall, there were good meetings  
18 with legislators, but there is very little money available for projects.

19  
20 Diane Sam, Local Government Specialist with the Alaska Division of Community and Regional  
21 Affairs, conducted a training session with the planning commission to help them to make progress  
22 on revisions of Denali Borough Code Chapter 4. Key concepts of the training were that disposal of  
23 land must be conducted according to a plan for land use and go through a public process, current  
24 Denali Borough Code was developed when the borough had little land to manage, and current  
25 ordinances need to be revised to facilitate land management and use. Mayor Walker noted that Ms.  
26 Sam recommended a joint work session with the assembly, and that the next planning commission  
27 agenda includes potential transfer station site locations in the Healy area.

28  
29 Financial disclosure forms are due from all borough officials by April 15.

### 30 31 SCHOOL REPORT

32 Vern Carlson, President of the Denali Borough School District School Board, reported that Dan Polta  
33 has been selected to be Superintendent and will be involved in the hiring process for Tri-Valley  
34 School Principal and a borough-wide principal position. Mr. Carlson reported that the school district  
35 will be requesting the maximum amount of school funding, and noted that the State has ceased  
36 funding the Farm to School Program that has been providing some school lunches and agricultural  
37 education to students. Four new replacement vehicles have been purchased through a bid process  
38 for student transportation, as well as a new van and administrative vehicle. Two school board  
39 members will travel to Juneau to attempt to source funding that was obligated during the last  
40 legislative session. Mr. Carlson closed by thanking the assembly for the work that they do.

### 41 42 ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

43 Krista ZAPPONE, Jill BOELSMA, and Don DEBLAUW thanked those present for attending the  
44 meeting, and thanked Tallon Shreeve for stepping up to fill a vacant seat.

45  
46 David EVANS thanked those present for attending the meeting, thanked Tallon Shreeve for  
47 stepping up to fill a vacant seat, and noted that he is glad to see that a public process is  
48 beginning regarding a Healy Solid Waste Transfer Station.

1  
2 Jared ZIMMERMAN thanked Tallon Shreeve and Charles Terry for applying for appointment to a  
3 vacant assembly seat, congratulated Mr. Shreeve on his appointment to the seat, and  
4 congratulated Barbara Walters on receiving the Mayor's Community Service Award.

5  
6 Kimber BURROWS thanked those present for attending the meeting, thanked all who worked to  
7 make Winterfest a success, and thanked the community of Cantwell for a pancake breakfast to  
8 kick off the start of the Junior Iditarod.

9  
10 Joe CHATFIELD thanked those present for attending the meeting, thanked Tallon Shreeve for  
11 stepping up to fill a vacant seat, and commented that he appreciated public comment on  
12 Resolution 15-01.

13  
14 Tallon SHREEVE thanked the assembly for the opportunity to serve, and commented that he will  
15 do his best in Assembly Seat C.

16  
17 COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES

18 Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department request for reallocation of their FY 2015 matching grant

19  
20 Rob Graham, Tri-Valley Fire Department Fire Chief, reminded the assembly that the Tri-Valley  
21 Fire Department received a matching grant in FY2015 to renovate the fire department dayroom  
22 and kitchen area. Mr. Graham requested the assembly consider approving a change in the  
23 scope of work for the grant to allow for additional housing units to be built for summer medic  
24 program personnel, noting that this is a need of higher priority than the remodel. The request  
25 was not to change the dollar amount of the grant, but for the scope of work only. The project  
26 deadline would not change, and the amount of the required 20% match would also remain the  
27 same. The grant monies would be spent on materials only.

28  
29 Kimber BURROWS MOVED to amend the scope of work for Matching Grant 15-MG-TVVFD to  
30 build additional housing for summer medic program personnel. Krista ZAPPONE seconded. The  
31 VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

32  
33 DRAFT ORDINANCES:

34 ORDINANCE 15-02: An ordinance amending the budget for Fiscal Year 2015

35  
36 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 15-02. Kimber BURROWS seconded. Mayor Clay  
37 Walker explained that the ordinance is an amendment to bring the budget closer to actual, and drew  
38 the assembly's attention to the budgetary reserve amount for forward funding, for which there is no  
39 anticipated need in FY2015, and is being brought to zero in the amendment. Because there is not a  
40 need to transfer from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Operating fund, those funds are  
41 proposed to be transferred to the Solid Waste Equipment Reserve Fund, which is a savings account  
42 for future equipment needs. Mayor Walker also noted that one-half the FY2014 earnings from the  
43 Permanent Investment Fund are proposed to be transferred to each the Capital Improvement Fund  
44 and the Major School Maintenance Reserve Fund for future needs.

45  
46 The Roll call VOTE on the motion to introduce Ordinance 15-02 was unanimous.  
47

1 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 15-02 to the next meeting. Kimber BURROWS  
2 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.  
3

4 PENDING ORDINANCES:  
5

6 ORDINANCE 15-01, Version A: An ordinance creating Denali Borough Code of Ordinances Title  
7 10, titled Vehicles and Traffic, and creating Chapter 10.05 allowing for permanent registration of  
8 motor vehicles older than eight years and for permanent registration of non-commercial trailers  
9

10 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to postpone Ordinance 15-01, Version A to the next meeting. David  
11 EVANS seconded. Points of discussion that followed included the question of how many other  
12 municipalities have passed similar ordinances, the likelihood of the Denali Borough instituting a  
13 vehicle tax, how residency requirements would be enforced, and the benefit to those with lower  
14 income.  
15

16 The VOTE to postpone Ordinance 15-01 by show of hands was 4-4 as follows: Yes – Krista  
17 ZAPPONE, Kimber BURROWS, David EVANS, Tallon SHREEVE; No – Jill BOELSMA, Jared  
18 ZIMMERMAN, Don DEBLAUW, Joe CHATFIELD. The motion failed due to lack of a majority  
19 vote.  
20

21 Don DEBLAUW MOVED to adopt Ordinance 15-01, Version A. Jill BOELSMA seconded. Joe  
22 CHATFIELD MOVED to amend Section 3 by removing the word “upon” and adding the phrase  
23 “30 days after.” Kimber BURROWS seconded. The VOTE by show of hands on the motion to  
24 amend was unanimous.  
25

26 The roll call VOTE on the motion to adopt Ordinance 15-01, Version A was unanimous.  
27

28 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called for a meeting recess at 7:38 pm. The meeting  
29 resumed at 7:52 pm.  
30

31 RESOLUTIONS

32 RESOLUTION 15-01, Version C: A resolution in support of the Alaska Legislature designating  
33 management of the Stampede Road area to the state of Alaska, Division of Parks and Outdoor  
34 Recreation, to create the Stampede State Recreation Area.  
35

36 Points of discussion regarding Resolution 15-01, Version C include the assembly’s appreciation  
37 for public input at the recent work session, the value of information received from Alaska State  
38 Parks Northern Area Superintendent Brooks Ludwig at the work session, the legislature’s need  
39 for a fiscal note to create a new recreation area, the mix of support and opposition in the borough  
40 community, and options for trail recovery.  
41

42 Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman passed the gavel to Deputy Presiding Officer David Evans at  
43 8:02 pm.  
44

45 Points of further discussion include the importance of the Stampede area to a large number of  
46 people for varied reasons, how best to deal with issues caused by use to accomplish what is  
47 wanted for the area, the fact that the area is State land, and how best to inform the Department  
48 Natural Resources (DNR) of concerns regarding accountability for damage to the area.

1  
2 Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman resumed the chair at 8:14 pm.

3  
4 Points of discussion that continued include the resolution's intent to request DNR manage the  
5 area and the need for people to work together in the best interest of the area.

6  
7 David EVANS MOVED to postpone Resolution 15-01, Version C indefinitely. Jill BOELSMA  
8 seconded. The roll call vote was unanimous.

9  
10 OTHER BUSINESS

11 ABC Board: Liquor License renewals:

12 Doing Business As: 229 Parks Restaurant/Eating Place – Public Convenience

13 Location: Mile 229 Parks Highway  
14

15 David EVANS MOVED to approve the liquor license renewal as listed. Jill BOELSMA seconded. It  
16 was noted that no comments have been received on the business listed. The VOTE by show of  
17 hands was unanimous.

18  
19 Jack River Hydro Project Feasibility Study

20  
21 It was requested by the assembly that the Jack River and Carlo Creek Hydro Project Feasibility  
22 Studies be considered together, and that Gordon Carlson, Vice-President of the Native Village of  
23 Cantwell, speak to the projects and answer questions regarding the projects.

24  
25 Mr. Carlson noted that the Native Village of Cantwell is partnering with Ahtna, Inc. in project  
26 feasibility studies for Jack River and Carlo Creek sites to see what the potential is for hydro power to  
27 be generated, to look at basic engineering work required and study the cost, access issues, and  
28 environmental impacts. The Native Village of Cantwell is requesting that the Denali Borough provide  
29 a letter of support for the study of green power in these areas. Letters of support for the studies have  
30 been secured from Golden Valley Electric Association, National Park Service, and Usibelli Coal  
31 Mine. Each project is far from being built, and the studies are a very preliminary step to determine  
32 feasibility. The Native Village of Cantwell is partnering with Northwest Power, a micro-hydro  
33 company, on these projects. Mr. Carlson stated that he would answer questions to the best of his  
34 ability.

35  
36 Points of discussion that followed include the amount of water flowing year-long at the named sites,  
37 the amount of energy generated by each project, the projected temporary and permanent  
38 employment related to the projects, and how energy generation and usage would mesh. It was  
39 noted that the current plan is for all access and land used to be on Ahtna land. Mr. Carlson stated  
40 that two small wind turbines are located at the Community of Cantwell Council building, and that  
41 energy cost savings have been realized.

42  
43 The floor was opened to public comment regarding this topic.

44  
45 Bill Mattson, Carlo Creek resident, spoke in opposition to the Carlo Creek study, commenting that  
46 the proposed dam is on state property, not Ahtna property, and that Ahtna property is not  
47 necessarily Native Village of Cantwell property. Mr. Mattson further commented that he had  
48 questions regarding who Northwest Power would be partnering with, who makes up "CC Energy,"

1 who is it that is receiving the permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and  
2 who is requesting funding. Mr. Mattson stated there is no reason to study a dam on Carlo Creek.

3  
4 Holly Slinkard, Carlo Creek business owner, spoke in opposition to the Carlo Creek study,  
5 commenting that nobody is opposed to responsible, practical alternative energy, and that all  
6 comments submitted to FERC on the Carlo Creek project were opposed.

7  
8 Shannon Coykendall, Carlo Creek resident, spoke in opposition to the Carlo Creek study, asking  
9 who would be the entity that would be buying the electricity.

10  
11 David EVANS MOVED to request administration craft a letter of support for the Jack River Hydro  
12 Project feasibility study. Joe CHATFIELD seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

13  
14 Clear Air Force Station Tour (set date and time)

15 The date for the Clear Air Force Station Tour was set for May 6, 2015 at 6:00 pm by consensus of  
16 the assembly.

17  
18 Municipal Advisory Gas Review Board (MAG) update

19 Mayor Clay Walker reported that the MAG Board met on February 20, with another meeting  
20 scheduled for March 13, and noted that a proposed interim annual report was provided to the  
21 assembly. Mayor Walker also drew attention to information on the Payment in Lieu of Taxes  
22 proposal developed by the Board to tax a gas pipeline's infrastructure on the ground, not the gas  
23 flowing through it. Roughly 10 percent of the proposed pipeline route would pass through the Denali  
24 Borough.

25  
26 PUBLIC COMMENTS

27 Rachel Carlson, Cantwell resident, commented that she is disappointed that the Carlo Creek Hydro  
28 Project study was not supported, and thanked the assembly for their work on Resolution 15-01.

29  
30 Gordon Carlson, Cantwell resident, commented that he was disappointed that the Carlo Creek  
31 Hydro Project study was not supported, and asked what assembly members' views were on hydro  
32 power. Mr. Carlson noted that the Native Village of Cantwell is comprised of about 200 people, and  
33 that he will probably ask again for a letter of support for the Carlo Creek Hydro Project study. Mr.  
34 Carlson further commented that the Native Village of Cantwell is working to involve the Denali  
35 Borough in its projects, and asked why those opposed to the Stampede Recreation Area did not  
36 speak up years ago. Finally, Mr. Carlson invited the assembly to look at the ice glacier hanging over  
37 the back door of the school, noting that roof repair is needed.

38  
39 ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

40 Tallon SHREEVE thanked the assembly for the opportunity to serve, commenting that he is  
41 already learning as an assembly member.

42  
43 Joe CHATFIELD thanked Tallon Shreeve for stepping up to fill a vacant seat, and thanked  
44 Charles Terry for also applying for the seat. Mr. Chatfield commented that he supports  
45 responsible hydro power, and that local generation of power should be investigated.

46  
47 Kimber BURROWS thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting, and commented that  
48 she appreciates public opinion, both in support and in opposition to issues. Ms. Burrows further

1 commented that she supports diversified energy and exploring hydro projects to see if they are  
2 able to be done responsibly.

3  
4 Don DEBLAUW commented that he supports hydro power, and that he would like to see a study  
5 to dam the Nenana River. Mr. DeBlauw further commented regarding Resolution 15-01 that it  
6 must be disheartening to put a lot of work into an issue, and then have it defeated by public  
7 input.

8  
9 Jared ZIMMERMAN thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting, and commented  
10 that he supports hydro power and that he would like to get more information regarding energy  
11 issues to be better able to speak to them. Mr. Zimmerman further commented that the issues  
12 that get people excited are "backyard" issues, and questioned at what point does the assembly  
13 become just a funnel for public comment that is forwarded to state and federal agencies.

14  
15 David EVANS commented that he did not follow up on his plan to request a life cost analysis for  
16 school site facilities, but that is coming. Mr. Evans further commented that a process is needed  
17 to educate the community regarding the Carlo Creek Hydro Project. Mr. Evans stated that he  
18 feels the borough is missing out on revenue streams because it is not prepared to act when  
19 opportunities present themselves.

20  
21 Jill BOELSMA commented that she did not feel she had sufficient information to support the  
22 Carlo Creek Hydro Project study, and that transparency is needed regarding those involved in  
23 the project. Ms. Boelsma further commented that timing was an issue with the Stampede  
24 Recreation Area, and that she expects it will be revisited in the future.

25  
26 Krista ZAPPONE commented that she supports green energy, including hydro power, and that  
27 public comment on this topic brought up good questions. Ms. Zappone further commented that  
28 more public education was needed on Resolution 15-01, and that she would like to see the topic  
29 return.

30  
31 NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING

32 The next regular meeting will be held on April 08, 2015 at the Anderson School, Anderson, Alaska:  
33 Public Hearing 6:00 PM and the Regular meeting to follow.

34  
35 ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 PM.

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39 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

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41  
42  
43  
44 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: April 08, 2015