

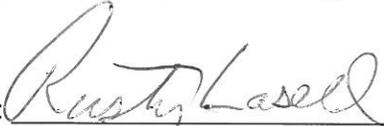
Minutes of the Public Hearing
Denali Borough Assembly
Cantwell School
March 12, 2014

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7 CALL TO ORDER: The public hearing was called to order by Presiding Officer Rusty Lasell at 6:00
8 PM.
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10 ROLL CALL: Assembly members present: Jill BOELSMA, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Kimberly
11 BURROWS, Dave TALERICO, David EVANS, Rusty LASELL, Paddy TATUM and Don DE BLAUW.
12 Absent: Rick WEIBEL
13

14 There being no agenda items the public hearing was adjourned.
15

16 ADJOURNMENT: The public hearing was adjourned at 6:01 PM.
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20 APPROVED: 
21 Rusty Lasell, Presiding Officer
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25 ATTEST:  Date Approved: APRIL 9, 2014
26 Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk

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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Denali Borough Assembly
Cantwell School
March 12, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER: Presiding Officer Rusty Lasell called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Mayor Clay Walker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Assembly members present: Jill BOELSMA, Kimberly BURROWS, Rusty LASELL, David TALERICO, David EVANS, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Paddy TATUM and Don DEBLAUW.

Absent: Richard WEIBEL

David EVANS MOVED to excuse Mr. Weibel. Dave TALERICO seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Jones, Denali Borough Planning Commission member, felt that the conveyance of the Municipal Entitlement Land (MEL) selections came out pretty well. This is the final 7,800 acres due the borough from the program. The borough is entitled to 49,789 acres of land from the state of Alaska. The 1920 acres that were selected by the borough included the area that is located past Jumbo Dome and is considered a mining area.

Mr. Jones continued to explain that there is municipal selected BLM lands in the southern part of Denali Borough that he feels we should consider holding onto but only if we relinquish the Jumbo Dome lands. He suggested that the assembly request that the mayor comment on the letter from DNR on the draft Municipal Entitlement Land selections.

Hannah Ragland, Friends of Stampede, appreciated the passage of the Stampede State Recreation Area Assembly Resolution 14-05. There will be an outreach to the people who oppose the Stampede State Recreation Area to let them know that it will protect what is traditional use in the area.

Ms. Ragland spoke to the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) and the base that they are setting in the Stampede area. NEON is locating one of its 60 terrestrial ecological observation sites in the area to measure the causes and effects of climate change, land use change and invasive species on the U.S. ecosystems.

AGENDA

Jared ZIMMERMAN MOVED to approve the agenda as presented. Dave TALERICO seconded.

Jared ZIMMERMAN MOVED to amend by adding under Other Business number 1, DNR Municipal Entitlement Land selections. Kimber BURROWS seconded. The VOTE to amend the agenda was unanimous. The VOTE to approve the agenda by show of hands was unanimous.

1 MINUTES

2 February 12, 2014 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

3
4 Dave TALERICO MOVED to approve the February 12, 2014 public hearing and regular meeting
5 minutes as presented. David EVANS seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

6
7 REPORTS

8 January 2014 Financial Reports

9
10 David EVANS MOVED to receive the February 2014 financial report. Dave TALERICO seconded.
11 The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

12
13 MATCHING GRANT COMMITTEE REPORT

14 Matching Grant Committee members: David Evans, Dave Talerico and alternate Jared Zimmerman
15 David Evans felt that the public was well represented at the Matching Grant Committee meeting
16 which was held on March 5, 2014. There were three grants to review by the committee and they
17 were prioritized from 1 to 3 as follows:

- 18
19 Denali Chamber of Commerce
20 Healy Hockey Association
21 Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department

22
23 MAYOR'S REPORT

24 Mayor Clay Walker reported that the Mayor's Community Service award was given to Dale and
25 Marge Nord of the Cantwell Volunteer Fire Department. There will be a National Association of
26 Counties Western Conference meeting held in Anchorage from May 21 – 23. The mayor is planning
27 on attending and if anyone on the assembly was interested in attending, to let the mayor know.

28
29 Senator Lisa Murkowski will be on the highway visiting Anderson, Healy and Cantwell. The senator
30 will be in Healy at the Tri-Valley Community Center on March 17 with a spaghetti feed at 6PM. She
31 will continue to Cantwell the next day for a meeting there. The Denali Borough office hosted an art
32 showing. The art is on display in the borough office so anyone can stop by to review the art
33 presented by local artists.

34
35 The Department of Transportation is requesting planning authority for the Riley Creek Bridge project
36 which the mayor is planning on granting authority to them. AGDC has turned in another borehole
37 request for the Kobe site area.

38
39 The mayor thanked Mr. Talerico and Mr. Evans for attending the Alaska Municipal League (AML)
40 legislative fly-in which was in Juneau. They were able to attend AML meetings as well as visit 12
41 legislative offices. The Tri-Borough meeting went well with very good presenters.

42
43 The mayor met with Lyn Thompson, Golden Valley Electric Association, to discuss Healy II upgrade.
44 There will be 80 people this summer working on the retrofit and approximately 25 – 30 full time
45 employees hired to run the plant. There will be 100 megawatts of power being produced in the
46 borough with Healy 1, Healy II and the turbines at Eva Creek.

1 SCHOOL REPORT

2 Dr. Jim Elliott, Denali Borough School District (DBSD) Superintendent, welcomed everyone to the
3 Cantwell School which is one of 19 schools in the state of Alaska to receive recognition from the
4 Department of Education & Early Development as both highest performing and highest progress
5 school.
6

7 The major school maintenance project is number 10 on the list and is pretty much guaranteed that it
8 would be funded. The governor however did not place major school maintenance in his budget. We
9 are hoping the legislature will put the request in.
10

11 David EVANS questioned why the school is planning on not supporting the high school Healy
12 Hockey program. The superintendent explained that surveys are sent out to see what the parents
13 support and the CSC works with the school principle to decide on what sport activities to support.
14 The principle has informed the superintendent that there is no plan to cut the Healy Hockey program
15 next year but after that it all depends on the students interested and eligibility to play. The
16 superintendent supports extracurricular activities.
17

18 ASSEMBLY COMMENT

19 Paddy TATUM, Jill BOELSMA and Don DEBLAUW had no comment.
20

21 Kimber BURROWS was very pleased with the Tri-borough meeting in February. She also
22 thanked the mayor for the in-depth report on his activities and the assembly members that
23 attended the AML legislative fly-in.
24

25 Jared ZIMMERMAN informed everyone that the state of Alaska won the lawsuit on exploration
26 for methane gas in the Healy basin. Usibelli Coal Mine applied 10 years ago for gas exploration
27 licensing and has been waiting for the Alaska Supreme Court to rule on the state-issued license.
28 The local newspaper reported that Usibelli will begin limited exploration for gas within the Usibelli
29 Coal Mine property this summer. The license area does include about half of the borough owned
30 municipal lands and the potential for exploration activities on borough owned lands in the near
31 future. With the potential of exploring outside Usibelli Coal Mine property, the implications could
32 be pretty big. Mr. Zimmerman requested that someone from Usibelli present at an assembly
33 meeting to discuss how exploration outside the current coal mine lease could impact the
34 borough. There was a presentation in Fairbanks on gas exploration and Mitch Usibelli did a
35 presentation in front of the assembly a few years ago on their plans with exploration.
36

37 David TALERICO thought that the trip to Juneau went really well and thanked the mayor for
38 inviting him to go and for testifying on the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) provision in the gas
39 line Bill. The PILT is going to be crucial to the borough and the larger municipalities are lobbying
40 to support property taxes instead of PILT. They all want you to think that it is one or the other but
41 both provisions can be in the Bill. Mr. Talerico asked that people call the legislature to support
42 both for municipalities that don't have a property tax.
43

44 David EVANS thanked the mayor for taking him to Juneau. The closure of Flint Hills Refinery
45 was discussed and the legislature is working on the issues. Stampede State Recreational Area
46 was discussed but it does not have a sponsor on the Bill so it looks like it won't make it through
47 this year but next year there will be some powerful legislators' that will support it. There is
48 another man-camp coming to Healy this summer with 60 – 80 people involved with the gas line.

1
2 Rusty LASELL congratulated and thanked Dale and Marge Nord for all of their work in the
3 community with the volunteer fire department and training EMS.
4

5 COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES:

6 Jim Gorski, Denali Borough Attorney, in regards to Ketchikan-Gateway Borough (KGB) letter to
7 the Denali Borough requesting support in a lawsuit with the state of Alaska on state funding to
8 schools
9

10 Mayor Clay Walker reviewed the correspondence from Jim Gorski as requested by the Denali
11 Borough Assembly. Mr. Gorski explained the extraordinary complexities of the lawsuit which has
12 a multitude of considerations derived from a general dissatisfaction of the state's education
13 funding mechanisms. Mr. Gorski wrapped up his letter to the assembly explaining that it would
14 be advised to await the state's response to the summary judgment which should be mid-March
15 or so. Once that is in, it will allow Mr. Gorski to better evaluate the merits of both sides of the
16 litigation. Mr. Gorski recommends a follow-up report to the assembly for the April assembly
17 meeting.
18

19 Mayor Walker relayed that Mr. Gorski explained that a whole evaluation and engagement would
20 be a lengthy and expensive project for the Denali Borough.
21

22 Jared ZIMMERMAN thanked Mr. Gorski for putting time into this for the assembly and feels that
23 Mr. Gorski did a great job explaining the potential impact to the Denali Borough. He is interested
24 in reading a similar synopsis of the states argument to have the same treatment of the other side
25 of the argument.
26

27 DRAFT ORDINANCES:

28 ORDINANCE 14-03: An ordinance amending the Denali Borough budget for Fiscal Year 2014
29

30 Dave TALERICO MOVED to introduce Ordinance 14-03. Kimber BURROWS seconded. Dave
31 TALERICO thanked the mayor for placing extra revenues into the borough funds. The roll call
32 VOTE to introduce Ordinance 14-03 was unanimous.
33

34 Dave TALERICO MOVED to postpone Ordinance 14-03 to the next meeting. Jill BOELSMA
35 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.
36

37 OTHER BUSINESS

38 Department of Natural Resources preliminary decision to convey approximately 6,812 acres of state
39 owned lands to the Denali Borough's Municipal Entitlement
40

41 The mayor explained that this document was just received in the borough office giving the borough
42 approximately 20 days out of the 30 day comment period. The mayor continued explaining that there
43 were many mistakes within the letter including the last page which states that notice will be sent to
44 Kenai Borough for proposed transfer. The mayor contacted the DNR office requesting extension
45 because of the mistakes within the document and the time limit afforded the borough was not long
46 enough to place on the agendas for discussion with the planning commission, assembly and
47 borough residents. The request was denied.
48

1 Mr. Steve Jones spoke about the BLM lands that may be available in the southern portion of the
2 borough but the process may take 20 years. He suggested that the borough keep these selections
3 and wait.

4
5 Kimber BURROWS MOVED to request the mayor work with the public and planning commission
6 and make comment to DNR on the preliminary decision. Dave TALERICO seconded.

7
8 Dave TALERICO MOVED to amend that in the administrators comment to include that the Denali
9 Borough Assembly reserves the right to provide comment at anytime between the preliminary and
10 final decision. Jared ZIMMERMAN seconded.

11
12 Dave TALERICO was very disappointed in the quality of the maps and the mistakes within the
13 document that were produced by a state agency. The VOTE by show of hands to amend the main
14 motion was unanimous.

15
16 The VOTE on the main motion was unanimous.

17
18 Liquor Licenses

19
20 Liquor License Stock Transfer:

21 Black Diamond Golf Course
22 License #4028
23 Location: Otto Lake, Healy, Alaska
24 Officers/Member/ Directors (stock transfer)
25 Marilyn Usibelli, President

26
27 Liquor License Renewal Applications:

28 Mountain View Liquor
29 Healy Spur Rd
30 Healy, Alaska
31 Package Store
32
33 Clear Sky Lodge
34 Mile 280 Park's Highway
35 Beverage Dispensary
36
37 Kantishna Roadhouse
38 Kantishna Townsite
39 Beverage Dispensary Tourism-Seasonal
40
41 Lynx Creek Pizza/Denali Princess Lodge
42 Mile 238.5 Parks Highway
43 Beverage Dispensary Tourism-Seasonal
44
45 The Perch
46 Mile 224 Park's Highway
47 Beverage Dispensary Tourism-Seasonal
48

- 1 Kantishna Roadhouse
- 2 Kantishna Townsite
- 3 Package Store Seasonal
- 4
- 5 McKinley Denali Salmon Bake
- 6 Mile 238.5 Parks Highway
- 7 Beverage Dispensary Tourism-Seasonal
- 8
- 9 King Salmon Restaurant/Denali Princess Lodge
- 10 Mile 238.5 Parks Highway
- 11 Beverage Dispensary Tourism-Seasonal
- 12
- 13 McKinley Creekside Cabins
- 14 Mile 224 Parks Highway
- 15 Restaurant/Eating Place-Public Convenience-Seasonal
- 16
- 17 Black Diamond Golf
- 18 1 Mile Otto Lake
- 19 Healy, Alaska
- 20 Golf Course
- 21
- 22 Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge Rapids
- 23 Mile 238.9 Parks Highway
- 24 Beverage Dispensary Tourism-Seasonal
- 25
- 26 Prospectors Historic Pizzeria & Ale House
- 27 Restaurant/Eating Place-Seasonal
- 28

29 Jill BOELSMA MOVED to approve all licenses as listed. Dave TALERICO seconded. David
 30 EVANS asked the Borough Clerk if there were any public comments received on the
 31 applications. The clerk informed the assembly that there were no public comments received
 32 and that all taxes were up to date on those businesses that may owe taxes to the borough.
 33 The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

34
 35 PUBLIC COMMENTS

36 Mr. Gordon Carlson, Cantwell, supports holding onto the BLM lands south of Cantwell and to look
 37 into AHTNA entitlement lands to see if they over selected. If so, the borough may be able to find out
 38 if AHTNA will be relinquishing any of those lands.

39
 40 Armeda Bulard, Cantwell, thanked the mayor and committee for recognition of Dale and Marge Nord
 41 for all they do for their community.

42
 43 Marge Nord, Cantwell, thanked everyone stating that it is a team endeavor and appreciates the
 44 volunteers and borough support to the fire department. Ms. Nord spoke to the grant application
 45 process stating that this year there were some changes which asks for a balance sheet. Ms. Nord
 46 did not know what a balance sheet was because she has never had to produce one. Speaking with
 47 the borough office, she learned that it was suppose to tell what is in your checking and savings
 48 account. She feels this is not necessary for the applications and requests that next year it doesn't

1 have to be done. If you really want to know, all corporations have to fill out the IRS 990 form which
2 already takes a lot of time. Ms. Nord appreciates the borough support and could not get by without it.

3
4 Cynthia Bryan, Cantwell Library, does not know what a balance sheet is and when she asked an
5 accountant friend, she came up with a balance sheet after much time spent on working to produce it.
6 The accountant is in the process of teaching Ms Bryant how to produce the balance sheet. She also
7 heard rumors that the assembly is not going to support paying wages for non-profits next year. Non-
8 profits have paid employees. She appreciates the support from the borough to libraries.

9
10 ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

11 David EVANS, Rusty LASELL and Patty TATUM had no comment.

12
13 Jill BOELSMA and Jared ZIMMERMAN thanked everyone for coming.

14
15 Dave TALERICO spoke to the inadequate maps produced by the DNR.

16
17 Kimber BURROWS works for a non-profit and gets paid so supports paid positions within the
18 non-profits.

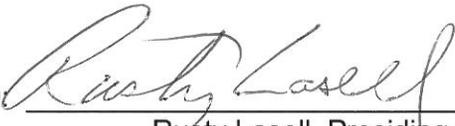
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20 Don DEBLAUW thanked Mr. Jones for his comments on the borough lands. He also thanked the
21 planning commission for all of their work.

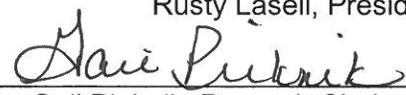
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23 NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING

24 The next regular meeting will be held at the Anderson School, Anderson, Alaska on Wednesday,
25 April 9, 2014: Public Hearing 6:00 PM and the Regular meeting to follow.

26
27 A joint work session with the Denali Borough School Board will be held at the Tri-Valley School on
28 Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

29
30 ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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34 APPROVED: 
35 Rusty Lasell, Presiding Officer

36
37 ATTEST: 
38 Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk Date Approved: APRIL 9, 2014