

Minutes of the Public Hearing  
Denali Borough Assembly  
Cantwell School  
March 13, 2013

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7 CALL TO ORDER: The public hearing was called to order by Deputy Presiding Officer Rick Weibel  
8 at 6:00 PM.  
9

10 ROLL CALL: Assembly members present: Rusty LASELL, Steve ANASTASIA, Gordon CARLSON,  
11 Jared ZIMMERMAN, and Rick WEIBEL. Absent: David EVANS, Terry ASBURY, and Patty TATUM.  
12  
13

14 Seeing no items on the public hearing agenda, the assembly adjourned at 6:01 PM.  
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19 APPROVED:   
20 Richard Weibel, Deputy Presiding Officer  
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25 ATTEST:  Date Approved: APRIL 10, 2013  
26 Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk  
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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Denali Borough Assembly  
Cantwell School  
March 13, 2013**

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7 CALL TO ORDER: Deputy Presiding Officer Richard Weibel called the regular meeting to order at  
8 6:01 PM. Mayor Clay Walker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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10 ROLL CALL

11 Assembly members present: Rusty LASELL, Gordon CARLSON, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Steve  
12 ANASTASIA and Richard WEIBEL. Absent: Terry ASBURY, Paddy TATUM and David EVANS.

13  
14 Gordon CARLSON MOVED to excuse Mr. Asbury, Mr. Evans, and Ms. Tatum. Steve ANASTASIA  
15 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

16  
17 PUBLIC COMMENTS

18 There was no public comment.

19  
20 AGENDA

21 Jared ZIMMERMAN MOVED to approve the agenda. Gordon CARLSON seconded. Rusty LASELL  
22 MOVED to amend the agenda by adding Environmental Assessment Comment on Denali Park  
23 Road as item 5 under J under Other Business. Steve ANASTASIA seconded. The VOTE by show  
24 of hands was unanimous. The VOTE by show of hands on the main motion to approve the agenda  
25 was unanimous.

26  
27 MINUTES

28 February 13, 2013 Public Hearing  
29 February 13, 2013 Regular Meeting  
30 February 21, 2013 Canvass Committee meeting  
31 February 21, 2013 Special Meeting to Certify the Special Election

32  
33 Jared ZIMMERMAN MOVED to approve the minutes listed on the agenda. Rusty LASELL  
34 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

35  
36 REPORTS

37 January 2013 Financial Report

38  
39 Rusty LASELL MOVED to receive the January 2013 financial report. Steve ANASTASIA seconded.  
40 The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

41  
42 PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION

43 Rusty LASELL MOVED to confirm the appointment of Baxter Mercer to Denali Borough Planning  
44 Commission seat E. Jared ZIMMERMAN seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

45  
46 MAYOR'S REPORT

47 Mayor Clay Walker reported that Winterfest events were a success and that school groups'  
48 fundraising in conjunction with the event was successful. Mayor Walker, Rusty Lasell, Gordon  
49 Carlson, and Denali Borough School District (DBSD) School Board member Vern Carlson travelled

1 to Juneau and met with 17 legislators/aides. Projects and requests presented to legislators were  
2 well received, albeit with a warning that it will be a lean budget year. The group was able to attend a  
3 House floor session and an Energy Committee meeting. House Bill 148 was introduced by Dave  
4 Guttenberg to create a Stampede Recreation Area, and has been referred to the Resources  
5 Committee. Information on the Borough Stove Change-out Program was mailed to residents on  
6 March 6, and the first application for the program was received just a couple hours later. The  
7 deadline for application is April 30, 2013. The Borough has received the full grant amount of  
8 \$75,000, and will file the first report with the Environmental Protection Agency by April 15.

9  
10 Mayor Walker reported that he has received information on the Clear Power Plant closure and the  
11 potential increase in electric rates that may result. Don Pierce, who is leading the education effort  
12 regarding the closure, may appear at the next meeting to present information. An opposing view  
13 may also be in attendance. A resolution will be on the next meeting's agenda regarding the closure,  
14 as well as ordinances to amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 budget, propose a FY 2014 budget, and  
15 Capital Improvement Plan.

16  
17 The Governor's annual picnic will be travelling to communities outside Alaska's urban areas this  
18 summer, and is accepting proposals from communities interested in hosting the event July 27 or 28.  
19 The Borough is looking for a volunteer chair for the event. There is a School Board meeting on  
20 Thursday, March 14, and a Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, March 19.

21  
22 Borough accounting consultant Ben Shilling is no longer available for consulting services. The  
23 Mayor, Clerk, and Treasurer will travel to Fairbanks on March 28 to discuss possible engagement  
24 with Wilson and Wilson. The community transit project will come out with a final plan in April and  
25 would like a Denali Borough representative to be in attendance. A permit from the Army Corps of  
26 Engineers and Department of Transportation to create a berm near Dry Creek will be expiring next  
27 year. Mayor Walker has sent residents of the impacted area a letter reminding them of this. Elected  
28 officials' financial disclosure statements are due April 15.

### 29 30 SCHOOL REPORT

31 DBSD Superintendent Dr. Jim Elliott thanked those who traveled to Juneau for their support, and  
32 reported that he and Vern Carlson also met with the Commissioner of Education regarding school  
33 safety needs. It looks likely that the Cantwell School sprinkler and fire suppression systems will be  
34 funded. The School Board is on target to have the FY 2014 budget approved at their next meeting.  
35 Dr. Elliott will be meeting with Mayor Walker on March 27 to discuss capital project planning.

### 36 37 ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

38 Jared ZIMMERMAN thanked those who travelled to Juneau, and commented that he was happy  
39 to see HB 148 was introduced.

40  
41 Rusty LASELL thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting and participating in their  
42 Home Rule Borough.

43  
44 Gordon CARLSON had no comment.

45  
46 Steve ANASTASIA thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting, and commented that  
47 he is starting the process to assess level of interest for a permanent shooting range in the Healy  
48 area.

1 Rick WEIBEL welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for coming, and noted that he is  
2 acting as presiding officer, and has not been elected to that position. The election of Assembly  
3 officers will take place when there are more Assembly members present.

4  
5 COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES

6 Alaska In-State Gas Pipeline Project (ASAP): Leslye Langla, Public Affairs Director and Leah  
7 Levington

8 Leslye Langla, Public Affairs Director for the Alaska In-State Gas Pipeline Project (ASAP)  
9 recognized Kathryn Martin of Ahtna, Inc. and Terry Hinman, ASAP Community Advisory Council  
10 member, and presented information regarding ASAP. The pipeline is a new model for instate gas  
11 delivery, and does not involve exporting gas outside of the state of Alaska. The project has  
12 undergone changes during development in response to the needs and interest of potential  
13 beneficiaries of the pipeline. There is capability along the entire alignment for gas delivery, as long  
14 as infrastructure is developed to deliver the gas. The current pipeline plan involves the use of 36  
15 inch diameter pipe, which lowers the cost, and eliminates the need for a compression station or  
16 straddle plant. A right of way lease has been secured, a final environmental impact statement  
17 published, and plans have been submitted to the legislature. Ms. Langla spoke in favor of HB 4, and  
18 encouraged those present to contact legislators to support the bill, emphasizing the increased cost  
19 involved in delayed action.

20  
21 Ahtna, Inc., Kathryn Martin, Vice-President of Land and Resources

22 Kathryn Martin, Vice President of Land and Resources for Ahtna, Inc. presented information on the  
23 proposed annexation of Matanuska-Susitna Borough property into the Denali Borough. Ms. Martin  
24 reported that the Ahtna lands are not taxed by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, as they are exempt  
25 from tax until developed. Transfer of the Ahtna land under the Cantwell School would be  
26 accomplished through the process identified in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Section  
27 14(c)(3). Currently, there is a long term lease of the property. Ahtna, Inc. would appreciate a  
28 resolution of support for annexation of Ahtna, Inc. lands.

29  
30 Presiding Officer Rick Weibel called a meeting recess at 7:35 pm. The meeting reconvened at 7:49  
31 pm.

32  
33 ORDINANCES: There were no ordinances on the agenda.

34  
35 RESOLUTIONS

36 RESOLUTION 13-04: A resolution to reappoint check signers to the Denali Borough accounts.  
37 Gordon CARLSON MOVED to approve Resolution 13-04. Rusty LASELL seconded. The roll call  
38 VOTE to approve Resolution 13-04 was unanimous.

39  
40 OTHER BUSINESS

41 Clay Walker, Assembly member seat B, resignation letter

42 Rusty LASELL MOVED to accept Clay Walker's letter of resignation from Assembly seat B. Steve  
43 ANASTASIA seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

44  
45 Declaration of Assembly seat B vacant

46 Jared ZIMMERMAN MOVED to declare Assembly Seat B as vacant. Gordon CARLSON seconded.  
47 It was noted that applicants for Seat B must be from District 2, the Assembly votes to appoint the  
48 seat, and the seat would be included in the November 2013 election. The VOTE by show of hands  
49 was unanimous.

1  
2 Liquor License Applications:

3 Zarcone Brothers DBA Lynx Creek Liquor #1850 transfer to ARAMARK

4 Jared ZIMMERMAN MOVED to approve the liquor license transfer as listed on the agenda. Rusty  
5 LASELL seconded. It was noted that there have been no negative comments on the license. The  
6 VOTE by show of hands to approve the liquor license renewal was unanimous.

7  
8 Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Liberty Bell Block mineral lease offering.

9 Mayor Clay Walker noted that draft comments were distributed to Assembly members prior to the  
10 meeting, and that comments need to be submitted the next day.

11  
12 Jared ZIMMERMAN MOVED to forward comments on the Liberty Bell Block mineral lease offering  
13 as written. Gordon CARLSON seconded. Points of discussion that followed include the process of  
14 commenting when there are short timelines involved, Borough representation versus administrative  
15 action, and the importance of comment in maintaining standing on issues. The VOTE by show of  
16 hands to forward comments was unanimous.

17  
18 Environmental Assessment Comment on Denali Park Road

19 Mayor Clay Walker explained that the comment period regarding the Environmental Assessment on  
20 the Denali Park Road will end in two days, and suggested the Borough forward comment in support  
21 of opening the road in winter in some fashion. Steve ANASTASIA MOVED to request the  
22 administration comment on the winter opening of the Denali Park Road, supporting the option Park  
23 Service feels is best. Gordon CARLSON seconded. Points of discussion that followed include the  
24 need for an emergency services plan for the portion of the road that is open, the positive impact an  
25 opening could have on winter tourism, the added expense involved for a federal agency in time of  
26 cut backs in spending, if it would be cost effective to keep the road open year round, and the current  
27 presence of motorcoaches in the area. The VOTE by show of hands on the motion to request the  
28 administration forward comment was unanimous.

29  
30 PUBLIC COMMENTS

31 Ron Dane, McKinley Village resident, asked if there were applicants for the empty Assembly  
32 seat. No applications have been received.

33  
34 Armeda Bulard, Cantwell resident, thanked Assembly members for stepping forward to serve  
35 her, a Cantwell resident, as well as everyone up the road to Anderson. Ms. Bulard also invited  
36 Assembly members to come out and meet citizens throughout the entire borough.

37  
38 Terry Hinman, Ferry resident, suggested that a resolution or letter of support for ASAP would be  
39 appreciated, as HB 4 is crucial to the project.

40  
41 Gordon CARLSON MOVED to request the administration comment positively on ASAP. Rusty  
42 LASELL seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was 4 - 1 with Jared ZIMMERMAN opposed.  
43 The motion passed.

44  
45 ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

46 Steve ANASTASIA encouraged the public to take a look at the stove change out application.  
47 Filling out the application does not commit anyone to changing out a stove.

1 Gordon CARLSON commented that he enjoyed the trip to Juneau, one thing learned was that  
2 legislators strongly recommended the Mayor go to Juneau in June and meet with the governor to  
3 lobby for Department of Transportation projects (bike paths). It appears the ambulance should  
4 get a good reception, and a Borough building is wishful thinking at this time. Mr. Carlson stated  
5 Borough needs should be placed ahead of support for other entities' requests while lobbying.  
6

7 Rusty LASELL commented that state legislators should be invited to the annual bus trip into  
8 Denali Park.  
9

10 Jared ZIMMERMAN and Rick WEIBEL thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting.  
11

12 Mayor Clay Walker commented that he has been working with Elwood Lynn to firm up a date for  
13 the summer bus trip into Denali, and that this activity could be part of a governor's picnic.  
14

15 NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING:

16 The next regular meeting of the Borough Assembly will be held at the Anderson School on April  
17 10, 2013; Public Hearing at 6:00 PM, and Regular Meeting to follow.  
18

19 ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.  
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23  
24 APPROVED:  \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Richard Weibel, Deputy Presiding Officer  
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27  
28 ATTEST:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved: APRIL 10, 2013  
29 Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk