

## April 2016 Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

### Mayor Clay Walker

This report speaks to non-agenda items. Agenda items will be discussed in the meeting.

#### March 10<sup>th</sup> tour of the Fairbanks Landfill with Operators Travis Olson and Paul VanDyke

- To further our solid waste knowledge and network, we reached out to the Fairbanks Landfill to schedule a tour. They were very accommodating and provided an excellent tour of their solid waste facility. I especially appreciated the discussion regarding groundwater monitoring requirements from DEC, for we are both facing similar challenges. We specifically wanted to see their Caterpillar 826 Landfill Compactor at work. The borough has identified a compactor as the next piece of landfill equipment, which will help us operate most efficiently. We were all impressed by the shredding and compacting ability of this steel wheeled piece of equipment. Greater compaction not only results in saving space but reduces the amount of cover needed. Many thanks to Chuck Shultz and Craig Jordan at the FNSB Landfill.

#### Denali Park CDP

- The borough received notice, and comment request, from the State Historical Commission regarding a proposed name change of the McKinley Park census designated place (CDP) to Denali Park. The same request was sent to other local organizations and was shared through a community email list. The State Commission was pleased to receive a number of comments and will use those to inform their recommendations.

#### DOT Parks Hwy MP231 Enhancements

- DOT sent for review and comment the Design Draft Study Report. This report incorporates many of the design ideas brought forward in the scoping period, such as a southbound left turn lane at MP 230. This estimated \$30 million project replaces the existing bridge with a 44-ft wider bridge which includes a separated pedestrian walkway. Other enhancement to pedestrian safety include a pedestrian highway underpass and a multi-use path. Vehicular safety is enhanced by the addition of a number of new turn lanes. Also included is a new NPS wayside/trailhead facility to the northeast of the bridge.
- Thanks to the public who attended scoping meetings and provided input. Also thanks to the Planning Commission who submitted design improvement ideas during the scoping period. After reviewing the document, I submitted a favorable comment prior to the April 4<sup>th</sup> deadline. This sizeable document is available for review both at this meeting

and at the borough office. Also project information and timelines can be found at [www.dot.alaska.gov/nreg/parks231/](http://www.dot.alaska.gov/nreg/parks231/).

#### Senate Finance introduced suite of bills relating to Community Revenue Sharing and PERS/TRS

- These bills (SB 207,208, 209 and 210) increase both the PERS and TRS contribution rate in each of the next several years. They also redefine Revenue Sharing as Community Assistance, eliminate the Alaska Performance Scholarship, and turn the senior citizen property tax exemption over to municipalities. While there appears to be some “give and take” intent, ultimately these bills taken together shift an undue burden, especially relating to the retirement system, onto the municipalities and school districts. The borough and AML are not opposing the revenue sharing change, but are opposing the proposed PERS/TRS shift.

#### Denali Borough 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>

- The borough solicited interest from non-profit groups to help coordinate, set up, cook and serve food, and clean up at the planned community event. McKinley Village Volunteer Fire Department was selected from the two proposals. We are excited to host a summer celebration of the borough anniversary. The intent is to invite, and honor, all who have served the borough – from mayors and staff, to assembly members, planning commissioners and school board members. All public is invited as well -- we are planning to feed several hundred people.

#### Alaska Government Finance Officers Association Spring Conference

- AGFOA is holding its annual spring conference in Denali this year. The group expects about 80 municipal finance officers to convene at the Grande Denali Lodge for the May 11th-13th conference. Thanks to the Denali Borough Treasurer Annette Ziegman, who serves on the AGFOA Board of Directors, for helping to coordinate this event.

#### Borough email

- To improve our accessibility to email and add functionality, the borough has moved to a new email platform. With the change of hosts, from Go Daddy to Outlook, comes the opportunity to change our addresses. A simpler format of first initial and last name takes the place of both full names with an underscore in between. For example, my email address changes from [clay\\_walker@denaliborough.com](mailto:clay_walker@denaliborough.com) to [cwalker@denaliborough.com](mailto:cwalker@denaliborough.com). The old addresses will also work for a period of time. Marsha Lambert will be setting up the assembly and planning commission emails, so if you access your borough email through a borough laptop bring in that device, so that it can be set up.

That's it for now. Happy Spring, Clay

