

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

Monthly Assembly Report Mayor Clay Walker August 9, 2016

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

Alaska Municipal League (AML) Summer Conference

- Next week, Tuesday through Friday, I will be in Wasilla for the AML summer conference. AML's Position Statements and Legislative Priorities, among other topics, will be discussed. You'll find a full agenda on your table for more information.

Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas Project (AKLNG)

- A second draft of the Resource Reports have been submitted to the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission (FERC). Altogether there are 3,500 pages of reports. Resource Report Number 5 titled "Socioeconomic", which details potential impacts to communities, is about 300 pages. Questions and concerns brought forward at AKLNG hosted public meetings are addressed in this report. The report is available on the AKLNG website, plus I have one printed copy available in the borough office.
- FERC is requesting comment as they evaluate a potential route alternative which would align with the Parks Highway corridor along much of the crossing through Denali National Park, then veer away to join the intertie east of McKinley Village. Expect to consider a resolution commenting on this proposal at your next meeting. Comments are due September 25, 2016.
 - FERC staff will be available to answer questions on Tuesday, August 23rd, between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. at the Murie Dining Hall within the Park entrance.

Subaru-National Park Zero Landfill Initiative

- The Denali Borough Landfill was the subject of a third film crew of the year, this time from CBS, to report on solid waste as well as efforts to further divert/reduce Park-generated waste through the Zero Landfill Initiative (ZLI).

- In 2010, the borough provided reusable grocery totes to all voters in the borough election. As those bags are worn out after many years of use, we thought this may be a good time to replicate that effort. This project was identified as a good partnering opportunity and the ZLI agreed to pay half the cost of the bags. All voters in the November borough election will receive a new grocery tote, with both Denali Borough and Denali Zero Landfill Project logos. Use of these bags can greatly reduce the number of plastic bags received at the landfill.

Elections

- Candidate packets for borough assembly and school board seats are available, online and at the borough office. To run for office, please return candidate packets to the borough office by 3 p.m. on September 22nd.

LEPC Report

- The Denali Local Emergency Planning Committee held its quarterly meeting at the borough office on August 3rd. All five fire chiefs were in attendance, among others.
- For some time, the LEPC has been investigating a borough-wide mass emergency notification system, with the intent to better inform citizens during an emergency. Through this system, land lines could be automatically enrolled and cell phones would be elective (one would sign up for this service). Assembly action would be required to fund such a service.

911 Dispatch Services

- University Dispatch, which has dispatched Denali Borough Volunteer Fire Departments for 26 years, is no longer able to provide that service due to staffing losses, cuts to the University budget, and the potential for further future cuts. All calls are being redirected to Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center, which is also known as City Dispatch.
- An independent report detailing the emergency communication connections between Fairbanks and the Denali Borough Departments was produced. At the LEPC meeting, all present were provided this report and the City Dispatch operations plan, among other items. The City Dispatch manager was available to answer questions that evening. Four members of their staff visited the borough to meet responders and see the departments on Tuesday, August 9th.
- Denali Emergency Services Association (DESA) was awarded FY17 grant funds for dispatch services in the amount of \$8,859. The insufficiency of those grant funds (the annual FECC fee is \$24,000) may require additional Assembly action on this topic in the future.
- A collaborative solution between DESA, the City of Anderson, and the Denali Borough is being actively sought.

School Projects

- Updates are provided in the Superintendent's August report. One additional note is that we just received final State Fire Marshal approval for the Cantwell Sprinkler Project design. We are all pleased to be moving forward with these important upgrades.

Annual Report

- All Denali Borough postal box holders received the Denali Borough Mayor's Annual Report last week. The report is also available on our website under the mayor tab.

Alaska Railroad Ferry Bridge Update

- Mark Peterburs, with the railroad, provided an update regarding the project schedule for work on the center pier. They are continuing to monitor the pier for safety, and the temporary new footing is holding up. Funding is in place to go forward with engineering and design to replace the pier and its footing. Mark expects that work to take place over the winter of 2017-2018. He seeks to inform the community and lessen potential project impacts and asks people with questions to contact him.

Happy August; and as always, feel free to contact me with any question.

-Clay