

# **DENALI BOROUGH**

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P.O. Box 480 • Healy, Alaska 99743  
Phone: (907) 683-1330 • Fax: (907) 683-1340  
Email: [dbgovt@mtaonline.net](mailto:dbgovt@mtaonline.net)  
Website: [www.denaliborough.govoffice.com](http://www.denaliborough.govoffice.com)



*Clay Walker, Mayor*

## **Monthly Assembly Report Mayor Clay Walker September 13, 2016**

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

### **Summer Alaska Municipal League (AML) Conference**

- The Alaska Municipal League Board of Directors considered and accepted the Denali Borough's application to host the 2018 Summer Conference. Municipal leaders from throughout the state will conference here in August 2018. We are excited to host and show off our beautiful borough. Advance planning efforts are underway with working dates of August 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- The City of Wasilla did a wonderful job of hosting the recent AML Summer Conference. Conference topics included PERS funding levels, state budget deficit (of course), marijuana regulations, and AML legislative priorities.
- As AML First Vice President, I had the opportunity for a two-on-two meeting with Governor Walker, his Deputy Chief of Staff John Hozey, and AML Past President Linda Murphy. While the primary meeting purpose was to clarify and strengthen the relationship between AML and the Administration, Governor Walker began the meeting by again congratulating the Denali Borough for recognizing the fiscal realities and helping out by not forwarding capital budget requests last year. So more kudos to you on that one!
- We had a great tour of Mat-Su Borough's Port Mackenzie, which is connected to the partially completed spur of the Alaska Railroad. This project has many potential benefits to the interior of Alaska. Is the Assembly interested in inviting Port Director Mark Van Dongen to come and present about the Port and its potential?

### **Annual AML Conference**

- Assembly members have received the conference registration packet for the annual conference in Anchorage November 14-18<sup>th</sup>. This is always an interesting week full of information, discussion, workshops and camaraderie. I do strongly recommend the Newly Elected Officers (NEO) seminar on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. If you plan to attend please let the office know by October 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Staff Appointment to State Commission**

- Chris Noel, our Emergency Planner and Projects Coordinator, was appointed to the State Emergency Response Commission. This gubernatorial appointment is certainly an honor which reflects well on his standing within the emergency preparedness community. His position is already required to travel to the preparedness conferences. As a commissioner, Chris will help guide the commission in directing its resources. Kudos to Chris!

### **Solid Waste Update**

- The annual Department of Environmental Conservation inspection of the Denali Borough Landfill took place on August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Also on August 26<sup>th</sup>, the borough posted the Request For Proposals for the Design-Build Landfill Shop Addition. The borough hosted a pre-bid conference at the landfill on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Eight different contracting firms came and looked at the project. A review committee will convene to score the proposals next Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **City of Anderson Land Swap**

- We are in the process of working with the City of Anderson to finalize the proposed land swap, which was first discussed in 2003. This swap is needed because the Regional Septage Facility (owned and operated by the City of Anderson) is partially located on Denali Borough land. Hopefully we'll have an agreed upon path forward before you in the next few months.

### **National Park Service 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Riley Creek Day Use Facility Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

- On the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service, Denali National Park celebrated by opening a new facility, the Riley Creek Day Use Area. The facility is easily accessible to the public, just a mile or so off the highway. There are rest facilities as well as beautiful timber-framed picnic structures sited near to the creek. Congratulations to the many folks who brought us this fine new facility. Superintendent Striker offered the community this "gift" on the special occasion. On behalf of the community, I was honored to "accept"!

### **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 22<sup>nd</sup>. Also, with the resignation of Anne Capistrant we have an open Planning Commission seat, representing the northern district.

### **Cantwell 14(C)3 land negotiation**

- The long standing process of determining which lands might be conveyed from Ahtna, Inc. to satisfy the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act requirement of providing land for community development is continuing, with a fair amount of momentum. The State's Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) is helping facilitate the process. They will notify the borough when a conveyance is proposed and have informed the borough that we will be asked to comment on the proposal. DCRA has asked the borough to consider the potential future needs for borough facilities or services in the Cantwell area. The conveyed land will be placed in a State-held Trust.

## **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) visit**

- AJ Wait and David Hite, with DNR, met with Marsha Lambert, our Planner, and myself regarding a few DNR related issues:
  - The property description of the communication site on Karma Ridge (McKinley Village) may need to be amended to account for where the site is actually located. DNR is anticipating having the site surveyed as part of this adjustment, which will benefit the borough. This site is within the borough's Yanert Municipal Entitlement land.
  - We further discussed the Department's position that the borough is now responsible for managing platted rights of way within the borough. DNR came to this conclusion after many years of managing rights of way within both the Denali and Fairbanks North Star Boroughs. DNR maintains that at borough formation, when we assumed platting authority, that the management of these previously platted rights of way is included in that authority. The Planning Commission was presented with this issue. The borough is investigating methods of granting authorizations to construct and maintain access roads within platted rights of way, and considering where such language fits best in code.

## **Healy Transportation and Pedestrian Safety (HTAPS) Plan Update**

- Department of Transportation (DOT) has confirmed that the crossing beacon at the Parks/Spur Road intersection will be installed within the month.
- I sent the plan to our region's DOT Planner and Safety Engineer and am working on scheduling a meeting to discuss project possibilities.

## **School Projects**

- Both major capital projects are progressing toward full completion. I am very thankful to have the support of both Curtis Hamel and Chris Noel in the oversight and management of these projects.

## **Denali Borough School District Strategic Planning**

- I am planning on participating on the workshop from September 30 through October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Administrative Assistant Job Posting**

- Our administrative aide, Teri Lewis, who has absolutely excelled in her position, is planning on retirement with a departure date in December. We have the entry level position posted and are accepting applications until September 29<sup>th</sup>. We plan on hiring in October with a November start date. Although it's a bit premature to wish Teri a great retirement, do know that she has been a big part of keeping our operation running smoothly.

## **AKLNG Meetings**

- AKLNG is hosting public meetings to provide project updates and share information regarding the resource reports. They will be in Cantwell on September 27<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8p.m. and in Healy on the 28<sup>th</sup> at the same time.

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

-Clay