

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645 - 907-861-8683

BOROUGH MAYOR

Vern Halter

BOROUGH CLERK

Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC

BOROUGH MANAGER

Michael Brown

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



Tim Hale, District 1  
Stephanie Nowers, District 2  
George McKee, District 3  
Robert Yundt, District 4  
Mokie Tew, District 5  
Jesse Sumner, District 6  
Tam Boeve, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

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### **Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 7 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

#### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Halter queried if there were any changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

#### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Nancy Bertels.

## **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following persons spoke in opposition to decreasing funding for the library budgets: Ms. Nancy Bertels and Ms. Ann Yadon.

The following person spoke in opposition to decreased funding for the libraries and animal control budgets: Ms. Nancy Hawkins.

The following person spoke in opposition to the decreased funding for the RSA overtime budget: Mr. John Strassenburgh.

The following person spoke to concerns with the last minutes amendments: Ms. Patty Fisher.

The following person spoke to concerns with the budget process and amendment documents not being available sooner: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

## **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET**

[OR 21-021](#)

An Ordinance Appropriating Monies From The Central Treasury For The Borough Operating Funds, Enterprise Funds, Education Operating Fund And Capital Funds, Establishing The Rate Of Levy For All Borough Functions For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021, And Ending June 30, 2022; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2021, Through June 30, 2022.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 21 021.**

**MOTION PENDING: Amendment No. 1**

**Non-Areawide Services Community Development (Tab C, pages 187 195)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to amend Non-Areawide Services, Community Development, as follows:**

- Division 503, Sutton Library, by striking \$351,423 from the overall budget and inserting \$326,200 in its place for a reduction of \$25,223;**
- Division 504, Talkeetna Library, by striking \$443,171 from the overall budget and inserting \$370,743 in its place for an overall reduction of \$72,428; and**
- Division 505, Trapper Creek Library, by striking \$230,031 from the overall budget and inserting \$190,307 in its place for an overall reduction of \$39,724.**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to postpone indefinitely.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve**

**MOTION PENDING: Amendment No. 7**

**Areawide Finance Common Contractual (Tab B, page 90)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Areawide, Finance, Common Contractual, Other Contractual (429.900), by striking \$862,000 and inserting \$140,000 in its place, for the reduction of \$722,000.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember Boeve

## **MOTION PENDING: Amendment No. 10**

### **Throughout Budget**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to amend Mileage Outside of Borough (414.100), Expense Reimbursement Outside of BOrough (414.200), and Travel Tickets (414.400) throughout the budget as follows:**

- **Areawide, fund 100, strike \$150,162;**
- **Non Areawide, fund 200, strike \$6,750;**
- **Enhanced 911, fund 202, strike \$12,670;**
- **Land Management, fund 203, strike \$200;**
- **Fire Fleet Maintenance, fund 245, strike \$7,100;**
- **Caswell FSA, fund 248, strike \$2,200;**
- **West Lakes FSA, fund 249, strike \$15,000;**
- **Central Mat Su FSA, fund 250, strike \$99,000;**
- **Butte FSA, fund 251, strike \$8,300,**
- **Talkeetna FSA, fund 254, strike \$1,400;**
- **Willow FSA, fund 258, strike \$4,300;**
- **Admin Road Service Areas, strike \$265**
- **Talkeetna Water and Sewer SSA, fund 293, strike \$1,000;**
- **Solid Waste, fund 510, strike \$18,900; and**
- **Port, fund 520, strike, \$5,200.**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to postpone indefinitely.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

## **Amendment No. 11**

### **Capital Projects/Grants (Tab M)**

**Assemblymember Yundt move to amend Capital Projects/Grants, by inserting a grant for My House in the amount of \$100,000.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 1 - Assemblymember Boeve

## **Amendment No. 12**

### **Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Tab J, page 431)**

**Assemblymember Tew move to amend the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, by striking the proposed new position of Utility Worker II in the overall amount of \$87,075.15 (411 's \$43,647.25 and 412's \$43,427.90).**

**Assemblymember Tew called for the question (to stop debate).**

**There was no objection.**

**The motion failed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, and Assemblymember Tew
- No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Sumner moved for reconsideration of Amendment No. 12.**

**The reconsideration passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 12 passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 13**

**Fire Service Areas - Central Mat Su FSA (Tab F, page 250)**

**Assemblymember McKee move to amend Fire Service Areas, Central Mat Su FSA, by striking the new proposed fire service captains (3) and firefighter/driver operator positions (6) in the amount of \$1,002,211.**

**Assemblymember McKee called for the question (to stop debate).**

**There was no objection noted.**

**The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Tew

**No:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

## **Amendment No. 14**

### **Road Service Areas - Administration (Tab G, page 300)**

**Assemblymember Tew moved to amend Road Service Areas, Administration, Overtime Wages and Benefits as follows:**

- **Overtime Wage by striking \$150,000 and inserting \$0; and**
- **Reducing the amount of Benefits (4 I 2's) by \$66,148.**

**Assemblymember Tew moved a secondary amendment by striking \$0 and inserting \$10,000 and striking \$66,148 and inserting 61,138.**

**The motion failed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Yundt moved a secondary motion by striking \$0 and inserting \$125,000 to overtime and reducing the amount of benefits by \$11,024.**

**The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 1 - Assemblymember Boeve

**The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Boeve



**Amendment No. 15**

**Non-Areawide Fund (Tab C, page 173 & 175)  
(200.000.000.311.100/200)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to amend the Non-Areawide Fund to decrease the mill rate from .490 to .432 for a decrease in property tax revenue of \$500,00.**

**Assemblymember Tew called for the question (to stop debate).**

**There was no objection.**

**The primary motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

The meeting recessed at 8:21 p.m. and reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

**Amendment No. 16**

**Capital Projects/Grants - Areawide Ambulance Division (Tab M, page 501)**

**Assemblymember McKee moved to amend Capital Projects/Grants, Areawide Ambulance Division, as follow by striking New Command Vehicles (3) in the amount of \$180,000.**

**Assemblymember McKee called for the question (to stop debate).**

**There was no objection noted.**

**The motion failed by the following vote:**

**No:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 17**

**Capital Projects/Grants - Rescue (Tab M, page 501)**

**Assemblymember McKee moved to amend Capital Projects/Grants, Rescue, by striking Water Rescue Truck in the amount of \$70,000.**

**Assemblymember McKee withdrew Amendment No. 17.**

**There was no objection to withdrawing the amendment.**

**Amendment No. 18**

**Capital Projects/Grants - Rescue (Tab M, page 501)**

**Assemblymember McKee moved to amend Capital Projects/Grants, Rescue, by striking Rescue Tool Modernization and Replacements in the amount of \$250,000.**

**Assemblymember McKee withdrew Amendment No. 18.**

**There was no objection to withdrawing the amendment.**

**Amendment No. 19**

**Areawide Fund - Mayor (Tab B, page 81)/ Information Technology (page 88)**

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to amend Areawide Fund, Mayor, Information Technology, as follows:**

- the Areawide Fund, Mayor, Benefits (412's) by striking \$138,038 and inserting \$154,768 in its place for an increase of \$16,730; and**
- the Areawide Fund, Information Technology, Expense Reimbursement Outside Borough (414.200) by striking \$30,370 and inserting in its place \$13,640 for a decrease of \$16,730.**

**Mayor Halter recused himself from the deliberations and Deputy Mayor Boeve assumed the duties of the Chair..**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to divide the question as follows:**

**1st segment:**

**• the Areawide Fund, Information Technology, Expense Reimbursement Outside Borough (414.200) by striking \$30,370 and inserting in its place \$13,640 for a decrease of \$16,730.**

**2nd segment:**

**•the Areawide Fund, Mayor, Benefits (412's) by striking \$38,038 and inserting \$154,768 in its place for an increase of \$16,730.**

**The motion to divide the question passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve
- No:** 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Tew

**1st Segment:**

**The Areawide Fund, Information Technology, Expense Reimbursement Outside Borough (414.200) by striking \$30,370 and inserting in its place \$13,640 for a decrease of \$16,730.**

**The 1st Segment passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**2nd Segment**

**The Areawide Fund, Mayor, Benefits (412's) by striking \$138,038 and inserting \$154,768 in its place for an increase of \$16,730.**

**The 2nd Segment passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve
- No:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Nowers

**Assmeblymember Boeve moved to set the mill rates at 9.942 areawide and .432 nonareawide.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**The main motion passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

## **VII. VETO**

There were no vetoes presented.

### **A. Motion to Override Any Possible Mayoral Veto on Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Items (Ordinance Serial No. 21-021)**

There were no vetoes issued.

## **VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT**

Ms. McKechnie advised that the May 20, 2021, meeting could not be cancelled until the reconsideration deadline. Asked for permission to cancel the May 20, 2021, meeting should no reconsideration be filed.

There was no objection noted.

Mr. Brown thanked staff for putting together a good fiscal budget proposal for 2022.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke concerns with amendments not coming out before public hearings.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to the amendment process being the same every year.

Assemblymember Yundt expressed his support with the amendment and public hearing process and thanked Mr. Brown and staff for the budget proposal.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to concerns with the School District funding.

Assemblymember Tew informed that he will be working on lowering department budgets over the next year.

Assemblymember Hale spoke to the lowering of the mill rates. Expressed his agreement that amendments should come before public hearings.

Assembly Boeve agreed with Assemblymembers Nowers and Hale that amendments should come before public hearings. Thanked staff for the budget proposal.

Mayor Halter thanked staff, mentioned the original budget was the best one he had seen. Spoke to supporting funding for the School Board.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.