

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

John Moosey

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

Jim Sykes, District 1

Matthew Beck, District 2

George McKee, District 3

Steve Colligan, District 4

Dan Mayfield, District 5

Barbara J. Doty, District 6

Randall Kowalke, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017

Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 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 for the purpose of deliberations on Ordinance Serial No. 17-017.

II. ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Steve Colligan, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, and Assemblymember Randall Kowalke

Telephonic 2 - Assemblymember Matthew Beck, and Assemblymember Barbara J. Doty

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Assemblymember Sykes moved to take up Mayor and Assembly Comments prior to Audience Participation. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes : 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

No: 2 - Assemblymember Colligan and Assemblymember Kowalke.

Mayor Halter vetoed the motion.

Assemblymember Sykes moved to override the Mayor's veto. The motion failed by the following vote (required five votes):

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty

No: 3 - Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Kowalke

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Jon Carpenter, Channel 2 News.

Mr. Moosey provided an overview of the fiscal year 2018 budget.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke against the sale of the Iditarod Elementary School: Mr. Garvin Bucaria.

The following persons spoke in support of the school district funding request: Mr. Mike Devine, Mr. Carl Nevada, Mr. John Robertson, Ms. Barbara Stott, Mr. Brian Mayer, Mr. John Pagel, Ms. Barbara Gerard, Mr. Michael Oron, Ms. Kelly Hammer, Mr. Rick Vaughn, Ms. Elizabeth Watchers, Ms. Carrie Fia, Ms. Shante Robinson, Mr. Benjamin Moyer, Ms. Christie Becker, Mr. Jason Ortiz, Ms. Stephanie Montoya, Ms. Catherine Pollock, Mr. Hunter Blakeley, Mr. Dan Hyde, Ms. Kylie Nagle, Ms. Malia Gravel, Mr. Eric Blakeley, Mr. John Berheney, Mr. Dan Gallagher, Ms. Laura Wick, Mr. Brandon Tucker, Mr. Mike Dannons, Mr. Bill Johnson, Ms. Lara Saunders, Mr. Joshua Rocky, and a number of ROTC cadets.

Assemblymember Beck exited the meeting at 6:46 p.m. and reentered the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 7:23 p.m. and reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

VI. DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET

[OR 17-017](#) 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, 2017 And Ending June 30, 2018 And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July

1, 2017 Through June 30, 2018.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Assemblymember Colligan summarized the relationship of the Borough and the School District for the last five years.

Assemblymember Doty spoke in support of education, a balanced budget, and the need for a broader revenue base.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to the need for a balanced budget. He noted that providing additional funding for the School District could take away funding from other necessary services.

Assemblymember Sykes spoke to the need for a balanced budget. He commented that a sales tax would reduce the amount of property taxes but not provide additional funding to the School District. He noted the amount that the senior property tax exemptions were costing the Borough. He thanked everyone for their testimony. He encouraged public outreach by the School District to support the sales tax idea.

Assemblymember Kowalke noted there was record attendance at the meeting. He spoke to his proposed amendment to cut \$1.5 million from the school district funding.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked everyone for their attendance and commented that education was a high priority to the Assembly.

(Assemblymember Beck entered telephonically before the amendments were made.)

Amendment No. 1

Assemblymember Kowalke moved a primary amendment to increase the mill rate by .192 to cover the voter approved bond debt. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

Amendment No. 2

General Fund (Tab B, page 1 and 18) and Education Operating (Tab J, page 2)

Assemblymember Kowalke moved a primary amendment to the General Fund and Education Operating Fund as follows: Education Operating 100.000.000.445.220, 204.000.000.367.100, and 204.000.000.406.100 by striking \$55,841,300 and inserting in its place \$54,260,886 for a decrease of \$1,580,414. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

No: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,
Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield,
Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 3

General Fund (Tab B, pages 1, 12, and 15), Debt Service Funds (Tab N, pages 19 and 20), and Educational Fund (Tab J, page 2)

Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to the General Fund and Education Operating Fund as follows:

Debt Service Funds, Other Financing Sources

(303.000.000.390.000) and Debt Service-Principal Schools (303.000.000.441.100) by striking \$400,000 and inserting \$0 in its place;

School Site Selection Reserve by inserting \$800,000 and inserting \$818,798 for a total increase of \$1,618,798;

Lease Income (100.000.000.3xx.xxx) by inserting \$400,000;

School Site Selection Reserve by striking \$1,898,798, leaving a balance of \$0; and

Transfer to Education Operating (100.000.000.445.220),

Transfer from Areawide (204.000.000.367.100), Education

Operating (204.000.000.406.100) by inserting \$1,898,798 for a total of \$57,740,098.

Assemblymember Sykes moved a secondary amendment to

School Site Selection Reserve by striking \$18,98,798 and

inserting in its place \$1,598,798 a balance of \$300,000 and

to Transfer to Education, Transfer from Areawide,

Educating Operating by striking \$1,898,798 and inserting in

its place \$1,598,798 for a total of \$57,440,098. The motion

passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,

Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield,

Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke.

No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,

Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

No: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 4

Assemblymember Kowalke moved a primary amendment to adopt the technical amendments as presented in the budget deliberation packet (see attached technical amendments).

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 5

General Fund (Tab B, pages 85, 89, 92, and 95) and Fire Service Areas (Tab G, pages 12, 18, 25, 38, 45, 51, and 59)

Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Emergency Services funds as listed below by inserting \$40,579 in wages and benefits and Fire Service Areas funds as listed below by inserting \$131, 487 in wages and benefits for a total of \$172,066 to add a Program Coordinator for recruitment and an Administrative Assistant to assist fleet maintenance. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 6

Special Service Areas - Talkeetna Flood Control SSA (Tab I, page 4)

Assemblymember Kowalke moved a primary amendment to the Special Service Areas, Talkeetna Flood Control SSA, Other Contractual (290.000.000.429.900) by striking \$15,000 and inserting in its place \$35,000 for an increase of \$20,000 with no mill rate increase. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 7

Non-Areawide Services - Animal Care (Tab D, page 15)

Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to Non-Areawide Services, Animal Care, by inserting \$57,858 in Permanent Wages (411.100) and \$44,303 in Benefits (412's) for a total of \$102,161 to add a Deputy Animal Care and Regulation Officer. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 8

Capital Projects/Grants/Pass - Tourism Infrastructure, Winter Trail Grooming (Tab O, page 1)

Assemblymember Doty moved a primary amendment to Tourism Infrastructure, Winter Trail Grooming, by striking \$420,000 and inserting in its place \$370,000 and inserting a new grant to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Ski Club in the amount of \$50,000. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 9

Capital Projects/Grants/Pass - Tourism Infrastructure, Winter Trail Grooming (Tab O, page 1)

Assemblymember Kowalke moved a primary amendment to the Tourism Infrastructure, Winter Trail Grooming, by striking \$420,000 and inserting in its place \$150,000 and inserting the following tourism infrastructure projects:

Jim Creek Phase II

\$100,000

Replacement Restrooms

\$50,000

Alcantra Field Repair #3

\$40,000

Point MacKenzie Community Council Grant for Point MacKenzie Park \$30,000

Assemblymember Beck moved a secondary amendment to add Matanuska River Park Upgrade Design in the amount of \$50,000. The motion failed by the following vote:

No: 4 - Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, and Assemblymember McKee

The primary motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 1 - Assemblymember Beck

Amendment No. 10

Areawide - Assembly (Tab B, page 17) and Mayor (Tab B, page 37)

Assemblymember Kowalke moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund, Mayor and Assembly as follows:

Assembly, Expense Reimbursement Outside Borough (100.100.101.414.200), by striking \$12,750 and inserting in its place \$19,750 for an increase of \$7,000;

Assembly, Travel Tickets (100.100.101.414.400), by striking \$11,250 and inserting in its place \$18,250 for an increase of \$7,000;

Mayor, Expense Reimbursement Outside Borough (100.1100.104.414.200), by striking \$1,300 and inserting in its place \$2300 for an increase of \$1000;

Mayor, Travel Tickets (100.100.104.414.400), by striking \$2500 and inserting in its place \$3,500 for an increase of \$1000;

Assembly, Dues and Fees (100.100.101.426.300), by striking \$41,000 and inserting in its place \$1,465 for a total decrease of \$39,535.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

Assemblymember Sykes moved to continue budget deliberations to a time certain of May 10, 2017. The motion failed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember Beck, and Assemblymember Doty
- No:** 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to set the mill rates at 10.332 areawide and .548 non-areawide. The motion passed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:

- Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Sykes thanked everyone for their participation. He expressed disappointment that there was no discussion regarding the future of the Port.

Mayor Halter congratulated the Assembly and Borough staff for the adoption of the fiscal year 2018 budget. He spoke briefly to the School District funding.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Disabled Persons Needing Reasonable Accommodation In Order To Participate At An Assembly Meeting Should Contact The Borough ADA Coordinator At 861-8432 At Least One Week In Advance Of The Meeting.