

Haines Borough
Borough Assembly Meeting #109
March 13, 2007
MINUTES

Approved

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG** Mayor **SHIELDS** called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Open Area and led the pledge to the flag.

ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL Present: Mayor Fred **SHIELDS** and Assembly Members Jerry **LAPP**, Doug **OLERUD**, Pete **LAPHAM**, Deborah **VOGT**, Scott **ROSSMAN**, and Luck **DUNBAR**.

Borough Staff Present: Robert **VENABLES**/Borough Manager, Julie **COZZI**/Borough Clerk, Jila **STUART**/Chief Fiscal Officer, and Jim **HEATON**/Interim Museum Director.

SCHOOL BOARD ROLL CALL Present: Chairman Gary **STIGEN** and members Heather **LENDE**, Judy **EREKSON**, Brian **CLAY**, Daymond **HOFFMAN**, Sarah **SWINTON**, and Carol **KELLY**.

School District Staff Present: Charlie **JONES**/School Superintendent, Ashley **SAGE**/Administrative Assistant, Cheryl **STICKLER**/Elementary School Principal, and Lisa **FLORY**/School Hot Lunch Program.

Visitors Present: Bonnie **HEDRICK**/CVN, Dave **AMMON**, Jody **FOX**, Gary **HESS**, Erwin **HERTZ**, Marsha **SCOTT** (Haines Clinic Administrator), Jansy **HANSEN**, Kenneth **KLINGER**, Don **TURNER** III, Lisa **FLORY**, Ray **CHAPIN**, Lucy **HARRELL**, Kerry and Joyce **TOWN**, Tim **DOGGETT**, and Bern **SAVIKKO**, and others.

2. **JOINT MEETING WITH THE HAINES BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD**

A. FY08 Budget

HANSEN was called upon, and she read a written statement expressing her concerns that the quality of education may be deteriorating in large part because of funding cuts. She asked the assembly to fund the school district to the maximum. **SHIELDS** briefly explained that the Secure Schools funding (Tongass monies) is slated to end and, if it is not renewed, the borough will have nearly \$500,000 less in revenue for FY08. Program renewal cannot be counted on, at this point. He also noted that the borough spent \$1,000,000 dollars that it didn't have and cannot keep that up. He added that the tax cap is a problem that should be addressed in the future.

STIGEN asked **JONES** to address the school budget. **JONES** said the assembly has only one school district budget before

them, and it does not reflect a \$200,000 projected funding cut. He summarized the budget for the assembly and said the school district is seeking more funding rather than less. The budget does provide for some staffing cuts if absolutely necessary, including a teacher, instructional aide, cook's assistant, and part-time secretary.

FLORY commented about the importance of the school hot lunch program and the necessity of the cook's assistant. She noted that it is a non-benefited position that gives a lot of value for a small amount of money, so she asked for it not to be cut.

B. School Maintenance

SHIELDS said the builder is recommending that the school district hire 1 full-time and 1 part-time maintenance worker. He said the borough needs to protect its facility investments but acknowledged that funding is a problem and maintenance seems to be among the first things cut. The topic was discussed by the assembly and school board, and everyone agreed that it is a problem with no easy solutions. The borough and school district will continue to explore options.

C. Other School District Issues

1. School Resource Officer

STIGEN said he likes the interaction between the school and the police department but does not believe this program is cost effective. **LENDE** said, at this point, the board would not want to allocate funds to the program. **KELLY** said it would be better to use the funds to retain a teacher rather than have a resource officer.

School Board Motion by **LENDE**: Eliminate the school resource officer position. It was seconded by **SWINTON**. The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

Assembly Motion by **LAPHAM**: Support the School Board's motion to eliminate the school resource officer position. It was seconded by **LAPP**. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Community Youth Development (CYD) Program

VENABLES asked if the CYD program should be managed by the school district office as opposed to the Haines Borough. He said it would seem more efficient that way, and the borough could give the district the funding to manage it. **JONES** agreed with the idea provided the funding is there for it. **LENDE** wondered if the combination of CYD Director

and Community Education Coordinator positions would make the person full-time and, therefore, eligible for benefits. **VENABLES** said if the school board and assembly are amenable to the idea, he will get with **JONES** to crunch numbers to present to both bodies. He added that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should weigh in on it, as well, since the CYD program is currently within the Parks and Recreation Department. **LENDE** said the idea makes sense in theory but it would be important to understand the liability and logistical ramifications before decisions are made.

3. Capital Improvement Projects

VENABLES said the borough still needs to have a long-range Capital Improvements Plan from the school district. For instance, Mosquito Lake School does seem to have some pressing maintenance issues. **SHIELDS** said the assembly does not plan to tell the school district how to spend its money, however it is important that the borough spend money wisely. "If the school district is given money and maintenance is cut and the borough doesn't agree, how do we deal with that?" **LENDE** said if the borough has heavy equipment, she doesn't understand why projects are put out to bid? **VENABLES** explained that school district is an area-wide function. Public Works is townsite only. Area-wide and Townsite are two distinct funding sources. **SHIELDS** agreed and said it is an important point. He read Title 14 of the Alaska Statute that mandates facility maintenance. He said the borough is searching for maintenance solutions and would like to hear ideas. **ROSSMAN** said the assembly is going to have to make some tough decisions. It's conceivable that none of the non-profits will get money this year so that it the school can get what it needs. **SHIELDS** pointed out that the non-profits include Lynn Canal Counseling. **STICKLER** was called on and said that Lynn Canal Counseling provides significant support for the school, and cuts to them would be a hit to the school in a sense. **HOFFMAN** suggested a committee to look at specific funding issues. **SHIELDS** said the manager, mayor, school board chair, and school superintendent are communicating regularly and the dialogue will continue. **ROSSMAN** optimistically said that the funding problems always seem to somehow work out.

D. Adjournment - 7:25pm

Motion by **SWINTON**: Adjourn the joint session. It was seconded by **LAPHAM**. There was no objection to the motion, and the joint meeting adjourned.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by **LAPP**: Approve the Agenda/Consent Agenda. It was seconded by **DUNBAR**. The motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES* 2/20/07 Regular

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

SCOTT requested that the assembly add the Haines Senior Assisted Living Facility's engineering costs to the Haines Borough's 2007 list of legislative priorities.

Motion by **VOGT**: Add the Haines Assisted Living Facility's engineering costs to the 2007 Legislative Priorities list. It was seconded by **DUNBAR**. The motion carried unanimously.

HESS said he pays the same mill rate as the people in town that get sewer and water, and he added that he cannot even get road signage because it is not a designated street. He has to plow his street himself and pays extra insurance because he doesn't have a fire hydrant within so many feet. His area was annexed in and he's supposed to be in the townsite service area. He doesn't believe it is right for him to pay the same mill rate as the people that get all of the services. He voted for the school and doesn't mind paying for that and for the harbor, but he doesn't like paying for services he is not getting. He had to pay over \$17,000 for a well just to get water. He would like to see his tax money used wisely. He would rather see money go into the school than to non-profits even though they do good things. **SHIELDS** assured **HESS** that the borough would consider his comments.

6. MAYOR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

SHIELDS said he and the manager will be in Juneau for the Southeast Conference Mid-Session Summit so he would like the 3/27 assembly meeting to move up to 3/20.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Ordinance 07-01-152 - Second Hearing

An ordinance of the Haines Borough amending Haines Borough Code Title 18 Section 18.110.010 to add the most recent Coastal Management Plan (CMP) revision date.

Mayor **SHIELDS** opened and closed the public hearing at 7:42pm; there were no public comments.

Motion by **LAPP**: Adopt Ordinance 07-01-152. It was seconded by **LAPHAM**.

VOGT noted that the planning commission has asked the assembly to delay adoption at this time. They did not have sufficient time to thoroughly review the plan, and since

the governor has extended the plan adoption deadline to September 2007, they would like to take the time to review the plan more. She suggested tabling the motion.

Motion by **OLERUD**: Table the motion. It was seconded by **VOGT**. The motion carried 5-1 with **ROSSMAN** opposed.

8. STAFF REPORTS

A. Borough Manager

The manager summarized his written report that included the following topics:

- **FY08 Budget**
- **Chilkoot Indian Association**
- **School Construction Update**
- **Employee Evaluations**
- **Personnel Changes**
- **Marine Highway Chief**
- **Port Chilkoot Dock**

VENABLES said Chilkoot Indian Association (CIA) tribal council would like to have a joint meeting with the assembly on Saturday, 3/31/07 regarding the tank farm property. **ROSSMAN** said there is no guarantee that the property will go to the borough or the CIA. **SHIELDS** said it appears the municipality is first in line to get it. If the borough steps aside, it is possible it could go to the CIA with the blessing of the municipality.

- B. Borough Clerk**
- C. Chief Fiscal Officer**
- D. Chief of Police**
- E. Museum**
- F. Library**
- G. Chilkat Center**

9. COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/BOARD REPORTS

- A. Commerce Committee**
- B. Finance & Budget**
- C. Personnel**
- D. Government Affairs & Services**
- E. Planning Commission**
- F. School Board**
- G. Chilkat Center Advisory Board**
- H. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**
- I. Tourism Advisory Board**
- J. Boat Harbor Advisory Committee**
- K. Public Safety Commission**

10. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolutions - None
- B. Ordinances for Introduction - None
- C. Other New Business

*1. Hire Museum Director

The Museum Board of Trustees recommended assembly confirmation to hire Jerrie Clarke as the new Museum Director at step 1.

2. Third Avenue Reconstruction Project

Motion by **ROSSMAN**: Proceed with the Third Avenue project with AK-DOT administering it as one single project with Union Street. It was seconded by **LAPP**. The motion carried 4-2 with **OLERUD** and **VOGT** opposed.

LAPHAM asked if the project would include sidewalks. **VENABLES** said unless directed otherwise by the assembly, at this time, he does not plan to add sidewalks on the west side unless there ends up being additional money.

AMMON was called on and he said the decision does not make sense. **OLERUD** said the main part of the assembly's previous discussion was to add asphalt paths and rumble strips rather than sidewalks.

3. Haines Ferry Terminal - Presentation by AK DOT/PF

DOGGETT introduced himself along with **SAVIKKO**. He said that they are two of six marine structural engineers from the Alaska Department of Transportation in Juneau who are responsible for the design of Alaska's ferry terminals. They gave a status report including background on the terminal and its cell design, the current problems, and the three-phase solution. The state owns cells 1-4, and the borough owns cells 5-15. They believe the borough showed good sense when it hired Reid Middleton to rehabilitate its portion of the dock. The state did not participate in that project, and there was a breach in cell 4 in 2004. Haines is the second busiest ferry terminal port in the entire system, second only to Juneau. The state would like to remove their cells and replace them with mooring structures. To them, the docks are a liability rather than an asset because of snow removal and homeland security issues. They stressed that they work for AK-DOT rather than the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). It has been difficult for the designers to get needed information from AMHS, such as numbers and types of planned vessels. **DOGGETT** said it makes sense to homeport two shuttle vessels in Haines. The

designers looked at different options for relocating the ferry terminal including four sites in Portage Cove. None of the Portage Cove sites met all of the criteria, so the preferred engineering option right now is staying at Lutak Inlet, removing the cells, and adding stern berths.

ROSSMAN asked why nothing has happened to date even though the state acknowledged the need back in 1994. **SAVIKKO** said it's all about what gets added to the state transportation improvement plan (STIP) and funded. Obviously every port wants their project prioritized.

TOWN was called on. He asked if it would be cheaper to build a brand new dock facility as opposed to the cost of repairing the existing one.

The mayor called a brief recess at 8:38pm. The meeting reconvened at 8:42pm.

ROSSMAN asked when the current project is due to go out to bid. **DOGGETT** said phase one of the improvement project is slated to go out to bid soon. It involves installing 3 dolphins and putting a cap on. It's the difference between a capital improvement project versus a maintenance/operational project (repairing the breached cell). **ROSSMAN** said the borough has not had the use of its portion of the dock for three years since the state's cell failed. **DOGGETT** said the project they are working on will not solve that failure and make the borough's land usable. It will stabilize things and keep it from failing further. He added that Phase two is in the draft STIP for 2008.

HERTZ asked about the plans that affect his property. **DOGGETT** said Phase three calls for additional dolphins to be constructed in front of the **HERTZ** property.

4. Lutak Dock Property - Presentation by Dave Ammon

AMMON presented a mockup of the Lutak Dock he made out of boards, aluminum cans, popsicle sticks, and ship silhouettes. He briefly described the dock's construction and summarized the rehabilitation work that Reid Middleton did on it in 2002.

He spoke to his written summary regarding the Lutak Dock property ownership that he had provided the assembly. He believes his research proves that the owner of Tract B is the Haines Borough rather than the State of Alaska.

12. SET COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

There will be a committee-of-the-whole meeting on Thursday, 3/15/07 from 5-6pm in the assembly chambers for Kensington update with Coeur Alaska.

The next assembly meeting will take place on 3/20/07 rather than 3/27/07.

The Personnel Committee will meet next month to review borough officer compensation packages.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

TURNER expressed disappointment that the assembly chose to have the state manage the Third Avenue Project and bid it out as one single project. This in essence eliminated the local companies from bidding on the job. He asked the borough to try to accommodate the local businesses on these big jobs by providing more advance notice of projects.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

VOGT agreed with **TURNER**'s comments, and she noted the date of November 21st on the capital management document provided to them in the packet.

15. ADJOURNMENT - 9:17pm

Motion by **LAPHAM**: Adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by **DUNBAR**. The motion carried unanimously.

Fred Shields, Mayor

ATTEST:

Julie Cozzi, Borough Clerk