


Haines Borough
Borough Assembly Meeting #121
October 9, 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 Assembly Chambers and led the pledge to the flag.
2. **ROLL CALL** **Present:** Mayor Fred **SHIELDS** and Assembly Members Jerry **LAPP**, Doug **OLERUD**, Scott **ROSSMAN**, Deborah **VOGT**, and Donnie **TURNER**. **Absent:** Pete **LAPHAM** (excused).

Staff Present: Robert **VENABLES**/Borough Manager and Julie **COZZI**/Borough Clerk.

Visitors Present: Tom **MORPHET**/CVN, Greg **STUCKEY**, Chris **SCHELB**, Jerry **ERNY**, Jim **TURNBULL**, and Art **JESS**.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA**

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

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES*** 9/25/07 Regular

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

STUCKEY, on behalf of the Chilkoot Indian Association, invited the assembly members to attend four different planning/brainstorming sessions scheduled for late October and early November and said more information will be forthcoming. These sessions will assist the Tribe in planning its next five years. The first one will take place on October 24th to discuss economic development.

6. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

SHIELDS said he attended the Haines welcoming reception for the cruise ship industry on opening night of the recent ATIA convention in Juneau. He had an opportunity to visit with some key people.

While in Juneau, he met with Dennis Hardy, AMHS Director. He shared his concerns with Mr. Hardy regarding the ferry system and its importance to Southeast Alaska.

The state has resolved some right-of-way issues with the US Army that were holding up the Lutak project. It is expected to go out to bid in the next few months.

SHIELDS said the AML conference is in Fairbanks this year. **VOGT** indicated an interest in possibly attending.

A. Proclamation - Frank Wallace Day, October 9, 2007

The mayor read the proclamation aloud in honor of the late Frank Wallace, long time fire chief and former mayor for the City of Haines.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Ordinance 07-09-168 - first hearing

An ordinance of the Haines Borough allowing the mayor and assembly to enroll in the borough's medical insurance plan with the borough paying the premiums.

The mayor opened the public hearing at 6:40pm.

ERNY said it seems unethical for the assembly to vote on a benefit for themselves. He suggested that the public decide at an election.

TURNBULL said the costs concern him. He does not disagree with the concept but has not seen any public notice regarding the expense.

Hearing no further comments, the mayor closed the public hearing at 6:42pm.

Motion by LAPP: Adopt Ordinance 07-09-168. It was seconded by **TURNER**.

SHIELDS said \$40,000 has been budgeted for the remainder of FY08. A full fiscal year would cost approximately \$50,000.

Motion by ROSSMAN: Table this ordinance until the next assembly meeting. It was seconded by **OLERUD**. The motion to table failed 3-2 with **TURNER** and **LAPP** opposed.

VOGT said she is concerned about the cost and wondered about splitting the premiums between the elected officials and the borough. **VENABLES** said the employees currently pay a \$100 per month co-pay. **OLERUD** said this assembly benefit was originally in code but was removed as a cost-saving mechanism. He has since come to realize that it is an important incentive for getting people to serve. **SHIELDS** agreed that this ordinance is more about restoring a benefit that was always there before.

Motion to amend by ROSSMAN: The borough assembly will revisit this issue every year during the budget cycle and take specific action by voting on it. It was seconded by **LAPP**.

OLERUD said he likes the idea. **VOGT** wondered about other municipalities. **LAPP** said when he was mayor of the former borough, about 60% of other municipalities made health coverage available to the elected officials. He added that

he likes the idea of the same co-pay as the borough employees. **TURNER** said he is in favor because there is a lot of time and effort that goes into serving on the assembly.

The amendment motion carried unanimously.

OLERUD said he's not opposed to putting it off until it can be on a ballot. **VOGT** said it's a valid concern, too. However, it could be instituted now for this fiscal year and added to the next election ballot. **OLERUD** agreed with that idea. The assembly did not take specific action to do that.

Motion to amend by **ROSSMAN**: Pay the same co-pay as borough employees in the collective bargaining agreement. It was seconded by **VOGT**. The amendment motion carried unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

B. Ordinance 07-09-169 - first hearing

An ordinance of the Haines Borough amending Title 2 to change certain payday and predisciplinary hearing requirements.

The mayor opened the public hearing at 6:53pm.

SCHELB wanted to know the reason for changing the payday. **VENABLES** said the change is primarily related to the timing of electronic payroll deposits.

Hearing no further comments, the mayor closed the public hearing at 6:55pm.

Motion by **LAPP**: Advance Ordinance 07-09-169 to a second public hearing on October 23, 2007. It was seconded by **VOGT**. The motion carried unanimously.

8. STAFF REPORTS

A. Borough Manager

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

- **Pool Update**
- **Harbor Plans**
- **AKDOT Update**
- **Engineering Projects**
- **Alaska Cruise Ship Initiative**
- **Advantage North Conference**

VOGT said the borough should make a request to the state for additional harbor funds. **VENABLES** said he believes the \$5-7 million harbor project can be done without tapping local taxpayers for it if the borough is successful with grant requests.

ROSSMAN asked what the state has offered to acquire the borough rights-of-way for the Lutak Road project. **VENABLES** said the state has offered \$12,000 but his hope is to get them to pay more in line with the value of the properties or to trade for work such as chip-coating. He's trying to get a more realistic dollar amount from the state before starting any discussions about trading work.

VENABLES will be attending a meeting of the Marine Transportation Advisory Board in Juneau tomorrow. He said, as bad as it is, Haines gets some of the best ferry service in Southeast. Sitka is probably the worst at this time. **ROSSMAN** asked about the status of the road issue. **SHIELDS** said he was told that the road is still on the burner but the state is waiting for all the permits they need. **VENABLES** added that federal funding looks very grim even if they get the permits.

VOGT asked for clarification of how the engineering services will be handled since the contracts were awarded last meeting to both Carson Dorn and PND Engineers. She wondered if the assembly weighs in on every project. **VENABLES** said the assembly gives him both a budget and direction. He added that he will keep the assembly posted on what the borough is doing. The primary projects are roads, sidewalks, and infrastructure (including drainage and water/sewer). **ROSSMAN** asked if 4th Avenue has become a borough street. **VENABLES** said he will check to see if the ROW has been granted to the borough and platted.

VOGT said she has been discussing the allocation of the cruise ship initiative "impact funds" with Johanna Bales, Deputy Director for the state's Tax Division. Unresolved questions include determining the impact of one ship on a community the size of Haines compared to a place like Juneau that gets six at a time. Also, Haines is impacted by Skagway-docked cruise passengers.

- 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

1. Resolution 07-10-112

A resolution by the Haines Borough Assembly authorizing the manager to acquire, the west 60 feet of the parcel known as C-735-03-0600 real estate property located within United States Survey 735 Haines Borough, Haines, Alaska.

Motion by **ROSSMAN**: Adopt resolution 07-10-112. It was seconded by **TURNER**.

OLERUD asked if the borough has received permission to tie into the state highway. He also wanted to know why the plans don't call for it to connect to West Fair Drive or Jones Point Road to reduce the number of intersections. Additionally he wondered if anyone looked into a cul-de-sac. **TURNER** said the planning commission looked into it but that area does not meet the code requirements for a cul-de-sac. The commission also considered a tie-in to West Fair Drive but decided against it since that intersection is already difficult. He agreed with **OLERUD** that the state should be talked with regarding highway access. **VENABLES** said there is no dollar amount on the table yet to purchase the property, and a price will be brought to the assembly for approval following negotiation with the property owner.

The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

B. Ordinances for Introduction

1. Ordinance 07-10-170

An ordinance of the Haines Borough amending Title 2 Section 2.10.040 to clarify procedures for the security and disclosure of executive session recordings.

Motion by **VOGT**: Introduce Ordinance 07-10-170 and set it for its first public hearing on October 23, 2007. It was seconded by **ROSSMAN**. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Other New Business

1. 2007 Snow Removal Contracts

• **Public Schools** (Townsite)

Motion by **ROSSMAN**: Authorize the borough manager to negotiate with the sole-bidder, Southeast Road Builders, to provide 2007 snow removal services for the townsite area public schools. It was seconded by **VOGT**. The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

• **Cathedral View/Piedad Area**

Motion by **ROSSMAN**: Authorize the borough manager to negotiate with the sole-bidder, Southeast Road Builders, to provide 2007 snow removal services for the Cathedral View/Piedad Area. It was seconded by **TURNER**. The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

• **River Road/Chilkat Trails**

VENABLES believes that with the recent upgrades to River Road and given the increase in the bid amounts, the borough's public works department should try to take this on this year. On an as-needed basis, he would like to contract with any qualified snow removal business.

Motion by **LAPP**: Authorize the borough manager to provide these services through the Public Works Department and contract only on an as-needed basis. It was seconded by **ROSSMAN**. The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

ROSSMAN said that something needs to change to ensure that roads are maintained within the road maintenance service areas. **VENABLES** said it is difficult with new subdivisions that are still growing; there is not yet enough of a tax base to help pay for the needed services. He agreed that it is a problem. He added that the Eagle Vista snow removal RFP will be readvertised in an attempt to get more affordable bids.

2. Additional Repairs to the Senior Center Building

Motion by **LAPP**: Authorize an additional \$2,000 from the CIP fund for senior center repairs. It was seconded by **ROSSMAN**.

VOGT said the motion made will take care of only half of the \$4,000 needed to complete the project. The senior citizens will pay the remaining amount.

The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

3. Surplus 1966 Peterbuilt Fire Tanker

Motion by **OLERUD**: Authorize sale of the 1966 Peterbuilt fire tanker to the high bidder from the 9/29/07 public outcry auction. It was seconded by **LAPP**.

ROSSMAN recused himself because he is the high bidder, and there was no objection.

The motion carried unanimously 4-0 with **ROSSMAN** recused from the vote.

12. SET COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

The Finance Committee will meet at 5:45pm on October 23 prior to the regular assembly meeting. The topics will include a permanent fund update and monthly financials.

On November 1 at noon, the Government Affairs & Services Committee will meet to discuss increases to the water/sewer rates.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

SHIELDS expressed appreciation to **TURNER** for his months serving as an assembly appointee. He also thanked **ROSSMAN** for his three years of service.

LAPP said he would have nominated **COZZI** for "Clerk of the Year" but found out she is ineligible at this time because she is on the AAMC Executive Board.

15. ADJOURNMENT - 7:42pm

Motion by **OLERUD**: Adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by **TURNER**. The motion carried unanimously.

Fred Shields, Mayor

ATTEST:

Julie Cozzi, Borough Clerk