



Haines Borough
Borough Assembly Meeting #132
May 13, 2008
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**, Steve **VICK**, Norm **SMITH**, Pete **LAPHAM** and Deborah **VOGT**.

Staff Present: Robert **VENABLES**/Borough Manager, Suzanne **NEWTON**/Administrative Assistant (meeting recorder in the clerk's absence), Jila **STUART**/Chief Fiscal Officer, Scott **BRADFORD**/Water-Sewer Operator, Bruce **SMITH**/Public Works Superintendent, and Phil **BENNER**/Harbormaster.

Visitors Present: Tom **MORPHET**/CVN, Beckie **CHAPIN**, Danny **GONCE**, Dave **GROSS**, James **STUDLEY**, Beth **MACCREADY**, Dan **AUSTIN**, Vince **HANSEN**, Paul **NELSON**, Judy **EREKSON**, Mike **DENKER**, Bill **FINDLEY**, Jerry **ERNY**, Jim **GREEN**, Lucy **HARRELL**, Henriette **ARENSEN**, Stephanie **SCOTT**, Michael **BYER**/School Superintendent, Dick **FLEGEL**, and others.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA

SHIELDS asked if the assembly desired to discuss the Temsco situation. **OLERUD** suggested that it would be better to wait until all pending information has been received. **SHIELDS** agreed and said that there are two issues: sales tax and permitting.

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

- *4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 4/22/08 Regular

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

SCOTT said she is interested in the energy issues facing the borough. The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) is having town hall meetings in 25 communities all over Alaska but Haines is not one of them. She was not pleased about that and asked how Haines could participate. AEA sent her maps with a suggestion that citizens circle potential energy resource sites and they will follow up with a scientific analysis. **SHIELDS** suggested that the maps be placed at the library for the public.

NELSON asked the assembly to consider a reduction in the police force. He believes it is possible to provide 24/7 coverage with only 4 officers working one week on, one week off with 7 twelve-hour shifts. He added that places like Skagway do not have a 24-

hour dispatcher. The officer on patrol in the middle of the night takes any dispatch calls. There are one to two 9-1-1 calls per week, so there is not a high volume to deal with.

ERNY said he has personal experience with 7 twelve-hour shifts and it doesn't work with city police officers. It's too taxing and does not give consistency.

GREEN suggested that wind power may be viable for Haines. He would like to see an assessment as soon as possible. **GONCE** said AP&T supports alternative energy. He said the two wind towers they put in Skagway were destroyed by the wind. They determined that the wind inconsistency keeps it from being a viable energy source because there is either not enough or too much.

DENKER said the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation recently announced a new rebate program beginning May 15th. It pays up to \$10,000 for home energy efficiency upgrades. He encouraged the Haines Borough to monitor this program.

FINDLEY voiced concern about the fresh water spring at Letnikof Cove. It's an unofficial source of water that a lot of citizens use for drinking water. He believes it might be time to control access to the upland area to prevent people and animals from being up there. **VOGT** wondered if the planning commission should look into designating it as a "water resource area."

6. MAYOR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

Senator Ted Stevens is coming to town on July 5th. The mayor hopes to have a black hawk helicopter up from Juneau to be in the parade grounds at the Fort.

SHIELDS recently attended the annual Alaska Yukon Government conference in Haines Junction.

He will attend the SEARHC anniversary event in Haines on May 17 and read a proclamation.

The state assessor visited recently to audit the performance of the Haines Borough assessment system. The borough has received a report from him that recommends steps to bring the system into compliance with state law.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Ordinance 08-03-179 - third hearing

An ordinance of the Haines Borough placing on the October 7, 2008 Election ballot the question of exemption from the Alaska Public Official Financial Disclosure Law (AS 39.50).

The mayor opened the public hearing, and **DUBBER** spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Hearing no further comment, the mayor closed the public hearing.

Motion by **OLERUD**: Adopt Ordinance 08-03-179. It was seconded by **LAPP**.

Motion to Amend by **OLERUD**: Amend Ordinance 08-03-179 as recommended by the borough clerk. It was seconded by **LAPP**. The amendment motion carried unanimously.

VICK commented that he likes the sample of Homer's local reporting form and it is important to still require some type of reporting if this ballot question passes. **VOGT** agreed.

The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

B. Ordinance 08-05-181 - introduction & first hearing

An ordinance of the Haines Borough, Alaska, providing for the establishment and adoption of the budget of the Haines Borough for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Motion by **OLERUD**: Introduce Ordinance 08-05-181 and hold the first public hearing at this meeting. It was seconded by **VICK**. The motion carried unanimously.

The mayor opened and closed the public hearing; there were no comments.

Motion by **LAPP**: Advance Ordinance 08-05-181 to a second public hearing on May 27, 2008. It was seconded by **SMITH**. The motion carried unanimously.

8. STAFF REPORTS

A. Borough Manager

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

- **State Projects inc. Union Street and Lutak Road**
- **Local Projects inc. Young Road Water Tank, Beach Road Forcemain, Pool Repairs, Harbor Floats, and Road Repairs**
- **Secure Schools Funding**
- **Alaska Marine Highway**
- **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)**

* **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
- * L. Waterfront Improvement Committee

10. OLD BUSINESS - None11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions - None

B. Ordinances for Introduction

1. Ordinance 08-05-182

An ordinance of the Haines Borough amending borough code Title 18 Section 18.70.010 to clarify the official zoning map.

Motion by **VICK**: Introduce Ordinance 08-05-182 and set the first public hearing for May 27th. It was seconded by **VOGT**. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Other New Business

*1. Board Appointment - Riverview RMSA Board

Recommended motion: Confirm the mayor's appointment of Ed Michinski to the Riverview RMSA Board.

2. Beach Road Forcemain Extension Project

Motion by **OLERUD**: Authorize the borough manager to negotiate the Beach Road Forcemain contract with the low bidder, Southeast Earthmovers. It was seconded by **VOGT**. The motion carried 5 to 1 in a roll call vote with **LAPP** opposed.

3. Energy Issues

VICK said fuel and food have increased in the Haines Borough by 30%. He said this is not a phase but a world phenomenon, and the Haines Borough needs a plan and should not wait. He asked the assembly to seriously consider his proposed resolution to establish an energy commission along with hiring an energy coordinator. He believes that conservation and efficiency will more than pay for the new position. He highlighted the major elements of his draft resolution and said he welcomes feedback. **VOGT** said she believes this proposed position would be one of economic development. **OLERUD** said he will not vote for this resolution with a paid staff position in it. The money should be used to pay for energy efficiency. There are people already on staff that can address this. **VICK** said

he doesn't believe any existing staff member has time to do what he is proposing. **VOGT** agreed that the in-house people can participate, but there is so much more---like researching grants---that existing staff would not have time for. **LAPP** said he would prefer a contract position rather than a new employee. **SHIELDS** said the resolution and topic will be on the next agenda.

VICK requested that AP&T provide public notification when they are switching from hydro to more expensive diesel.

4. Chilkat River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan

SMITH expressed his concern that Fish & Game has closed the Chilkat Inlet for king salmon fishing to allow further escapement. He objects to Haines' fishing being cut off when Juneau's and Skagway's is not. The salmon derby will not take place in Haines this year but is still taking place in Juneau. **SHIELDS** asked **SMITH** to draft a letter for his signature regarding the closure that will be sent to the Fish & Game and Sport Fish commissioners, Governor Palin, Representative Thomas, and Senator Kookesh. **OLERUD** said a letter is a good idea. If the fishery is in danger and needs this protection, then the other areas need to be reduced or closed as well. **SMITH** said this closure will cause a significant negative impact on the local economy.

5. Police Chief Hire Recommendation

CASE said the committee reviewed eight applications, and two of them clearly stood out above the rest. The committee recommends Gary Lowe. **SHIELDS** said he attended the interviews and believes Lowe is an outstanding choice.

Motion by **OLERUD**: Appoint Gary Lowe as Chief of Police. It was seconded by **LAPP**. The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

SHIELDS thanked the hiring committee and the public safety commission for their work on this.

12. SET COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Commerce Committee meeting, May 15, 9:00am, Assembly Chambers.

Personnel Committee meeting, May 22, 9:00am, Borough Administration Conference Room.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

SCOTT said she has been participating in energy workshops that are establishing standards for statewide utility structure. The borough needs to get serious about the energy crisis.

DENKER thanked **SCOTT** for her extra efforts on energy issues, spending multiple hours to try to save the borough some money.

"It took a member of the public outside of the borough employ to bring that forth." He urged the assembly to act now.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

SHIELDS said that in the best interest of the borough, he would accept a motion to terminate the borough manager's contract only on the condition that it included three months severance pay.

Motion by **SMITH**: Terminate the manager's contract and give him three months severance pay. It was seconded by **VOGT**.

OLERUD asked for the reason. **SHIELDS** responded that he finds it to be in the best interest of the borough. **OLERUD** said he thinks it is a backdoor way to grab power. He does not agree with the motion or the way it has been brought up this evening. **LAPP** agreed with **OLERUD** and said he has no information about why this is being done and does not appreciate it being brought up like this without prior knowledge.

The motion carried 4-2 in a roll call vote with **LAPP** and **OLERUD** opposed.

OLERUD asked again for reasons. **SHIELDS** said he had provided reasons for the past two years in executive sessions and his last reasons were not even listened to. **OLERUD** said this is a very sad day for the borough and very underhanded politics and the people who voted "yes" on that motion should be ashamed. He also demanded better ethical accountability for assembly members as well as members of boards and commissions.

The mayor asked if there were any other assembly comments.

OLERUD objected to the inference by **DENKER** that no one in the Haines Borough has made any effort to look into the energy issues. He said that just because other people have a different point of view about how to proceed doesn't mean there hasn't been effort to research data and look at ways to protect the community. To infer otherwise offends him.

LAPP commented that what **SHIELDS** did this evening is the lowest thing he has ever seen in local politics.

15. ADJOURNMENT - 8:48pm

Motion by **LAPP**: Adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by **SMITH**. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Fred Shields, Mayor

Julie Cozzi, Borough Clerk