

Haines Borough
Special Borough Assembly Meeting
JOINT SESSION WITH THE HAINES BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD
March 18, 2010 – 6:30pm

MINUTES

- A. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag:** Deputy Mayor **LAPP** called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Haines Borough High School Commons and led the pledge to the flag.
- B. Assembly Roll Call: Present** – Deputy Mayor Jerry **LAPP**, and Assembly Members Daymond **HOFFMAN**, Joanne **WATERMAN**, Scott **ROSSMAN**, Steve **VICK**, and Norm **SMITH**. Mayor Jan **Hill** joined the meeting at 8:10pm.

Borough Staff Present: Julie **COZZI**/Borough Clerk, Brad **MAYNARD**/Director of Public Facilities, and Debra **SCHNABEL**/Contracted Project Clerk.

- C. School Board Roll Call: Present** - Chairman Carol **KELLY** and members, Sarah **SWINTON**, Brian **CLAY**, Nelle **JURGELEIT-GREENE**, Ann Marie **PALMIERI**, and Brenda **JONES**. **Absent** - Stacie **Turner**.

School District Staff Present: Michael **BYER**/School Superintendent, Ashley **SAGE**/Administrative Assistant, Cheryl **STICKLER**/Principal, Michelle **BYER**/Assistant Principal, and Judy **EREKSON**/Accounting.

Visitors Present: Tom **Morphet**/CVN, Bill and Libby **KURZ**, Janet **KURZ**, and others.

D. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Swinton moved to "approve the meeting agenda," and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Business

1) **Instructional Programs**

a. Strategic Planning Review

BYER said the Strategic Plan is a living document that will help guide the school district for the years ahead. They understand that their collaboration with the community enhances the students' education, and there is interest in creating a taskforce to get more community involvement. **KELLY** added that the Plan will serve as a road map for allocating resources. It is incomplete, and the school board is especially interested in public comment and ideas. **SMITH** observed that the Plan identifies Internet service as a challenge or threat and asked how the District plans to address it. **BYER** responded that Southeast Conference is currently applying for a federal grant to expand broadband. **SMITH** said the whole community is concerned about this problem. **WATERMAN** asked if cost is a factor for the school district or if the maximum speed available through AP&T is not enough. **BYER** said both capacity and speed are inadequate. Haines is a lot slower and more limited than so many other parts of the country and the world enjoy. Video-conferencing and video transfers are difficult, for one thing. **VICK** agreed that good Internet in Haines is important, and he would be interested in the borough looking for a grant. **KELLY** said she read that the federal government is interested in bringing broadband to every community. **LAPP** said the Plan needs to include some proposed action steps for the identified challenges and threats.

b. Voc-Ed Expansion

BYER said there is a lot of emphasis right now on vocational education and tying it into academics so it can translate into a career. The District can now offer classes that were previously difficult, such as cooking and construction. Even University

credits are now available for some classes. **SMITH** asked if there is room for an A/V class in the high school, and **BYER** said they will likely add that next year.

2) **Facilities Issues**

a. Major Maintenance/CIPs

Regarding FY09 CIP funds, **BYER** said he was contacted by the Department of Education (DEED) and told that there is possible funding available to pay for some of the items remaining on that original CIP list. This includes upgrading the Voc-Ed restrooms to make them ADA-compliant, completing the Voc-Ed siding, demolition of the old buildings, and abatement of the fuel tank, among other things. He's been working with DEED to make that opportunity available. He explained that whatever gets used will require a 35% match, and the work would have to be completed by June 2012. **VICK** asked if the money can be used for renovation. **BYER** said he was told that the funds are limited to what was in the initial CIP.

Regarding current CIP funding, **BYER** said the Mosquito Lake School boiler replacement project is #8 on the major maintenance list and the Governor has proposed that every project through #8 get funded. Funding for this project could be as much as \$175K. He explained that, last year, the borough put out an RFP because the school district thought they had enough money in-house. Unfortunately, bids came in significantly over the budget, so they delayed the project and chose to apply for the funds through the CIP process. They need a good system up there, but the two-boiler design from Murray & Associates seems extravagant. **KELLY** said this has been an issue of contention. The assembly members and school board members discussed the pros and cons of the various options with **MAYNARD** answering technical questions. **MAYNARD** said the energy auditor will be in town next week and would be a great person to ask. He will explain the process to him and get some more information regarding the potential pay-off of a two-boiler system as opposed to a single boiler. He also explained that any public improvement project over \$2K requires Davis-Bacon wages, so that significantly drives up the cost.

The assembly and school members discussed the shared pool/school power meter and the need to separate it out. Additionally, the pool and locker room and other school/pool facility issues were discussed. **MAYNARD** said the borough just received the cost estimate from the mechanical engineer, and the document contains estimates for different scenarios. He is interested in moving forward to get some preliminary engineering and cost estimates so things are ready to go if the funding comes in.

b. Borough/District Facilities Responsibilities

KELLY said during last year's joint meeting, the question was raised as to who is responsible for what kinds of maintenance/construction. She reported that State law says the borough is responsible for major maintenance and the school district is responsible for general maintenance.

3) **Budget**

BYER said the school district is currently in pretty good financial shape, because they have been prudent in managing the monies. They don't anticipate asking for too much more than last year. **LAPP** asked if the school budget breaks out the Mosquito Lake costs and asked for it to be included in the school's submission to the borough. **BYER** said he will break it out as much as possible.

4) **Old School Buildings - Disposal of Remaining Contents**

ROSSMAN said his idea is to have a big yard sale and enable school groups to run it and get the proceeds. **VICK** asked about liability, and **BYER** said there is insurance. He said he will put the word out and see if one of the student groups would be interested. **COZZI** confirmed that the assembly declared the contents surplus and directed staff to dispose of it. **SAGE** said some of the remaining stuff is categorized, but people will likely want things windows, blackboards, fixtures, doors, and cupboards, too. **LAPP** suggested the school board can discuss this and come up with a plan. They have the assembly's support. All agreed.

5) **Safe Routes to School**

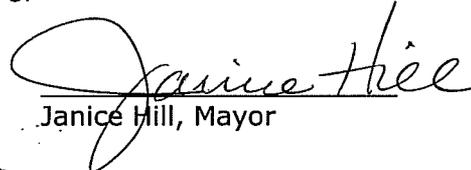
VICK explained that he asked for this agenda item. **MAYNARD** said the borough is asking AK-DOT to add some *Safe Routes to Schools* items to their upcoming road projects in Haines. **SCHNABEL** explained the program and the challenges. **ROSSMAN** wondered if the borough could put a sidewalk out of the state right-of-way on school property, and the school could use a snow blower or tractor snowplow to keep it clear in the winter. Everyone seemed to agree. **ROSSMAN** asked if the borough can apply for some of the *Safe Routes* money to do it. **SCHNABEL** said "yes," and added that, as a first step, there is a small amount of planning money left that might be enough for a conceptual drawing. **WATERMAN** suggested that staff prepare a concept and cost estimate if the school board is willing to make the property available. **BYER** said the School District can cooperate, but the borough has the expertise. **SCHNABEL** said the borough will be the applicant for the funds. **MAYNARD** agreed and said if the borough is going to ask for funding, it needs to be engineered. He suggested that the borough should look for 3 or 4 other items on the list to add to the sidewalk request. **SCHNABEL** asked about the management of vehicles on school property and said a parking plan would go a long way to help define the walking routes for children. **VICK** said the borough might consider lighting the sidewalk, as well. Staff was directed to work on this.

F. Closing Comments

SAGE announced that the champion boys' basketball team arrives by ferry terminal at 11:15am tomorrow. There will be a parade with fire trucks, etc. **BYER** suggested everyone wear green.

G. Adjournment - 8:42pm

Motion: SWINTON moved to "adjourn the meeting," and the motion carried unanimously.


Janice Hill, Mayor

ATTEST:


Julie Cozzi, Borough Clerk

