

Haines Borough Assembly & Haines Borough School Board

Joint Session

March 4, 2014 – 6:30pm

Haines School Library

Minutes

Approved

A. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

Mayor **SCOTT** called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Haines School Library and led the pledge to the flag.

B. Assembly Roll Call – Michelle **WEBB**, Interim Borough Clerk

Present: Mayor Stephanie **SCOTT**, and Assembly Members Jerry **LAPP**, Debra **SCHNABEL**, George **CAMPBELL**, Diana **LAPHAM**. Dave Berry and Joanne Waterman were absent.

C. School Board Roll Call – Ashley **SAGE**, District Secretary

Present: Vice President Sarah **SWINTON**, Sara **CHAPPELL**, Brian **CLAY**, Scott **DODDRIDGE**, Lisa **SCHWARTZ**, Brenda **JOSEPHSON**. President Anne Marie **PALMIERI** participated by phone.

Staff Present: Michael **BYER**/Superintendent, Julie **COZZI**/Interim Borough Manager, Michelle **WEBB**/Interim Clerk, Carlos **JIMENEZ**/Director of Public Facilities, Darsie **CULBECK**/Executive Assistant, Jila **STUART**/Finance Director, Margaret **MCLAUGHLIN**/ Mosquito Lake Teacher Aide, Kate **BAERLOCHER**/Mosquito Lake Teacher, Cheryl **STICKLER**/Principal, Judy **EREKSON**/Accounting, Genevieve **ARMSTRONG**/Food Program Coordinator, and Suzanne **NEWTON**/Student Services Aide.

Visitors Present: Tom **MORPHET**/CVN, Margaret **FRIEDENAUER**/KHNS, **Alissa HENRY**/Treasurer of Chilkat Valley Preschool (CVP) Board, Renee **HOFFMAN**/Office Manager of CVP, Kim **LARSON**, and others.

D. Approval of Agenda

Motion: **LAPP** moved to “approve the agenda,” and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Public Comments - None

F. Business

a. School District Major Maintenance Projects Status and Action Plan

Motion: **LAPP** moved to “adopt a resolution to request the legislature to fund the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) funding through the Department of Education.” The motion carried unanimously.

SCOTT thanked **BYER** for starting the Major Maintenance staff meetings which have been helpful for communication between the borough and the school.

In discussion, **BYER** summarized the school’s process of application to the DEED major maintenance program through the Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC). There have been several major maintenance upgrades to the school conducted through this program, and the school has been well ranked to receive

funds every year. This year, there has been no money allocated to this fund. The school is trying to "fix what we have", as encouraged by the governor in his State of the State address. It was noted that completed projects are also eligible to receive reimbursement through this program.

In discussion of the application process to place bond measures on the 2014 ballot, **SCHNABEL** questioned and **STUART** clarified the state's process of debt reimbursement and DEED application before putting a bond on the ballot. **SCOTT** questioned, and **STUART** further clarified that the state's reimbursement money was through the yearly appropriation process. The application minimum of \$250,000 for each application was discussed. **JIMENEZ** stated the high school locker room project needed to be done at the same time as the pool locker rooms. **JOSEPHSON** stated she felt it was important for each of the projects to stand on their own merits, if possible, so that the community can vote on their priorities. **JIMENEZ** talked about a roof repair versus the roof replacement. Staff clarified that they were seeking guidance from the boards before moving forward with the expense of the application process. **CHAPPELL** asked about the qualification of the pool/school locker room project for these funds, as the pool is a borough building, not a school building. **CAMPBELL** spoke to the cost of the application and the tax impacts. **JOSEPHSON** stated the amounts reported would be larger if the state reimbursed at a lower level. **SCHNABEL** remarked the boards could always just choose not to bond. **CLAY** spoke about the roof repair issue. He felt that chasing roof repairs was not useful. Also, he felt that the public will need to be educated about what the bonding will be used for. **JIMENEZ** stated the current roof has 10-15 years of life left if repaired, but both options have been presented. **CLAY** moved to amend the motion to have the roof repairs removed and include the high school roof replacement instead, but the motion died from a lack of a second.

CAMPBELL asked about Mosquito Lake School, and **CHAPPELL** responded that it was considered major maintenance. **JIMENEZ** said a decision about the future status of Mosquito Lake School will affect this.

Motion: **SCHNABEL** moved to "authorize staff to proceed with the application process by contracting with SERRC for up to \$6,000 for the following applications (as amended): project 1 (High School Air Handling Unit) alone, project 2 (Vocational Ed. Mechanical Upgrades) alone, project 3 (High School Locker Room) with project 6 (Pool Locker Room and Entry), project 5 (Mosquito Lake Mechanical Systems Upgrades) alone, and project 7 (HS Roof Replacement) alone." The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

In discussion, **SCHNABEL** stated this will allow the projects that are married to be applied for together, but allows the voters to pick and choose which bonds to vote for. **CHAPPELL** stated that she did not know enough about the roof repairs to not have it included at this point. **JIMENEZ** offered to provide the roof assessment. **SCHNABEL** felt if the roof replacement project is not voted for, then the repair could be funded through other methods. **JIMENEZ** cautioned the estimate could go up if other issues are found and discussed particulars of the project. **JOSEPHSON** clarified the roof replacement proposed was for another flat roof. **CAMPBELL** asked if it would be more advantageous to apply for each project individually, and then the borough could bundle them later. **STUART** stated that applying for each project separately would be fine as long as each met minimum price threshold. **SCHNABEL** remarked that some projects will be done together, so combining the financing and engineering would be better. **SCHNABEL** amended the motion to clarify SERRC would be used to develop the applications. There was a secondary amendment from **CAMPBELL** to cap the

amount "up to \$6,000". The secondary amendment carried with the mayor breaking the tie, and the primary motion carried 9-2. **JOSEPHSON** amended the motion to unbundle project 1 and 2, and the motion carried 7-3.

b. Six-year Capital Improvement Plan, per Borough Charter 7.04 (A)

In discussion, **BYER** stated that the projects of the previous item are basically the 6-year improvement plan. There are plans for each building available.

c. Mosquito Lake School Update

In discussion, **BYER** stated enrollments at Mosquito Lake School are declining. They did not have 10 students during the counting period, and this affects the state funding of the school. There were only 9 students during the counting period, and now there were only 5 or 6. He reported public meetings had been held and new projects have been implemented, but the decline has persisted. At the most recent meeting at the school, a committee was established. This committee will present at next Tuesday's board meeting to decide the school's fate next year. **SCOTT** stated that the borough's interest in this matter is the physical building the school is housed in. **LAPP** asked about the cut in funding. **BYER** stated the school has been financially breaking even for a while. However, it was now losing money, and will cost more next year. **CAMPBELL** was surprised to hear there was no discussion of sending Mosquito Lake children to the Klukwan School. **BYER** stated he has spoken to the superintendent in Klukwan and they would be happy to receive new students. **JOSEPHSON** and **SCOTT** stated that it is the parents' choice for schooling location.

d. FY15 Budget – Reserve & Expenditure Forecasts

EREKSON spoke to the FY14 actual budget and the FY15 budget. She explained the color coding and the impacts onto the budget. The totals will leave the school dipping into their reserves. **LAPP** asked about the superintendent salary, and **EREKSON** had already taken \$5,000 off the figure. **SCOTT** asked about the school's reserves and **EREKSON** stated it is the same as the borough's fund balance. **BYER** stated they are only allowed to carry over 10%. A number of factors, such as union bargaining, are currently unknown for the upcoming year. Also, the state may have some alterations to the funding formula which will also affect the FY15 budget. The borough has historically funded above the minimum, and the Haines School is ranked #3 in the state. **CAMPBELL** asked about the art room move, and the price of this move. **BYER** stated the air handlers in this area are old, energy inefficient, and need to be replaced. **CAMPBELL** asked if there was a school population increase, how many more students the school could handle with the current facilities. **BYER** stated if a whole class of young children arrived, there would be a scramble, and modular classrooms would probably be used. **JOSEPHSON** agreed this was discussed during construction, and modulares would be the first choice for expansion. **LAPP** also mentioned the high school was designed to have a second story.

BYER, **CHAPPELL**, and **CLAY** discussed the funding concerns for the school. **JOSEPHSON** stated because the school is facing a deficit, they will be looking to the borough to help with funding. **SCOTT** stated her thanks for the school's help in funding maintenance of the building. **COZZI** and **JIMENEZ** reviewed an idea of possibly having the school maintenance position become a borough position. This would provide needed redundancy in maintenance and repairs and would be logical considering the school is a borough building. **CAMPBELL** asked about the construction and trade class. **BYER** stated it is not on the docket for next year.

CAMPBELL stated if there is no trade class, then would it be possible to do a work study class with the borough or local craftsmen. **BYER** spoke about the current work study program. He also took the opportunity to talk about The Alaska Learning Network which provides classes online. It provides classes taught and designed by Alaskans, for specialty courses. It is in danger of being cut, and he encourages support of this program.

e. Chilkat Valley Preschool

Motion: **CHAPELL** moved to "approve in concept locating the preschool modular building on the school campus, and assign resolution of technical and building details to borough and school district staff; and furthermore, that technical and building details, and a proposed memorandum of understanding, be brought to the assembly and school board on or before August 1, 2014." The motion carried 9-2 with **JOSEPHSON** and **CAMPBELL** opposed.

In discussion, **CHAPELL** said as a school board member, former president of Chilkat Valley Preschool (CVP), and parent of 3 graduates, she was in favor of the preschool's plan. The CVP program is expandable, and can take any child. The borough has indicated that they would like the CVP out of the Human Resource (HR) building that they have been using. Therefore, the CVP has presented the attached plan. **HOFFMAN** stated it was the goal of their plan to move a modular building onto borough land. She clarified they are not asking for funding or grants, just the use of land. This is the same level of support that the borough has provided previously through the use of the HR building. They felt having the preschool located on school property has been a successful model in other areas.

JOSEPHSON was concerned that CVP is a private preschool. In all cases she was aware of; the preschool on a school campus was public and managed by the school board. The state is looking at addressing preschooling, but is not available now. She read from the borough's attorney opinion and the discussion about whether this was considered child care or education. She was sensitive about liability issues and taking up space that the school may need in the future for school modulares. **CHAPELL** was in support of the preschool at the school, and felt since it is borough property, it was a borough choice. State funding for preschools and the impact of preschool education on school performance was discussed.

SCOTT read from the borough attorney's memo which was in support of the ability to support and fund the preschool through the infrastructure of providing a community benefit with the use of public funds. **SCOTT** stated providing land was indirect funding.

LARSON stated as a private day care provider, she was limited on the number of children she can serve with her license. **EREKSON** reported on her research of the differences between day care and educational programs.

CLAY said his concern regarding the expansion was space in the playground and asked about proposed emergency exits. **LAPP** agreed. **HENRY** stated they have their own insurance and will work out playground scheduling details.

LAPP asked why the preschool didn't want to take possession of the HR building. **HENRY** stated it would be too expensive. **SCHNABEL** pointed out the borough has been supporting the CVP for 41 years, and was in support of this proposal. **CAMPBELL** was concerned about the ability of the CVP to maintain a new building on school grounds if they had not maintained the HR building. He is also concerned that if borough land is being made available to private entities, then

perhaps there should be an open bid process. **LAPHAM** spoke against an open bid process. The Head Start program was discussed. **PALMIERI** stated it was her opinion that this preschool is just moving from one borough property to another. While there were a number of details to work out, she suggested that the Major Maintenance group start to work on this. An agreement from that group could come before the school board. She also inquired about how long a time period the school land would be for. She suggested the arrangement be revisited every couple of years.

JOSEPHSON asked about the school district attorney opinion included in the packet. She felt that current law did not support this proposal. In response, **SCHNABEL** stated it would be important to have an MOU before an agreement. However, she agreed that having a private building on borough land could be problematic.

CAMPBELL was against this proposal and felt the information before the board was not accurate. He encouraged the CVP to make a new proposal with more accurate information. He felt there were too many issues to proceed. **SCHNABEL** moved to amend the motion to add "and that technical and building details, and a proposed MOU, be brought to the joint assembly and school board on or before Aug. 1, 2014," and the motion carried unanimously.

f. School-Library Path Discussion

In discussion, **SCHNABEL** wanted to ensure there is a safe route available from the school to the library. The proposed route presented will need some work to meet up with the existing path. This path was chosen because the other possible route had the potential to damage the track during snow removal. A sign, staking the path, and brush work would be required. **BYER** agreed. Moving the back stop would allow a more direct path. **SCHNABEL** stated there is no budget yet, but she would like the route supported. **BYER** said the proposed trail is the path that is already being used. **SCHNABEL** remarked there may need to be an MOU constructed and she would recommend that lights be added to the trail in the future. **CHAPELL** was in favor of this proposed path and felt it would increase safety. **NEWTON** was concerned part of this area was used for school skiing and snowshoeing, and wanted to make sure this area would still be available for classes. **CHAPELL** stated there was trail money in the budget and the snow blower from the school could probably be used. **LAPP** stated a packed gravel surface will allow the trail to be used by people with mobility issues.

CLAY inquired about moving the school crossing lights closer to the school area. **JIMENEZ** stated the state was going to move them this summer.

Motion: **SCHNABEL** moved to "approve the path from the Haines Borough Public Library to the Haines School in concept and have the administration work on the details." The motion carried unanimously.

SCHNABEL encouraged the school district to keep the Safe Routes to School program active.

G. Board/Assembly Comments

SCHNABEL thanked residents for coming to the meeting and for their participation in community issues.

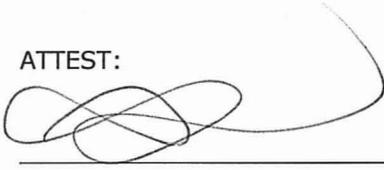
CLAY pointed out it was **BYER's** last meeting and thanked him for his work.

JOSEPHSON said the school's success was not coincidence. It came from hard work. She thanked all the parties involved.

H. Adjournment - 9:17pm

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

ATTEST:



Michelle Webb, Interim Borough Clerk



Stephanie Scott, Mayor

