



HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA
P.O. BOX 1209, HAINES, ALASKA 99827

A K Annette Kreitzer, Borough Manager
907.766.6404 akreitzer@haines.ak.us

MEMO

TO: Haines Borough Assembly
Mayor Thomas Morphet

DATE: November 2, 2023

RE: Work Session/Tax Assessments Public Outreach & Appeals

At the October 30, 2023 Special Assembly meeting there were several statements made that were factually incorrect.

- 1) “There was no public relations (PR), no public outreach.” Could we have done more – absolutely, with more staff, more capacity – we could have done more. I met with Kyle Clayton with the Chilkat Valley News and Alain D’Epremesnil with KHNS on March 14, 2023. This meeting resulted in stories March 29 and March 15 through these media.
- 2) I have been asked aside from the meeting, why the December 8, 2022 report by Michael Dahle wasn’t presented to the Assembly. The Assembly was given a power point presentation on February 14, 2023 by Michael Dahle outlining the issues in his December 8 2022, assessment of the Borough.
- 3) Number of appeals – 227 or 221? As the last week before the deadline to appeal approached, the assessment staff recognized there would not be time to answer people’s questions. In order to protect their due process rights, they explained that the administrative (internal) appeal form would be used to go on to the BOE if the property owner did not find satisfaction in the review of their valuation with the assessment office. Each form was given a number – up to 227. Two of those were duplicates, but 27 of these remained internal – they did not withdraw an appeal – they never formally appealed. They were satisfied once they had the opportunity to have their questions answered. The correct number of appeals is 221. As one testifier stated – facts do matter and it’s important that residents know that I take that seriously.