

Turnagain Arm Community Council

Meeting Minutes for

December 16, 2021

**I. 7:10 p.m. Call to Order:**

**Setting: Girdwood Community Center**

**II. 7:12 p.m. New Business – Guest Speakers**

**A. 7:12 p.m. City Assembly Update**

**1. John Weddleton**

Vote-by-mail Update – Assembly is doing an assessment and evaluation. Invitation to send comments on vote-by-mail operations.

The municipal budget was passed. Mayor Bronson vetoed some appropriations. Most vetoes were upheld. Alcohol tax appropriation changes were made.

The Fire Department and Chugach Electric will increase the budget burden by \$2 Million more than the current budget.

Despite reported struggles with the Mayor, the Assembly is working on many issues with the Mayor in a positive direction.

They are working on acquiring a building for the medically fragile homeless. They are making progress on the homeless issues.

The city is continuing to have issues with SAP software.

Money for homeless facilities is being matched or increased by donations from Rasmussen Foundation, Providence, Native corporations, and others. Of the \$2 Million the city has appropriated, over \$4 Million has been added by donations. Buildings being considered for homeless housing include the Barrett Inn and the Sockeye Inn.

**B. 7:32 p.m. Anchorage School District Update**

**1. Kelly Lessens (online)**

Superintendent Dr. Deena Bishop is retiring at the end of her term. A search for her replacement is underway. They expect to have 2 or 3 finalists by March.

They have been utilizing COVID relief funds while acknowledging their temporary nature.

They will be debating the actual school budget in February.

In April there will be a school bond measure on the ballot. The bond is seeking \$110 Million over the course of 2 years.

The school district mask policy (COVID) may change after Winter Break. A proposal has been put forth.

The school board will start issuing a report every month.

**C. 7:38 p.m. JBER Update**

**1. Joy Boston**

This Saturday (December 18) they will be doing “Wreaths Across America”. Friday is the last day to register for base access.

TriCare Healthcare Network – Walmart is out and being replaced by CVS (Target).

Next summer there will be internships available for financial occupations on base.

**D. 7:43 p.m. Rumblestrips Update**

**1. State Representative – James Kaufman (online)**

No change in progress in rumblestrip issue.

Konrad Mittlestadt (Indian) testifies to the increased noise pollution created by the rumblestrips and clear-cutting that was done adjacent to his property. He also testifies in the increased wind velocities created by the clear-cutting.

On December 22, there will be a meeting at the LIO – Anchorage from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

They are looking for 2 delegates from each community to identify needed capital projects. A notice for the meeting will be distributed soon.

**III. 7:53 p.m. Old Business**

**A. 7:53 p.m. Minutes from Last Meeting – Approved**

**IV. 7:54 p.m. More New Business**

**A. 7:54p.m. Assembly Update (New Business)**

**1. Suzanne LaFrance**

Suzanne handed out some informational materials:

- a. Fact Sheet for Homeless Projects and Strategy
- b. Observers Handbook (existing 3/29/19)
- c. Draft of Proposed Changes to Observers Handbook
- d. Reapportionment Handout for Redistricting (will not be in effect for upcoming April elections).

There will be some Town Halls on January 12 and 13.

Reapportionment hearings will be on February 1.

At the December 21 meeting (upcoming) there will be a procedural motion with relation to Robert's Rules judgements and efficiencies.

**B. 8:15 Neighborhood Ordinance Issue**

**1. Mary Gutierrez (Indian)**

There is a driveway ordinance requiring Turnagain Arm residents to install asphalt driveways to new construction. This is putting a financial hardship on her family. The previous version of Title 21 had an exemption for Turnagain Arm residents and she is seeking to have that exemption re-installed.

**IV. 8:35 p.m. Next Scheduled Turnagain Arm Community Council Meeting:**

- A. February 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The venue yet to be confirmed.**

**VI. 8:37 p.m. Meeting Adjourned**