

Steve called to order at 19:05

Introductions;

Minutes of last meeting: Additions or corrections? Nancy B moved, John second. No

Agenda:

Add HB-93 Nancy moved, John second to go to HB-93 immediately.

- ➔ Representative Kopp: Via telephone: Budget subcommittee meetings non- stop
- ➔ He's on Education and Judiciary Committee and on Transportation committee.
- ➔ Railroad Right of Way

He filed HB-93 and it has broad support in the House from leadership and good bi-partisan support. Goal is to restore right of owners and successors to use their land without being charged to use the land unless there is an operational or safety concern with railroad. Strong disagreement of property owners to use the surface of their land for gardens and such. Recently RR has exhibited an exclusive use plan. 1982 transfer from US to Alaska, right of way is not in question, but owners can use the easement if no safety concern. Just says RR cannot charge owners and cannot cloud title of property. Support all long rail belt. Actions continue forward. Balancing act is happening well so far.

- John Fletcher: Bill does anyone with RR to get an injunction against anyone who may be usurping the safety use. Property owner may not find now that they have anything to say.

- Steve: How many sponsors and Senate support?

- Chuck: Dunleavy to north and Miccice, to south both supportive.

He has some senators who are willing to help. Bill is NOT against railroad, but is to protect landowners with property next to the railroad. May have been attempts at revenue for AKRR due to their downturn. It is not a significant revenue generator for them.

- Nancy: – What can we do to help this along?

- Chuck: House resource members – Andy Josephson and Geran Tarr, on House Resources Committee would be the ones to contact. Phone calls help and calls from all over the rail belt are making an impact with the committee members,

- Tank: Is business able to move forward on this bill or will it be sidelined?

- Chuck: It's always a risk, but the chair has indicated it's a high priority item. Expect a secure date for hearing within the next six weeks. Video clips and such have been helpful with the continuance of the motion.

- Larry: What's in this for the railroad other than a loss of revenue?

- Chuck. Great question. AKRR Their exclusive use is under review. Chuck brought to them that AKRR can roll over one land owner at a time and win each time. He reminded the RR that they have an easement on the property of the others; not vice versa. Also, on a federal level, we need a clarification – how did this occur when the ownership went from federal to state. Senator Dan Sullivan's office has been supportive.

- Bob – Any insight on support from Von Imhof? She has been supportive – best to contact her.

- Chuck expects her to be supportive, but best to ask her.

- John: Might be good to have Sen. Dunleavy to help since he's in a different part of the state. How does it get put in front of two committees?

- Chuck. Most bills get in front of two committees. Previous RR bills go in front of both resources and finance committees.

- John: We appreciate your work when there is so little money to work with.

- Steve – To group – any concerns on this or any other issue to contact Rep Kopp 907.465.4993 is office number Cell number is 907.952.0189

ALASKAHB93@yahoo.com is site for info

Suzanne LaFrance Candidate for Assembly.

- ➔ Suzanne LaFrance – running for South Anchorage Assembly seat, vacated by Bill Evans. Lives here in South Anchorage for 20 years and kids attend public schools here.
- ➔ Master's at Purdue. Works at ATT for 18 years in budgeting and expenses: Active in Great Alaska Schools that has led her to seek helping more. She sees great investment in the schools and the budget has had a large impact.
- ➔ Public Safety is top of list. Smart budget decisions. Need Strong schools. Need to keep parks funded.

➔ 907.351.7199 is personal cell number. SuzanneForASSEMBLY@GMAIL.COM

Robin Victims for Justice – sick at home tonight.

- ➔ Kathleen Plunkett for ASD. Handout for 4 April ballot
- ➔ Bond is \$58.5 – Roofs, heating and Ventilating and West/Romig from quake damage from Jan 2016 event. Impact to taxpayers is a wash from how bonds are being paid off and the impact of this bond. First year would be about \$45.1 M and the rest would happen over about 2 to 3 years. Roughly a reduction of about \$0.12 per \$100k valuation. Roughly \$2B in schools in the muni. How to take care – this is basic O & M. Homeowners typically borrow for these items. Savings limit is about used up. Governor vetoed debt reimbursement, so ASD borrowed from savings to keep the extra money from homeowner taxes.

Budget decrease with no BSA increase will have minimal impact on average classroom size.

Talking about a junior college in Eagle River.

KCC has not been considered a “school site” before – so will help with revenue.

- Pete J. – Estimates for bonding construction- are they based on reliable estimates? Kathleen – yes.

HB-93 update.

-> Jack : There was an injury. In 1982 – transfer language and intent was quick and missed some points. Owned by state but AKRR is a legally independent public corporation from state. No checks and balances in this corporation, and legal issues are expensive and long. As the corporation began – they upset many folks with their insistence of their rights. 45 new USA land patents on 1200 Alaska properties from Seward to Fairbanks. Not just an issue in the Anchorage area.

Devaluation of property of homes – 2006 for Jack’s property – the RR can put up a fence and The process for the patent is legally advised from the US Department of the Interior. It goes over top of the existing patent

Bo Gastrock – ultimate ownership had not been determined when the AKRR was changed so exclusive use language was put into ARTA [Alaska Railroad Transfer Act] to make sure that lands transferred to Alaska Natives, the language was superimposed on previous patents. It’s like selling the same car twice.

Pete J – Don’t live next to RR, but cycling down Seward HWY – the new fence put up at the parking lot looks terrible and one wonders about the unsightliness of that occurring along the highway. Shared usage has happened for over a century. Safety is indeed important, but every fatality has been connected to a public road crossing. The argument of needing the fences in some areas, but not at the shooting range. Inheriting the right of way allows them to inherit the entire legal process.

- Ben S – How was the process done?
- Jack: No notice of new patents was made.
- Ben – would the Federal Government be the starting place?
- John F – lots of variation as to who is really responsible. No notice needs to be send since it wasn’t planned to be a part of the US Administrative procedures.
- Mike F. Oceanview Park impact?
- John F. Holden patent in 1954 transferred to Muni so is a part of the involvement.

Flying Crown pays a fee to the RR yearly and those fees go up every year. That shared right of way for the landing strip and the RR

- Steve – a couple of websites -

Alaska Property Rights. Website – web search.

- Jack: Can I ask that each of us continue to write to legislature.
- Roselynn at FCC: Was told that OSOVCC only needs 20 copies since other CCs also need copies – so word is getting out.

Fire Station #9: Jamie is still interested for Chain Reaction bike store – has no interest in the property. That one fire station has no fire suppression. So Jamie will need to put that in.

Next meeting is 24 March.

John Move, Joni Secord. Adjourn.