

BASHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING
Basher Elementary School
November 3, 2016

Meeting Called to order at 7:10pm by Council President, Don Crafts

LRSA Update

Ted Trueblood gave a written report as follows.

1. Winter is here. The first snowfall resulted in a "Perfect Storm" on the big hill. Some folks forgot their winter tires; others forgot to downshift and drive slowly while descending the steep grade and learned that using their brakes is not a very good idea, especially two big delivery trucks which got themselves crosswise on the hill, thus blocking the road. The contract was out grading fairly early and met the first truck, finally got through, graded, scarified and sanded and all was well.
2. Due to the major difficulties we saw the trucks on the hill, we requested that the "Winter Warning" sign be posted again this year. Mini Traffic installed it prior to the Campbell Tract parking lot so that those not properly equipped to negotiate the hill would have a place to turn around. Hopefully the delivery guys will take heed.
3. The contract completed the creek overflow dike/berm down by the "Bear Tree" pullout. This should alleviate the overflow icing we saw last year. ADF&G has requested that we vegetate it next spring.
4. As noted elsewhere, we have one meeting with Muni folks a few weeks ago and are having another meeting around November 9th to find a resolution to the deteriorating conditions on the "Park Road." This second meeting is being set up by Assemblyperson Forrest Dunbar. Our limited budget will not be able to support the level of costs associated with repairing this section of CAR.
5. The bid package for the CAR and Trail project is now with Muni Purchasing and will be out to bid soon. We expect to see a contractor out doing clearing and prep work this winter with construction starting in the spring. This project should be completed by the fall of 2017. Traffic control will be very difficult on this project and we will be invited to a pre-construction meeting to discuss the contractor's traffic control plan prior to beginning the work.

Attorney General Office Presentation on new crime law

Jenna L. Gruenstein (Assistant District Attorney, Anchorage District Attorney's Office, 907-269-6447) gave a presentation on Alaska's new crime law, AKA SB 91. In the documents section there is a summary of her talk.

According to Jenna, the crime law is "a large bill that has impacted every aspect of the criminal justice system, from arrest to sentencing, drug laws, reclassification and probation, parole." All sentences have been reduced, much fewer arrests and more citations, failing to appear is no longer a crime, and most first time offenses no longer include jail time. See the documents section for more detailed information. Contact Jenna at the above number if you have additional questions.

Muni Assembly Update

Pete Peterson gave update on Assembly. Highlights of his presentation:

- It's Muni budget time. Assembly has been working on the budget for 3-4 weeks and have cut every department expect for police and IT. **Looking at raising taxes to balance the budget: \$12.67 per \$100,000 in valuation.** Will vote on the budget Nov. 15.

- **Adding a 50 cent tax monthly to your phone bills—both to land lines and cell phones.** This is to support 911 services. The last couple of years phone service has not been covering the cost and money was taken out of general fund to cover.
- Peterson is chair of the ethics and election committee. Is rewriting the ethics ordinance.
- Assembly approved an ordinance which increases the amount of time from 60 days to 120 days to appear your tax assessment if you've had a fire in your home. The fire must have damaged more than 50% of your home making it unlivable.
- Muni is looking to switching to handling elections by mail. The muni has already appropriated \$1 million for new machines.
- An additional 29 police officers are getting ready to graduate from the Academy. Currently 387 police officers on duty. Mayor's goal is 400.

Forrest Dunbar's report:

- The Assembly is working on a new taxi ordinance to expand the number of taxi permits and improve the quality of service. Currently there are 188 permits. That's only up 30 since 1994. Taxis need to modernize and improve their service, he said.

Vince Beltrami

Mr. Beltrami was in attendance to promote his campaign to win the seat currently held by Cathy Giessel in the State Senate.

Don Craft's Presentation

Council president reported that our by-laws stipulate that half the board officers get elected one year and the other half get elected the following year (two year terms). The election will be held in February. He asked that anyone wishing to service in any position give him a call.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.