

Basher Community Council
Baxter Elementary School
July 29, 2003

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm by President Matt Moore.

Presentation on State Budget: Linda Schafer, Office of the Governor, Anchorage:

Governor's priority: withdraw no more than \$400 million from CBR

- As a first step, all Commissioners are charged with finding waste and eliminating duplication.
- Next year another \$250 million targeted to be cut; are trying to stretch CBR until 2012.
- Need to develop resources in an "environmentally sensitive way"
- Plan to develop roads to allow access to lease sale areas so we can start resource development.
- Invited community to visit official state website, and view OMB White Sheets.

Q: what about maintaining existing roads? Why build new roads if we can't maintain existing roads. No response, will look into it.

Q: Long term plans on North South thoroughfare to bypass Anchorage streets from Seward to Glenn. No response, will look into it.

Q: Progress on gas line? Needs federal legislation. Possibly to be voted on in September.

Ms. Schafer inquired about Stuckagain community's concerns. Matt responded that maintaining a useable road to Stuckagain is our continuing issue. Ms. Schafer recommended going through our local legislators. Members reported that conversations with legislators have indicated the governor is focusing on cuts, and that this is not a time for new projects. However, Rep. Hawker did get a \$250 K appropriation for FY04 for park road repairs.

LRSA Presentation: Bob Groeneweg

LRSA has spent savings and grant money on improvement to Basher road (\$140 K). About \$30 K remains in savings account.

Have been meeting with city on park road. They will begin drainage repairs in mid-August (\$90K); other road improvements will follow in the fall and next spring (\$150K).

Leftover moneys could possibly go towards Basher road projects.

Q: Dust control on Basher? Bob indicated that LRSA couldn't do whole subdivision without additional revenues. Basher now has lowest mill rate in municipality. When asked how the community would go about increasing the mill rate to cover dust control (oil), Bob responded that the LRSA would need to be convinced first and then the issue put on a ballot for local voter approval. A hand poll indicated strong support for an increase in the LRSA mill rate to cover this expense. Bob will investigate what the additional cost would be to oil the roads of the entire community.

As a short-term solution, members recommended that calcium spread on road right after a rainfall works relatively well. It needs to be spread 3-4 times a year at an individual cost of about \$500/year.

In response to past requests, Matt asked for 3-4 volunteers for formation of committee for locating state, local and/or federal money to fund road improvements. Dave Keddington, Rich Neubauer, Mary Norman, Chuck Borg, and Kathy Archie volunteered. Bob Groeneweg will represent LRSA on this committee. Formation of the committee with the above named members (two year terms) was approved by a roll call vote.

Presentation from Anchorage Fire Department: Michelle Weston York, Forester, AFD

Fire Evacuation Drill: Not happy with results, especially since this is a very resource intensive effort. Identified problems:

- At start of exercise, police department command system failed!
- Police/Fire department intercommunications failed
- Lack of cross training between Fire and Police evident
- Maps were not good.
- Dead airspace in some locations of neighborhood hampered communications at times.

To resolve problems:

- Everyone please call 565-6789 from home to verify street address.
- Need to work on interfacing police, fire and state radios
- Test neighborhood for frequencies to see where the dead space is.

Beetle kill situation: Starting to slow down on public land; however, much private land still affected. Municipality has no enforcement ability to cause owners to clean dead trees.

Fire department will offer a one time only brush pickup- within next two weeks. To get on their list, call Jennifer 267-4956. Community will be notified of date when contractor is lined up and of any size, location or directional restrictions.

Update on Antenna Farm:

Issue will be scheduled again for the Planning and Zoning Commission once a full board has been appointed.

Land owner Joe Henri mentioned that the proposed Nearpoint antenna farm could support an Alaska land mobile radio antenna that could resolve some of the communications problems identified by the fire department.

Barbara Hood of Friends of Nearpoint added that the municipality will send out new notices when a P&Z hearing date is set and encouraged the community to continue to be involved with the issue.

Park access through new Tuxedni West subdivision:

During hearing, the Planning Board gave a directive to identify access into Bicentennial Park. However, follow-up has revealed that a municipal parks person was not aware of that resolution. Right now, there is no section line easement into the park and the current access through Tundra Loop goes onto military land. While this is probably the best route if a military fence goes in, we will lose it. Alternate routes will be need to be considered

Other announcements:

Matt reported that Community Council boundaries have changed a little. Basher's boundaries have extended into Far North Bicentennial Park. This will give community more input over future use of park.

Mary Norman: suggested we entertain inviting one representative of Friends of Far North Bicentennial Park to join the council so that we have cross communication and can work together rather than against each other. There was no objection to this proposal.

Barbara Hood reminded everyone that a Title 21 (land use) rewrite is underway, and encouraged the community to participate in the public process over the next few weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted FCC
11/3/03 MWR