

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:30pm  
REGULAR MEETING  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES – Approved February 10, 2021

Call to order at 6:32pm by David W. Schade.  
Quorum was established.

**Introductions and Announcements:**

Judy Eledge, ASD School Board Candidate introduced herself and provided background on her credentials.  
Sami Graham, ASD School Board Candidate introduced herself and provided background on her credentials.  
Kimberly Paulson, ASD School Board Candidate introduced herself and provided background on her credentials.  
Pierce Blewett, ASD School Board Candidate introduced himself and provided background on his credentials.

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Draft meeting minutes from December 9, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Tom Freeman; seconded by Julie Jessen. Approved by a vote of 14 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain.

**Treasurer Report:** Ruth Armstrong – Checking account has been depleted. Remaining funds were used toward the post office box rental. The post office box rental is \$216/year and is currently paid through September 2021.

**New Business:**

**Eagle River Valley Community Council Elections**

Positions available:

- Eagle River Chugiak Parks and Recreation Board – Pete Panarese incumbent.  
Pete has filled this role for more than 5 years. Motion by Paul Forward, seconded by Tom Freeman to retain Mr. Panarese as our board representative. Approved by unanimous vote.
- Education position remains unfilled.

**AWWU and proposed Water Reservoir**

Mr. Paul Forward has been heavily involved in this over the past several years. He provided the following update:

- Mr. Paul Hatcher shared that ground-breaking for the new water reservoir will not take place spring, 2021 as anticipated. It has been delayed until 2022.
- Utility rates are increasing in April.

**Parents Rights in Education, Annie Massey** – Cancelled due to schedule conflict.

**Old Business:**

**Jamie Allard - Anchorage Assembly**

Ms. Allard provided the following update regarding the January 12 Assembly meeting. The meeting will be continued on January 14.

- A resolution was presented condemning the siege of the US Capitol and violence by Trump supporters. The resolution passed by vote of 9 to 1.
- \$200,000 has been allocated to pay for lobbyists for the Assembly.
- An Emergency Declaration for the municipality was passed again. Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Allard voted against this because it leads to granting certain emergency powers that we disagree with.
- At the January 14 continuation of the meeting, Title 28 changes will be introduced. The election process will be changed to allow individual poll watchers to be approvers of signatures and provide double-check on signatures that do not match signature on file.

## Eagle River Valley Community Council

January 13, 2021

Page 2

- There is a proposal, in case a polling site runs out of official ballots, to allow a voter to write their vote on a blank sheet of paper. Introduce amendment that all sites should have a copy machine available and copies of the official ballot should be made in these instances instead.
- Title 21 amendment regarding Planning and Zoning. MEA purchased and razed some houses and have clear cut an area. There is an agreement now that a 10 ft. fence will enclose the area and 180 trees will be planted.
- \$56M in bonds is to be introduced which will exceed the tax cap. Eagle River has one of the highest mill rates in the city.
- \$1.8M bond is proposed for body cams and other equipment for police. Rather than issue this bond, Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Allard have looked at budget to propose re-allocating existing funding for these items. They are just \$50,000 short of the \$1.8M goal and fully expect to find the remainder in the coming days and to propose eliminating this bond proposal.
- There is a government-to-government relationship between Anchorage and Eklutna Native Village. The Village has a lawsuit with the federal government regarding recognition as a sovereign nation. Ms. Allard posed the question to the village elder regarding plans to put a casino in Eagle River and has not received an answer that this is not the intent. This is a difficult topic as tribes are recognized but Eklutna, Inc. is the corporation that owns the land and resources.

### **School Board Report – Deena Mitchell, Anchorage School Board**

[Mitchell deena@asdk12.org](mailto:deena@asdk12.org)

Ms. Mitchell was unable to attend due to schedule conflict.

- Kindergarten – 2nd grade students will return to in-class instruction on January 19.
- Please see the following documents: <http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=4549>  
2021.01 – FCC ASD Report, Jan 21  
2021.01 – Jan2021 Community Update Accessible

### **Kelly Merrick, Representative**

#### **Alaska State Legislature**

Representative Merrick provided the following update:

- The Alaska Legislature is evenly split, and a leader has not been established. Ms. Merrick's hope is a speaker pro temp will be chosen so meetings can begin. Committees cannot meet until a speaker is determined.
- Please attend the pre-session Town Hall (zoom) on January 14, 5:30-7:00pm.  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/445119946628139/> or <http://akleg.gov/#tab5>
- The Governor's budget proposal includes 50% reimbursement for school bond debt and \$300M-\$350M in bonds for the capital budget. This investment in capital budget would help get Alaskans back to work.

### **Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook**

Mr. Cook provided the following update:

- In December, patrols were conducted for 40 hours covering 360 miles.
- In 2020, patrols were conducted for 336 hours covering 3112 miles. This is about 200 hours fewer than 2019. Reduction is due to COVID impact.
- Petty crime has slowed down but still continues in our area.
- Be aware of packages delivered to porch and opportunity for theft.
- Continue to report all crime to APD on 911, 311 or online.

Questions from meeting participants included:

- Does the patrol have need for assistance with gasoline? We still have gas cards available for patrollers and some cash in the bank. We received grant money from the state a few years ago and still have some funds available.

**Committee Reports:**

**CBERRRSA (Road Board): James McCurtain/ Arlene Rasic** – No report.

**Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board – Julie Jessen** – No meetings recently.

**Education:** See Ms. Mitchell's report from Anchorage School Board.

**Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman** - No meeting in December.

**Parks and Rec: Pete Panarese**

Mr. Panarese provided the following update:

- Mac Center has a new manager, Steve, who has been on the job for a few months. Use of the center is increasing.
- The municipality and Parks & Rec are working together. The municipality is setting many outdoor ice rinks for community use. There are many sites available in our area.
- The Eagle River Nature Center roof repairs are expected to begin soon.
- There is some discussion by the board on safety trails in greenbelt areas. Concerns include funding requirements and wildlife conflicts.
- There is a proposed change in Title 17 that deals with pets in public places. The draft redefines "leash" and where pets are/are not allowed on municipal land. We do not have off-leash dog parks in our area. We did not support the changes.

Questions from meeting participants included:

- What is status of tennis courts at Lions Club? Progress is being made. The base layer of asphalt has been installed. Representative Ken McCarty is working on transfer of property to Lions Club from Chugach State Park. This is going through the DNR process at this time.

**Platting and Zoning: Pete Panarese**

Mr. Panarese provided the following update:

- We are still awaiting a response from Eklutna, Inc. on whether lands under development at Eagle River Rd Mile 8 have a certification that junkyard formerly at that site has been adequately cleared.
- Mr. Kevin Cross, a member of our community, is the vice-chair of the Platting Board and offered to share information on platting projects in Eagle River in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

Next meeting is on February 10, 6:30pm, Virtual using Zoom.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: David Schade (2021); Vice President: Julie Jessen(2022); Treasurer: Ruth Armstrong (2021); Education: open; Parks & Rec: Pete Panarese (2023); C/ER Advisory Board: Julie Jessen (2022); Platting & Zoning: Pete Panarese (2021); Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2023); Road Board: James McCurtain(2022)/Arlene Rasic – Alt (2022); Secretary: Joy Webb (2021)