

## **BASHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING**

**Basher Elementary School**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 12, 2019 - REVISED**

President Don Crafts

Secretary Margaret Nelson

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

There were 9 residents in attendance: Kristen Bowden, Marty Bowden, Ed Mjolsnes, Anita Soquet, Debbie Clark, Ted Trueblood, Vinera Erickson.

Guests attending: Pastor Victor Marbury of the Anchorage Community Police Task Force, Jennifer Schmidt of UAA – ISER, Starr Marsett of the Anchorage School District School Board, Pete Peterson and Forrest Dunbar of the Anchorage Assembly, and John See of Anchorage Fire Department, Forrestry.

### **Assembly Report, Rep. Forrest Dunbar**

Assemblyman Forrest Dunbar reported the following:

\*Due to proposed budget cuts from State of Alaska he expected that 100-240 new homeless folks to be on the streets of Anchorage. Mayor declared a state of emergency. Brother Francis didn't close and reduce their beds. But the State put back money in the budget. The state of emergency expires September 24.

\*The Police have moved downtown to their new headquarters at the former LIO building. The old location is now evidence storage. Seems custom built for the police, Dunbar said, but the city did some remodeling. Legislative offices work well for detectives. Being next to court building, the new location helps with shortening the time that detectives are away from the office testifying on court cases.

\*The city is embarking on multi-year effort to repair port, specifically the petroleum cement terminal. It is most deteriorated. Building a new one will cost about \$40 million. The city hopes to secure funding from state and federal sources. The city hopes to obtain some funding from FEMA due to the earthquake.

\*Stated attorneys are now in a "heated" debate regarding MLP sale proceeds which will result in a \$1 billion to the city's coffers. Dunbar suggested that first the city first pay off debt owed by ML&P. Otherwise there are no current plans.

\***Stuckagain Heights may not be exempt from new utility fees.** According to Dunbar, the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce specifically asked the city to look at creating a storm drain utility to charge citizens the \$10-12 million annually the city pays for storm drain maintenance and upkeep. Currently water runoff from the storm drains goes into the inlet due to a waiver in place. This waiver may expire. Storm drains in the city are now 30-40 years old. He says the Assembly will form a commission to get input from citizens. The entire process will involve the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, and Dunbar states they have already set up the framework for the utility. When asked if Stuckagain would be exempt, he stated the neighborhood would have to present a compelling case why we should.

### **Assembly Report, Rep. Pete Peterson**

Assemblyman Pete Peterson reported the following:

\*Assembly has approved a plastic bag ban. The city landfill in summer time there so many bags blowing around, employees collecting bags all the time. Other places found plastic in fish, ocean and streams. When go to grocery store, can ask for a bag, more than likely, will charge you 10 cents a bag, up to 5 bags.

\*The Assembly has voted to ban cell phones in school zones. This starts as early as 6 a.m. and as late as 9 p.m. in school zones where the posted speed is 25 mph or less, or yellow lights are flashing. You can use your phone hands free, or pull over.

\*Effective August 20 the assembly approved an ordinance requiring the legal age go up to 21 years of age, up from 19, to purchase tobacco. Current employees between the ages 19-21 are allowed to still work.

### **Fire Station 14 Report**

Fireman Casey Johnson, Senior Captain at Fire station 14 introduced himself to the Council. He is new to Fire station 14 and lives off Resurrection Drive. He came from the Bear Valley Fire station. Johnson urged citizens to check smoke detector and CO detector test them monthly and change batteries once a year. Also, smoke detectors are only good for only 10 years and must be replaced. To determine the age of a detector, check the device itself for an expiration date. He reminded neighbors that a smoke detector must be in every bedroom, in the hallway and on each floor. CO detectors should be on each floor of the home.

### **Pastor Victor Marburg, Police Relations Task Force**

Pastor Victor Marburg, Vice Chair of Police Relations Task Force, invited the community to join in the discussion of police relations. The group meets the 2nd Friday at noon at Fairview rec center. See attachment in documents.

### **Starr Marsett, President, Anchorage School Board**

Starr Marsett handed out a flyer and informed the Council that the school board is now meeting on Tuesday instead of Monday. See attachment in documents. She also stated that the school board has closed the Mt. Iliamna and Susitna schools. There are extensive repairs needed to several schools due to earthquake damage.

### **John See, Anchorage Forester**

John See stated this is the worst conditions for fire in the last 40 years. "We were lucky not to have an ignition on the hillside," he said. He will be continuing to seek grant funds to continue the Firewise program as well as the wood lots.

A test run of a "wildfire detection system" will be ready to turn on next summer. It uses thermal imaging and looks out 5 kilometers from where it stands to detect wildfires. It eliminates the guess work for where a fire is as it gives exact coordinates of the fire. We are lucky to have this system being tested from Stuckagain Heights. Currently only in use in Europe.

### **State Legislative Report, Rep. Lance Pruitt**

"We are going through change and the pain of going through change," Rep. Lance Pruitt stated at the beginning of his report to the council. He stated we, as in all of us, should have taken steps to reign in the budget long ago. He stated the public should weigh in on whatever course is taken. If the statute is changed regarding the PFD then the public needs to vote.

"Unless we can come to agreement on the PFD then next year will be the same as this year," he said. "It might be worse this year because it's an election year."

He stated that the legislature needs rules. "Without rules the legislature is a gigantic mess," he said.

"We need a spending limit, spending cap," he said.

He said he is not seeing the legislative leadership being willing to work towards a solution and he believes this is troublesome.

"It's become personal, as opposed to what is good for the state," he said. "It was about politics."

**Limited Road Service Area Report Ted Trueblood**

Ted Trueblood of the LSRA reported that our LSA has the lowest tax rate at ¼ a mill for maintaining our roads.

This summer the LRSAspent \$51,000 rebuilding 1/4 mile on Midden, went back in on Farpoint and built up the rap that was under applied the previous year. Then went back to do sections on Atlier.

Around Oct 1 the LRSAs plans to construct a berm to prevent the over flow from icing last winter at Campbell Creek. The muni parks and fish and game officials have been real cooperative. They are just waiting from a permit from the Corps of Engineers. This will hopefully keep the overflow into the road like we had last winter.

Chair Harry Haywood is developing a 5-year plan goal of getting all of remaining gravel roads finished with wrap. The LRSAbord will work on that then will come to the community council with that plan.

**Basher Community Council Anti-Crime Task Force**

No members present so no report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.