

Minutes  
South Fork Community Council  
September 3, 2020

1. Call to Order at 7:05pm by **Karl von Lührte**, on Zoom. A total of 7 were present, including **Crystal Kennedy**, Assembly, and **Kelly Merrick**, State House. **Stu Graham** of MTA and **Kelli Toth** (Representing Senator Reinbold) joined later.
2. Brief introductions were made in Zoom.
3. The Agenda was approved with an amendment to have everyone discuss any COVID concerns as needed before Guest Speakers.
4. Minutes from the 5th of March meeting not on hand; postponed approval to next meeting.
5. No particular COVID concerns discussed; general consensus that in-person meetings are missed.
6. Guest Speakers:
  - a. **State Legislature, Rep. Kelly Merrick** updates: CARES money is now being sorted out. More applications than there are dollars but she still encourages businesses to apply. Rep. Carpenter from Nikiski is requesting an end to the declaration (Sept 15th instead of November 15th); this does not seem realistic. Board of Fisheries nominations have been made but not confirmed. Ben Boeke has been reopened for hockey. State is looking for poll workers. AMHTA land not being considered for homeless relocation at this time.
  - b. **State Legislature, Senate: Kelli Toth** representative for Senator Reinbold shares that they have been busy with COVID issues. Sept 17<sup>th</sup> event in the valley to celebrate Constitution Day, details TBA.
  - c. **Crystal Kennedy** asked for feedback on upcoming proposed changes to Title 23. She is especially concerned about the home sprinkler system requirement as well as a few other changes that will significantly increase the cost of home building/renovating. Eagle River has a COVID testing site again in the parking lot by Garcias.
  - d. **School Board: Deena Mitchel** is new rep, not in attendance.
  - e. **Cliff Cook, Community Patrol** not in attendance. Armed robbery at Carrs is the most recent major criminal activity per **Karl**, perpetrators are in custody.
7. Old Business – **Joe Wright** noted that Title 23 building changes are absurd, expensive, huge burden on families, builders, etc.
8. Committee Reports
  - a. Road Board: **Joe Wright** reports that the June meeting was focused on highway project and new bridge. Discussed potential projects. New contract bid is ongoing. We want to maintain same level of work.

- b. Parks and Recreation: **Joshua Ream** not in attendance.
  - c. Treasurer. **Randy Beilfuss** not in attendance. Likely still \$201.79 in our account, unchanged since last meeting.
9. New Business: **Stu Graham** from MTA; looking into internet speeds/fiber and the opportunity for faster plans in South Fork. Question from **Andy Brewer** about the State of Alaska Dept. of Transportation surveyors on Hiland this summer – SOA project flyer will be sent out with these minutes to provide that information.
10. Good of the Order:
- a. The fire department building on Hiland is currently being used for storage and may be sold this fall.
  - b. Some discussion about the cemetery board; no new information currently.
  - c. **Joe Wright** will stay on top of when the schools may open for community meetings.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm; next meeting is October 1, 2020 and will likely be on Zoom – plan on that unless we hear otherwise.

Janelle Wight, Secretary