

## **Susitna Community Council Meeting Minutes March 4, 2010**

- I. A **quorum** was established, with Bronn Salmon, Robert Coleman, Cari Sayre, Tami Hamler and Phenie Miller in attendance. Scott Holcomb and Eric Runstrom were seated as alternates.
- II. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:10.
- III. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
- IV. Tami moved and Scott seconded to **approve the February minutes** as written. Passed. The **Treasurer** reported no expenditures for the month, so the balance remains \$50.00 Savings, \$42.04 Checking.
- V. **Approval of meeting agenda** Tami moved and Bronn seconded to approve the meeting agenda with additions. Passed.
  
- VI. **Persons to be Heard (5 minutes suggested)**
  - 1) **Scott Holcomb** spoke as a community member about the high school wood-fired boiler project. He quoted a study that says the borough would save \$32,000 per year by heating with wood. Also, the NRMU Plan recognizes large areas of borough-owned forest, which could be designated as study areas, while supplying the school with heating fuel. There could also be a component of educating the students on forestry issues and management in the school curriculum. Scott suggested, since the SCC initially supported the boiler idea, perhaps the SCC could comment on the NRMU regarding these issues.
  
- VII. **Correspondence**

**Received:**

  - a. AK DOT-Statewide Transportation Improvement Program-Revision 4.
  - b. Susitna-Matanuska Area Plan-Public Review Draft.
  - c. From DNR – Land & Water Conservation Fund – FY '10 Grant Cycle
  - d. Booklet – The Burden of Overweight & Obesity in Alaska
  - e. Email - Susitna Matanuska Area Plan Public Review Draft notification

**Sent:**

  - a. Letter re: Mat-Su Borough Generator at Upper Susitna Senior Center.
  - b. Resolution for teleconference capability.
  
- VIII. **Committee and Governmental Reports**
  - a. Road Service Areas (15 & 29) none
  - b. Borough Assembly update - none
  - c. Bylaws Committee – Phenie reported that they are working on the 501(c)(3) before they meet as a committee. She will put out a notice requesting members for the bylaws committee, so that a committee can be formed at the April meeting.
  - d. Grant Expenditure Committee – no report, but it was suggested that this committee also be formed at the April meeting. A comment was made that the fire dept. may have projects to bring up.

**IX. Old Business**

a. IRS 501(c)(3) - Robert has worked with other Community Councils to verify the process. The IRS hasn't responded as to whether we can use the same application funds from last time. Articles of Incorporation concurrent with our Bylaws are necessary. Our main (stated in bylaws) purpose must be to benefit our area's residents.

b. \$40,400 State grants – pending applications for use of funds

c. NRMU Plan – Tami moved that we write a letter with comments including: 1) supporting dedication of a land base (for SVHS boiler), 2) use of that area as a study forest -- that through the research forest the Borough might be able to get more accurate, up-to-date information about rotation periods and sustainability, 3) asking for clearer definition of cutting area size for all units in the plan (S/M/L is too ambiguous), and 4) requesting that contractors take the 600 acre allowable cut in small areas, not in any one area. Cari seconded. Passed unanimously. Tami will write, send a draft to the board, and send upon approval.

d. MSB Scenic Corridor - no update

e. MSB Gravel Ordinance – no update

f. SCC website is up and running. Bronn asked for comments.

g. MSB Tall Towers Ordinance – no update

**X. New Business**

a. Consider a work session to discuss:

\*Community participation/improved communication

\* SCC goals for the year

b. Records storage – Bronn will ask at SVHS

c. SVHS wood-fired boiler - Tami presented a study from 9/09 entitled Susitna Valley High School: Wood Heat Analysis. She brought the executive summary of the 72-page study. Estimated savings is \$30,000-\$35,000 per year, with payback in 10-20 years. The study shows that the project is feasible, and that it would save money for the borough.

**XI. Board Member Announcements** -- Robert clarified the widening of Parks Hwy. In order to qualify for federal funding, there must be improved line of sight – 100 feet on one side and 200 feet on the other. It will go to mile 83.

**XII. Announcements** -- Donations are welcome of up to \$50 per calendar year to help defray administrative costs of carrying out council business.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Susitna Community Council  
*Serving the Upper Susitna Valley*  
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