

Big Lake Community Council
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Big Lake AK, 99652-0931
www.biglakecommunitycouncil.com
Big Lake Lions Rec Center

General Membership Meeting Minutes

11/11/14

7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

President Bill Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M. A quorum was established with Board members present: Margaret Billinger, Jim Faiks, Carol G. Kane, Bill Kramer, Yvonne Ruth and Jim Hutton excused. Dan Mayfield will be replaced by Floyd Shilanski – see Item 5.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Led by veteran Bill Gambell

3. Approval of the Agenda

A motion by Margaret Billinger and seconded by Jim Faiks passed by unanimous consent to accept the agenda as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes

A motion by Carol G Kane and seconded by Margaret Billinger passed by unanimous consent to accept the minutes as presented.

5. President Kramer announced he accepted Dan Mayfield's letter of resignation as presented when Dan was elected for District 5 Borough Assembly. Additionally as stated the Big Lake Community Council By-laws Article 7 - C Qualification of Board Members, the President, with the concurrence of the remaining Board Members, can fill the vacancy position for the remainder of the term, which will expire January, 2016. Additionally noted was BLCC Bylaws Article 9 D. Board members may only serve for two (2) consecutive terms.

6. Program: 10 Minute PP Presentation, Chuck Kaucic, District Manager Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District

Chuck Kaucic presented an update on the shore restoration project. He stated work had been done on 3 private parcel, which included time spent at Fish Lake as well as three other areas of Big Lake.

Work projects focused, but not limited to habitats and erosion caused by wave action. Currently there is an effort to re-claim these areas. Chuck distributed samples of restoration photographs. This year restoration efforts impacted 240 ft. of public and private land.

Emphasis is to restore the environments with natural material as opposed to utilizing man – made materials.

Provided in the overview, the following were cited:

- Clear-cut down to the water.
- Have the program extend to the following season.
- Work on 3 contiguous areas for the lake front environment, make improvements in spite of wave action.
- Three different techniques were utilized.
- Would like Assessment of the entire area of Big Lake 2 years ago.
- Use the foliage for fabric to replicate the previous shorefront.
- 49 different varieties of willow, most successful if used through a private contractor.
- Replicate as much as possible what mother nature has already restored.
- Use spruce trees to provide undercut for the environment, which is essential to restore the bank - heavy abatement for wave action.
- Cost minimal to property owner to maintain for a ten - year period.
- Ducks can cause deteriorations.
- Willow is a low growing specie that will not take over. The root mass is biodegradable and will take hold.
- The Borough code provides a setback. The intent is to work with landowners to preserve the buffer. Make sure not to clear cut right to the edge.
- Fertilizer and lawn cuttings will cause leeching into the lake, which impacts the atmosphere conducive to warm water and drives game fish out.
- For further information call 745-4891 for Alex Strong to refer to the proper code classification. He can explain what the set back code in the borough would be. Additionally can provide good information regarding restoration buffer for pecculation.

7. Persons to be heard: 3 min. maximum.

Bill Haller announced the Lions Club would once again have the Christmas “giving tree” with gift tags, displayed in the mall. An expectation similar to last year, 230 families will be served. The gifts will be wrapped with gifts to be given disbursed by the Lions Club. It will most appreciated if gifts are brought in at the earliest convenience. Unfortunately funds are not available to supplement additional gifts needed. Raffle tickets are being sold for \$5 each or \$20 for 5 tickets. The winning ticket valued at \$1100 includes a 7 cubic foot chest freezer to include a variety of meats, shrimp, chicken, pork, crab etc. at the Big Lake IGA store.

8. Reports: 5 min. maximum

9. Borough Assembly Report, Dan Mayfield

Dan provided an overview of his first Borough Assembly meeting, which was held on 10/28/14. The agenda was a special meeting about setting legislative priorities. Included in the discussion were:

- Safety issues as presented by the chiefs to amend the legislation.
- Priority list to reflect \$3.5 million for the Spring Street Facility and \$3 million for a training station.
- Only the top 5 priorities are recommended to the Governor.

- Items below the top 5 are not prioritized. The Community Council and Fire Service Committee need to contact the Legislative Delegation regarding what is needed on the CIP list.

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- Mark Newman is the co-chair of Finance Committee.
- An ordinance, which will go through a public hearing is being drafted to deal with board member(s) or committee member(s) who are involved in criminal activity.
- Being proposed is an ambulance each for the Spring Street Station and Station 63 manned 24/7. This is to address delayed response times when needed.
- Currently there is no sprinkler system at the Big Lake station. If there is no sprinkler system then a requirement is to have a “night watch” staffed.
- Ambulance service is EMS, which is short staffed. Currently the Fire Department is first responder when actually it should be EMS.
- Being proposed in a remodel design phase would provide 24 hour staffing for Big Lake and Pittman Road.

Dan said he is learning quickly, EMS is in bad spot. He will continue his efforts to make this a high priority. Additionally, he said the Spring Street Station is great, but there are limited funds to address critical issues such as response time in the Big Lake area.

Chief Gamble is working with Dan to advance these issues over the next few years making Big Lake a better place. Appreciation was extended to all those who have been working to address these critical areas. Dan said he might come back to CC for a resolution of support.

Assemblyman Halter proposed animal control legislation. The “first read” of the ordinance now has push back because it appears it gives mushers “rights” needing further review.

At the 11/19 meeting Co-Alaska requested ag land to be designated development land. A concern is to retain ag land. 11/10/14 an AG Forum was held to discuss AG issues.

10. Road Service Area Report –

It was announced the next Road Service Meeting would be held at the Library on 11/16/14.

Additionally funding for RSA might be able to be split up and redistributed by the mile. Also noted was capital improvement funds might be available. Mayor DeVilbiss said the funds must go back to RSA, which would have a tremendous impact.

11. Fire Service Area Report – Bill Gamble

Chief Gamble announced the ISO audit was completed indicating improvement ISO 5 from an ISO 4. As a result of this improved rating it is possible fire insurance premiums should go down effective 2/1/15. He would like to have people report back to him if insurance companies have indicated this has in fact happened. The ISO 5 rating is in the top17% in the U.S. The Chief said this is amazing to have achieved this, which can be attributed to an incredible group that put together the information in a 2-month period.

Additionally, he said “Thank You” to Assemblyman Mayfield for getting Station 73 on the Priority list. A letter of support requesting \$3.5 million is needed to get Station 73 done in 2 years.

Chief Gamble shared this has been a very busy time citing trainings which include a class for Fire Officer II instruction, 10 house fires in the last 15 days with many of which were caused by electrical and cooking issues, and EMS staff are running non-stop. On-going issues are the PERS requirements restrictions. In the last fifteen days 2 crack houses burned.

In response to a question by Margaret Billinger regarding if there a web site where individuals could sign up for classes, Chief Gamble said Mat Su Borough Emergency Services is the point of contact.

Dan Mayfield extended congratulations for getting the ISO ratings improved through the leadership of Chief Gamble's efforts. Adding, the Big Lake Community Council has been in full support over the last several years.

A motion by Margaret Bilinger and seconded by Jim Faiks passed by unanimous consent to write a letter of support requesting the \$3.5 million needed to get Station 73 done in 2 years. President Kramer said he would get prior letters to support; adding this effort is in a good position with the delegations.

12. Treasurer's Report, Yvonne Ruth

Treasurer Yvonne Ruth provided the following summary:

\$7387.96 Checking \$280.41 Savings.

\$6800 encumbered for grants previously approved.

2011 Jordan lake – invoices to expend the funds \$332.84

2012 funding has been allocated community projects as well as \$3000 for the Big Lake 2nd Class City Petition expenses i.e.

Big Lake survey to poll community on Incorporation.

3 separate newspaper ads/Public Notice of Filing indicating intention to incorporate at a total cost of \$1040.

Big Lake Elementary – remaining balance \$378.59.

Clothing Closet – remaining Balance \$315 because Storage Bin costs came in less than expected.

Encumbered grant account balances will be zeroed out 2015 fiscal year. It was decided to follow-up with the remaining grant recipients to expend the remaining fund balances.

Following a brief discussion regarding any remaining grant balances, President Kramer and Treasurer Yvonne Ruth will provide an update to close out the remaining balances.

Following general discussion regarding how to back up financial records as well as other Big Lake Community Council regular communication, a motion passed by unanimous to purchase a 1 yr – 1000 GB Drop Box subscription.

13. Membership Report, Chairperson

President Kramer noted a need to have an active and accurate BLCC membership posted on the website by December 9, 2015. Currently there are 61 paid members.

President Kramer stated to update the current BLCC web site, Michael Miller, Out of a Jam Solutions has agreed to set up a user - friendly web site for a \$200 initial set-up fee - expected 2 hours. If there is an interest, Michael can provide instruction and training on web site use. An option for consideration would be to process membership application fees through PayPal.

14. Chamber Commerce Report

Announced was the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony which will be in front of the Big Lake Fire Station at 6:00 P.M. Saturday, 12/6/14. Gage Tree Service has donated the lights for the tree.

Thanks also to Alaska Line Builders who donated power for lighting the big spruce tree. There is also a need to have power for the Jordan Lake Park on a separate meter. Cathi Kramer said she would work with the Borough Park/Rec. Department to get that completed. The intention would be to have both trees lighted.

It was noted this event has high value of goodwill in our community. Future planning by the Big Lake Community Council might include financial support for this event. Additional consideration would be a decorative project along the main core of Big Lake.

Floyd Shilanski suggested a joint venture for the power access might include the Friends of the Library.

15. Parks and Trails, Chairperson, Jim Faiks No report
16. School Report, Chairperson, Jim Hutton Absent
17. Transportation Report - Chairperson, Jim Hutton

Future Action: Consider a motion to formally amend the Big Lake Comprehensive Plan to include the Council's Resolution in support of Route 3A as described in the Big Lake Community Impact Assessment.

Bill Kramer had discussed with Loren Driscoll - Mat Su Borough Chief Planner if amending the BLCC Resolution in Support of Route 3A in the Big Lake Comprehensive Plan would carry more weight. This would require some legal assistance through Borough legal staff. This should only require language being inserted into the document. Attention for follow-up needs to be continued. Bill Kramer said he would ask Jim Hutton to review the process and bring it back to the next meeting. South Big Lake road has some issues.

18. Incorporation, Chairperson, Carol G Kane

Jim Faiks, Petitioner for the Incorporation of Big Lake Second Class City stated the Local Boundary Commission would send a final decision on or before 12/18/14 indicating if the Petition has been accepted as presented. As required, as Petitioner, Jim has sent a Petitioner's Brief for the Incorporation of Big Lake Second Class City to the Local Boundary Commission in response to 20 individuals who submitted Public Comments and Briefs to the Local Boundary Commission regarding the Petition.

All the comments have been cited on the local boundary Commission web site – <http://commerce.state.ak.us/dnn/dcra/LocalBoundaryCommission/CurrentPetitions.aspx> (A handout with this link was distributed to the audience.)

Carol Kane also indicated Petition to the Local Boundary Commission for Incorporation of Big Lake Second as a Second Class City Notebooks, which contain all LBC required documents/processes are located for public review at the Big Lake Library, Houston City Hall, Wasilla Library and Willow Library.

19. Nomination Committee, Chairperson Floyd Shilanski

President Kramer has appointed Floyd Shilanski as Nomination Committee Chairperson. He provided an overview of the process and the positions to be filled as well as the requirements to be nominated to serve on the Big Lake Community Council:

- (Filled Vacancy term up 2015) Jim Faiks
- (Filled Vacancy term up 2015) Carol Kane
- Term Completed 2015 – Not eligible for re-election Margaret Billinger
- A 3 - Person Committee will bring formal nominations to BLCC at December 9, 2014 General Meeting
- In order to be eligible to vote a person must have been a member in good standing for a minimum of 30 days prior to the vote.
- Annual elections in January

He encouraged the membership to nominate individuals who would be interested in serving on the BLCC Board. It is intended a questionnaire would be sent out to individuals nominated to serve. Additionally flyers would be posted at the Big Lake Library, the Big Lake IGA Store, and the Big Lake Post Office.

20. Community Grants, Chairperson, Yvonne Ruth

Committee members consist of individuals from BLCC membership and/or community members. The process includes making contact with the Borough regarding available grant sources.

At the December 9, 2014 BLCC meeting available will be Grant Committee members and an overview of the application forms. Expected grant funding would be \$20,200.

21. Correspondence

President Kramer presented information on the following:

- Meadow Lake is putting together SPUD. Noted was more property owners need to pay attention because development practices are changing.
- Public Comment 12/5 Susitna Parkway application submitted by AK Clay Target program. Request is to build a competitive shotgun course - 2 skeet, 2 trap and walk through sporting trails on 40-acre parcels.

General comments regarding the matter included:

- Borough will give land away to non-profit entities
- Environmental impact – land remediation concerns
- Assemblyman Dan Mayfield wants some feedback regarding 1) noise and 2) who is responsible for the potential costs?
- Property owners need to be aware of potential issues.
- At this time there is a lack of information re: environmental issues, safety issues, and proper design issues, done correctly.
- Land sale on 11/25.
- MyHouse request of \$5000, which needs to be part of the grant cycle.

22. Land Use/Platting None

23. Unfinished Business/Action Items None

24. New Business

In an effort to effectively maximize BLCC communication via social media, and following general discussion, a motion by Jim Faiks and seconded by Yvonne Ruth passed by unanimous consent to support \$500 from the operating expenses for website and Facebook.

25. Announcements

- Road Service meeting will be held 11/13/14.
- Representative Mark Newman will give legislative update at the January, 2015 meeting.
- HHS is having the annual fund raiser 12/18/14 from 6:00 P.M. 8:00 P.M. Additionally there will be a live auctioneer, tickets will be sold at the door. \$10/person and Hula Hands will be performing.
- Lions Kid Tournament 11/14/14 on Saturday at 10.A.M. Future events will be planned for December

26. Board Member Comments

Thanks to all who continue to provide service on behalf of the Big Lake Community.
Happy Thanksgiving to all.

27. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol G Kane, Secretary

Big Lake Community Council Purpose:

To provide a direct and continuing means of citizen participation in government and local affairs; to provide a method by which they can work together for expression and discussion of their opinions, needs and desires in a manner that will have an impact on our community's development and service; to provide to governmental agencies a method for receiving opinions, needs, desires and recommendations of residents and groups, and to give local governing bodies an improved basis for decision-making and assignment of priorities for all capital improvements and governmental programs affecting community development and individual well-being.