

**March 14, 2012**  
**General Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**Big Lake Community Council**  
**[www.biglakecommunitycouncil.com](http://www.biglakecommunitycouncil.com)**  
**Meeting at the Faith Bible Fellowship Church**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Vice President Dan Mayfield. A quorum was established with board members Dan Mayfield, Ina Mueller, Jim Hutton and Gary Swearer present.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. The agenda was approved.
4. The minutes of the February meeting were approved.
5. Board member Jim Stirling passed away on February 18, 2012. Jim was 69 at the time and is survived by his wife, Phyliss, children John and Tracey and grandchildren. After serving in the US Air Force for 15 years, Jim served as a Municipality of Anchorage police officer for 10 years. From Anchorage, Jim moved to Flat Lake, where he was a member of the plow crew (voluntary) that established and maintained the ice roads on the lakes. After moving to a new home at Big Lake, Jim became active in the community council, serving on the board in several capacities. His occupation as an accident investigator made him sensitive to traffic safety concerns and one of his last goals as a member of the council was a push to light the corridor leading to the Big Lake Elementary School. Jim will be missed by all.
6. President Bill Kramer made the decision to fill the vacancy on the board (left by Jim Stirling's death) with Jim Faiks. The board voted unanimously to accept Jim Faiks as the new board member.
7. Program: Rick Mystrom presented an update on the Port McKenzie Rail Extension to a joint audience of the community council and the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce. Some of the points addressed by Mr. Mystrom were: rail access is necessary for a port to operate successfully; the rail belt will open new territory to mineral exploration and recovery. The rail loop at the port is 2/3 finished. The industrial area at the port encompasses 14 square miles. By being able to accept larger ships, Port McKenzie will not operate in competition with the Port of Anchorage, but will serve to expedite the export of minerals as well as expedite the importation of bulk supplies needed to mine said minerals. The benefit/cost ratio has been established at 1.9. Usibelli Coal Mines expects to export approximately 3 million tons of coal through Port McKenzie once the rail opens. They are currently restricted to exportation of 1 million tons through the Port of Seward (which is the capacity for that facility). Total cost for the rail extension is 272.5 million dollars. 92.5 million dollars have already been appropriated. There is a request for 60 million dollars to come from the state General Fund and a request for a General Obligation Bond in the amount of 120 million dollars in the current legislature. If both requests are granted, money will be available for the completion of the project. It is estimated that the construction

phase will generate 3,000 temporary jobs. 4,000 jobs are expected to be permanently created by completion of the rail corridor.

8. Persons to be heard: Mayor Larry DeVilbis announced that the upgrade to Burma Road will likely be started this summer. When asked about the original thought to running a road along side the RR, he said that that solution would have probably resulted in the RR not being able to obtain the necessary permits if a road was present. He restated that he is in favor of a road leading from Burma Road, across the Little Su River and continuing north to join the Parks Highway. He reported that assembly man Darcie Salmon successfully introduced legislation to repeal the airport tax.
9. Reports:
  - a. Borough Assembly – see above persons to be heard.
  - b. Road Service: Jim Clemenson announced that widening and scraping is ongoing. On March 27 there will be an open house on the Horseshoe Lake Road Upgrade.
  - c. Fire Service: none
  - d. Treasurer: Ina Mueller reported that there is \$694.15 in the checking account and \$279.00 in the savings account. Total = \$973.15.
  - e. Membership: Ina said we have 55 members.
  - f. Chamber of Commerce: Rosa Shilanski announced that on March 25<sup>th</sup> the annual awards banquet will be held at The Hanger. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, Jim Hamberson will speak on the Parks Highway at the chamber's noon meeting.
  - g. Trails: Pat Daniels said that with all the snow trails are great. He has forms for the nomination of additional trails. Dan Mayfield said the Big Lake Trails now has 189 members. Trails are in the best shape ever. There was some discussion on the accuracy of a report in the Community Newsletter.
  - h. School: none
10. Committee Reports:
  - a. Transportation: Ken Walch announced that the fund transfer for the S. Big Lake Road Realignment is proceeding. The April meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board will include a presentation by KABATA and how its impact will be felt by Big Lake. Ken would like to see a high attendance by Big Lake residents at the meeting. Info will follow.
  - b. Incorporation: Seth Kelley said that regular meetings are being held at 9am on Mondays at the Big Lake Family Restaurant. All are invited.
  - c. Grants: Seth said the grants have been reviewed and the committee's recommendations will be presented to the board tonight after the meeting. The grants will be voted on at the April meeting.
11. Correspondence:
  - a. Regulatory Commission of Alaska notification of Enstar Tariff revision TA3-733. A copy has been emailed to members.
  - b. Regulatory Commission of Alaska notification of Enstar Tariff revision TA4-733. A copy has been emailed to members.

- c. Regulatory Commission of Alaska notification of MEA Tariff revision TA414-18. A copy has been emailed to members.
12. Land Use/Platting: none
13. Unfinished Business/Action Items:
  - a. 7-1 Action Item.... Bill Kramer to research more with regards to what construction activity is planned for BL Elementary. The portion of the bond voters approved last fall for \$3.375 million (state pays \$2,362,500 in a 73/30 split with MSB taxpayers) was approved for BL Elementary School renovation, energy and life safety improvements. The good news is the assembly recently passed an ordinance authorizing about \$100M of the \$214M bond. The district has already received approval for projects posted on their website from the state for the 70/30 reimbursement. The district is waiting to hear from the borough which projects they will be able to manage.
  - b. Action Item 11-1. Bill to contact Alaska State Troopers and open a dialog concerning increased crime statistics and available options our community has with regards to preventative measures that can assist law enforcement
14. New Business:
  - a. A 10 year comparison of Big Lake crime statistics between 2001 and 2011 compiled by the Alaska State Troopers. – see handout and action above. Tabled for next meeting.
15. Announcements: A BLCC special meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2012 to discuss with the MSB representative Sara Jensen the requirements and deadlines of the new Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The meeting will be held at the Big Lake Library at 7pm. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.
16. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.