

General Membership Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2015
7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

President Bill Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. A quorum was established with President Bill Kramer, Vice President Floyd Shilanski, Secretary Carol Kane, Treasurer Yvonne Ruth, Board Members Cathy Mayfield and Casey Steinau. Darren Zimmer Board Member was absent excused.

President Kramer welcomed all attendees. Because there were many new attendees, he asked each person to introduce him or herself. At the closure of the introductions he extended appreciation for such a huge turnout for this meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approved Agenda

A motion by Floyd Shilanski and seconded by Cathy Mayfield passed by unanimous consent to accept the agenda as presented.

4. Approved 5/12/15 Minutes

A motion by Cathy Mayfield and seconded by Floyd Shilanski was passed by unanimous consent to accept the minutes as presented.

5. Persons to be heard: 3 min max.

a. Tim Fenton indicated he walked the bike path often noting the bike path was degrading quickly. He indicated concern about the 4-wheeler paths being created by individuals. He stated the 4-wheelers riding up against the pavement is causing it to break up. He went on to say there is a need to maintain the bike path by putting bendable posts to keep 4-wheelers off the bike paths.

President Kramer affirmed when the 4-wheelers run along the bike path gouges are being created along the bike path. He shared the bike paths belong to the DOT. Floyd Shilanski said he had tried 4 yrs ago to address this issue. There is a need to bring in gravel to remediate the problem. Due to the state's current financial situation this might not be easily taken care of by DOT. Floyd went on to note making a phone call - DOT (907) 440-5655 to "pull shoulders" in an effort to address this issue. Additionally he said he would work on getting volunteers to help work on this.

b. Dr. Tommy Knox introduced himself providing a brief overview of his background noting he

He stated he has reasonable fees and can make payment arrangements for those who don't have insurance. Included in his closing comments, he said he came here to live in Big Lake and take care of you if needed, he extended his appreciation for the opportunity to speak, he will join BLCC, and concluded saying Shannon Dodge is now working for him.

c. Sammy Taylor, Mid Valley Recycling, shared the Big Lake Library has materials available to inform the community about the recycling efforts. She reported currently cardboard has the greatest financial value for recycling, a new community compost area is being built and the collective efforts of many volunteers are helping keep Big Lake in good shape.

d. Bill Haller announced the Big Lake Lions would be hosting the annual Mud Volleyball tournament this weekend. It is anticipated there will be at least 50 teams and lots of fun so stop by and watch the games, which will be from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. or 9:00 P.M. Add to the calendar a fundraiser – “All you can eat crab feed” from 6:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M., there will be live band, and the cost of a ticket is \$45 cost. Tickets are available through Bill. He is seeking table sponsorships and needs help with officials.

6 Reports: 3 minutes max. None

7. Borough Assembly Report, Dan Mayfield

Assemblyman Dan Mayfield provided an update on current Mat Su Borough Assembly Actions:

- The Borough Assembly passed the proposed budget by getting down to brass tacks with a balanced budget with a 9.66 mil rate
- The Manager had presented proposed budget holding the line - no new employees.
- Safety and Fire Department
 - √ 8 EMT will be added through attrition
 - √ 4 remaining, which need to be replaced utilizing flexible staffing. The additional staffing would allow the KGB station to be staffed. This will enable a faster response when necessary.
 - √ For greater safety, 2 new positions are added at the West Lakes Station
 - √ A Captain at the Mat Su station as well as 1 new employee
 - √ 4 ambulances added, there are 12 ambulances that have outlived their expectancy. At this time need to hold the line, approving only 4 at this time.
- Through the Borough grant “pass through” process, \$25,000 will be awarded to the Big Lake Rec Center. The prevailing philosophy is the users should pay for services. Example - Brett Ice Arena fee raised funds, which allowed stepping away from being subsidized. Expected will also be pass through grant funding to Big Lake Library, Palmer Library, Wasilla Library, Houston Fire Department, SART and Youth Court.
- After all vetoes, approved was a mil rate - 9.984, which is .169 more than the Manager had proposed. Example would be \$6 on a \$200,000 home. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on 6/16 for the opening of West Susitna Station. This is a great new safety route for our community.

8. Road Service Area Report Jill Parson

Next meeting will be July 9 at 5:30 PM at the Big Lake Library

9. Fire Service Report Cathi Kramer

Cathi stated there was a combined Fire Service meeting last night. Because there is no money, construction is pending until next year for Station 73 to be built on Spring Street.

Cathi noted she has been the Fire Wise Coordinator for 20 years. It is hopeful there would be a planned celebration for the *1996 Big Lake Fire*. She is looking for ideas and volunteers to assist with the planning for a big celebration. This will take lots of financial support and volunteers to make a successful event. Contact Cathi

cak@mtaonline.net

Congratulations were extended to Cathi for her continued leadership on the Fire Wise program.

10. Treasurer's Report, Chairperson, Yvonne Ruth

Checking \$6124.69 Savings \$280.56

Community Grants Encumbered:

Big Lake Clothing Closet \$315.00

Big Lake Community Council \$4309.05

Big Lake Elementary School \$378.59

11. Membership Report, Chairperson Yvonne Ruth

65 \$10/Calendar yr. 30 member to vote

12. Chamber Commerce Report

Dan Mayfield, Vice President for the Big Lake Chamber reported the Wild West Casino Night as a success. A smaller than usual group were in attendance but a great time was had by all.

Additionally recognized for the annual Community Awards for Community Contributors were Cathi and Bill Kramer and for the Bob Grosse Award Power Sports for Community Service.

13. Parks and Trails, Chairperson, Cathy Mayfield

- Cathy Mayfield provided an update noting Rocky Lake Campground will be open within the week. The work will begin at the Northshore campground, which should be done by the end of the summer. Through the Jordan Lake Park grant money, signage would be completed and porta potties would be provided for the summer months.

- Cathi Kramer announced the individuals who caused the vandalism at Jordan Lake Park were caught on camera and have been identified. She encouraged everyone to spread the word "violators" will get caught.

- Bill Kramer said he was getting quotes for paving; \$35, 000 for the park paving will soon be available. The process has been very challenging with one quote in writing and with another close. Mat Su Borough Park and Trails has yet to provide the approval because they are backlogged. Funds pending include \$29,000 for paving with the balance for curb/stripping remaining.

14. School Report, Chairperson, Carol Kane

Because the school is on summer vacation there is no school report. A reminder there are lots of kids out in the area so be on safety alert.

15. Transportation Report – Darren Zimmer out of town.

16. Incorporation, Chairperson, Floyd Kramer

Jim Faiks, Big Lake 2nd Class City Petitioner announced there would be the Alaska Local Boundary Commission meeting to be held at the Big Lake Lions Rec Center on June 23, 2015 at 2:30 P.M. to determine if the process could move forward for a vote. Mr. Faiks noted an election could go forward for the Big Lake registered voters if the LBC Commission approves the petition as presented. He stated there is a critical need to educate the Big Lake voters on the particulars of the petition; more specifically the mil rate would remain at the current level.

The decision by the Petitioners was made to delay the meeting until June 23 to ensure the public was given adequate notice regarding when and where the LBC meeting would be held enabling the Big Lake community to attend as required by state law.

For public review and updated, noted was the Big Lake 2nd Class City Notebooks have been placed at the Big Lake Library, City of Houston, Willow Library, and Wasilla Library.

President Kramer stated it was imperative the notice for LBC meeting would follow the appropriate timeline so as not to be in violation of a technical notification.

Clarification for the non-area wide tax included the funding for the library and dogcatchers outside the City of Houston and Palmer, as well as the infrastructure - all of which were to remain services funded by the borough.

The original language in the Big Lake 2nd Class City Petition only intended for the Borough to fully fund borough-wide services. The Mat Su Borough Assembly passed a resolution for the Borough Manager to work through the transition process upon successful vote of the Big Lake's registered voters. The intention will be to have community meetings to ensure the information is available regarding the proposed vote. Floyd Shilanski Alternate Petitioner is seeking volunteers to assist with the meetings.

President Kramer provided a historical overview of the grant funding process noting the State passes through grant funds to the Borough who then passes those funds to the various community councils. Over a 4-year period Big Lake Community Council has received \$100,000. Any individual can submit a grant proposal and does not need to be a 401c3. An example for a grant received was a \$10,000 beautification project. In addition, over time various grants have amounted to apx. \$30,000, which must benefit the community as a whole. Funds are not paid out until receipts verify the expenses according to the grant request submitted and all reporting requirements have been met.

Yvonne Ruth - Grant Committee Chairperson said the Grant Selection Committee included – Margaret Billinger, Paul DuClos, Carol Kane, Cathy Mayfield, Lois Parker and Darren Zimmer, Submitted were six applications. The criteria were scored according to the grant rubric ensuring the benefits of the community were being met.

A motion by Floyd Shilanski and seconded by Casey Steinau was accepted for the submission of all grants and scored according to the grant rubric as presented.

President Kramer then opened the floor for discussion/presentation by the grant applicants:

“Saturday Market” Chris Hoskinson

- √ Volunteers would be needed weekly
- √ Potential farmers would be selling products at market of value.
- √ Encouraged community support of the Big Lake venue
- √ To be addressed would be the issue of overflow parking. Happy Heairot said his business could assist as needed.
- √ Ina Mueller provided a comparative cost analysis in a private venue.
- √ Chris Hoskinson will be the Manager for the Saturday Market.
- √ June 27 is the anticipated start date from 10 A.M. – 4 P.M. through August 29.
- √ Question regarding sustainability - Where are the other funds coming from? Vendors will pay a low fee. This will require effective marketing to get people to participate to ensure sustainable. The funding may be less upon further review. Floyd Shilanski noted Big Lake now consists of 3,000 permanent residents and potentially 10,000 on the weekend. Big Lake is in the “cross hairs” of development. It is critical to change the image to the future.
- √ Funds not used will come back into the grant fund,

“Retrofitting Recycling Dumpsters” - Sammy Taylor,

- √ The grant would provide funds to retrofit a recycling dumpster. Anticipated cost could be \$8,000 similar to what another contractor has done in the past. She also noted other communities – Meadow Lakes, Talkeetna and Willow are undertaking similar recycling initiatives in concert with the borough guided by Macey “Butch” Shipro.

Cindy Betinne stated the Borough should take care of all electricity for the Saturday Market because Jordan Lake Park is a borough park. Additionally she said a request should be made to the Borough to provide porta potties in the park.

The motion as presented passed by unanimous consent to accept submission of all grants and scored according to the grant rubric as presented.

18. Correspondence

Courtesy copy of a letter from the Tariff change.

19. Land Use/Platting None Presented

20. New Business None

21. Unfinished Business/Action Items

*Mid Valley Recycling request for Big Lake Community Council to sign a letter of understanding with MSB regarding the retrofitted recycling dumpsters.

Sammy Taylor provided an overview of the high use of recycling items such as paper from the Library, aluminum cans by Houston High Honor Society, and plastic containers. Additionally she said Big Lake Elementary provided recycling information at Houston's Founders Day.

Sammy related there is an immediate need for volunteers to assist with the recycling transfer trailers. She said it is getting harder and harder to find volunteers. Volunteers would be paid for fuel for the round trip to and from the landfill, which generally takes about three hours. She noted appreciation for the LDS missionary who also assists with the recycling efforts. Currently the cardboard trailer is full. The dumpsters need to be retrofitted to better facilitate the recycling of cardboard.

Of importance to note, in July, throughout the Borough will begin an increase for dump fees. Scheduled days and times for recycling need to be from 12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M., Thursdays through Sundays. Volunteer schedules can be set up via email - sammytaylor@live.com
Sammy stated she would start keeping a record of all volunteers donating time for recycling as the 1999 Comp plan referenced for recycling.

She encouraged the audience to go on line at home or at the library to look at the Big Lake Comp Plan. In closing, she said the biggest impediment right now is having the BLCC sign off on the recycling proposal.

In the audience comments from Jo Walch - Mid-Valley Bylaws Secretary, Patty Fischer – Meadow Lakes, and Claudia Blizzard – supported the recycling plan information as presented by Sammy Taylor. This effort is not just temporary but rather a long-term plan for improvement. Additionally stated, Talkeetna has signed the agreement and

Willow intends to do so at their next meeting. The group urged BLCC sign off on the agreement.

A motion by Carol Kane and seconded by Floyd Shilanski passed by unanimous consent to have President Kramer sign off on the agreement as Big Lake Community Council
Representative

22. Announcements

Jim Faiks shared two groups of 30 – 40 volunteers, as happened last summer, will be in the Big Lake area from July 10 to the end of July to assist where needed. Contact Jim or Cathi Kramer if you know of anyone in need of assistance.

Cathy Mayfield commented the help provided for her parents by this group last year was greatly appreciated. Additionally noted was state funding for trails may or may not be available next year. Effective July 1 if state employees are laid off and state funding is delayed, maybe this group could assist with the trails. Income for the trails originates from user fees and license fees paid are directed to the SnowTRAC organization. As a result of the unknown state financial status grooming may be limited. Still to be clarified would be if state reserves could be an option.

Dan Mayfield announced a borough site has been chosen for a septic leach field. The current process involves transportation to Anchorage, which Anchorage does not want to continue. The challenge for the borough is how to fund either/or - the ferry or the septic issues. High priority for the borough is how to fund the top 2 priorities.

Floyd Shilanski indicated in this last session, the disability 12/23 529A account, which is designed for financial savings available to parent/people with disabilities, slipped through the crack. Senator Giessel did submit a bill earlier this spring, but still needs more information before it can move through the committee process. This bill would allow disabled individual to save money on a pre-tax basis.

He continued his comments sharing a local Rotary Club donated \$3000 for transportation for Houston High School students round trip between Big Lake Library and the Mat Su School District Career and Tech school.

He announced the process for the Big Lake 2nd Class City Petition process is moving forward. He noted a Political Action Committee would be formed and any individual(s) interested being involved should contact Floyd.

He concluded his comment noting coming in July will be “Throw Back Thursdays” held in front of the Big Lake Family Restaurant from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. There will be “throw back” menu items such as “soda pop”, and car dining or outside table seating available.

23. Board Member Comments

Yvonne Ruth said Big Lake is an awesome place with lots going on. This is a great community.

Cathy Mayfield expressed her appreciation to all the grant applicants.

Casey Steinau welcome Dr. Tommy – professional dentist in the Knox to Big Lake. This is a

24. Adjournment 8:46 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.