

## January 2022

### Big Lake Community Council Meeting minutes

Quorum is here. 706pm. Line to the wall to sign up for membership

Agenda: Agenda change requested for 3 resolutions available for review by Council.

Agenda approved: Jodi / Becky 2nd- yes

December minutes: approved as written.

**Nathan & Darci Hickman**, representing Susitna Brewing spoke tonight. New business located in the old South Port Marina. Opening soon, the "Little Su Café", followed by an onsite brewery & beer garden.

**Treasurer's report.** Checking \$13006.33 with \$267.52 in savings.

**Legislative:** (Lynn) Kevin McCabe Dist. Big Lake residents will now be a new voting district. We will be in district 30.

**Assembly Tew:** Port Mackenzie- There will now be a new "port authority" put in charge of running both MSB Port Mac and Anchorage ports in the future.

**Chief Hightower:** There were roughly 700 total calls in 2021 in the Big Lake/Meadow Lakes. To help responders locate your home in an emergency, please go online to "Community Connect." And register your home.

**"Our Road Correspondence"**: Per Assemblyman Tew: MSB planning (Alex Strong) will be meeting with the State Mental Health regarding this ROW request. There will be a report out soon.

**Bill Haller- (RSA pres.)** RSA board passed RIP list unanimously and the RSA board asked the MSB to set delay the "time and materials" contract change proposed by Assemblyman Tew.

### **Correspondence: "OUR Rd issue":**

Proposal read by Dave would change for one meeting the rules regarding voting. This was voted down by the council after mostly negative input from members.

**OUR RD-** JILL-wants to support the 100' row easement. Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jill approving as "OUR Road" spelling clarification needed in future paperwork.

Dan Mayfield- State of Alaska Mental health has a ton of acreage along this section line. "OUR Rd." is maintained by volunteers at this time. Developers should cover maintenance/upgrade costs in future.

Bill Harriet- It's not fair for public to have free access through this easement and be able to bypass a "paid for access" to the south of this easement. Theft concerns.

Assemblyman Tew: Asked the MSB to look into this. Future developments need to help with maintenance/ upgrades Does not want to have taxes pay for it

Gerrard Farkas- Thinks the access is a good thing. MHLT is required to sell the land to support mental health needs. 40 acres is the smallest land plot size. Supports the access idea.

Terry: ROW easements are permitted uses for right of ways. "Public access" is what matters and what they are designed for.

Heather Dickinson- Owner of the private access is selectively picking who gets access.

Jorden Farkas- Supports the ROW from mental health. It's a great option for the community.

Sam Dickinson- Helped construct private access road. Seems to be a payment dispute. Mr. Dickinson claims to be locked out with no other access except by water. He then constructed around private access road. There were past efforts to run legal road in existing ROW across Stewart Lake but project never came to fruition.

Lynn McCabe- Platting board meeting on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lynn is new member of the platting board. (Congratulations!)

Jason \_\_\_ - He is in favor of section line access. With property on Mud Lake.

Vote to Council: "Do you support the proposal to allow AKMHTL public use easement within this 100' ROW?" Board is unanimous. Members vote: 9 voted for. 6 against.

**Correspondence Continued**- Mat Su brewing liquor license is approved by council.

### **Old Business:**

Obtaining larger ROW for roads off Lakes Blvd. for future multi-use trails. Kelly Green: Lives by OUR RD. It's a safety issue, it's not a good thing having the side by sides, but supports safe use. Ken Walsh- Problem is: nobody has come up with a decision on motorized being on bike trails at state level.

North Shore Bike trail maintenance: Public does not want trail plowed, to be used for snowmachine access between Big Lake and downtown Big Lake amenities. Apparently, Mike Lackel requested McKenna not to plow the bike trail. Currently not being maintained this winter.

Cindy Bettini- bike trail needs to be repaired along the north shore drive and the trail should be maintained.

**Road Service Report: Bill Haller:** RSA meeting had roughly 40 people in attendance and a resolution was written indicating that McKenna Bros was doing a good job on the roads in Big Lake. Contract should not be cancelled early without reason, "for convenience." RSA board recommends current RSA plan to move forward. There was a resolution written. Let contract run its course. Figure out how to improve the contract for next contract negotiations and consider a hybrid contract.

**Discussion of Time and Materials:** (22/112 RS #) Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup> discussion.

Gary Keeling: Do not cancel contract. Feels it puts folks' safety to risk.

Robert Genesavich: T&M too cumbersome. Mass paperwork required to bill/ enforce.

Cindy Bettini- She is against. Is in favor of opposing a T&M contract with reason. MSB has studied this already and it is not a good buy for tax payers in the borough, let alone Big Lake. Keni is in process of leaving TAM contract for these very reasons. By the mile bid being considered there now. She recommends at least a task force to advise the assembly and the "Big Road Board" folks should be included in this discussion.

Assemblyman Tew: "Big Lake has always has and still does have bad roads." Many are unsafe. Some are impassable. Supports the T&M contract so things can be upgraded as

needed, when needed. Thinks the money spent will be close to the current sum that we spend currently.

Dan Mayfield- He opposes T&M bids for the MSB. "T&M is just a gamble with taxpayer money/ safety." This type of contract will have no impact on bad roads. We only have so much money to do any projects. The MSB will have to escrow an extra 200k just to as a buffer in case there are extreme repairs/ weather because there will be no way to budget this type of contract.

Jorden Farcas- Do not cancel. T&M hard to manage, with higher risks. Best to get a good scope of work.

Vote: Board: Yes=6 No=1.

(Apparently, Assemblyman Tew has recently pulled this off the agenda at this time.)  
General public is not supportive of T&M contract at all.

Bill Haller: RSA board also passed resolution to approve the RIP list. (See RSA RIP list for details.) 9 items funded.

Terry Gorlic: 21/1201- Resolution to support the current RIP list as determined by the RSA board after a unanimous vote. JILL: There should be an alternative resolution since the council has no input at this point. Jill submits an alternative resolution to the RSA board RIP list. It supports "focus on repairs/pavement/ resolution of jolly creek drainage."

TERRY- The RIP list was discussed and voted on at RSA board. Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup> resolution.

BEN TEW- 1. Folks, please go to RSA meetings in the future. Good time to discuss these issues. 2. Impassible roads need to be addressed because 25K not enough to make a significant upgrade to a road. Spend the money on one project at a time.

Assemblyman Tew- Feels unpassable roads are the biggest problem. Most importantly, SAFETY. Then, dust control. Mokie applied Calcium Chloride to Echo Lake Rd and Lakeview Roads to eliminate dust past summer. 6 bags of CC at 200 lbs. per mile. Does not like agree with RSA's recommendation of an environmental impact study before more application of CC in Big Lake. He wants to get folks moving in the right direction. Assemblyman Tew has an alternative RIP list that should be considered to address unpassable roads in the Big Lake area. Wants to address drainage in the "Animal Streets neighborhood" (Mink, Musk Ox, Ermine, etc.) and wants funding to fix drainage problems upstream. He canceled the 660k project to fix the "Animal Streets" and the paving of Ryan's Creek Rd. These funds saved add up to nearly 1 million for Jolly Creek drainage work.

Bill Haller: RSA supports using all money we have available now. A 25k project is good, as you can do them in a small scope without engineering and other problems that higher cost projects require.

Feels 25k is a good amount of money to get short sections of road fixed without need of engineering.

Scott Wilson: Feels that our input does not matter with current Assemblyman Tew advising the council that if he does not agree with the Council or RSA's recommendations and may move forward with other ideas he favors.

Council Vote on resolution to Agree with RSA Rip list recommendations- 10 in favor/ 4 opposed.

Meeting over: 926pm.