

11/10/20 7:02pm- quorum is here

Addenda approved

Minutes? Postponed until next meeting- not available

Introduction of board.

Vice Pres.-Terry Gorlic – He built his new home on Big Lake in 2015 and became a full-time resident in 2017. Loves the folks here and the town of Big Lake

Dave Mayo- 5 years in as a resident. Past history in Insurance, community service and volunteerism.

Jill Parson- 14 years resident of Big Lake.

Becky Reeves. Has been in Big Lake since 1984 and became a full-time resident in 2014. She loves Big Lake and spends hours on the h20. Also, on the Starboard Homeowners Assoc. Board.

President- Bill Gamble- He is a long-time resident of both Big Lake and the State of Alaska. Attended Turnagain Elementary & West High. Has lived in Big Lake since 1989. He has volunteered since then. Helped found American Charter school, the 1<sup>st</sup> in the Valley. Full time fire chief. Chief of staff for Representative Newman. Ready to reengage in the community and get council rolling.

Jeff Ross- Secretary. Full time resident of Big Lake since 1999. A proud “West Ender.” Family property in BL since '71. Founded “JEFFCO Grounds Maintenance” in Anchorage in '81. Sold JEFFCO to purchase Sheep Creek Lodge in '91, sold in '99. Founded “Floaters” in Beautiful Big Lake and sold after 6 years of ownership.

Business presentation of the month: Bill Brister- New owner @ Floaters Pub. What's up in the future for Floaters? The new construction at Floater's will be a new family friendly restaurant. Plans are for it to be inclusive for all people with economical food choices in a safe family environment. Daily specials. Bill really wants everyone to feel free to come by and check out the new addition as it becomes available to the public. Currently they are pushing hard with the construction to try to beat the winter. An initial hold up at the fire marshal with construction permitting delayed construction, but they are on it now. He hopes to employ 15-20 year around employees. He will also open a "Generator care business" (batteries, generators & solar choices) out of the Floaters location, so if you need help in that area, go see Bill. The new building will add a lot of new lighting with ample handicapped access to the building in both the front and back. The business desires to be very involved with fundraising for some needs that the community may have. This is all done under the umbrella of R&B Ak. Inc and this is his plan for retirement, so he looks forward to being a good neighbor in Big Lake.

Public Speaker #1- Tyler Healy. Director of "Youth 360"... Youth 360 is a non-profit group who works within the community and with the schools and other non-profits, to help provide after school activities for Jr & Sr high aged kids. Activities are all free and some include bussing home. Schools, teachers and counselors need to get kids familiar with and into the program. There have been over 450 students through this program already.

It's a 1<sup>st</sup> step for kids to come into an organized program with a network of activities and vendors for activities. Kids may be into different activities that are not really available now, but they are trying to offer different options as they expand. They also survey kids to try to find out what's going on in their worlds. They frequently hear... "there is no sense of community." By building up the strengths of the young now, they can be cultivated to be productive adults and not an individual who needs to be "fixed" in the future. He is also looking for new after school activities. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of surveying from the kids is next month...stay tuned for results. This helps them to really figure out how to best support the kids in the program. Trying to get technical training in the future added to the program. Usually mid-week, not weekends. Summer is busier, winter slows down Youth-360.org. They are on FB too. Most of the funding comes from the Robert Wood Johnson foundation so no tax draw from Valley tax payers. United way Mat-Su and others also fund this foundation. MSB has always looked for things to do to connect with the kids.

Karrin Parker- Public Health nurse. Covid public health. Yup, the positive counts are going up in Alaska. We are currently 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the rate (per 100,000) so we are very high. Social distance and masks are suggested as those are really the only tools in the kit to offer at this time. If a vaccine becomes available the MSB will be the people administering the vaccine rollout. The Health care workers will get the vaccine 1<sup>st</sup>. Then the folks living in congregate settings. (Long term, youth care & prisons.) After that, the essential workers get the vaccine. (north

slope, fire fighters, police) then to the general public. Challenges: Fizer has recently developed a vaccine, but it is very hard to keep for any length of time as it has to be kept at -70 below and that means it will be a challenge logistically. Watch out at Thanksgiving. Try to keep circles smaller and to your core family. Inquire as to where folks have been more actively before you meet up with them. You should make smart decisions as to your travel plans to see loved ones to out of state. Don't want to take the bug to them by flying. If you feel you have to travel, its best to quarantine before you go see family members who are susceptible. Do your best to eliminate risk by being safe and making different decisions

How do you get the "reality" of what's going on? Answer: Currently, it's the numbers of tests, not numbers of people tested that we are using, as some folks are tested repeatedly. Remember that testing is only a point in time. There is commonly 14-day intubation period with C19. It takes around 5 days to get a large enough viral load to detect on a test. You may have been exposed to the virus and test neg if you test too early. Its best to wait a few days to figure out if you are positive if you are going to get a test. The general rule for time frame of exposure is: 15 minutes for less than 6feet away. It's not perfect but a start. At this time in Alaska, the age group from 20-45 is the hot spot right now and has the highest rage of increases. But that age group has a very high rate of survival. 65 or older is the worst for prognosis. Most symptoms are mild. Small cold or runny nose. Short fever. Mild in the 20-45. To date, there have been no repeat cases in Ak. They are very rare. Some residual

medical issues they are seeing from C19 are blood clots, strokes and cardiac problems. Too early to see what long term effects will be. Currently, we use two types of tests. PCR test which is a molecular test and results come back within 3-5 days which come from AK state lab (98% good) Rapid tests are back in 15 min and have 97% test accuracy. Rapid have higher false negative readings. They say it is ok to go around folks who have recovered and there should be no stigma. They say that folks can test positive for 90 days after you have had C19, but the viral load in the person goes down so low that the person isn't active. As you initially get C19, your body sheds the virus in the early part of after exposure. This is when you are most contagious. In the time after the C10 exposure (10 days) the virus falls off you become less potent to spread to others.

Treasury Report- Currently transitioning from one board to the next. High turnover rate within the council has caused some accounting chores to be late. Books are a little behind, but efforts are being taken to get treasury details transferred from current to new Treasurer. We are working on books, grants and reports.

Currently there are no outstanding grants that the council is working with, but there is a new "open grant application" time period in place now.

There are 50 members in the Council, with 5 more last month.

Totals at bank savings account \$12,518,58- checking \$282.28.

Senator David Wilson. Thanks for the outstanding turnout in the valley election. Thank you to all to stay C19 safe during the election. Legislative work in the future includes getting folks safely back to work. Recently, the Division of Elections has gone to a different of processing ballots and that is why there is such a long counting process after the election. We are last in the nation to get our counts out now. This was also the 1<sup>st</sup> time the State or Borough did their votes at the same time. How can we do better in the future? No major issues reported to date about voter integrity in the State or Borough. He's going to Juneau soon. Please reach out to Senator Wilson, or Representative Kevin McCabe to get things you need discussed in Juneau. Promises to get his political signs all picked up around the valley, so please have patience. Call folks who don't remove their political signs. He was asked about public access being shut off in the State Campgrounds on Big Lake when camp "hosts" contract ends and indicated he would look into it.

Our new State Representative for our area is Kevin MCCabe. Please reach out to him too.

No assembly report at this time.

Fire Chief Hightower. Sad to report that the 1<sup>st</sup> C19 case in the fire dept occurred recently requiring hospitalization. She encourages folks to be safe. There is also a cool program called "Community Connect" Where you share some of your personal information with fire, safety or EMS response teams so that they can speed up reaction time to your property. Do you have pets? Locks on driveway gates? Existing resident health issues? You can register with Community Connect and the 1<sup>st</sup>

responders will have this info when you need them NOW! Go to Facebook page "Westlakesfiredept" to get the Community Connect Application.

Smoke alarm and CO program is still in force. We all need alarms in all homes. You can also get the fire department to do a "Pre-Fire" inspection so the dept can pre-map out your property for quicker response. And be sure to display your addresses so they can find your house too!!

Road Service: Bill Harriet is the newly appointed RSA board person. He is upset by the continued snow removal problems in our area. Berms/ ice / not in the right places. Currently, he is trying to get the contractor to come out and push the berms back further as this is only the 1<sup>st</sup> snowfall and room is needed. Are you happy with the current snow removal? Number to call is 861-7755 at the MSB. They will relay complaints to the RSA guy and then to contractor. Problems should be solved promptly. 100 plus miles of road in our area. \$700,000 for snow removal is the budget and he feels more needs to be done with that money. There are only 4 meetings per year to the RSA Board. Another problem in town is with drainage and culvert issues. These issues cause other problems. Would like to get a copy of the road service budget.

There is \$12,500 is available for grants. Funds need to be spent by march or we lose the next 15k in funds for 2021. Grant Application period has just been opened and application forms are available. Applications need to be back to the council by 1/12/21.

Terry Gorlic will be the council member who will take charge of the grant committee group and keep track of all paperwork for the Grant Application Committee. Funds need to be allocated so that we can qualify for the next round of available funding. Council would also like grantees attend council meetings to give updates if project is ongoing. Grants will only be given if the grantee is allowed under MSB mandated guidelines. Terry will call and get the guidelines for the grants.

Mokie: Suggests that the RSA meetings be at the same time as the Council meeting, but it would make council meeting too long.

The Council is also pushing to upgrade our ability to get information out to public. Get web page up to speed with bylaws, minutes, addenda's and other info available.

Accounting stuff: looked at hiring a CPA to do our council books. Helps with transition from board to board. CPA will know procedures that need to be followed and know where we stand on grants etc. print out budgets, reports and this will add to the transparency to the council. Linda Rohodes tax service will most likely be the CPA the council will use. Help keep paperwork up to date.

Memberships, grants and 501-3C status will then be up to date. We are out of compliance at this time with the 501-3C.

Veteran's day at the school was quite an event with a big outdoor screen and there were little to go bags for the veterans to take with them too. It was held outside by the kids of Big Lake Elementary. It was a fun event..

(Thank you, Veterans! Without you where would our country be??)

3 minute persons to be heard:

Margaret Billinger. Chamber is trying to restart if anyone is interested in getting the chamber going. The chamber may apply for a grant for the building electronic reader board sign to be used for community messages. \$50 membership fee for the chamber. There are so many more new businesses in town, it will be a good time to start again.

Ice safety: ice is not safe at this point. Stay off of it. Chimneys need to be cleaned right now too, before heavy use.

Bill Haller- Lions Club Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup> with the tree lighting and parade starting at Big Lake Elementary at 6pm. with skating, coco, cookies & Santa at the Lions after the parade. There will also be a raffle going at 3 bears Grocery for \$1000 and various 3 Bears gift cards (Thanks 3-Bears!) Trunker treat was a huge event with nearly 1600 kids in attendance.

Jody Ridel has also volunteered to be on the Council board. This is awesome as we have had an empty seat on the board for months! She has been in Big Lake since 1976 and was part of the Big Lake Chamber for years. She is really looking forward to getting back into community involvement. (Thank you, Jody!!"

**Get some name tags made for the table**

Thanks so much to all of the outgoing Board members. We appreciate all your efforts.

The canned drive for Christmas for the high school starts next week.

Meeting adjourned. 8:52pm.