

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2009

- I. **Call to order:** The special assembly meeting of October 7, 2009 was called to order by Shelby Boothe at 1:07 p.m. The meeting was held in the Assembly Chambers of the Borough Building, Naknek, Alaska.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Eddie Clark, J.C. Tudor, Bill Hester, and Shelby Boothe. Carvel Zimin, Jr. arrived at 1:09 p.m.
Absent: Dan O'Hara
Also Present: Marv Smith, Borough Manager, Tami Johnson, Clerk
- III. **Business to Discuss:**
- A. **Employee Insurance Deductibles:** Marv reported that a phone call was received from Doug Brown. Originally the deductible was not going to change, but the Borough cannot get this new package without the deductible going up to \$300. Discussion on how to handle the additional \$50 per employee deductible. CARVEL ZIMIN, JR. MOVED TO HAVE THE BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH PAY THE \$50 DEDUCTIBLE DIFFERENCE ON BEHALF OF THE EMPLOYEES. BILL HESTER SECONDED. Discussion regarding protocol for reimbursement to employee. All new employees will be subject to a \$300 deductible and all other employees will be grandfathered in at the \$250 deductible. CARVEL ZIMIN, JR. AMEDED THE MOTION TO HAVE THE BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH PAY THE \$50 DEDUCTIBLE DIFFERENCE ON BEHALF OF THE EMPLOYEES AND ALL NEW HIRES AFTER JANUARY 1, 2010 WILL PAY A \$300 DEDUCTIBLE UNDER THE NEW INSURANCE PLAN AND THE BOROUGH WILL PAY THE DIFFERENCE UP TO \$1500 TO BLUE CROSS AND THE THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR. BILL HESTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Family Coverage: Marv Smith discussed that as the policy presently reads if you want to add family members to insurance the employee currently has to pay the

insurance premiums for six months and employees are asking if this can be financed for longer than six months. Shelby asked for a time frame recommendation and Marv responded for up to eighteen months. J.C. TUDOR MOVED TO CHANGE PERSONEL POLICY SECTION 5.36 TO SPECIFY THAT THE EMPLOYEE HAS UP TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS TO PAY DEPENDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE. BILL HESTER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. **Letter to D.O.T.:** Marv reported that it appears the State has dropped the bridge off of the STIP. Marv pointed out to look at the letter under DBP which translates to Discretionary Bridge Program and they are using the funding from FY05 on this bill authorizing to use this funding. Marv has written a letter requesting a reconnaissance including making decisions on whether to build a bridge at the present location, investigate the building of a Tram system, build a bridge upstream located near a large gravel source, not build a bridge, or their choice to move the funding to another Bristol Bay Borough priority. Carvel Zimin, Jr. would like to add another line item to work with IRR BIA bridge and road funds. Shelby Boothe stated that we need to state that we agree with the projects but not with the funding source. Suggest in a letter – don't let this off the STIP.

Shelby suggested making a motion to formally disagree with them taking the bridge money and putting it into their road money for the Alaska Peninsula Highway project that they are talking about. CARVEL SO MOVED AND SECONDED BY J.C. TUDOR. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CARVEL MOVED TO HAVE THEM PUT THE BRIDGE BACK INTO THE STIP. EDDIE CLARK SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion of the STIP and that all on the list is important. Shelby wants to make sure that IRR bridge and road funds are looked at as possible matches. Shelby said that on the AK Penn Hwy there was a bike path project years ago and they did spend money on it and preliminary engineering and surveying and the bike path is not new to that highway. Bill Hester thought they ran into easement problems. Shelby thought that they drove the cost of the project up so high that the Borough couldn't come up with their matching funds. John Walsh stated that it required a 25% match. Shelby said the initial price of the bike path was

\$600,000 and the project skyrocketed to \$6 million of which the Borough would pay \$1.8 million. The easements for the Naknek portion were driving the costs up. John Walsh reconfirmed that we are going to respond before the deadline on the STIP and then are waiting for a recon study that is on a slow burn at the DOT level. Mr. Walsh suggested writing a letter asking that it be expedited and perhaps interface more with the assembly. A letter to Jennifer requesting a timeline and to involve the community and that there needs to be more discussion on what they are doing on that recon.

IV. **Persons to be Heard**

Randy Zimin asked what the feeling of the assembly on the chances that the bridge is going to go in? He requested a roll call answer on this subject. J.C. said very slim chances. Eddie Clark agreed. Bill Hester agreed. Carvel Zimin, Jr. would say that we have to get done with the recon and that is the path that we are going down to which gives us our options on paper. Shelby Boothe said he didn't get good vibes from the DOT planner on Monday. The board tried to press them on a commitment and they were evasive. Marv Smith said it is going to be a tough road to haul to get the bridge. Randy stated that he has been waiting for about twenty years for this bridge that never happens. He would like to be able to live in his own home in South Naknek. He would like the board to come up with options for this. Randy is suggesting looking into a Tram.

Ralph Zimin asked what is the time that these funds would run out on this appropriation for the bridge and or road job. Bill Hester said the Assembly has been warned that a sweep could happen with little or no notice. Carvel Zimin, Jr. stated that we are not done with the recon, so officially there is no clock ticking. Shelby said that it was reported the other night that the recon is 60% complete after two years. Ralph Zimin feels that it should be made very clear that at any given meetings anytime at all in the future that it is important that everyone understands the deadlines and dates if this knowledge is available and or tying that with the fact that if the options are if a tram is what is necessary to get this ball rolling if that is all that can be accomplished that in itself is a huge step. The first concern is the children being flown and we have been very fortunate. J.C. Tudor said there is no date on this, but congress at their whim could sweep it tomorrow. The way Shelby understands it that earmarks for specific projects have no expiration date, but every once in a while congress does a sweep and says anything over ten years old hasn't been spent comes back into the kitty and the assembly has no idea

when the congress might do something like that. Ralph understands that but would hope that when an agency is going to sweep the table that they would notify the people involved. He said that if this carries on very much longer the cost itself is going to increase by the year. So successfully being able to do this may diminish to the point of non-existent. Therefore, he thinks it is a good idea to come up with a list of things for example to the point of a tram, once you have done that you can expand on it. Marv said that before they are lost if we have a chance to salvage them for something that we can convince people to build, we should consider that. Marv said that money needs to stay in Bristol Bay no matter what, if we have that opportunity to make that decision. Eddie Clark feels that the first choice is to see what our options are and also to go to South Naknek and inform them of what is going to happen; otherwise the funds are going to be gone and will probably be used for Naknek bridges and everything else. We can't wait too long or they are going to be gone. The assembly heard clearly that there is not enough money in the highway transportation pool and there is a lot of competition for that. Eddie thinks that before the money goes away that South Naknek needs to come up with a plan. When speaking with John Walsh; Shelby is under the impression that Alaska's share of the transportation funds are going to diminish due to loss of political clout.

Eddie Clark asked Marv to give Ralph a copy of all the information regarding a tram system that the Borough has. It includes drawings, programs, numbers, and information on carrying a vehicle up to 10,000 pounds.

Carvel stated that the assembly's recommendation is that they come back to us in this recon and we sit at the table and have meetings with the public in South Naknek and here and go over all the options.

Eddie suggested that we jump ahead and have a meeting in South Naknek and have some options. Then tell them what we want and that South Naknek is behind it. He feels that we shouldn't wait, the facts should go to South Naknek, and come up with a plan before they tell us what we are going to do.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

BY GENERAL CONSENSUS THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:30 P.M.

Shelby Boothe, Assembly Chairman

ATTEST:

Tami Johnson, Clerk