

Meeting Minutes for Birchwood Community Council of February 10, 2005

Called to order by Chairman Bobbi Wells at 7:12 p.m. with 13 in attendance. Our agenda order was revised to accommodate the guest speakers who did brave the snowy weather to attend the meeting, motion made and seconded to address and approve January meeting minutes at the end of the agenda. The Alaska Railroad and Sgt. Stanton/APD will be appearing and heard at the March 10th meeting.

Jeff Johnson, candidate for Assembly, gave us his background, qualifications and reasons for his bid for that seat. He is well aware of the wide variety of problems and issues facing businesses and families in our area and can be reached for questions at 694-4018. Fire Chief Bruce Bartley spoke to us on mill rate (proposed to go back to 1.0 mill and be outside the tax cap). This financial change will be voted on this April and if passed will enable the Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department to again be a more self-determined organization who can budget and spend our tax dollars with the same great knowledge and efficiency our area has experienced in prior years.

Assembly Rep. Debbie Ossiander brought us up to date on the Mt. Baldy access issue. The access being used is currently on private property, which is in the process of being rezoned, so several things need to be sorted out to see if any access would still be available after the property owners gain their requested changes. Debbie informs us also about the problems associated with the Fire Lake Dam. MOA has liability issues linked with repairs and wants our Road Board to take responsibility for this structure. The Assembly will be having a work session to explore the liability issues and also why building permits were granted to the townhouse/site condo development (Fire Creek) which did reroute the actual Fire Creek and constructed a settling pond at the south end of the property. Debbie gave us information about a February 23rd public meeting with AWWU discussing sewer installation at Chugiak High School which may end up being a separate project from an initially planned water and sewer install. More information would also be available at the Chugiak Community Council meeting on March 17th.

Assembly Representative Anna Fairclough spoke to us about April bond issues, Museum, Convention Center and a one-time alteration of the Charter to allow a 50% threshold vote, specifically the wording of these bonds. Anna filled us in on why CVFD being outside the tax cap is a good move and will benefit the community.

Chamber of Commerce meeting this Wednesday, February 16th will have Tom Nelson, head of Planning and Zoning as the featured speaker and the topic will cover our Comp Plan being done before the rewrite of Title 21.

Road Board Report: Extensive discussion on new Eagle River High School drainage problems and high cost for Road Board if they have to move into the Valley River Center.

Parks and Rec Report: The well problem at the new Beach Lake Chalet possibly resolved and money from extra half mill is definitely being worked with.

January minutes perused during meeting and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

(Nanette Belk/Sec.)

(cc: Chugiak/Eagle River Library, Linda Vizenor/Parks & Rec, council/Federation Office)