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## **BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **Wednesday, September 10, 2003**

The meeting was called to order by Bobbi Wells at 7:05 p.m.. Minutes of the April meeting were read and approved. Confirmation of re-election, by emergency question, over the summer break, of our Road Board Representative, Gail Dial was conveyed to the council.

#### **Guest Speakers:**

Lt. John Norsworthy of APD spoke with us about having a department Sargent assigned to attend our council meetings on a regular basis. The high school traffic problems were briefly discussed and Lt. Norsworthy provided an update about the Community Service Officer who is currently at the high school. She is officer Wendy Shackelford and she addresses problems ranging from speeding to truancy to criminal mischief and much more. Many members of the council expressed appreciation to Lt. Norsworthy concerning the vigilant attention that has been given this area now that school is back in session.

John Steiner of the ASD brought us up to date on some budget issues for this year and next, accountability standards such as the exit exam diploma and Certificate of Completion and ramifications of the Federal No Child Left Behind Program. John stated that the No Child Left Behind program has so many possible variables and issues involved with it that the effect on the schools and the budget will have to be scrutinized intensely. Comments that council members would like to make on the No Child Left Behind Program can be sent to Rep. Carl Gatto, Chairman of the State Education Committee, at e-mail [address-Representative Carl Gatto@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us) or his Wasilla office-(907) 376-3725 or you may contact Roger Sampson, Commissioner of Education and Early Development at (907) 465-2802, e-mail [rogersampson@eed.state.ak.us](mailto:rogersampson@eed.state.ak.us).

#### **Correspondence**

- A. Zoning Board of examiners and Appeals - Penningtons on Pioneer Drive are requesting a variance to allow a 25 x 36 ft. barn to encroach into the 50 foot rear yard setback in R-6 zoning district in which they live. Motion made and seconded (Ann Newbury/2<sup>nd</sup> Mitch Axtell) to support variance and passed unanimously.**
- B. Dept. of Planning - Jim Sullivan/Ripley Subd. & Wooded Hollow Sub. After review, this council has no comment regarding this preliminary plat subdivision, instead deferring to whatever decision the Chuglak Community Council may make. They are the council of record where this land is actually located and**

would therefore be in a better position to make an informed decision.

- C. Dept. of Planning (short plat) - Linda Frank dba Horizons, Inc. wants to subdivide 2.48 acres into two lots for single family dwelling units, located at the southeast corner of Hillcrest Dr. and Shims street in Birchwood. Noting that construction is already in progress the Council is requesting that attention be given to assure that the development is properly permitted, that placement of structures conform to the stated zoning of the lots and all Title 21 requirements applicable to this subdivision and its development be strictly adhered to. Also proper right-of-ways should be reserved now for the proposed widening of Hillcrest and Shims and that any permits issued be placed at the site for the benefit of the public.
- D. Dept. of Planning - The Grohs on Birchwood Loop/Julie Subd., are requesting to subdivide two 2.5 acre lots into one 5 acre lot. Motion made and approved that we concur with the subdivision of these two lots into one lot.
- E. Planning and Zoning Board - Alaska Communications System Wireless - Conditional Use for three cellular communication towers and communication tower site plan review. Three separate locations: Terrace Lane adjacent to the utility transmission lines, North Birchwood at approximately the corner of North Birchwood and New Glenn and in Eagle River in the vicinity of Artillery and Mausel Road by South Eagle River Exit, lot 29. The council questioned the positioning of two of these towers due to safety issues and the necessity of so many towers in a 5 mile radius. These and other issues need to be addressed to prevent our area from becoming an antenna farm.

Fire Chief Gary Davis, from Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department, updated us to the fact that the fire department has been ordered to start charging, as of September 29<sup>th</sup>, for ambulance transport to Anchorage. (Basic Life Support Transport will be a minimum of \$400.00 plus \$12.00 a mile and Advanced Life Support Transport will be a minimum of \$550.00 plus \$12.00 a mile). A transport from the Senior Center is roughly \$800.00. The Municipality estimates these transport charges will raise about \$255,000.00 annually. Questions were raised as to the agreement that was made when Anchorage evolved from a Borough to a Municipality (Unification) concerning the retention of our volunteer fire departments. It's widely known and acknowledged that our volunteers do as good a job if not better and do it cheaper. Gary clarified some incorrect information on all area wide services which are at a mil rate of 1.5 mils. (Included in these services are EMS, Library, Museum, OMB for Budget, Mayors office etc.). Out of the 1.5 mil rate, approx 0.74 mils is our tax contribution for EMS. We operate our three ambulances for less than \$67,000.00 a year compared

**to \$500,000.00 a year for one AFD ambulance and crew. Anchorage is not subsidizing us in anyway on this issue. The Mayor needs to hear from the residents of Chugiak/Birchwood/Eklutna area that we do not want a change in our fire and ambulance service. Phone calls, e-mails/postal mail and faxes need to be sent so our local government knows how we feel about this issue, hand off!! CVFD just took delivery of a New, \$300,000.00 Heavy Rescue Rig that was purchased out of their fund balance, bought and paid for in full. Another engine truck is on order which will be paid for by a state grant. All this department wants to do is to keep doing its job at the high level it always has and this Council is extremely proud of them.**

**Motion made and approved (Ann Newbury/2<sup>nd</sup> Bonnie Nelson) to resend the letter requesting a Life Pack 12 for our ambulances and Girdwood's ambulances.**

**Bob Stehn, Eagle River Nordic Ski Club, is asking the Council for a letter of support to include in their grant application for monies (\$21,000.00) to enable them to add more lights to the ski trails in Beach Lake Regional Park. Motion made and approved (Ann Newbury/2<sup>nd</sup> Jill Crosby) to support this hardworking clubs effort to improve our area. The new lights will connect the new Beach Lake Trail Center building to the existing lighted trails.**

**Notification that next month (October) is our annual meeting and the Council will hold elections for Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary, Parks and Recreation Representative & Alternate and Federation of Community Councils Representative.**

**We will be joining the Chugiak Community Council on October 16<sup>th</sup> for an Open Forum Meeting regarding the situation involving the Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department, Anchorage Fire Department and the Municipality. Should be a lot of information available so plan on attending.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.**

**Minutes recorded and transcribed by Nanette Belk/Secretary**