

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 10, 2008

President Bill Holland opened the meeting at 7:08 pm. Introductions were made.

Approval of minutes: No quorum.

Treasurer's Report: submitted by Sarah Wright. Balance the same as reported last month. One of the certificates of deposit is up for renewal tomorrow at 3% interest rate.

INVITED GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Will Earnhart, ERVCC vice-president: Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) station in Eagle River Valley. Will is asking ERVCC residents, do they want a ballot initiative to bring fire service to residents beyond mile 5.5 Eagle River Road? According to Will, ERVCC residents currently within existing fire service area have a fire rating of 2. Usually the further away a residence is from the fire station, the higher their fire rating becomes. Currently some insurance companies are choosing not to insure residences outside the fire service district (or when they are insured it can be with a rating of 10 and substantial premiums). The mil rate assessed for AFD is currently \$1.77 per \$100,000 valuation. Council members discussed longer response time (EMT as well as fire) and were concerned about water (lack of hydrants, streams frozen in winter, possible dry hydrants or a designated well). Assemblyman Bill Starr observed that adding residences in Eagle River Valley past mile 5.5 to the fire service district could generate approximately \$382,000 annual revenue which is not enough to staff a station. Bill observed that ERVCC has an AFD site on our CIP list, but local residents have not agreed to be assessed for service, so is this a conflict? Bill reminded council members that in order to add the extension of the fire district back valley to the April ballot, public comment would need to come before the Assembly in January 2009, then it would be submitted for assembly approval in February to be placed on April ballot. If measure passes, residents would start being assessed in 2010. President Bill Holland indicated he would invite AFD Chief Craig Goodrich to the January ERVCC meeting, plus inform area residents by email (400 addresses), USPS flyer (700 addresses) and signs.

Assemblyman Bill Starr: Proposed Municipal Bear Ordinance. Mr. Starr has drafted a resolution that would make the Municipality responsible for wildlife management within the borough. Currently the State of Alaska is responsible for wildlife management and managing open spaces within the muni. Mr. Starr drafted this resolution so that there will be a consistent, timely response to bear problems. Bill's resolution proposes a temporary wildlife manager during the warmer months. The individual would report directly to the city manager (who would establish a bear policy for the municipality). According to Bill, the officer could issue citations for garbage plus track and haze problem animals, thus improving public safety. When questioned about funding, Bill indicated the City Manager has \$400,000 in professional services and this money could be used to fund a MOA wildlife public safety position. Public comment is anticipated to begin at the December 16 Assembly meeting. Chugiak/Eagle River Parks and Recreation Board representative Sarah Wright reported that the consensus of the Parks & Rec Board was that this position is a duplication of existing services and this is not a good use of public monies. The board also felt that the liability for the municipality would be too high if this resolution passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS deferred due to lack of time.

Road Board: Bill Holland wanted an opinion from ERVCC members regarding snow removal on Eagle River Lane and Ptarmigan Road where elementary students walk to Ravenwood. Currently Parks & Rec clears a few trails that are deemed hazardous. Right now the road service does Wren Lane and according to foreman Scott Schnell, the Ptarmigan trail could be cleared at little (or no) extra cost. The informal consensus of the ERVCC board is that snow should be removed, by either Parks & Rec or the CBERRRSA (whichever is most effective).

Linda Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm, Austin Zimiga seconded. Unanimously approved, meeting formally adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Therese Voehl.