

Hello neighbors,

February 13 was a great meeting in many ways.

Pastor Polk of Calvary Church has given us the gift of going LIVE via the computer! We are the first council to undergo this wonderful technology! Pastor Polk shared that his church has just been hooked up to reach smaller areas in Alaska with this "streaming" live technology, and he shares that this would be great for the community and we are on our way. Pastor Polk lives in our community, his children attend school in our community, and he is just so happy to serve the community in this way! We are so glad and grateful for this service he and his church are providing for us. Remarkable!

It was a dry run so to speak on Feb. 13... making sure that all the microphones worked and taping was right. We are hopeful in March that we will be live...what a gift! You will be able soon to go to our web site and click on the live button and there will be the council meeting in your face! For those of us attending the meetings we will now have to be aware we are on camera! This will be a fun task!

I was very grateful to Pastor Polk and his tech savvy crew. They had the entire room set up and they had water there for us! It was so awesome to walk into the meeting and have every single thing ready for you! No small task... Usually I get there and begin setting up. A million thank you's!

We apologize to Senator Ben Stevens and Representative Lesil McGuire... they were on stand by to listen in on this meeting, but the phones were not working, so we called them on our cell phone and this was difficult.... so we let them see the meeting on tv and emails! Feed back from them was they are very excited about the new technology and saw us on the news! We thank Representative Norman Rokeberg for attending this important meeting and speaking up for the people out here and his continued support... a big thank you Mr. Rokeberg...

Anne Brooks came and shared the open house at Kincaid Park for the road improvements. Open House Feb. 28, 2006 7-9pm. Please plan on attending.

Pam Jennings and Dan Sullivan gave the assembly reports.

Thank you to the ladies who took notes as we do not have a secretary yet! And Thank you to for typing up our the minutes of this meeting... which I am fully aware was NO small task! Thank you!

As for our meeting attended by Mayor Mark Begich and many of his staff ... The meeting was very well attended... and time was allowed for speaking and sharing and then questions.

The very basic question is who/what governing body has jurisdiction over the body of water in the gravel pits? Not one agency says it is there public safety issue.

The very basic concern is still ... fear of water going bad.

All the people are asking for is ... test the water ...monitor the water ... then ... it is what it is ... it will be dealt with.

This monitoring is what the assembly said on the first plats ... yet for some reason it went to a 3 man arbitration party and they decided with a 2-1 decision that the water did not need to be monitored ... ????

Now ... the developer says you cannot go on my land to test.

So where does this all go? ... Court????

Are the People left with NO recourse from the government agencies ...

Is this exhibit A of another story of government NOT working?

The battle rages on ... to be continued ...

All in all I would like to add that over the years I have seen a lot of growth in people's public speaking ... and this is a good thing.

Mayor Begich is adamant that the city can do nothing ... which was/is hard for many people to believe, because the thought process in peoples minds and hearts says government is about public safety ... oh really ...

Dialogue was good ... but people came away with a huge lack of trust in our government. I find this to be a common discussion amongst everyday talk more than ever ....

Sherri Jackson  
President

Hopeful for March Meeting: Mr. Jack Frost (candidate for Mayor), road bonds, possibly Reps from engineering firms to discuss the reclamation of the 55 foot swath by McCarreys property (to be confirmed), and we will have a big Legislative time with a call to Juneau! Agenda not fully set at this time ... be looking for it. Get your neighbor involved ... by email or snail mail!

Below are highlights from the Meeting.

1) Mayor Begich did not plausibly answer the question why he would not allow Sand Lake residents water to be tested by UAF scientists. He said, "We cannot go onto this property without just cause in the sense of a strong case." "The developer told us no." After the meeting many residents expressed that the Mayor did not appear to be concerned with the health of the residents.

2) The question was asked why the Muni never responded to the fourteen written complaints of problems with their water after Pit grading and the heavy rains of fall 2004. Many in the Community view this occurrence and other evidence provides a "strong case" for the Muni to provide Pit access for UAF water testing. The Mayor has never directly addressed the fourteen complaints.

3) Rep. Norman Rokeberg stated, "I do not understand why we cannot get access [to the exposed aquifer]." He also said what we need here is basic "honesty in Government." Rep. Rokeberg traveled from Juneau specifically to attend this SLCC meeting. Once again Rep. Rokeberg has demonstrated his commitment to standing up for Sand Lake residents. Rep. Rokeberg has led the appropriation of \$125,000 to have UAF test the residents' water.

4) The Community made clear to Mayor Begich that the UAA report demonstrated that the Mayor's administration reviewed and relayed improper or non-credible science from Terrasat and DEC to the Platting Board to make its determinations. Although it has been brought to his attention, Mayor Begich did not credibly address this issue.

5) To make matters worse the Muni has twice untruthfully represented in writing that the Muni satisfied the recommendations/concerns of the UAA report. This was done by Howard Holton Feb. 1, 2006 and Dan Roth Dec. 2, 2004. (These memos are available to the public.) The lack of transparency of the Begich administration on this issue has been problematic for residents, who have concerns about their drinking water.

6) By siding with Developer on this issue, many in the Community believe the Muni is preventing the drinking water testing because it is hiding the real danger from residents.

7) The Mayor was reminded that the Community won an appeal on dangers to drinking water with Anchorage Assembly directing the "mapping of aquifers and water flow." The Community did not lose on appeal until Mayor Begich appointed his political allies, Susan Reeves and Kevin Waring, to be on the Board of Appeals, taking the place of the Assembly. And this was a split decision, with the dissenting opinion stating, " "I find that the UAA report concludes that the ADEC's approval was flawed and that Terrasat's reports are not credible."

8) The Mayor was reminded the UAA report also recommended the mapping of the drinking water aquifers. The Mayor did not address this fact despite it being clearly laid out in the UAA report.

We hope the Mayor follows through on his commitment to work with the Community on this issue, however many feel he needs to rebuild his credibility with the people of Sand Lake first. During the meeting Mayor Begich asked that Will Watson or SACC not be part of the working group. Will Watson pointed out to Mayor Begich that he asked for and received a Sand Lake Community Council resolution expressing stating that SACC be the group to work directly with Municipal government on behalf of Sand Lake residents.