



Meeting Minutes – 3/8/00

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ted Cox at 7:10 P.M, at the Fire Hall. A quorum was present.

Minutes from Last Meeting

Jim Courtney read the minutes from the February meeting. The minutes were adopted.

Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's Report.

Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

II. Old Business

- Laurie Courtney reported on assembly activity
- Gregory Nilsson discussed what he has learned so far about community patrols
- There was a discussion about the illegal dumping problem. Area residents whose trash had been dumped by others protested the fact that their names and documents were posted on the council's web page.
- Ted Cox reported that a new community council building from Talkeetna was on its way. Snow has been plowed from the council property.
- Ted Cox reported on the sentencing of convicted Butte Community Center arsonist Joey Denson.
- Ted Cox reminded the council of plans to re-designate the \$9000 trail grant for ski trails on council property.
- Combs Insurance provided the council with an insurance quote of \$849/year for liability insurance on the council's 25-acre parcel. Ted suggested we shop around for better rates.

III. New Business

Racetrack

- Earl Lackey of Alaska Raceway Park attended the meeting, seeking council support to change a 55-year lease of State land to a purchase. Mr. Lackey stated that he plans to update buildings and do some repaving, and make other improvements on land he already owns. Mr. Lackey enumerated the following items to illustrate his support of the community:
 - Removal of trash and 200 junk cars
 - Over \$200,000 spent on repaving and dust control
 - \$137,000 in capital improvements
 - A new \$175,000 house is located near the property
 - 1500 lbs of grass seed was planted

- Financial support of the Butte Fire Department, the Butte Community Council, Toys for Tots, the Muscular Distrophy Association, and the Mhari Cunningham fund.

Mr. Lackey also stated that many of the races are currently with 5-horsepower cars.

- Karen Hollingshead said that although the racetrack has been in existence since the 1960's, Mr. Lackey has had the racetrack for 4 years, during which time different kinds of cars began to use the track, and if allowed to grow, could affect property values negatively. Karen stated that a public hearing regarding the sale was in order.
- Frank Hollingshead stated that the jet cars at the track shook his windows. Frank asked Mr. Lackey who comprises his company, Top End Inc., and Mr. Lackey responded that it was just himself and his wife. Mr. Lackey stated that the racetrack runs only 23 days each year.
- Gregory Nilsson noted that under Alaska Statutes, the lease may be transferred only after the end of the lease, in 2018. Mr. Lackey responded that he applied for the change in April of 1999, and it has taken this long to work through the system. He said that the State prefers a sale, because it is easier to administer than a lease. Gregory asked Mr. Lackey how he got around the transfer limitation, and if anybody in the State was circumventing it. Mr. Lackey responded that he didn't know of any such activity.
- Brit Lively moved to request a public hearing from the State. Mr. Lackey said he had no concerns about a public hearing, other than further delays. Mr. Lackey stated that he knows of no other business that contributes as much to the Butte Community as the racetrack.
- Judy Aklestad spoke against council support for the change. She stated that the noise was ruining her way of life, and had sent 200 signatures to the borough two years ago.
- Mark Graham said he is for the racetrack, because the Butte is noisy from shooting anyway, and Mr. Lackey provides employment, hiring union labor.
- Jay ??? stated that he bought property near the racetrack specifically because of the racetrack.
- Brit's motion passed. Ted Cox will write a letter to the State requesting a public hearing.
- Gregory Nilsson suggested that the public hearing take place before further action on the sale. Karen Hollingshead moved to modify the previous motion. The motion passed.
- Ted Cox requested a motion to authorize expenditures of up to \$1000 for costs associated with the purchase of the 25 acres. Brit Lively made the motion. The motion passed.
- Ted requested a motion to authorize expenditures of up to \$1000 for costs associated with the new community council building. Brit Lively made the motion. The motion passed.
- Ted requested a motion authorizing himself and Mike Shields to handle the grant money for trails, lights, points of access, and gravel for the improvements to the council property. Gregory Nilsson made the motion, and the motion passed.
- There was discussion about a Spring Cleanup in mid-May. A free dump day should be scheduled and advertised, possibly by sending flyers home from the school.
- Sandy Thomas reminded the council of the community patrol meeting scheduled for March 22nd.

Jason Binder moved to adjourn at 8:10 pm. The motion passed.