



LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

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STATE OF ALASKA LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting for January 19, 2024 at 9:00 am
Anchorage
Also Via Zoom

Chair Larry Wood called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Present at the meeting were commissioners John Harrington, Larry Wood, Clay Walker and Clayton Trotter. Ely Cyrus was present via Zoom. Also present were Jedediah Smith, staff to the LBC, Assistant Attorney General Gene Hickey, Representative Mike Cronk, Dave Stancliff, Sally Russell Cox.

Commissioner Harrington motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The agenda was approved 5-0.

Commissioner Walker motioned to approve minutes from the November 29, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Trotter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 5-0.

LBC Staff informed the commission the Alaska Supreme Court heard the Soldotna annexation appeal on September 12, and the LBC expects a decision sometime in the first quarter of 2024. The commission adopted new regulations regarding reclassification of certain first class cities. Those regulations became effective on January 5, 2024.

LBC staff traveled to Hoonah the week of January 9 to conduct an informational meeting in the community in accordance with 3 AAC 110.520 to provide an overview of the petition process and inform the public on how to submit comments.

LBC staff provided a summary of the standards used to evaluate the borough incorporation petition, including constitutional, statutory, and regulatory requirements and standards.

LBC staff introduced a draft of the annual report, noting some changes were made from the original posting, due to a high number of written public comments received. The revised draft was posted to the LBC website on January 18 and distributed to commissioners.

Chair Wood opened the floor to public comment on the LBC's draft annual report to the legislature.

James Squyres requested the commission remove the entire section of the report on Delta Junction and the In Memorium section on Vic Fischer.

Rep. Mike Cronk asked whether every phone call logged and included in the annual report, and suggested members of the public might be reluctant to communicate with LBC staff. He also

suggested his staff has had numerous contacts with LBC staff that are not logged in the annual report. He also suggested the section on Delta Junction be removed from the report.

Commissioner John Harrington motioned to approve the annual report to the legislature.
Commissioner Walker seconded the motion

Commissioner Harrington said staff tries to relay all activities to the commission, and that there is no intention of action.

Commissioner Walker said the inclusion of Vic Fischer in the report is appropriate, and that the revised section on Delta Junction should remain in the report because it is a report on staff activity.

Commissioner Cyrus said the LBC staff should be transparent and accountable about the work it does.

The motion to adopt the report passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Cyrus voting no.

Commissioner Harrington motioned to amend the agenda to allow for a presentation from Division of Community and Regional Affairs staff and Department of Education and Early Development staff before the lunch break. Commissioner Trotter seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Grace Beaujean, from the Division of Community and Regional Affairs Mapping, Analytics, Data and Research program, presented information on the different municipal governments across the state, and how the division tracks population in communities

Lori Weed, finance director for the Department of Education and Early Development, presented information on the funding calculations for Regional Education Attendance Areas.

The Commission took an approximately one hour lunch break.

The Commission reconvened at 1:30 and received a presentation from Hannah Uherkoch, with the Department of Natural Resources about Municipal Land Entitlements.

Zoe Olson, with the Division of Community and Regional Affairs grants staff, delivered a presentation on shared revenue programs, including community assistance payments, shared forest receipts, Federal Payment In Lieu of Taxes, and shared fisheries.

The Commission heard an additional comment from James Squyres about the physical metrics of the organized and unorganized areas along the pipeline corridor.

Commissioner Harrington motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walker. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

APPROVED:_____

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LARRY WOOD, CHAIR

ATTEST:

JEDEDIAH SMITH, STAFF

DRAFT