

**Minutes of Special Assembly Meeting
Held on March 22, 2018**

Mayor David L. Jack called the Special Assembly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., March 22, 2018, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Assembly Members Larrabee, Decker, Gilbert, Prysunka, Howell, and Powell were present. Borough Manager Von Barga and Clerk Kim Lane were also in attendance.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Prysunka and Larrabee both declared a potential Conflict of Interest to items on the agenda since their spouses were both employees of SEARHC; Prysunka also stated that his wife was employed by the Wrangell Medical Center. Mayor Jack stated that he did not see that they had a conflict. There were no objections from the Assembly.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Scott Glaze, 2.6 Mile Zimovia Hwy., expressed his strong support of the Borough moving forward in the non-binding agreement with SEARHC; strong percentage of employees who were in favor as well; some are concerned about losing their job or their benefits; hope that the hospital board and the Borough assembly did not let the concerns of a few make the decision for all of Wrangell.

Mayor Jack asked the audience for a show of hands for those who agreed with Mr. Glaze. A majority of hands were raised.

Rose Shymanski, 305 Bennet Street, requests that the Assembly members come to the hospital and speak to the employees; stated that her social security will be messed up but she still wants a new hospital; doesn't believe that there isn't anyone who didn't.

Ann Cramer, 327 Mission Street; stated that a partnership with SEARHC would open up a lot of education opportunities for the imaging department with CT machines, Ultrasound machines; would really enhance our lives; would be more beneficial to have everyone together and would help in patient care.

Jim Holder, 2.5 Mile Zimovia Hwy., does maintenance at the hospital; one step away from sewage break; if we don't do something such as fire system upgrades; wheelchairs do not fit into the bathrooms; welcomed anyone to come up to the hospital and spend time with him to go through the building to see what it really looks like from a maintenance aspect; goes to bed every night wasn't designed the way it should have; smoke detectors are not detecting the type of smoke hazards that are occurring; our fire protection company wants us to spend \$50,000 to \$60,000 to bring us up to a standard, to where everyone else is; we just need to go somewhere else.

Jim Debord, 3 Mile Zimovia Hwy., external funds that the hospital employees bring into the community would be devastating to lose in the community.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5a EXECUTIVE SESSION: Discuss with the Borough's legal counsel, Dorsey & Whitney LLP, a proposed Letter of Intent between the Borough and SEARHC regarding a possible future alignment of interests for the provision of health care services at the Wrangell Medical Center. Manager Von Barga stated that due to some additional information that we have received, Staff would be asking to have the Resolution to approve the DAF System as the Water Treatment Capital Improvement project postponed until Staff could come up with the answers to their questions.

M/S: Gilbert/Powell, pursuant to AS 44.62.310 (c)(1) and AS 44.62.310(c)(3), that we recess into executive session to discuss privileged and confidential attorney-client information with our legal counsel, Dorsey & Whitney LLP and the Borough Manager, as well as information the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough, regarding a proposed letter of intent between the Borough and SEARHC to consider a possible future alignment of interests for the provision of health care services at the Wrangell Medical Center. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

Recessed Special meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Reconvened Special meeting at 7:00 p.m.

5b Approval of a Non-Binding Letter of Intent and Confidentiality Agreement with the City & Borough of Wrangell and SEARHC

M/S: Howell/Gilbert, to approve a Non-Binding Letter of Intent and Confidentiality Agreement with the City & Borough of Wrangell and SEARHC.

Clerk Lane stated that she had received correspondence from **Jessica Rooney, WMC Employee** who had received 45 signatures from WMC Employees who were in favor of the letter of intent with the hopes of exploring the relationship between the Wrangell Medical Center and SEARHC and becoming more educated, as employees, in what the merger could potentially entail.

M/S: Decker/Powell, to amend the motion to amend the letter of intent to include a new Objective, 1.14: Preserve or enhance current healthcare employment in Wrangell.

Decker stated that the Assembly had heard from some of the Hospital employees and that some of their concerns were to do with their jobs and retaining of benefits; putting the additional language in the letter of intent shows that it is the intent to try and maintain those jobs; understands that SEARHC is of the same mentality.

Amendment was approved unanimously by polled vote.

Prysunka stated that he wanted to make sure that the community realized that this was a non-binding letter of intent; what that means is that at any point, if either party was uncomfortable with the process, they would have the ability to walk away; no forced arbitration in the document; lays a good path forward with working with SEARHC for them to look at the options for our community for preserving and enhancing healthcare.

Von Bargen stated that once the document was signed by both parties, the Steering Committee would be meeting most likely beginning in April.

Prysunka asked if the utilization of a \$1 million dollar grant could be used towards a hospital architectural survey was in order to discuss at this meeting. Clerk Lane stated that it was not since it was not noticed. Von Bargen stated that staff could have that discussion.

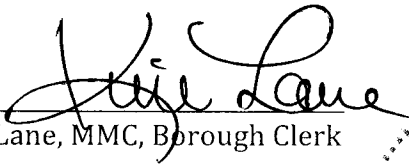
Main motion, as amended, was approved unanimously by polled vote.

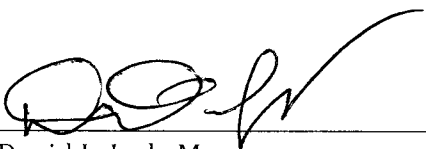
5c Approval of a sole source construction contract to O'Brien & Sons Construction LLC for the Roughing Filter Replacement Project

M/S: Powell/Howell, to approve a sole source construction contract to O'Brien & Sons Construction LLC for the Roughing Filter Replacement Project. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

Special Assembly Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk


David L. Jack, Mayor

