



City Council Minutes
March 21, 2006 ~ 5:00PM

Regular Meeting
City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The regular meeting of the Delta Junction City Council was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 at City Hall in Delta Junction, Alaska. Mayor Thomas “Roy” Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

Council members present: Mayor Roy Gilbertson, Mayor Pro tem Mary Leith-Dowling, Lou Heinbockel
Pablo Martinez, Mike Jenkins, Mike Tvenge

Council member excused: Leslie Feilner

City employees present: Pete Hallgren, Letha Burcham, Pat White

Six members from the community and two out-of-town guests were also present.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA ~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the agenda as presented; Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Leith-Dowling moved to approve the March 7, 2006 minutes as presented; Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Gilbertson called for comments on non-agenda items with none being offered.

REPORTS

Rescue Squad – Jill Ramsdell-Longnecker introduced herself as the new Squad Chief, appointed on March 14. She also introduced Assistant Squad Chief Mike Musgrove. Longnecker said her goal was for emergency responders to come together.

Hallgren reported Longnecker would attend Alaska’s Pandemic Influenza Summit in Anchorage on April 13. The event is sponsored and paid by the State of Alaska and will be the first statewide meeting to discuss the threat of the avian (bird) flu.

Fire Department – Carin Bear reported she has yet to receive the grant funding even though she has received e.mail notifications of the award. She said she was looking into getting a new training officer to join the City Fire Department. The community will benefit from equipment that was approved for purchase and funded through the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) 2004 grant. Bear said she agreed with Longnecker regarding emergency responders working toward a better dialog.

City Clerk – Pat White reported organization for the Relay for Life 2006, scheduled May 12 and 13, was almost finished. *City Slickers* was selected as our team name. \$10 was collected (instead of \$5 as

reported at the March 7 meeting) from each participant to cover the \$250 team registration fee. That level would allow the team name to be printed on individual t-shirts.

City Administrator – Pete Hallgren reported:

- Application was submitted for a continuing temporary septic discharge permit for the old landfill since the current permit expired on March 15. Hallgren said he met with MACTEC engineers in Anchorage, who still have high expectations that the septic system will work as designed once it thaws out in the spring. Each pit holds 60,000 gallons before moving into a larger holding pit. By the year 2022, each holding pit is expected to have nearly 600,000 gallons. Hallgren said he did not think the pits were undersized even though what has been dumped is 10,000 gallons more than what was expected this year. There would be no problems had the drain valve been opened before freezing weather even with the unreported septic waste.
- Channel 17 (ARCS) technicians arrived from Anchorage and installed a new transmitter at their site near the medical clinic. The signal is stronger than ever before.
- Channel 5 (KUAC) still plans to put their translator on Donnelly Dome but not until the road clears. Hallgren explained that in order to pick up the signal to receive the 3 channels that are broadcast from Delta, homeowners must point their antennas southwest toward Donnelly Dome.
- A letter was received from DOT in Fairbanks reporting the State of Alaska is pursuing a formal agreement with the military for joint use of Allen Army Airfield. ERA and Frontier, aviation businesses, are interested in scheduling regular flights in and out of Delta. Service to both Fairbanks and Anchorage are possibilities.
- The survey on the Waldo property is now complete. A State subdivision is not necessary. Local surveyor Art Saarloos drafted a quitclaim deed for the City to quitclaim itself the same property with a slightly different description that will provide a legal description of the tract where the Waldo home is located. It is needed to proceed with the public sale.

Heinbockel moved to authorize Mayor Gilbertson to sign a quitclaim deed from the City to itself to enable the sale of the Waldo property; Leith-Dowling seconded.

Hallgren stated he was to set up a timeline to sell the property. An ordinance was passed on June 21, 2005 explaining it. He proposed to ask local realtor Cleeta Barger to update her value opinion because the minimum acceptable bid was set at \$100,000. Barger's estimate was approximately a year old.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

- The military has provided a supplemental draft regarding the Eddy Drop Zone training area. Hallgren displayed Volume 1 and Volume 2 of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) and reported the public hearing is scheduled for April 6 at the Community Center between 12:00 and 8:00PM. A public hearing is also scheduled at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks on April 5, 5:00 to 8:00PM. The comment period ends on May 1. Hallgren said the Corps of Engineers (COE) has simultaneously issued a notice that they received an application from the Army for a Corps permit to build the project at Eddy Drop Zone. The State of Alaska has received a similar application. The response date to the COE is May 1 and the response date to the State may be as early as April 17. He said City Attorney Jim DeWitt was presently reviewing the documents. The Eddy Drop Zone has definitely been identified as the preferred alternative but that impression is not clear by reading the Executive Summary. Only the body of the document discloses it. DeWitt requested a special Executive Session at 5:00PM on March 30. Hallgren said construction appears to begin this summer.

School Liaison – Mike Jenkins reported Alaska Motor Coaches is promoting a new program of positive reinforcement for students using the bus system. Big Brothers / Big Sisters is active in the program and were looking for community support, both verbally and financially. For more information Christine Crawford can be contacted at 895-4658.

DREDC – Mike Tvenge reported Delta Regional Economic Development Council (DREDC) met on March 20. A new Fair Board Director has been elected but who it is has not been announced. Scenic

Byways between Valdez and Fairbanks was also a topic of discussion. A meeting is scheduled with the Chamber of Commerce on April 20 to discuss the reasons why Glennallen is opting to not participate.

Hallgren said the Scenic Byways committee plans to meet in Glennallen on March 25. He is part of the committee but did not plan to attend. He would attend the meeting in Delta. Hallgren said there was enough potential worry from a federal designation that discussion is needed.

Tvenge said understanding the scope of a byway is important information. He reported the Foraker Group, based out of Anchorage, speaks to non-profits and community members. Their purpose is focused to improve organizations and their functions. Group membership is \$100 plus \$25/person. Tvenge reported Eileen Herman and Janet Boyer were contracted for the Deltana Activities / Recreational Assessment.

Library – Mary Leith-Dowling reported Librarian Joyce McCombs completed paperwork for the Public Library Assistance Grant, which assists in operating the public library. Leith-Dowling said the Library Association had stationary made depicting the new library facility. \$3,500 was spent on new reading material. She said library staff were preparing for the annual Open House on April 29. Leith-Dowling was organizing historical newspapers from the Delta area and was grateful for a box of old papers, donated by Gary Nielson, because it filled the collection gap between 1960 and 1964.

Recreation – Mike Tvenge reported the Bantams won the State tournament in Anchorage last weekend. The Pee Wees and Squirts planned to travel to Anchorage for tournaments this coming weekend. He said all three age groups along with the Mites have all taken first place in tournaments this season, which is reason to recognize the success of the skating program. He said he felt the newly installed Ice Arena sign was successful in advertising the rink because of the public turnout, especially on Sundays.

Military Liaison – Roy Gilbertson said he and Hallgren would meet with Colonel Cornelius on March 22 to meet his replacement, Colonel McClinton.

Public Works – Lou Heinbockel referenced a printout showing septic waste dumped since February 17. Heinbockel said he felt 25,000 gallons was a considerable amount during winter months.

Hallgren said it was more than anticipated but likely not abnormal for the lack of snow cover this year.

Charter Commission – Lou Heinbockel reported public comments to the Local Boundary Commission (LBC) are due by March 31. To date the negative feedback outweighs the positive. Heinbockel reported Senate Bill 112 passed the Senate. The bill charges adults in unorganized areas (3% of the State) \$425 a year. He said his household would pay approximately \$1,500/year and he felt our community would be better off having our own borough and paying our own taxes in order to have a voice.

Hallgren said the Governor signed House Bill 217 last week. It states if the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) passes through a borough that does not have property tax then the value of TAPS is not required to be included in the annual school contribution. TAPS value in Delta is worth \$200 million.

Additional Reports by Council – Lou Heinbockel reported he toured Fourth Street, which is behind the Alaskan Steakhouse, and found huge modular units on trailers parked on the road. It left barely enough room for vehicles to pass. Heinbockel said businesses have the ability to make parking lots for their equipment instead of using the roadway.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Increase Rate for Burial Service

Leith-Dowling reported the City is losing money by providing burial services. She asked to increase the cost from what is presently charged (\$500), considering increased fuel costs and equipment rentals. She said charges must cover actual costs and that \$750 or \$800 would be more appropriate.

Discussion followed regarding costs elsewhere in the State.

Leith-Dowling moved to increase the burial charge to \$800; Heinbockel seconded.

Heinbockel asked if the \$200 plot fee was included.

Leith-Dowling said the plot fee was separate. The standard burial fee would be charged May through October and an additional (\$150+) fee would be charged if equipment is needed to thaw the ground.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Lawn Maintenance Bids

White referenced the Lawn and Plant Care Maintenance Invitation to Bid. She stated comments were recently made that the contract requirements were too restrictive. She said policies are reviewed each year. Mowing is prohibited during certain times due to business hours, scheduled meetings and respect for people with allergies. Watering of plants was inconvenient for staff members who are dressed for office work. She asked that the specifications for the lawn contract be accepted as they are written. White stated the City has never experienced any problems with John Lunn's services maintaining the lawns and flowers at City Hall, the Community Center and the new library. Should Lunn be hired, as in the past two summers, the first two weeks in June would need to be covered because he would not return to Delta until June 15. White stated the entire staff appreciated Lunn's services. She explained the three lawn proposals, Proposal 1 (City Hall, Community Center and Library), Proposal 2 (Richardson Highway) and Proposal 3 (City Park), and asked for comments regarding necessary revisions.

Heinbockel asked to advertise the bids. It could be addressed at a later time if they come back too high.

White stated Lunn never complained about the working conditions. She said she had difficulty in finding a replacement once Lunn left last year in July because the mower lacked a bag. It was never realized until then because Lunn simply raked the cut grass and never complained. She asked to purchase a bag.

Hallgren said the CH/CC/Library contract was economical because the equipment was stored in the Community Center garage. If the bids come in too high, as they have in the past, he would recommend hiring in-house again. Lunn was available this year except for the first part of June.

Heinbockel asked to remove Proposal 1 from the bid invitations and hire out the work. By saving money it was time to purchase a new lawnmower anyway. Buying a bag attachment for a 15-year old mower would not be cost effective though.

Discussion followed regarding purchasing a replacement lawnmower for the CH/CC/Library and maintenance of the lawn along the Richardson Highway.

Leith-Dowling stated she felt the State should take responsibility for maintenance along the Richardson.

Tvenge said owners should be responsible for the section of highway in front of their businesses.

Heinbockel said the John Deere tractor was ample size to handle the rocks along the Richardson.

Heinbockel moved to advertise Proposal 2 (Richardson Highway) and Proposal 3 (Park) only; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with four (Jenkins, Martinez, Heinbockel, Gilbertson) voting in favor and two (Leith-Dowling, Tvenge) voting against.

Ice Arena – Design Update

Hallgren referenced his letters dated February 28 (to Stephen Hammond, M2C1) and March 16 (to City Council). He read from the February 28 letter to Hammond, "All the engineers and architects seem to agree that the building can be modified to be considerably more useful with the dollars available. ("More useful" being defined as more heated locker rooms, heated observation room for the fans, full heated bathrooms, a Zamboni room, well, and septic system.) All the engineers and architects seem also to agree that these upgrades can be done in such a way that further upgrades can be accomplished if any future funding becomes available. The problem we are faced with comes from an apparent basic disagreement on whether the available monies would be sufficient to upgrade the structure to code compliance with full insulation of the building and the ability to allow future upgrades in the then fully code compliant structure. From your February 6, 2006 letter it appears to be your opinion that, using the 1999 JNA cost study as a guide, the City could "...choose options that when totaled will achieve code compliance and increased usability for less than 2 million. This would not be a bare bones option as this budget would upgrade the structure to code compliance, insulate the building, add utilities (water and bathrooms), and allow for future upgrades that can be added if additional funding is obtained." Hallgren said two different firms provided two different opinions. Architect Merle Jantz' opinion is that there is not enough money to bring the building up to structural code, insulate it and build amenities. He referenced Jantz' concept drawings showing what can be constructed with the money available. It would

not allow for structural upgrades or insulating. Hallgren said the local firm, M2C1, feels the building can be upgraded, fully insulated and utilities, water and bathrooms installed but further details are needed. Everyone agrees the available money can be used effectively to improve the facility but there are two different approaches. If construction runs over, as did the school building, change orders will increase the cost of the project. The ice lens under the new elementary school was an example of unexpected change. Hallgren said it is very important to stay within the allotted amount of money. Jantz' concept comes within the \$2 million and M2C1 indicates they can provide more and still remain within the \$2 million budget. Jantz was paid for his concept as a subcontractor for MACTEC Engineers. If Council opts to insulate the whole structure Jantz does not wish to be considered for the project. The 2006 legislature has been asked for an additional \$2 million but that funding would not be known until late April or early May. It was also not our number one priority. Hallgren said any major upgrade this summer is unlikely because we're too far into the construction season. It is possible to construct a well and septic system with indoor plumbing if Hammond's approach is approved. If Jantz' approach is accepted the well and septic may be built but not the heated restrooms because he plans to tear out what amenities currently exist. He said construction was more likely in the spring of '07. Risks are involved either way but a decision was not necessary tonight.

Heinbockel asked to make a decision and not lose another construction season. Insulating the building needs to be eliminated if it can't be done within the \$2 million budget.

Merle Jantz referred to designs displayed on the wall and explained his approach. His involvement began in April 2004 with several others. The structural manufacturer conducted extensive analysis. The original building was designed without collateral loads (lights, heating, sprinkler system). There was a 15#-per-square-foot dead load to account for the building superstructure and a 40# snow load. The group determined the structure had significant problems on what had to be upgraded to make improvements. Jantz said he reviewed the Skating Association's plans for the locker rooms/Zamboni/restrooms adjacent building. He discussed the project with the State Fire Marshal and decided to construct the amenities inside the existing rink. He explained his proposal in detail. Three exits would be required should the concession area exceed the 500-person occupancy load. The whole concept is possible if the existing structure is not altered. If the structure is upgraded the Fire Marshal will require a sprinkler system. Jantz said a pressure tank, which would be located in the sprinkler room inside the amenities portion, was preferred over a fire pump even though it was more costly. It was more reliable in a tight maintenance situation like Delta has. He said the design would eliminate use of the bleachers that are located outside of the concession area.

Heinbockel said the aluminum bleachers would not be a significant loss because they are not used due to the cold and they are too dangerous to climb on. He said he liked the plans, especially the improved visibility from the heated concession area.

Hallgren said the small rink would also be removed.

Discussion followed regarding removing it, moving it to the other end of the facility, and accessibility from the Zamboni.

Jantz stated a melt pit would be included and he did not think it would cost more than \$1.8 million.

Tvenge said he was concerned with pedestrian traffic in the path of the Zamboni.

Jantz said changes would add a level of difficulty because of heat and sprinklers but it was not an impossible task.

Discussion followed regarding entrance / exit doors conflicting with pedestrian walkways.

Nick Herman said a simple solution is to stop pedestrian traffic when the Zamboni is in use.

Janet Boyer stated Jantz' plan required a sprinkler system and she recollected from the 2004 meeting that the structural engineer reported the sprinkler system is what added a load to the building, causing it to not be upgraded with the money that was available.

Jantz said only the new portion would be sprinkled and it would be independent of the existing structure.

Boyer asked if it was approved.

Jantz said he had discussion with the Fire Marshal that leads him to believe it could be approved. His concept was founded on code provisions that would allow approval.

Discussion followed regarding plans for (oil-fired boiler) heat and pop-out balcony plexi-glass.

Jantz explained the design layout and location of the four locker rooms, mechanical room, sprinklers, storage, Zamboni room, accessible toilet in the official's room, the viewing area, two offices, retail space, concession and storage, and two public bathrooms.

Hallgren asked M2C1 owner, Stephen Hammond, to present his ideas.

Stephen Hammond said he liked Jantz' and his concept of interior amenities. The real difference between companies is the approach taken. M2C1 proposes upgrading the structure first and adding amenities later and Jantz / MACTEC proposes amenities. Hammond said his two issues of concern were ice conditions and amenities to the public. There was no way to improve the ice conditions unless the building is insulated and ventilated. All future flexibility is lost unless the superstructure is upgraded. He recommended upgrading the superstructure, which he estimated would cost up to \$250,000, first. Insulation and ventilation would be the next step in the process. It would provide a better atmosphere for people using the facility and it would improve ice conditions. Leftover monies would provide what amenities are possible without going over the \$2 million available, with priorities being indoor restrooms. Hammond explained his breakdown of his estimates, based off the 1999 JNA figures and his own. He said his approach was different from MACTEC but believed it would be easier to construct amenities once the structure was upgraded. It will cost more to upgrade the structure once the amenities are built. Hammond stated his work to date has been on a voluntary basis and at request of the Council. He asked that his packet of information be considered a proposal. He felt his company, M2C1, is qualified and would be advantageous because of being a local business.

Tvenge asked to clarify costs.

Hammond said approximately \$500,000 was needed to bring the building up to code and insulate it. Another half a million would cover fire suppression and ventilation as well as City administration fees (10% of subcontract values). There should be enough money left over to complete bathrooms and some upgrades but he could not commit without a plan to identify costs.

Gilbertson clarified that the building could be upgraded, insulated and ready for amenities for approximately one million dollars.

Hammond confirmed, "right around that."

Discussion followed regarding how soon construction could start.

Hammond said there would be problems doing anything this year. The certificate from the Fire Marshal must be obtained before any construction starts. Plans must be approved. Upgrading the building to meet current code has always been the concern. Hammond said he was confident the Fire Marshal would have no problems with the review process once the building design meets code.

Herman stated if the building is insulated it will warm the interior. "What about maintaining ice?"

Hammond said insulating the building would not create enough heat to thaw the ice.

Boyer asked if insulating the building would make it more difficult to get ice earlier in the season or change the length of the skating season.

Hammond said it should not with ventilation and if the exterior doors are used to moderate the temperature.

Heinbockel said insulation and ventilation would prevent ice buildup on metal surfaces. The building will be slower to cool down and slower to warm up during a Chinook. Keeping the doors closed will maintain temperatures.

Hammond said less money would be spent on supplemental heat during the skating season due to less fuel demand with an insulated building. He said he appreciated Council consideration and hoped that if nothing else the interest shown by M2C1 has hopefully gotten MACTEC to "sharpen their pencil."

Tvenge said the Atoms (age 6 and under) use the small rink. The main rink is in use between 3:30 and 11:30PM each day and the Atoms would need to be accommodated if the practice rink is eliminated.

Discussion followed regarding moving the rink elsewhere in the building.

Tvenge said condensation is a huge problem. Ice covers the floor inside the building.

Heinbockel asked what was needed. Stop water from falling or construct the amenities to make it a functional building?

Discussion followed regarding whether or not to construct amenities or bring it to code first.

Gilbertson asked if there was enough information to make a decision.

Discussion followed regarding preparing a bid package by fall.

Heinbockel moved to support Merle Jantz' proposal.

Tvenge said he wants amenities also. He asked about the future. Are we to become a borough? Will we ever have refrigerated ice? The building must be up to code if there will ever be a chance.

Hallgren stated two firms have offered two different opinions.

Gilbertson asked if there was a second to Heinbockel's motion. One was not offered.

Tvenge asked for written proposals from both contractors.

Heinbockel said to address the concept. Constructing amenities was the issue but now it is insulation, a sprinkler system and upgrading the building.

Martinez moved to upgrade the building, insulate the building and construct as many of the amenities as possible for \$2 million; Jenkins seconded.

Gilbertson asked Hammond how long he needed to prepare a written proposal stating \$1 million would be needed to upgrade the building and another \$1 million to construct amenities.

Jantz said if Council chooses to go this route, they needed to get a fee proposal to do a design. Only with that completed design can Hammond give a cost estimate. It can go out for bid once cost is established plus the 10% contingency.

Hallgren said he was conservative and preferred Jantz' concept.

Heinbockel said he thought the goal was to install amenities because upgrading the building to code was not affordable. He said he would be very unhappy if it were determined that bringing the building up to code without providing amenities would cost the full \$2 million.

Tvenge said one person says insulation and amenities can be done.

Hallgren said the engineer work must be approved and bid packets must be prepared before late fall.

Discussion followed regarding Hammond's proposal to bring it to the level of Jantz'.

Hammond said the information was addressed in his March 16, 2006 letter.

Heinbockel asked to vote on the motion.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with five (Leith-Dowling, Jenkins, Martinez, Tvenge, Gilbertson) voting in favor and one (Heinbockel) voting against.

Heinbockel said bids should be ready no later than December 1, 2006.

Hallgren said M2C1 is asked to prepare a contract for consideration. The City does not have a 10% administrative fee. The \$2 million would cover everything, Hammond's fee and inspection through the ribbon cutting. Council would review Hammond's contract form to design the amenities, preparing the bid package and provide construction inspections and oversight.

Hammond said it was not a problem.

Hallgren said if bids were out by December, February 2007 would be ample time for bid response.

NEW BUSINESS

Award of Fuel Bids

Hallgren referenced the bid sheet, which showed quotes for heating fuel and unleaded gasoline. He said the bids were opened at 4:00PM on March 20. Heating oil #1 and 2 are the same as diesel. However, when it is put in a vehicle it has a different tax structure.

Heinbockel moved to award the Heating / Diesel #1 (winter) and Heating / Diesel #2 (summer) bids to Dipper Fuel, Inc. for \$2.11/gallon and \$2.18/gallon, respectively; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

White stated the Ice Arena is not part of the facilities that are regularly serviced. The Skating Association pays to heat the locker rooms and spectator area but they pay at a higher rate.

Heinbockel said to add the rink to the City-owned buildings that are serviced by the fuel contractor. The City can then bill the Skating Association.

Heinbockel moved to award the unleaded gasoline bid to Delta Texaco in the amount of \$2.348/gallon; Jenkins seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Heinbockel said government entities have the capability of recovering tax dollars spent at the pump.

Hallgren said he would discuss the subject with Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman.

GIS Mapping - Additional Funding Authority

Hallgren stated Peter Hickman of Geo-spatial Applications has been providing mapping instructions to Letha Burcham. A notional budget of \$2,000 has been met. A much better product has resulted and he felt Hickman's time was worthwhile. Hallgren asked to extend funding from the E911 account.

Burcham said not all of the authorized money has been spent on Hickman's instruction. Hickman is an ESRI instructor at the University of Fairbanks. His expertise was needed to resolve problems within the ESRI software system that created frustration for City Planner Dennis Dooley. A lot of the problems were due to integrating aerial maps that were not from the same source. Maps from GVEA, BLM, and DNR have actually caused the program to malfunction. A good portion of the previously authorized expense was used for Hickman to correct it. Now that the system is working properly Burcham said she was successful in putting in lot lines and dividing polygons.

Leith-Dowling moved to authorize \$2,000 to pay for additional mapping services; Martinez seconded.

Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Purchase Orders

PO#010704 to ACS in the amount of \$1,319.38 for Mar '06 telephones services

PO#010705 to ATT in the amount of \$806.81 for Mar '06 911 phone/power

PO#010706 to Bank of America in the amount of \$2,651.60 for credit card purchases (pipe material for new fire station overhead fill tankers, Internet system security software for City Hall, Hallgren registration for Resource Development Council meeting in Anchorage, McCombs registration and lodging at Library Conference in Anchorage, White registration for Clerks Conference in Fairbanks, ink refills for 911-plotter printer, new landfill telephone and TV monitor)

PO#010707 to Big Brothers / Big Sisters in the amount of \$4,066.46 for '06 Social Services Grant, 1st quarter payment

PO#010708 to Delta Building Supply in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Mar '06 warm storage rent

PO#010709 to Delta Fuel Company in the amount of \$5,886.97 for Feb '06 heating oil

PO#010710 to Deltana Hospice & Palliative Care in the amount of \$500.00 for '06 Social Services Grant, 1st quarter payment

PO#010711 to Fairbanks Daily News-Miner in the amount of \$1,074.73 for Feb '06 borough advertisements

PO#010712 to Geo-spatial Applications in the amount of \$1,279.05 for Feb '06 mapping training

PO#010713 to GVEA in the amount of \$3,076.56 for Feb '06 electricity

PO#010714 to Hope Counseling Center in the amount of \$12,712.92 for '06 Social Services Grant, 1st quarter payment

Leith-Dowling moved to approve purchase orders 010704 through 010714 as presented; Jenkins seconded.

Heinbockel said he did not approve of the electric bill at the landfill or the new fire hall (part of #010713). "\$619 for electricity at the new fire station! Do the lights ever get turned off?"

Bear said the lights couldn't be turned off, not even by turning off the breaker.

Hallgren said heat tapes used on the plumbing system in the landfill building are part of the high electricity costs.

Motion passed on a roll call vote with five (Leith-Dowling, Jenkins, Martinez, Tvenge, Gilbertson) voting in favor and one (Heinbockel) voting against.

Discussion followed regarding ways to conserve electricity.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Nick Herman asked who was responsible to maintain the high school baseball field, specifically the lumps and dips.

Hallgren said snow was removed twice in the past week. Several thousands of dollars are spent each year cutting the grass outside the ball field fences but there was no funding to cover the ball fields.

Heinbockel said DGSD employees, Kent Scifres and Jon Carpenter, maintain the high school ball fields.

Janet Boyer asked when the increased burial fees would be effective.

Leith-Dowling stated with the first burial in the spring, usually by the middle of May.

Boyer asked if Hallgren anticipated members of the community contributing toward a legal fund again as was done when legal issues regarding the Eddy Drop Zone (EDZ) first came up.

Hallgren said it could occur again. The public donated approximately \$5,000 and ultimate costs were between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Heinbockel said he would be reluctant to spend any more money on legal defense against the EDZ.

Stephen Hammond said he appreciated national press coverage about the bird flu and how Alaska could potentially be impacted by it this year.

Hallgren reported Jill Longnecker would attend a conference hosted by the Governor in Anchorage on April 13. Emergency responders would receive training to identify symptoms of the bird flu.

ADJOURNMENT

Tvenge moved to adjourn at 7:25PM; Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

Pat White
City Clerk

Date of approval: April 4, 2006