

Sutton Community Council Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, July 29, 2015, 7:00 pm @ Sutton Public Library
Minutes

Board Members Present: Mark Bertels, Roberta Mason, Jim Tapley, Claudia Dolfi, Sierra Alcantra, Sandra Myers, George Rauscher

Board Members Absent: Jack Niggemyer

Community Members Present: Brian Endle, Jim Psenak, Donna-Rae DeVernon-Pearson, Mike Pearson, Austin Goates, Celeste Herndon, Joe Pickle, Valerie Pickle, Marci Hawkins, Sue Schellschmidt, Colleen Boyle, Ingrid Shaginoff, Sarah Heath, Jane Tapley, Trisha Plack, Ken Bankley, Merle Johnson, Gary Hay, Casey Cook, Martin Johnson, Evelyn Davis, Larry Davis, Angela Stephe, Jenesse Burns, Earl Houser, Melody Houser, David Michels, Christina Michels, Elizabeth Samuel, Jurhe Psenak, Diane Hanson, Matt Duffield, Val Musial, Charlie Overby, Pauline Richard, Laurel Flynn, Tom Braund

1. **Call to Order:** 7:02 pm
2. **Pledge:** Led by Ingrid Shaginoff
3. **Additions or Changes to Agenda:**
 - a. No addition or Changes
4. **Guests:**
 1. Candidate for MSB Mayor, Vern Halter
 2. MSB Mayor, Larry DeVilbiss
 3. MSB Assembly, Jim Sykes
 4. Senator Mike Dunleavy
 5. State House Representative, Jim Colver
 6. MSB Emergency Services, Casey Hook
 7. MSB Assembly, Ron Arvin
 8. DOT Representative, Joyce (didn't sign in so have no last name)
 9. DOT Representative, Morgan (didn't sign in so have no last name)
 10. Governor's Office, Sarah Heath
5. **Community Discussion on the river flooding/erosion:**
 - a. *Senator Mike Dunleavy*
 1. This river flooding is nothing new to the Sutton area
 2. Let's find out where the holes in the government system are so we can start there to plug them
 3. I want to hear from the representatives of the State, MSB, and DOT so I can see where we need to begin to fix this
 - b. *State House Representative Jim Colver:*
 1. I wants to do whatever we can to help solve the problem
 2. I have been working on this issue since last winter
 3. I have been in contact with the Governor's office
 4. There is an agreement in place and things are moving forward to place rock in the river at mile 64
 5. Dave Wiess will provide one acre to Colleen Boyle to move her home across the Hwy if she wants it
 6. The decision is up to Colleen as to whether or not to move her home

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State House Representative Jim Colver continued:

7. MEA and MTA have offered to get the power and phone lines in place for Colleen if she decided to move her home
8. Community members are all pitching in neighbor to neighbor to save what left of these homes along the affected area

c. MSB Emergency Services Casey Hook:

1. My job is to bridge the gaps between all agencies involved
2. MSB is working on securing funding to purchase the effected properties
3. Application for funding was due July 28th but MSB received an extension
4. All homes in the area that are threatened will be added to the grant application
5. If the grants are received the MSB would take ownership of the properties and return them to green space
6. The grants are competitive and the MSB competes nationally for the funding
7. Representatives will play an important role in this process and have to put the pressure on
8. The MSB is a second class borough
9. Service areas require that property owners be taxed to cover the cost of these types of services
10. There is nothing in the MSB code that allows you to not pay your taxes due to flooding
11. There is only so much that can be done by the MSB
12. The MSB could apply for permits to get into the river and mine the gravel
13. The diking and channeling design would require at least 15 million
14. DNR will give any private owner a permit to move gravel around in the river
15. What this comes down to is Sutton needs to be a Flood Service Area and be taxed for services
16. MSB employees cannot enter private property without permission
17. DEC will be responsible for notifying community members of the contaminates that have fallen into the river
18. DEC has a prevention and spill response fund that would take care of this type of problem.
19. Residents are warned to have plans to get out if this type of flooding happens

d. Representatives from DOT, Joyce and Morgan:

1. Bid awarded today to save the road under an emergency declaration
2. DOT believes that Hamilton Construction was awarded the bid
3. DOT is working on prevention now and only focused on the road and not the river.
4. The project will consist of a 2 to 1 slope, about 20 feet deep and filled with BFRs (rip raft) for about 350-400' long beginning at mile 63.5 on the river side of the Hwy in front of the homes effected by the river flooding
5. Property owners will still be able to access their property during the project?
6. The project is expected to take 1-2 weeks This is just an estimate
7. DOT will provide information for individuals to get daily emails or text updates on the project
8. Go to the DOT homepage, underneath the Commissioners picture, click on the Red Envelop, and find the Project Glenn Hwy Mile 63-64 and click on 511 alerts.
 - a. These links will be posted to the SCC Website and Facebook etc.

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6. Community Member Questions/Concerns:

1. If the MSB has the State funding why is nothing being done?
2. Concern over the fertilizer in the river and who was notified about contaminates
3. What will be done to fix this contamination problem?
4. What is the time frame for help once all of the flood insurance is purchased and paperwork is in order?
5. Was Jim Psenak reimbursed for the expense of the engineering plan and the permit?
6. Is the water too high this time of year to begin the channeling?
7. Clarification of exactly what the Hwy protection project will do
8. DOT was advised of the location of an old house with asbestos shingles and oil tank buried on Borough property in the Hwy project area
9. Why can't both channeling and diking be done to protect the homes and the road at the same time
10. Has the DOT spoken with the affected home owners?
11. Hypothetically, if a property owner were to grant access for the DOT to put the rock behind the house to save the structure instead of just the road could that be done? Can we do a simple hold harmless agreement in a timely manner?
12. Asking if they can plan to work on the dikes and channel system in cooperation with the Borough to try to keep the water away from the water highway?

7. Answers to Community Questions/Concerns:

Jim Sykes: The river study that was done last year. Findings required that of all the options available two or more had to be done for the project to be successfully. Residents can get permits from DNR to move gravel in the river to help protect their property. We have the Governor's ear and he hopes that we can get something done.

Ron Arvin: The funding for the Matanuska River went to rebuild the road in Talkeetna and there is not enough money left to complete the project needed in Sutton. MSB warns do not put all of your eggs in one basket. There are still plans that need to be made to deal with this.

Jim Psenak: The original dikes that were put in place along the Matanuska River in the Sutton area washed out. They could not be saved or repaired. I paid for and was reimbursed for the engineering studies to build dike and do the channeling. The State money was used for other things and is no longer there for the dikes or channeling. The project would require that there be money for maintenance. So the MSB has decided to not do anything. Mining gravel will not cover the cost of the maintenance of the dikes. DNR owns the gravel that would be taken out of the river. The government agencies just don't want to do anything. Channeling is the answer. The water is too high to work in the river until early October. The river was 98 feet from the highway last year. Jim advised DOT that they should expect to have the trench filled with water and to lose the slope on the property owner's side.

Mike Duleavey: You have to look at this as road maintenance because the highway will be at risk. Federal funds will be needed to help with this.

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Joyce with DOT states that she has spoken with all property owners and made them aware of the project. This is not a stand-alone project and be worked with other projects, Morgan said we will work on what is necessary immediately and then follow up with a project that is in design for the property north of Musial's

Mayor DeVilbiss: The legislator made it possible to have the graveled mined at a discount. Asked DOT if Armor Rock or Sheep Pile was more expensive? Typically the Armor Rock is cheaper, but if Jim Psenak's concerns about the slopes and water prove true they might have to use Sheep Pile instead.

George Rauscher: Could this emergency work possibly cause affected homes to be destroyed faster? Morgan of DOT agrees that it is a possibility.

8. Concerns about Jonesville Mine Area:

- a. **Mark moves to table the discussion about the Jonesville Mine and the Chairs report until next month meeting in August. Claudia seconded. Motion passes, 5 Yes and 1 Nay.**

9. Presentations:

- a. None at this time

10. Announcements:

- a. **Gary Hay, Executive Director from the CVTC**
 1. Please stop and take a look at the projects that are ongoing.
 2. The Moose Creek Campground is looking great
 3. The clinic foundation is in and walls are about to go up
 4. CVTC is open from 8:00 – 4:00 PM
 5. Please review the links sent to the Council for community comments about projects for the community.

11. Old Business:

- a. **Brian Endle, MSB Planning Commission:**
 1. Proposing the issues brought forward regarding SPUDs/Zoning
 2. Brian's letter was sent out to the council. (Posted on the SCC website)
 3. Brian invites us all to attend the next introduction meeting, August 3rd
 4. Hearing is August 17th.
 5. Updates to the SPUD or Zoning plans
 6. Time of completion – No work yet
 7. Comp plans will have people to facilitate and the Borough to assist.
 8. Mailing notifications to all property owners within the Community Council boundary and registered voters.
 9. Mailings will go out 30, 45, 60 days in advance
 10. Percent of Community members involved in the planning
 - a. Concern expressed about meetings with planning commissions have little to no community involvement.

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12. Correspondence:

- a. Mail – Posted on the SCC website
- b. Public and Board Correspondence – Posted on the SCC website

13. Borough and State Reports:

- a. *Jim Sykes – MSB Assembly District 1 Representative:*
 - 1. See above discussion/comments

14. Officer Reports:

- a. **Chair - Mark Bertels**
 - 1. Report tabled until next month's meeting
- b. **Secretary – Claudia Dolfi**
 - 1. May and June minutes were email to the Council for review
 - 2. *Claudia moves to pass the Minutes for May and June with corrections, George seconded, Motion passes unanimously*
- c. **Treasurer – Jim Tapley**
 - On hand 07/29/2015
 - 1. Checking - \$482.14
 - 2. Savings - \$25.28
 - 3. Money Market - \$37,564.16
 - 4. 2010 Revenue Sharing - \$222.57
 - 5. 2011 Revenue Sharing - \$8.96
 - 6. 2012 Revenue Sharing - \$3,355.02
 - 7. 2013 Revenue Sharing - \$19,246.00
 - 8. 2014 Revenue Sharing - \$13,886.99
 - a. *Jim moves to transfer the funds from the Welcome to Sutton signs and 8.00 to SCC budget, Bobbie seconded Discussion... Motion passes unanimously*
 - b. *George moves to approve the treasurers report, Claudia seconded, Motion passes unanimously*

15. Committee Reports:

- a. **Comp Plan Review - Mark Bertels**
 - 1. No update at this time
- b. **501c (3) Committee – George Rauscher**
 - 1. No application update at this time
- c. **Bylaws Committee – Roberta Mason**
 - 1. No updates at this time

16. Old Business:

- a. No old business at this time

17. General Orders:

- a. None at this time

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18. New Business:

- a. Letter from the SCC to DNR, MSB, and our representatives regarding Jonesville Mine area*
 - 1. This will be tabled until the next Council meeting in August
- b. SCC Annual October Elections*
 - 1. This will be tabled until the next Council meeting in August

19. Restate motions and voting results

- a. restated all motions and voting results*

20. Meeting Adjourned: 10:38 PM

President Signature

Date

Secretary Signature

Date