

**Minutes of Special Assembly Meeting
Held on May 4, 2020**

Mayor Stephen Prysunka called the Special Assembly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., May 4, 2020, in the Borough Assembly Chambers.

PRESENT: PRYSUNKA, GILBERT, LARRABEE, DELONG, POWELL, DECKER, MORRISON

ABSENT:

Borough Manager Von Bargaen and Borough Clerk Lane were also in attendance.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Prysunka declared a potential Conflict of Interest due to his son owning a Fishing Vessel and he and his wife holding minority shares in that business. Vice-Mayor Gilbert stated that she did not see a Conflict of Interest; there were no objections from the Assembly.

Delong declared a potential Conflict of Interest since the majority of her household income depended on the commercial fishing industry, and they actively moored their vessel in the Wrangell Boatyard. Mayor Prysunka declared that he did not see a conflict of interest; there were no objections from the Assembly.

Decker declared a potential Conflict of Interest due to her family owning a commercial fishing boat that is currently moored in the Wrangell Harbor and they use the Boat Yard; her two children that worked on separate fishing vessels that are not moored in Wrangell but might come to Wrangell.

Decker declared a second conflict of interest due to her being an executive director to the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation which is a non-profit that often deals with seafood issues; Mayor Prysunka declared that he did not see a conflict of interest; there were no objections from the Assembly.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Mike Lockabey, resident, stated that he hoped that the health cap letter explained where we are; Asked for amendments to proposed Section 8 to the Marine Service Center User Agreement that would be considered at this meeting.

ITEM(s) OF BUSINESS

5a Approval to Forward the Health Care Capacity Letter from SEARHC/Wrangell Medical Center to the Governor's Office and Department of Health & Social Services

M/S: Morrison/Gilbert to approve forwarding the Health Care Capacity Letter from SEARHC/Wrangell Medical Center to the Governor's Office and Department of Health & Social Services.

Von Bargaen explained that this was being brought forward so that we could send this to the Governor's Office and the Department of Health and Social Services.

Gilbert expressed that she appreciated the parameters and patient "load" in case of an infection outbreak; appears that the hospital is coordinating with our First Responders in the event of an outbreak; questioned what role the City was playing if we do have a crisis situation; when and how will the City be asked to respond to mitigate, in the event of a crisis.

Prysunka expressed that that was his concern as well; stated that he believed that if the situation were to become severe, the Assembly would come together and pass whatever needed to be passed, and direct the Borough Manager to do what needed to be done; have spent a lot of time thinking about how to start to formally execute plans for a facility where people could complete their 14-day quarantine if they came up COVID positive; we could encourage people to make the right decisions like making masks available for the general public and making hand sanitizer available and opening businesses safely.

Gilbert stated that there was a liability not only in taking action but in taking no action; suggesting a cover letter that includes options that we may or may not have to take; assembly and public should have a robust discussion and not wait until the last minute.

Dr. Prysunka commented that from the medical standpoint, we plan for routine care, we plan for surge capacity; on the hospital side, we try to think outside box in the event of a major medical disaster; it's not that much different than a cruise ship catching on fire, for example; we practice drills for these sort of emergencies that involve both the hospital and the city; we need to ensure that everyone knows their roles, if this were to happen; 16 beds is the hospitals surge capacity for dealing with a crisis, not the mass casualty capacity.

Dorianne Sprehe, EMS Captain commented on the EMS Mass Disaster Capacity; hospital and fire department worked together to ensure FIT testing for all responders; have approximately thirteen responders that have been FIT tested for COVID-19 positive screened calls.

Captain Sprehe also commended that if they responded to a COVID-19 positive screened patient that needed to be transported, there was a huge "decon" procedure after the call that took the ambulance out of commission for two to two and a half hours; have not put in a request for more supplies because we do not have that need yet; should we get into a major surge in our community, it would be very trying on the EMS department.

Von Bargaen commented that we want to add the EMS Capacity to the cover letter; need to be ready to go with an emergency declaration or ordinance; have had a discussion with the Borough Attorney, if things go off the rails with this, we will have to do what we have to do for our community; we will have discussions with the State if things go very poorly here.

Gilbert asked that we include in the cover letter to the Governor, our situation and that we will be prepared to act in the best interest of Wrangell, despite any Mandates that were in effect at that time. Gilbert further stated that she would like to see a three-prong during the Thursday Work Session for the Borough Manager outline measures that we will take if we get into dire straits. Gilbert stated that she would like to see a three-prong approach; to have the hospital – healthcare professionals, the First Responders, and the City to mitigate and potential problems; city's responsibility it to keep the public informed.

Von Bargaen agreed with this approach.

Decker stated that the Governor has stated in his live press briefings, that the more Alaskans do at following guidance, the more successful this re-opening will be and that over time, the restrictions will be eased; also that if guidance is not followed, the State will start putting restrictions back in place.

Dr. Prysunka stated that she would work with the City to formulate a plan; the best way to open up safely is if we keep doing what we can like isolating at home (when possible), social distancing when in public, spraying down common surfaces and handwashing. Dr. Prysunka also said that because we are a small community, we do not have the same trends that you will see in larger communities.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

5b Approval of the Proposed Section 8 to the Wrangell Marine Service Center Yard User Agreement

M/S: Gilbert/Larrabee to approve Proposed Section 8 to the Wrangell Marine Service Center Yard User Agreement.

Von Bargaen explained the need for this section to be added to the user agreement; a lot of the proposed language relates directly to State Mandate 17 however, there is also language that relates to Wrangell specifically. Von Bargaen also stated that she had reached out to Mr. Lockabey on his concerns to certain sections of Section 8.

Decker commented that she would like to include hyperlinks to sections in the user agreement to make it easier for fishermen to access. Decker asked if porta-potties have been received to accommodate out-of-state people who would be required to quarantine. Von Bargaen stated that five of them have been ordered.

Decker stated that she had ordered some Lima flags and can provide one to the Harbor Department for them to have on hand, if need be.

Morrison asked that if we were mandating that a boat, once it gets into the yard, are we charging that vessel for those three days. Von Bargaen stated that we would waive the fees for that 72-hour waiting period.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

5c Approval to Establish and Make Ready an Alternative COVID-19 Isolation Site

M/S: Morrison/DeLong Approve Establishing and Making Ready an Alternative COVID-19 Isolation Site.

Von Bargaen explained that we need to have a place for people to go, if a person tests positive for COVID-19; could also be used for people coming into town that need to self-isolate.

Von Bargaen stated that there have been early discussions about using one of the Trident bunkhouses as an isolation site; will need to have staff readily available to prepare the site and have them put provisions in place; need to put together some personal needs (MMRE) kits; catering agreements need to be worked out; need to work with the hospital to ensure ongoing care for patients when they are in isolation.

Larrabee asked what the beginning and ending timeline for doing this was. Von Bargaen stated that she did not have an absolute number; would most likely keep this in place while both COVID was active and the fishing season was in full force; possibly through September; would rely on medical experts to make that call.


In response to Larrabee on the funding amount, Von Bargaen stated that once she had a handle on the true cost, she would bring an item back to the Assembly for approval.

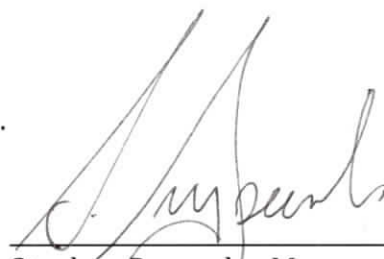
Decker stated that other communities were taking similar action.

Prysunka stated that we would have to have to hire staff and train them to run this shelter; EMT's would not be tasked to run this since they would need to be available for EMS calls.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

Special Assembly meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk


Stephen Prysunka, Mayor

