

HOLLIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL, Inc. MEETING

Minutes

Proper notice of the meeting date/time was given per the Hollis Community Council, Inc. By-laws

TUESDAY, June 13th 2023

7-9PM

Firehall HOLLIS, ALASKA

Board Members Present: Sandra Nessette, Ron Curtis, Arthur Martin, Dan Sharp, Tom Harden

Absent Board Members: Tommy Lynch

Council Members/visitors Present: John Ryan, Paul Geelach, Domic Hoy, Gary Holt, Linda Holt, Travis Hues, Jessica Hughes, Paul Randal, Dinah Rieves, April Hoy, Tracy Moore

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Sandra Nessette at 7:00pm

A. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for May 9th, 2023

Motion to approve: Tom Harden - Second: Ron Curtis

Discussion: Dinah did not get minutes

Vote: 8 - Yes 0 - No 8 - Abstained

B. Open Director Seat

Due to unforeseen events Carl cannot serve on the council. Dominic Hoy was interested last month. Tom Harden makes a motion to make a special election to seat a director. Ron seconds. Discussion: Good idea.

By a vote of 4 Yes 0 No and 1 abstain Dominic is elected director.

C. Open Treasurer Seat

Tom Harden makes a motion to nominate Dominic for treasurer. Discussion: Dominic accepts.

By a vote of 6 Yes and 0 No and 0 abstention Dominic is treasurer

Sandra Makes a motion to make Dominic Hoy account signer and online access for all first bank accounts and to have a debit card issued in his name. Tom Harden seconds. By a vote of 6 yes 0 no and 0 abstentions the motion passes.

D. Reading of Correspondence- Tom has been in contact with Davies Berry Insurance for the building that needs to be renewed by July 1st. There is only one insurance underwriter for our circumstance. We can't get our past insurance because we are not a second class city. Our deductibles are higher with this policy and don't cover as much as our previous policy.

Ron makes a motion to authorize Tom Harden to execute a decision on the insurance no matter the cost.

Dan Sharp seconds. Discussion: covers the building and other properties from other liabilities and crime and injury. **By a Vote 10 yes 0 no and 8 abstentions the motion passes.**

E. Community Announcements-

D. Committees/Department Reports: (Please have reports either typed or hand written and presented to the secretary after the report is given so they may be included in the record). Per the implementation of the new By-Laws, reports will be given by the Standing Committees in addition to the following:

Committees: If an individual is interested in serving on a standing committee, please submit your name to any board member or the committee chair.

1) Finance Committee:

- a) Checking account balance: Paid Petro Marine Bill from the last two years.
- b) Other Finance Business.

Discussion: will need to make a future motion to give Dominic access to the Post Office box renewal and Petro marine auto pay.

2) Annual Fire Department Fundraiser:

Chair- Tanya Clark, Committee Members- **Membership is open to any interested individual on the Council**

Plan is in development. The current plan is to have it on September 9th which is a Saturday.

3) Hollis Library

Chair - Sandy Curtis no report.

4) Hollis School

Chair – Lisa Cates. Students are going to put together a yard sale for student travel for P.E.

5) Fourth of July Celebration:

Chair - Ron Curtis, Committee Members – Steve Gass, Ezra Clark, Colleen Watson

Celebration July 1st at 3pm at the Harris River grounds. Working on getting a deal on fireworks and doing the fireworks parade at the ferry terminal welcoming people from the ferry.

6) Thanksgiving Celebration:

Chair – Sandy Curtis

No Report

7) Cemetery Committee:

Chair- Sandra Nessett, Committee Members-, Brian Hallstrom, Jim Wills, Tom Harden,

- a) In need of a new member please contact Tom or Sandra if you are interested. We can make any guidelines we want in regards to the cemetery. Tom has been doing all the maintenance and has recently mowed the lawn. July 8th meeting at 6pm at the firehall. Gary volunteered to help.

Appointed Committee(s):

Work Groups: None at this time

Department Reports:

EMS: Sandy Curtis

- a) Vehicles:
- b) Emergency Calls since last meeting: No calls. Attended the EMS symposium and was a lot of learning.
- c) EMS Training (Third Tuesday, Monthly):

Fire Department: Paul Randall

- a) Vehicles:
- b) Emergency Calls since last meeting. No fires. Did training last month. Always in need of new members. Took the yellow truck to the mine to see how to get a new radiator. New battery in the flatbed vehicle.
- c) Fire Training (Third Tuesday, Monthly):

POW Group Membership Reports

- 1) POWCAC – Ron. No meeting.
- 2) East POW Advisory Board – John. Commercial Trollers are shut down for King Salmon. A petition to make King Salmon a protected species has been started.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- 1. Harris River bridge. No new information
- 2. SAMS/DUNS. No new information.

3. Committee for transportation funds. Ron makes a motion to remove this from continuing business. Tom seconds. Discussion: 10 yes 0 no and 8 abstain the motion passes.
4. Insurance: See top of the minutes
5. POW Community Wide Strategic Planning Meeting. Good meeting. Lots of people didn't show up.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Better Communication. Jessica Hughes passed out a paper with an idea for better communication. See attached. John Ryan makes a motion to give Jessica Hughes access to the online website and make updates and changes and make her administrator. Second Dominic. Discussion: that would be a great step forward in better communication. **By a vote: 12 yes 0 no 6 abstain the motion passes.**
2. Second Class City discussion: Dan Sharp: Alaska constitution addresses cities in 1971 City of Douglas vs City of Juneau there is no longer a city of Douglas because its a part of the buro of Juneau through merger the borough does not need approval via the voters.A city can get gobbled up by a city without the vote of the people. When making the state constitution was framed there are no counties like other states but there are buros and unorganized buros and article 10 section 6 on unorganized buros. The legislature shall provide services for unorganized buros and may exercise the power and function for the unorganized buros much like organized. This is why our school is being funded. Naukati and their application for organization and they approved the petition with the amendment decreasing the boundaries on approval of creating taxes. The voters did not accept the taxes.

John Ryan: has anyone read the Local boundary commission incorporation manual? It is very educational. It has everything in here that is needed for a second class city. Hollis currently operates as a second class city [without the benefits]. I have been here for a long time and the manual shows you the advantages of becoming a second class city. What we are currently doing as a HCC is the same as a second class city on other hand we have no legal governance. Some of the disadvantages is giving power to governing model. What Hollis decided to do is rewrite our bylaws and allowed all members of Hollis a voting member. Cities have the power to tax, there are 26 cities with under 100 people. The disadvantages are what Hollis is already doing. We are missing out on better insurance, we are missing out on grants, we are missing out on a new dock. Please read and be knowledgable on what needs to be done. Second class city does not have to provide for a school. The current state plan for our dock is to rip it out. But they can't build a new one because there is no second class city to take ownership of it. There are many grants that we can't even touch like road improvements because we aren't a second class city. Here is the problem, there are so many myths and false rumors that have been feeding Hollis and so much has changed. We need to sit down and educate ourselves and have the board invite the state to bring knowledge on this subject. HCC currently acts as a second class city the only difference is in the name and currently we are missing out on so many advantages that are available. I'm 100% against taxes.

Gary: Some of the comments made in the last meetings. We need to have a say in how Hollis is being developed becoming a city will not change this. Becoming a city will create building codes and I don't want that. Comment made about the quality of the people moving here and the city will make regulation monitoring this. Financial responsibilities will be shifted to Hollis and Hollis will need a revenue stream. Once you open the door you wont be able to shut it.

Arthur: The reason why I support a second class city is because i'm thinking of the future. My great fear is that we are going to be replaced and out voted by "foreigners" (outside Alaskans). When I moved here in 2000, there were 80 people now its 200 people plus. Right now we have a very good opportunity were the locals have the voting majority to create a second class city and write articles of incorporation that make it tight. That any changes to it have to be a super majority. Everyone else operates by a 50% plus one majority. However, we don't have to do this. Eventually, we will be outvoted 10 years from now we will be 300 people and they will argue "we need more services, wouldn't it be great to have a second class city" and we will end up with property taxes by then it will be too late because we will have an open door and all the hollis locals will be outvoted and replaced. Right now we can write articles of incorporation that have to be voted and approved by 90% of the citizens or whatever we want. We can write that in and safeguard our children and protect Hollis and let Hollis stay Hollis.

We need to lose the mindset that second class city = taxes. That's just not true.

We need to invite the State Boundary commission to make a presentation, not a question and answer. Just a presentation.

Motion to adjourn Tom Harden:

Meeting adjourned: 8:50pm

The next council meeting will be on July 11th, 2023, FIRE HALL 7-9PM. (Location may be subject to change)

Current board members: Ron Curtis, Tom Harden, Arthur Martin, Sandra Nessette, Dan Sharp, , Tommy Lynch

Correspondence

Ideas for Communication for
Hollis Community Council

The purpose of better communication would be to alleviate rumors, increase participation in community events, and keep the population informed about issues. Making sure that all members of the community have an opportunity to be informed about community events is one way to ensure that all voices are heard.

1. Posting of minutes and agenda- in addition to sending via email
Minutes should be posted in at least 4 places around the community within 4 days of each meeting.

Suggested postings: Kiosk at Harris River
Kiosk at top of hill
Fire Hall/Library Bulletin board
Ferry Terminal (if possible) or other appropriate spot

Agenda should be posted 2 days before each meeting in the above places.
Volunteers could help to post

2. Create neighborhood reps

For each "neighborhood" see if someone would like to volunteer to be a rep. This person would be someone who plans to attend all meetings, is not currently on the board of directors, and could act as a resource to answer questions about agenda and minute items, as well as bring concerns to the council. This would not be a formal position and this person would not be a part of the Board of Directors.

- Each "road" could have a rep, i.e. Harris River, Canoe Pass and adjacent area, etc.

3. Get volunteers (could be neighborhood reps) to gather contact information for all eligible community council members.