Point Mackenzie Community Council

General Meeting Agenda

June 14, 2024 – 7:00 – 8:30 PM

20810 Point MacKenzie Road

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

President Jim Mills, Treasurer Denise Gober, Secretary Ashley Staller in person. Vice President Ray Latchem and Board Member at Large Jennifer Cizek, teleconference.

1. **Approval of Minutes 04/11/2023**

Minutes approved

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Agenda Approved

1. **In Our Community**
2. Point MacKenzie Correctional Farm presented by Superintendent Harry Moore

Moore has been with the Dept. 18 years, working at the farm for almost 6 years. Started at Palmer Correctional Center, transferred to Anchorage Jail, then to the Farm. Since he got to the farm, there has been an uphill process of bringing the farm back to business. Farm was donated in the 80s. Harry sets the agenda for the farm in conjunction with the dept. 140 head of cattle plus calves, 45 hogs, several hundred chickens with successful chick delivery this year. Currently about 70 inmates housed at the farm, with 120 beds. Inmates housed there are all “minimums”, as in their crimes are on the lesser end “like serial drunk driving and drug addiction”. When he began running the Farm, Moore’s vision was area of sobriety, but the farm was not at that point in the beginning. Now the population at the farm is randomly UA’d each month. Haven’t had a hot UA since Oct 21, 2021. Initially the farm took a lot of security, now the inmate population has taken initiative to take control of their sobriety. Raise their own food, wear civilian clothes with a safety vest on, work in fields, work at the meat plant in Palmer. The farm is about preparing them to return to society: do their own laundry, manage their budgets, have a job, along with working with programs in the farm. Unknown Recidivism rate but he’s working on that. Housing is rough now, units from the Slope, but four units were moved and on site this year and population will be moved in this fall. The goal is to re-enter prisoners into the population, not just “warehouse them”.

Woman asked if any prisoners ever walk off and if there is a system in place to communicate that with the community.

Moore: First winter(He was there) there was one inmate who walked off, he walked to the Little Su and planned to shelter in cabins and such. None since then. As for communication with the community, Harry had a good communication network with (Gary)Foster through a contact phone tree. Needs to be updated after Covid.

Treasurer Gober: Is there a registration system like for the correctional facility?

Moore: great idea

Woman: could there be a mass text message with information.

Moore: We can work on that next week with Jim.

Different Woman: How does someone find themselves at the farm?

Moore: Conviction, then deep investigation into who the individual is, then sentencing. Factors into classifications: potential compliancy for work camp, time since they’ve been in trouble. Ultimately it comes down to earning their way onto the farm and time served. Was able to get some equipment when Gold Nugget Farm in the Butte closed down. Farm does provide some of their surplus vegetables to correctional facilities on the road system. Any veg that they cannot consume goes to food banks across the state.

Nugent’s Ranch on Holstein.

Woman asked if the inmates are released into our community or taken somewhere else.

Moore: Usually taken to the place of remand, or to a gate release with family that has been checked and double checked by Dept. of Corrections.

1. **Reports**
2. Correspondence Sent/Received: Board President Mills:

DOT & PF said the earthquake repairs are done. Borough is working on bidding Mile 0-3 currently to resurface.

We received a notice of easement for Fiber installation.

1. Treasurer’s Report: Board Treasurer Gober

Filed our taxes we are good. General Account $17,871.70 Projects Account $34,079.37

1. Mat-Su Borough Representative- none present
2. State of Alaska Representative – none present
3. **Unfinished Business**
4. Mailbox Update: President Mills

Plans to install 2 new mail pedestals and 1 new parcel pedestal. 3 boxes remain available.

1. PMCC involvement in proposal West Susitna Access Project Status – Vice President Latchem

We got one map vs a package of maps, Commissioner followed up and Board Members Latchem and Mills will be attending meeting with him to determine the dedication to current plan.

The red line is the one that AIDA sent to DOT, Ray prefers routes that come from the North. Vice President Latchem says he doesn’t like this one because it actually crosses his and Board Member Cizek’s properties. Still researching, asking for full amount of work that’s been done. We should know more on June 25, the meeting with the Commissioner.

Poll: In Favor: 0

Opposed: 5

Are the rest Undecided?

Vice President Latchem thinks best strategy is to accept that the Access is granted but we need to push a different route.

Jennifer: addressing illegal hunting already so increased access to hunting grounds will increase illegal hunting.

1. Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) Application Status – President Mills

We asked for about a total of $57,000 to increase security at the community center, things like locks, security cameras and potentially an electric gate. Grant application is still under review.

1. **New Business**
2. Infrastructure Committee proposed and ongoing project include: President Jim Mills
3. Installation of two additional mail and one additional package pedestals alongside the existing pedestals

Jim added Purchasing picnic tables for the deck\*

1. Reconfiguring the layout of the Center to allow for a larger meeting space and the ability to segregate the spaces for multiple uses
2. Installation of a full kitchen in the center for community event use,

The idea is to combine the two offices to create a kitchen. We’re looking to get a cost estimate and bring it to the board for approval.

1. Expansion of the playground area with existing equipment on hand,

Woman asked if there are any handicap swings in the playground equipment to be installed, Jim said we can look into it.

1. Installation of roadside sign for MPCC
2. Upgrading the facilities should we be awarded the recently applied for NSGP grant to increase the security aspect of the Center.

Members motioned and seconded. Approved Unanimously.

Ray brought up that potentially the farm inmates or Nugent’s Ranch could make a sign for the community center.

Jim addressed Carl’s request to rent the community center to be rented for their home school group, M-F, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Our insurance cannot include that as it’s considered daycare, School would need to insure themselves.

Pros: There would be a presence to make sure the building is staying heated, the parking lot would be cleared consistently, and Denny wouldn’t have to stop by as much.

Board Member Cizek: Where would all the school supplies be stored?

Vice President Latchem introduced a motion to introduce the proposal to the Board and start with a year contract and if it doesn’t work then don’t renew.

President Mills will follow up with Carl on when they will be building their church/school building. He also clarified that the playground is still for general use. Motion approved to bring before the board.

President Mills addressed a question posed to the Board: if AA and NA could use the facility two nights a week to conduct their meetings. Their groups are self-funded so wondering if we could work out something like building cleaning in lieu of rent. Motion to introduce to board approved.

1. **Public Comments**

Woman: Does community have access to a lawyer? She says that we need to double check the insurance that the school gets since it looks like they’d been running it as a school vs a co-op.

Doyle Holmes, filed for House of Representatives, served on Borough Assembly for 11 years, introduced himself. One of his main points was: “I would like to make sure that monies for projects are more evenly distributed.” He previously helped get the alternative school, Burchell, established. Working on getting website reestablished.

Woman asked if we had thought about getting an AED unit for the community center. Jim and most others agreed that would be a good idea and Jim said we might look into it.

1. **Adjournment- adjourned at 8:21 PM.**

ATTEST:

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JIM MILLS ASHLEY STALLER

PMCC Board President PMCC Board Secretary