

HALO Board Meeting Minutes September 6, 2018

I. Welcome and Introductions by President Matt Burkholder at 7:05 pm. Board Members present: Sarah Denson (Vice President); Christine Monette (Treasurer); Katie Nolan (Secretary); Rodney Powell (Past President). Absent but excused: Albert Fogle, Gail Morrison. Absent: Pat Abney, Brena Doolen, Mike Kenny, Kurt Rein, Peter Johnson.

II. Agenda was accepted.

III. Presentations

A. CBERRRSA (Chugiak, Birchwood, Eagle River, Rural Road Service Area) Roundtable Discussion. Debbie Ossiander, former Assembly Representative; Assembly Representative Fred Dyson; Maury Robinson, Public Works Superintendent; Crystal Kennedy, Vice Chair CBERRRSA Board. The program started with presentation by Anne Brooks on the three potential options generated by the Hillside Roads, Trails and Drainage Steering Committee (HRDTSC) by Anne Brooks. The three options are: 1. No change. 2. Four Road Service Areas. 3. One new overall Road Service Area (CBERRRSA model) Pros and cons of each option were presented.

A historical timeline of the CBERRRSA model that Bobbi Wells kept was presented. Discussion began in 1983. Until then each community council area kept their own roads. Consolidation was tried in Spring 1984 and failed. A unified board was suggested in Nov 1984. Representation was to be from each council. Fall 1985 vote affirmed idea. Today, the public is greatly satisfied with this model, which includes maintenance and improvements.

Debbie Ossiander mentioned that Eagle River was the last to join the Municipality. They valued autonomy and self-determination.

Panel Question and Answer:

- Professional management cost and cost difference? Ossiander. We cannot figure out exact expenses until the Hillside decides what level of service we want.
- What growing pains did you have? Dyson. Needed to set priorities. Had to decide on priority roads, bus routes, schools, etc. They have pothole fixing, sanding, cleaning sand in the Spring, plowing, etc. All plow drivers know where handicapped and elders live and take special pains in those areas. They have the fastest snow clearing in state and cheapest per lane mile due to economy of scale. They have competent contractors.
- How did the idea begin? Ossiander: In her area it started with residents on her street, then got larger until all of Birchwood was participating. Snow hauling was a big issue. Some cul-de-sacs needed snow removal, others didn't. Berms and

driveways are conflict. Doing driveways without berms costs more, but you can't do that with elders and handicapped. They also have their own Park District, which had to be considered. Reimbursable state roads are maintained.

- What are you able to do regarding capital improvements? Ossiander. Drainage. Would never have been able to do without capital improvement budgets. RAP program got low cost materials. Have great access to road service people. Tarring cracks, fixing seeping spring, that kind of issue you can get great response. Especially important as money from State is drying up. We are no longer in competition with other areas and can address issues ourselves instead of waiting in line.
- What capital improvements have been made? Robinson. It used to be mostly gravel roads. All are covered now. Only took 10 years. Went from regularly violating federal air quality guidelines to having no problems. This could not have been done without the CBERRRSA system.
- What priorities is the Board working on now? Kennedy. Major glaciation issues on one road. Needed to know where school busses are stopping. Are those areas safe? What needs to be done to make those areas safer? Situations like that are much easier to address now, and problem areas are immediately addressed.
- How do you balance the individual needs of different areas? Kennedy. There is always a list, and we prioritize and get through them.
- How do you decide who serves on Road Board? Kennedy. Each community council selects their representatives. They attend council meetings and hear concerns, pass them on to the Board, then bring back information to the council. The Road Board meets monthly except during the summer unless an issue comes up. Dyson. That's how I got into politics. I was asked to serve on Road Board. It is like the legislature, where you listen to your constituents and serve them.
- Why are private contractors better than Parks Dept in clearing sidewalks? Robinson. Improved efficiency and cost. It is always cheaper under this model.
- What would our unified mill rate be? Robinson. Unified mill rate will be somewhere between what is currently your highest cost area and your lowest cost area, the areas that currently pay nothing.
- Did the unified mil rate in Eagle River get lower? Ossiander. Greater ER probably had higher mil rate when we began, but overall it has worked well reducing costs for everybody.
- Muni employees work with board? Robinson. Yes. The Muni employees work as directed by the Road Board. There is no outside influence.
- What about administrative overhead? Robinson. CBERRRSA maintains an office and four full time employees. There is always someone there, and homeowners feel free to come in to office and share concerns. For a Hillside system, about 10% of the funds collected would be used for administrative costs.

This is the same amount LRSAs now pay. The total CBERRRSA admin cost is about \$700K a year, from a total budget about \$7M.

- How does it work? Ossiander. Homeowners pay mil rate to muni with taxes, same as we do with police. Those funds go into a pool. The Board oversees the funds, makes decisions, sets priorities. Tells Muni what to do. The Muni oversees the contracts for each aspect.
- How does the eventual vote into one or more service areas happen? Assembly Member John Weddleton. We must have a majority vote of everyone in the service area. 40% of Hillside is independent. Each individual service area and independent area must vote in.
- What type of issues would it create if you had a 'donut hole' where an area opted out? Ossiander. Hard to know. Would have to investigate. It would cause a problem with overall management of roads, trails and most especially drainage.
- For those LRSAs with existing pockets of monies, where would those funds go? Robinson. Those funds would have to go back to those individual service areas, either as road or drainage improvements or owners could see a rebate.
- What is CBERRRSA Mil rate max? Robinson. 1.1 mil for maintenance, 1.0 for capital improvements.
- Where are you on spending now? Kennedy. Close to that. The new senior exemption and budget shortfalls took tax dollars.
- How many road service areas existed when CBERRRSA began? Dyson. Three or four and some independents. One contractor.

B. Stream setback discussion AO No. 2018-67(s) (John Weddleton). John explained substitute ordinance to reflect reality of existing properties. 25' for unnamed streams; 25' + 25' for named streams. HDP called for 50' undisturbed setback. (s) version calls for HDP guidelines for new; 25' x 25' for already platted 50,000 sq ft lot. Assembly will be looking at it Oct 9. PH still open. Conditions are the key, i.e. flat lands vs steep slope. Grandfathering is not being changed. PH was pushed back as comments from Eagle River had not been received. Ossiander stated that comments had been submitted; she will verify.

IV. Legislative Reports

A. Assembly. John Weddleton, Suzanne LaFrance. Plastic bag ordinance. Bans all plastic bags March 1. Stores will charge up to 50 cents per paper bag. Weddleton has called for reconsideration but will vote against it. He did an informal survey at Carrs and discovered most shoppers liked the idea.

B. Legislators. Senator Cathy Giessel. Gov signed several of her bills. Studying effects of marijuana on young brains; 75% of taxes collected will go to education and treatment. New bill that gives pharmacists ability to tell you availability of cheaper drugs and payment. Crime bill. Opens door to more behavioral health services by eliminating bureaucratic mandates. Doesn't seem like a crime bill but it is, as much of our crime is

driven by behavioral issues. Is hoping to be able to provide behavioral health services in schools.

V. Treasurer Report. Monette reported a balance of \$1,631.78 in checking, \$15,585.48 in saving. Have not yet given donations to Holy Spirit or SOTH.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. HRDTSA. Pushing back timeline. Now looking at Spring 2020 vote.
- B. Website. Still a work in process.
- C. Historical and Archival. 50th anniversary coming up next year.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Fall Candidate Forum. All set with O'Malleys. Have not heard from one candidate. Still need volunteers.
- B. Wetlands fill POA-2017-00492 Army Corps of Engineers, O'Malley and Forest Drive Area. We left it to HOCC to take the lead on this. They submitted comments received from community public meeting.

IX. Open Forum

- A. Laddie Shaw, candidate for District 28, appeared and asked for questions.
- B. Amber Lee's campaign manager appeared.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Nolan, Secretary

Action Items:

Candidate Forum (Nolan, Monette, Burkholder)

Donations for meeting space (Monette)

Website (Monette)