

☒ President: Jodi Riddell  
☒ Vice President: Margaret Billinger  
☒ Secretary: Lisa Behrens  
☐ Treasurer: Irene Crowley  
☒ Director at Large: Ben Tew  
☒ Director at Large: David Haggard  
☒ Director at Large: Lindy Moss



PO Box 520931  
Big Lake, AK 99652-0931

**General Membership Meeting – July 9, 2024 – 7:00 PM**  
**Big Lake Lions Recreation Center**

**MINUTES**

**1.) Call to Order/ Determination of Quorum**

By: Jodi Riddell Time: 7:04pm

Quorum: Yes Attendees: **37** persons signed in / in attendance, **6** board members present

**2.) Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.) Agenda Approval**

Motion: Margaret Billinger Second: Yes

**4.) Previous Meeting Minutes Approval (June 11, 2024)**

Motion: Ben Tew Second: Yes Copy signed: Jodi Riddell

**5.) Treasurer's Report**

Checking: \$ Savings: \$ (Report not available)

**6.) Membership Report**

Voting Members renewed for 2024: **94**

Associates (non-voting) renewed for 2024: **5**

**7.) Presentation(s)**

1. Rodney Fodge, Mat Su Borough Long-Range Planner: "I was asked to come out to speak about the Capital Improvement program for Mat Su Borough" (handout provided – Capital Improvement Program). "I am here to assist persons who wish to nominate projects for the MSB Capital Improvement Program". Nomination does not guarantee funding but does ensure consideration and review within the Mat Su Borough process. There are five scoring criteria that determine eligibility. Each criterion is rated from 1 to 5 in relevance for consideration. Question: is this for 2027? Answer: this current cycle is for projects to be completed in 2026. Question: Are these for State as well as Borough projects? Answer: Mat Su Borough projects only.
2. Michelle Overstreet, My House: "We provide food, shelter, showers, laundry for homeless youth, to bring them forward to being productive members of the community. We believe in providing a 'hand up' not a 'handout'. We are expanding, year after year. It is a great adventure, and we celebrate, as well as grieve, with our clients. We have 36 beds of transitional housing, as well as one of the highest rates of employment of any organization of our type. National employability average is 36% success, and ours is 70%". My House has an entire department that deals with human trafficking, which is a reality for our clients. It is a "dark thing", but we have services available that many young people in similar communities do not receive. The nature of what we are doing here is catching on in other parts of the US. Our vision is to provide community... Alaskan communities where all are welcome. We are looking for funding, to grow. Please stay aware of homeless youth in our communities. Question: Are you available for referrals? Answer: We are!

## 8.) Reports

### 1. Legislative (State House & Senate)

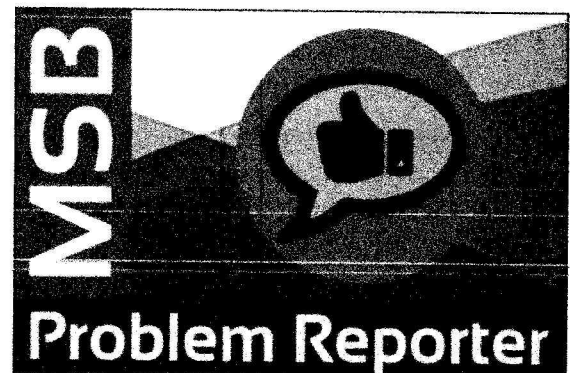
Senator Shower: Not available

Representative McCabe: Two things to talk about tonight... First, Big Lake Road, scheduled to begin resurfacing (Phase 1: mile 0 to 3.6 / Parks Hwy to Big Lake Roundabout) in 2025. Construction will happen in two phases, with 2<sup>nd</sup> phase in 2027 (mile 3.6 to 9.1). Surface maintenance will be happening this year (not dependent on the future construction project). Cindy Bettine: When the design team is making decisions about these projects, can we have a community meeting to provide input? Answer: Yes, designers are willing to meet with community members to receive input. Next, we want to talk about public safety issues in the Big Lake community. A letter was circulated from the legislative office and provided to the council. I will give up time from my report for DPS / AST and MSB Code Compliance to discuss public safety concerns that have come into the legislative office.

Jason Ortiz – MSB Code Compliance: We have been working diligently with AST over the past year to address concerns and complaints from the Big Lake community. We have only one staff to cover the entire area. Troopers will be able to work with MSB on code compliance issues. Brent Johnson (Captain) with AST Wildlife Troopers – primarily here to address the Big Lake boating concerns. AST is aware of the issues that occur on the Big Lake waterways that are getting out of hand this season. We must establish priorities, based on the seriousness of the activities that occur. Talkeetna to Glacier view is staffed by 4 troopers, and 2 of those are assigned to Bristol Bay. Question: Where was everyone during 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday? Example: fireworks trash, boats racing up and down Meadow Creek (non-motorized waterway). There is a lot happening in this area that seems to pass without notice. Our hands are tied, as community members, without support. It's very problematic... Rep. McCabe wrote an excellent letter, but we haven't seen results. Question for Code Compliance: We have greatly increased population in the summer months. Has MSB considered increased staffing during the season? Answer: Yes, one additional person from May to September. These are difficult positions to staff. Question: What about drone surveillance? Answer: Not likely to happen. Question for Code Compliance: We have bike/pedestrian paths, with rules, but there is rampant misuse by motorized vehicles. What about this? Where is enforcement? Answer from Representative McCabe: Those are State-Maintained routes. In light of the recent tragic event, DOT has been notified and are preparing to address the issue. Question: What about dirt bikes and ATVs recklessly using the roadway? Answer: That is now legal use, if the vehicle operator is a licensed driver. Question: What about children operating high-powered watercraft on Big Lake? Answer: Yes, there are laws that address this, but enforcement is very difficult. Limited law enforcement staff can only address the violations that they directly witness. Question: It is understood that troopers and MSB Code Compliance cannot be everywhere at once. Is it possible to create community service patrol or neighborhood watch patrol with the assistance of AST? If residents can obtain a photo of offenders and provide it to law enforcement for assistance? Answer: What is missing is common courtesy. What does the community desire? It comes down to peer pressure from community members to effect change. Community involvement of documentation via photographs and recording boat registrations can have an effect. But it is not an immediate effect. It takes time, but over time, it can be effective.

MSB Code Compliance: Remember to use the MSB Problem Reporter process.

Question: Do the same "No Motorized Vehicles" on the bike paths along Big Lake Road apply to the path on Northshore Drive? Answer: No, Northshore bike path is a multi-use pathway, not subject to the same requirements as Big Lake Road.



<https://problemreporter.matsugov.us/>

2. Assembly (District 5)

Assembly Representative Gamble: I have seen AST enforcing on the Northshore bike pathway. It is confusing that we have different parameters for roads, depending on whether they are state or borough roads. When items of concern come up, I have found the MSB Manager to be very receptive to communications and finding solutions to community concerns. There have been questions about when the calcium chloride dust control will start. The new fiscal year has started, and that work will commence now. There is important work being done by the Waterbody Setback Workgroup happening. Community input is needed, and will be listened to, with action taken. Shout-out to Michelle Overstreet and My House for the work being done here.

3. Fire Service (West Lakes Fire Department)

Chief: There has been a lot of grief in our community lately... Accidents, injuries and even death. Our department is here to respond in these difficult times. We are always looking for and hiring more responders.

4. Road Service Area: No report available

**9.) Correspondence**

1. MEA – Notice of Utility Tariff Filing
2. MSB – Construction Notice – West Lakes Boulevard
3. Rep. McCabe – Big Lake Public Safety Memo
4. MSB – Public Notice – Meadow Creek Homestead subdivision

**10.) Unfinished Business**

1. Committee Updates:

- a. Capital Improvements & Big Lake Comprehensive Plan: Ben Tew, Lindy Moss, Margaret Billinger, Cindy Bettine, Dan Mayfield, Jim Faiks – Update: We will be voting on Resolution 24-02 in support of the projects nominated by the committee.
- b. Community Revenue Sharing Grants: Irene Crowley, Jodi Riddell, Lindy Moss, Margaret Billinger, Janet Henry – Update: Jodi Riddell, the grants committee has finished its work and will hold a vote shortly on the approved grants list.

2. Lake Setback Ordinance & Waterbody Setback Advisory Board: Bill Haller – Big Lake Rep.

<https://matsugov.us/boards/waterbody-setback-advisory-board>

- a. Update: Bill not available at this point – Water Setback Advisory Board meeting concurrent with BLCC – see “Persons to be Heard” (Item 12.) as Bill arrived later during the meeting.

**11.) New Business**

1. Item for vote of the Membership: 2024 Community Revenue Sharing Grants list. Question: Pot Belly Pig rescue – we have this? Answer: Yes, and this is being expanded to other animal rescue efforts.

Vote of the membership approved the grant awards list, without opposition. (see email attachment)

2. Item for vote of the Membership: Resolution 24-02 to support 2025 Big Lake CIP nominations list. Jodi Riddell: There is an amendment to the original resolution, that has been attached to the printed document. Question: Are we as a community council supporting this resolution? Answer: Yes.

Vote of the membership approved Resolution 24-02 and the proposed amendment, without opposition. (see email attachment)

**12.)Persons to be Heard** (3 Minute Maximum time per person)

Karen Crandall: Community member requests attention to the proposed marijuana business in Big Lake Town Center. BLCC President Jodi Riddell clarified that the license application has not reached the public comment phase of the application process, but the Council Board will keep the membership posted.

Bill Noyes: Offered a proposal that Big Lake area neighborhoods develop Neighborhood Watch groups like the one in the Northshore area and coordinate among the various subdivisions to improve awareness and effectiveness. "Neighborhood Watch works...If you see something, Say something." We need to "shine a light" on unwanted activity in our neighborhoods. There will be a meeting here at the Lions Club on July 20, 10:00am -2:00pm, for persons who are interested in keeping watch over our neighborhoods.

Mayor Edna DeVries: "I am here to encourage concerned citizens to use the MSB Problem Reporter and keep a vigilant eye on your community." (See image and link on page 2 of these minutes)

Kevin McCabe: State legislature candidate introduction and platform information. There is concern for public safety (Fire and EMS) staffing. There is also focus on roads, Port Mackenzie, the railway access, and these are key to economic development in the Mat Su Borough. There will be a campaign kick-off this Sunday at Floaters Pub.

Bill Haller: Waterbody Setback Work Group update... The work group passed a recommendation to the MSB Assembly and unanimously recommended keeping the 75' current setback parameter. Public testimony and research revealed multiple problems and issues that would result if the setback distance is reduced. There are other details included in the language of the recommendation, including a process for real estate owners to resolve issues with properties that are currently encumbered by buildings in violation of the 75' setback limit.

**13.)Announcements**

**14.)Board Member Closing Comments**

Jodi Riddell:

Margaret Billinger:

Lisa Behrens:

Irene Crowley:

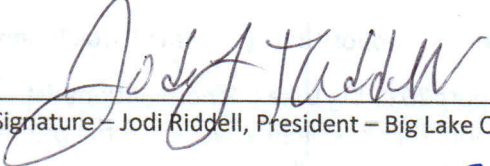
Dave Haggard:

Ben Tew: Clarification regarding calcium chloride application. The savings realized by delaying application until the July 1 fiscal year start is \$4,000 rather than \$40,000.

Lindy Moss:

**15.)Adjournment**

Motion: Jodi Riddell      Second: Yes      Time: 9:00pm

  
Signature – Jodi Riddell, President – Big Lake Community Council

8-13-2024  
Date

  
Attestation – Lisa Behrens, Secretary – Big Lake Community Council

8-13-24  
Date