

☒ 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 – November 12, 2024 – 7:00 PM
Big Lake Lions Recreation Center

MINUTES

1.) Call to Order/ Determination of Quorum

By: Jodi Riddell Time: 7:05pm

Quorum: Yes Attendees: 21 in addition to 6 board members

2.) Pledge of Allegiance

3.) Agenda Approval

Motion: Irene Crowley Second: Yes

4.) Previous Meeting Minutes Approval (October 8, 2024)

Motion: Dave Haggard Second: Yes Copy signed: Jodi Riddell

5.) Treasurer's Report

Checking: \$33,472.79 Savings: \$3,065.79 Money Market (Jordan Lake): \$520

6.) Membership Report

Voting Members renewed for 2024: **106**

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

7.) Presentation(s) (15 Minutes per presentation)

1. Alex Strawn – MSB Planning: Water Setback Workgroup Report: There was a recent colossal effort to review water setback parameters as they apply in Mat Su Borough. 1973 was the first effort that established the 75' setback. In 1986 it was reduced to 45' for 6 months and then returned to 75' in 1987. Borough parameters have remained unchanged since then. Recently, legislation was proposed to change those parameters, which was met with opposition, so the Waterbody Setback Workgroup was formed. Nine members from diverse approaches and fields of expertise were assembled for the workgroup. Attention was paid to the history of the matter and existing MSB code that applies to the matter. There was a GIS exercise conducted to determine how many properties are in violation of the existing setback codes (750 properties – approximately). The law over the decades has gone largely unenforced. Often it is not feasible to enforce after decades of existing structure habitation. The workgroup did produce a recommendation and ordinance, which addresses several MSB codes. This will be distributed to various communities for public comment over the next 60 days. Highlights: This does provide a path to compliance for structures built more than 45' but less than 75' since 1987. This process will require engineering and modification to the property. Various requirements apply to properties, such as no more than 20% impervious surface and 25' of vegetated boundary adjacent to the waterline. Kennels, stables, and animal waste facilities cannot be placed less than 75' from the waterbody. These standards are prospective rather than retrospective. Existing structures are grandfathered but may not be enlarged to expand into the 75' setback area. Application of fertilizers and pesticides is prohibited within 75' of the waterbody, although difficult to enforce. The resolution

recommends that MSB hire personnel to monitor activity that falls under the parameters of this guidance. Question: does this apply to decks or only the structure. Answer: No, uncovered attached decks are not subject to the requirements of this guidance. Further guidance and details are provided and accessible on the MSB website. Comments may be submitted online and will be accepted until January 13, 2025. Question: What about carports, docks, piers, or boat houses? Answer: Currently those types of structures are exempt but are subject to engineering standards and required to obtain permitting to bring them into grade and fill standards. The report will be available tomorrow, and BLCC Secretary will download and send the file to BLCC members via the email distribution group.

8.) Reports

1. Legislative (State House & Senate)

Senator Shower: not available

Representative McCabe: Linn McCabe on behalf of Mr. McCabe. Voting results are still being determined, which will determine Alaska state legislative majority/minority and committee assignments. Question: When will the vote counting and ranked choice tabulation be completed. Answer: The final incoming votes will be accepted November 20, 2024. After that, ranked choice tabulations will be made.

2. Assembly (District 5)

Assembly Representative Gamble: Due to the election last Tuesday, there was no assembly meeting. Road bond packages were considered, and this year Echo Road was determined as a feeder road and was added to the package. Burma Road, which is considered an emergency evacuation road, is included for improvements, although not for paving. The charter school package bond measure did pass. Next Tuesday there will be an assembly meeting. Bill Haller is stepping down from management of the Big Lake Lions Club. MSB is in the process of determining if purchasing and continuing to operate this facility is a feasible possibility.

3. Fire Service (West Lakes Fire Department)

Chief Hightower: Thank you everyone for participating in fire department open house events with children and members of the community. People were informed about fire department responses as well as the importance of smoke and CO detection devices and alarms. West Lakes Fire Department has these devices to provide and install for ALL community members, at no charge.

4. Road Service Area: Terry Gorlick – RIP list was covered at the meeting last evening, on November 11. A resolution was forwarded, making Jolly Creek subdivision a priority for funding. RSA members were tasked with identifying funding strategies for this.

9.) Correspondence

1. none

10.) Unfinished Business

1. Lake Setback Ordinance & Waterbody Setback Advisory Board:

<https://matsugov.us/boards/waterbody-setback-advisory-board> Covered by speaker Alex Strawn

2. CAPSIS Grant funding – Update: Jodi Riddell

11.) New Business

1. BLCC Board election (Members need to have signed up no later than the October 8, 2024, general membership meeting to be eligible to vote – see voting member sign-in sheet on the back table) Candidate biography statements were emailed to voting members on October 25. Three candidates: Jodi Riddell, Dave Haggard and Michael Dale approved by unanimous, to serve on the BLCC board.

12.)Persons to be Heard (3 Minutes per person)

1. Jill Parson – Big Lake Belles, making Big Lake beautiful by planting flowers throughout the community. Three planters were planted at Big Lake Road, mile 3, 2, and 1. Alaska DOT determined these were place in the SOA road right of way. Bottom line: the deadline for addressing this has been extended to allow for moving or applying for a waiver to keep the box at Big Lake Road, mile 3. The homeowners at that location have volunteered to pay the \$100 “beautification encroachment” fee for this.
2. Doyle Holmes – Ran for state representative, and after the election congratulated incumbent Representative McCabe on his victory. Thank you to everyone who supported the campaign and participated in this most important activity of civic duty.
3. Jim Faiks – update on Jordan Lake improvements and efforts to obtain fill from the Jolly Creek drainage project. Various contractors in the community have offered to assist in this effort. This is a big project, hopefully the borough will assist. There will be an event in support of this project this Saturday at Big Lake Library.

13.)Announcements

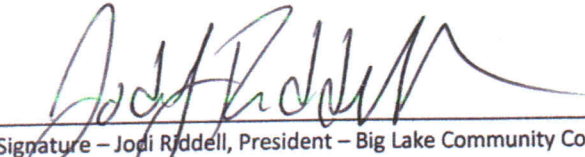
1. Stacy - Silent auction at Silver Fox for a community member who has recently been diagnosed with cancer and is facing large medical bills. There is also a GoFundMe account and an account at MVFCU to accept donations
2. Margaret Billinger – Big Lake Chamber of Commerce update
3. Bill Haller – upcoming events, last weekend in November, Holiday Bazaar, skating begins next Saturday, December: Houston High School hockey tournament, January: Hockey tournaments for younger children... very busy times coming up this winter. Trunk or Treat update... Too many people to count maybe 2500 kids. Fireworks show was great. We have lots of things to do and a fun winter coming up.
4. Robin Gamble – Canned food donations and Toys for Tots being accepted

14.)Board Member Closing Comments

1. Margaret Billinger – have a great Thanksgiving and thank you, Ben Tew for serving on the BLCC Board

15.)Adjournment

Motion: Irene Second: Yes Time: 8:07pm


Signature – Jodi Riddell, President – Big Lake Community Council

1-14-25
Date


Attestation – Lisa Behrens, Secretary – Big Lake Community Council

1/14/25
Date