



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg AK, 99833

Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly

Monday, April 20, 2015

7:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

Mayor Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: 6 - Mayor Mark Jensen, Vice Mayor Cindi Lagoudakis, Assembly Member Bob Lynn, Assembly Member Nancy Strand, Assembly Member Jeigh Stanton Gregor and Assembly Member Kurt Wohlhueter

Excused: 1 - Assembly Member John Havrilek

2. Voluntary Pledge

The pledge was recited.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. April 6, 2015 Board of Equalization Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [April 6, 2015 Board of Equalization Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

The minutes for the BOE were approved, as submitted.

B. April 6, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [April 6, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

The minutes of the April 6, 2015 meeting were approved, as submitted.

4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved.

5. Public Hearings and Bid Awards

None.

6. Visitors' Views Related to Agenda

Angela Davis of Ruger's Trucking read a recent "Letter to the Editor" in the newspaper. It addressed the need to curb our spending as a Borough. Ms. Davis stated that she believes the proposed resolution, which gives recycling customers a choice of blue bags or containers, is irresponsible. She questioned how the contractor would be paid if the truck and containers are purchased since no contractor was budgeted for in the next fiscal year. Ms. Davis expressed her desire to let the community decide what recycling program to use, which was the purpose of her resolution. She stated that she believes the customers who would like to continue using the blue bag system will now

be forced to either convert to the containers or quit recycling altogether to avoid paying a higher sanitation rate. She encouraged the Assembly to deny the proposed resolution and give the community the choice. Ms. Davis stated that she had recently called other communities in Southeast Alaska and compared their 96 gallon can rates to Petersburg and that Petersburg had the highest rate. She also informed the Assembly that she and her husband were currently working on a proposal to purchase the sanitation department from the Borough. She concluded by asking the Assembly not to approve the resolution.

Catherine Kowalski agreed with Angela Davis' comments regarding the recycling matter. She expressed her desire that the public be given the opportunity to be a part of committees to work out issues. She stated that as a private business owner and a member of the Chamber of Commerce, she would be remiss in not supporting Ruger's Trucking. She urged the Assembly to let Angela Davis' original initiative continue on in the process.

Bob Martin stated his belief that a competitive bid private contract was the way to go for the recycling program. He expressed his concerns about apparent excess staff at the landfill, the purchase of a new sanitation truck, and the problem with blue bags in the recycling stream. Mr. Martin explained that he believes once the truck has been purchased, it will mean that there will not be a chance for a private contractor to be successful and would mean that the recycling program would eventually be completely Borough run. He complained about the fact that Borough staff could not help with the drafting of Angela Davis' resolution, but that a "competing" resolution was now presented which had been drafted by the Borough. Mr. Martin concluded by stating his belief that a lot of these issues could have been solved if there were a utilities board, which he would be willing to be a part of.

Charles Davis expressed his opinion that the expenses associated with a new sanitation truck did not make sense. He explained his concerns about the future of the commercial cardboard pick-up portion of the recycling program and the problems associated with the baler closure for three hours each day. He reminded the Assembly that the potential exists that if the contract portion of the recycling program is not sufficient enough to support Ruger's Trucking performing the duties, the Davises may decide to leave town, which means an effect on the schools and other businesses in Petersburg.

Patty Randrup expressed her concerns that the spending by the Borough is going to drive people out of town because it is too expensive for families to make it. She said that she believes we need more businesses in town.

Karen Malcolm stated her desire to go to a container-based recycling program to avoid the sanitation rates going up 9%. She reminded the Assembly that it would not only affect recycling customers but would be an across the board increase, and she was concerned about people on a fixed income.

7. Visitors' Views Unrelated to Agenda

No comments.

8. Board, Commission and Committee Reports

No reports.

9. Consent Agenda

None.

10. Report of Other Officers

Initiative Petition Application and Resolution Supporting the Continuation of the Curbside Blue Bag Commingled Recycle Program

Attachments: [Initiative Petition Application and Resolution.pdf](#)
 [Petition Certification Letter and Initiative Petition.pdf](#)

Clerk Debra Thompson called the Borough attorney, Jim Brennan, so that he would be available telephonically in case there were any questions regarding the initiative. Ms. Thompson explained that Angela Davis and the other sponsors have until 5:00 p.m. on July 14, 2015 to collect the needed signatures and turn them in to the Borough Clerk's office for certification.

11. Mayor's Report

A. Mayor's Report for April 20, 2015

Attachments: [4-20-15 Mayor's Report.pdf](#)
 [Angel Worhatch Letter of Interest.pdf](#)

Mayor Jensen reported on: 1) the status of Secure Rural Schools Funding; and 2) the desire of the Assembly to recommend Angel Worhatch as the Borough's representative to the Chamber of Commerce.

12. Manager's Report

Manager Giesbrecht reported: 1) there had been a steering committee meeting regarding the Comprehensive Plan, and they will be back in Petersburg the second week of May to meet with the Assembly and others; and 2) the timing for the Secure Rural Schools Funds to be received.

13. Unfinished Business

None.

14. New Business

- A. Resolution #2015-08: A Resolution Authorizing the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce to Promote and Provide Mayfest and 4th of July Activities Along North Nordic Including Temporary Vendor Booths on Designated Days During the Festivals**

Attachments: [Resolution #2015-08.pdf](#)

By roll call vote, Resolution #2015-08 was unanimously approved.

- B. Resolution #2015-09: A Resolution Supporting the Continuation of a Curbside Commingled Program in the Petersburg Borough**

Attachments: [Resolution #2015-09.pdf](#)
 [Recycling Collection Contractor RFP.pdf](#)

Member Gregor expressed his desire to go to a container-only recycling program. He said, however, in light of the initiative, he believes the proposed resolution is the best way to keep recycling alive in Petersburg.

Public Works Director Karl Hagerman explained that the way to keep sanitation rates as low as possible is to implement a containers-only system and eliminate the blue bag system completely.

Member Wohlhueter asked how many sanitation workers with families would potentially lose their jobs if cuts were made to staff, to which Director Hagerman replied that there were four employees at the landfill.

Member Lynn stated that he did not believe it made sense to spend the money to maintain two separate types of recycling methods.

Member Strand expressed her understanding that the truck and container system is the way to save money. Director Hagerman reminded the Assembly that all the information he had supplied previously and posted on the Borough's website supported that fact.

Member Lagoudakis informed the Assembly that she had many people tell her they were not comfortable getting into the public debate on the recycling issue but that they were in favor of the containers. She also questioned Director Hagerman about how long he had expected the Ruger's Trucking contract to be, how long he anticipated the new sanitation truck to last, and what would become of the blue bags in the new proposed resolution. Director Hagerman replied that the contract was for 15 months, the truck should last 10 years, and the blue bags will be sent to the landfill in Washington.

Mayor Jensen stated his disappointment that the Borough wouldn't be saving money by going to a container-only recycling system. He informed everyone that the only way at this point for the sanitation rates to increase by only the 2% amount was for the sponsors of the initiative to pull it. He corrected the statements made earlier during visitors' views about the price and length of service of the new truck.

Member Wohlhueter suggested maybe the way to save money was to do away with garbage pick-up altogether.

After the Assembly vote, the decision was made that the Borough's attorney was no longer needed, and the call was discontinued.

By roll call vote, Resolution #2015-09 was approved 5-1, Member Lynn opposing.

- C. Authorization to Award Purchase of a Sanitation Recycling Truck to Bob's Services of Anchorage in an Amount not to Exceed \$207,476.23**

Attachments: [Sanitation Recycling Truck Award Recommendation.pdf](#)

Purchase of the new sanitation truck was authorized 5-1, Member Lynn opposing.

- D. Electric Department Headquarters Building Remodel Options Presentation**

Due to the presenters' inability to travel to Petersburg, this item was postponed.

15. Communications

No communications.

16. Assembly Discussion Items

- A. Recognitions**

Member Wohlhueter wanted to recognize the Petersburg High School students who recently travelled to Sitka and received their welding certification.

17. Executive Session

- A. Executive Session**

The Assembly adjourned to Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. to discuss the upcoming IBEW negotiations.

Regular Session was reconvened at 8:21 p.m.

18. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.