

**Scenic Foothills Community Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 7, 2013**

Call to Order: President Alexander Monterrosa 7:00 p.m. February minutes approved. President introduced executive board.

State of Alaska Legislative Report, Rep. Lance Pruitt: Governor's operating budget 0.8% above last year, which is much less increase than previous years (around 6%). House proposed smaller budget, essentially flat line. Capital budget: he moved Pioneer Drive a little higher on the priority list because design has life expectancy and if it's delayed they would have to find more money to update the design; he doesn't want to go find that design money all over again, so that one will probably go.

Senator Anna Fairclough: We hit the halfway point in Juneau this past week: 45 days. This next week is annual Energy Council meeting in Washington, DC, where state legislators gather to push Congress to expand resource development in America. There will be a Town Hall Meeting Saturday, March 23, 1:30-3:30 p.m. with Senator Fairclough and Representative Pruitt at Chester Valley Senior Housing, 2020 Muldoon Road. Please e-mail any questions or comments you may have regarding the work being done in Juneau: Senator Anna Fairclough <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>

Assemblyman Paul Honeman concern regarding rapidity of AO 37 on collective bargaining. It's being rushed because if they start contract negotiations under current ordinance they will have to finish negotiations before they can change it. He moved to postpone the decision for six months so they can look at it and get it done right. This was worked on with a consultant since last August without the knowledge of the Assembly and now it's being pushed through very quickly.

Assemblyman Adam Trombley aide Michael Branson said Paul Honeman had covered most everything and that Adam would like people to e-mail him with any questions or comments about Ordinance 37 on collective bargaining.

Ed Graff, Chief Academic Officer for Anchorage School District and Kathleen Plunkett, Anchorage School Board: Bond Proposition 1: \$54.8 million bond package with 60–70% state reimbursement will be put before voters on April 2. The average homeowner will pay about \$4.85 for every \$100,000 of assessed property value per year, with state reimbursement. Schools on the list include ones determined by the district to have the greatest need. Two different tools determine the necessity of funds and improvements for all ASD buildings. One tool tracks physical problems like roofs, boilers and windows. The second tool detects issues that make teaching and learning difficult. Twenty-seven schools in the Anchorage School District are slated for improvement: Girdwood K-8 School construction \$23 million; Aurora Elementary School multi-purpose room \$5.75 million; Bartlett High School cafeteria and kitchen renovation \$4.7 million; Planning and design projects at 9 schools \$10.7 million, Life extension projects at 19 schools \$10.65 million. Right now, the district has the lowest amount of debt it has held in a decade. In the last five years, ASD has paid off \$247 million. More: www.asdk12.org/bonds

Kathleen Plunkett said Gretchen Guess has resigned from the School Board to take a job in Florida and a replacement will be appointed April 1. Election for two seats April 2. Jeanne Mackie is not running for re-election. We just finished budget and turned it in last Monday. Everything together: roughly \$837 million, a little less than last year. Lean budget, same next year. Superintendent Jim Browder is a finalist for another position in Iowa and it's too early to know what we're going to do.

Harry Crawford wanted to know how much service reduced from last year. Ed Graff said 11%, via lay-offs, attrition, etc. Ms. Plunkett said they added teachers on elementary level and numbers stayed about the same on later levels. They cut counselors instead. Special needs budget stayed pretty much the same as before; most significant reduction was to school support staff.

Police Sergeant Gerard Asselin, Anchorage Police Department: Chairman of Coalition of the eight MOA bargaining groups, regarding AO37, Collective Bargaining ordinance. We are not only employees but also residents and taxpayers in this community. We are all one and it is frustrating to us that we were not involved in the process, nor were our department heads. The Municipality paid \$29,500 to an outside consultant rather than involving those who deal with these processes in the Municipality. It was announced at 4:55 p.m. on a Friday afternoon and set for an Assembly hearing the following Tuesday. Then public testimony was to be cut off on Monday. We have encouraged our members to show up and speak their minds. There are five contracts coming up in 2013, two in June, then Fire & Police in 2014. The mayor has been working on this since August, why is it an emergency now? We ask to be treated fairly. There are drastic changes in this ordinance. It is not just employees speaking out, but citizens. Roger Shaw asked for specifics on the changes, for which the employees disagree.

Harry Crawford asked about the Consumer Price Indexing formula ceiling and said that makes it impossible ever to make more in real dollars than you are making right now. Essentially, the Mayor can bargain down but you can't bargain up. That's not bargaining! Mr. Crawford said.

Sgt. Asselin said the CPI formula wasn't just on wages [as it is now] but on direct labor costs, so it includes everything that supports that employee, such as benefits, police car, uniform, health insurance, etc. If they get an increase in health insurance costs or need more police cars, that goes against the CPI formula. CPI is part of contract now, on wages alone. Even the administration doesn't know exactly what's included under the revised ordinance.

"Managed competition" is a significant issue; dispatch and community service officers would not be outsourced (contracted out) but potentially the record section, property and evidence section and forensics laboratory could be. They can't say what it will look like but want to vote on it now and in six months we'll see what it means. It may not be their intent, but if it's not in the code, it's still a possibility. Harry Crawford said the state tried it and contracting cost more than doing it in house did.

Binding arbitration is another major issue. No police or fire department strikes are allowed now but the new ordinance says binding arbitration is out; the last best offer would be voted on by Assembly; if it fails, it would then be management's last best offer. We tend to call it "collective begging" at this point, he said.

Putting eight bargaining groups into one formula isn't logical. They don't all work the same way. Benefit programs; Municipality wanted cafeteria plan and now there are supposedly 600 different plans; probably an overstatement but still ridiculous. The employees didn't ask for this; it's a municipal initiative. Also, who will be in bargaining groups? He would no longer be part of the union; he would be considered management, as though it would be a conflict of interest to represent. They are talking about voting now and doing the classification study later to find out who is actually in the bargaining groups.

Also Fair Labor Standard for overtime compensation. No overtime until worked hours exceed 171 hours in pay period. This penalizes anyone who has taken leave anytime in the period. This appears to him to be highly unfair in a 24/7 operation.

Employees have offered concessions in exchange for postponing the vote for six months. The Municipality is choosing not to take that option. The latest version of [revised ordinance](#) is posted on the Municipality of Anchorage web site Assembly page.

Richard Benavides for Senator Bettye Davis for School Board: Way back when Bettye Davis had children in the school system, she was in PTA and was appointed to the School Board, then the State Board of Education, elected to Alaska House of Representatives and Alaska Senate. Now she is running for School Board; her first love was always education. She has done many things in the world of education. She pushed for forward funding of education. You have three different levels of government with three different calendars and never knowing how much any of them will give to education. She wants to make sure the students have the tools they need for a good education. Every job you do, you are supported by others. Who is going to do the extra paperwork, etc.? The Base Student Allocation is in statute and it is not tied to inflation. This needs to rise. How can we say we don't have enough money for our kids if we are the richest state in the nation? Her heart and soul is with the kids. [Ms. Davis arrived a few minutes later, after speaking on her own behalf to the Hillside Homeowners' Assn. All School Board candidates were invited to speak at the meeting, but only two candidates accepted the invitation to attend.]

Eric Croft for School Board: I'm running for Seat B, not against Bettye! Every morning, I take my dog and walk to school with my daughter, to the same school where I went to school, at West High. She is getting a wonderful education, as I did. I know her teachers, I know she's in good hands. I want that for your children and your grandchildren someday. We have things we can do better. Too many of our kids are falling through the cracks. I want to build on what we are doing well and try to fix those things that we still don't do as well as we should. I have a web site with more information at ericcroft.com

Roger Shaw: East Anchorage District Plan consultants still have about another month to complete the draft plan. You can see the PowerPoint they showed at the open house a few weeks ago at www.eastanchoragedistrictplan.com. When we get a draft of the plan itself, we'll post that on the web site. Each year we do a survey on Capital Improvement Projects. If you can think of things that need to be done in the next few years, we should get them on the radar now.

Mark Hill: Public Safety and Federation of Community Councils issues, Neighborhood Watch, Emergency Watch. I want to see what you'd like me to be looking into in these areas.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.