

Air Pollution Control Commission – Minutes

Tuesday April 4, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

City of North Pole, City Hall
North Pole City Council Chambers

APCC Commissioners Present

Kathleen Hook – Chair
Larry Duffy
Maegan Weltzin
Kent Severns
Cathy Cahill

APCC Commissioners Absent

Thomas Douglas
Mike Pollen

Ex-Officio member: Christopher Quist – Absent

FNSB Transportation Department / Air Quality

Nick Czarnecki
Todd Thompson

Others: -FNSB Mayor Karl Kassel
-FNSB Chief of Staff Jim Williams
-City of North Pole, Mayor Ward
Phone in, Bob Dulla, Sierra Research

6:00 pm Meeting Called To Order

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Chair Kathleen Hook, and the Commission was introduced.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from last meeting were not available, will be ready at next meeting for approval.

MESSAGES FROM THE BOROUGH MAYOR

Mayor Kassel states that we recently had visitors from State DEC and EPA, had a number of meetings, very productive. EPA was pretty open minded about the challenges we face in our community. We have a lot of work to do in a very short period of time.

MESSAGES FROM THE CITY OF NORTH POLE MAYOR

Mayor Ward thanks everyone for coming out tonight, this is a difficult issue, especially here in North Pole. We are happy to make the Chambers available for folks in North Pole to be a part of the commission (meeting).

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

NONE.

NEW BUSINESS

--Serious PM2.5 nonattainment State Implementation Plan (SIP) potential, new or amended, control measures review and discussion.

Discussion on getting Ultra-Low Sulfur Fuel to the Fairbanks and North Pole area as a control measure. Mr. Dulla from Sierra Research, via phone, answers questions about fuel oil, sulfur. Kathleen recommends that in the upcoming resolution to have ADEC look into the possibility of switching to lower sulfur fuel area.

Commissioners discuss many other control measures that were brought up in the previous meeting, and were highlighted in a wood burning compliance summary that Mr. Dulla created as a guideline for the commissioners to follow.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

-Gary Corle, speaks to let history be a lesson, having an issue like this in the Borough before, when EPA came out and said we will burn oxy-fuel, we used it and people got sick, the mayor at that time, Gillam, sued the EPA, it didn't clean up the environment. The same with this whole fake PM2.5, and you folks have bought into it. The Borough has natural gas in most of its buildings, but burns fuel oil because it's cheaper, but homeowners can't choose which fuel to use that is cheaper. Alaska coal is very clean, but our fuel oil is full of sulfur. We should have natural gas, but it is not available. The EPA wants to freeze us to death and starve us to death.

-Suzan Amundsen, speaks that she does believe in PM2.5, is a dog musher, lived in FBKS for 34 years, and it is different now than when she first moved here. Jogging one day in February had a heart attack, they said she has arteries like a race horse, but still had a heart attack, and is diligent now and wears a (particulate) mask (shows everyone what a new mask looks like, (white), compared to masks that she has worn outside, (darker colored), this is what comes out of peoples wood stoves. Has made complaints in the past. Suggests getting rid of the complaint based air quality compliance, we need lots of people to be monitoring what is happening in Fairbanks and North Pole, enforce compliance. I am a victim.

-Rodney Koeller, I have a wood stove, and I participated in the environmental program and allowed them to put a monitor at my house. I do have a problem with the 2 part fine schedule, and the dropping of the 15 below waiver for burning. He took advantage of the Mayor's program, (wood stove change out), changed out his Central wood boiler for a pellet stove, and he was cited on February first. He recommends that (during times of no burning), that the Borough takes a picture of a smoke plume, then waits five minutes and take another pictures. Other concern is cost, wood cost \$1200 compared to \$6400 (at \$4 per gallon). To convert boiler to natural gas would cost \$20,000. Twelve pallets of pellets costs \$2900

-Ross Adkins hands out papers to commission, speaks about low sulfur fuel, civil engineer, dealt with the use of oil for heat, believes we all work in about 50% efficiency. There is a lack of facts, due to research and just not paying attention. His report is from Brookhaven lab for low sulfur fuel. Strongly recommends that we go to ultra-low sulfur fuel immediately. Gives many reasons and facts why this should happen.

-Jon Christensen, Where are my family rights? There are many sources of pollution, everybody pollutes that has heating in this valley, why can't I have my EPA certified stove. Dry air is a problem, sinuses become dry and anything can effect you. Speaks to high cost of oil compared to cutting his own wood. Against a wood stove registration .

-Melissa Christensen, speaks to not for this, it's taking away our choice of how we want to heat our home, it would be a big financial burden to do something different, need to do what is right for our family.

-Robert Lockert, has lived here for 2 years, does not believe the information about compliance, restrictions, the wood stove change out program, that information is not getting out there. I am fairly plugged into the world, I don't read the news paper. Lots of people do not know about this program, who wouldn't want to be in the program. Speaks about smoke from stoves, then 10 minutes later there is no smoke, not sure this is a fair thing, maybe need a recheck after initial smoke. I take pride in cutting and burning wood, and if that gets taken away, I will just leave here, and a lot of people feel the same way.

-Lee Bridgman, speaks to the need of a stainless boiler to burn ultra low fuel oil. here is a over winter fire that is causing the smoke problem. Irritated of misinformation Borough brochure and about road dust not being PM2.5, but EPA site says it can be. Disagree with the collection of the data, need monitors outside of town, because of holdover fires during the winter may be the issue. Sent photos taken from Lakloey Hill of areas out by Eilson, to Mayor Kassel, showing smoke plume going around the bluff up to Nordale road, or out to the flats, feels that a prescribed burn is causing this.

-Daniel Oliva, moved to interior 15 years ago, says 7 years ago something has changed, and he agrees, but says local politicians are helping bring the issue to the area, by bringing the F35s to the interior, adding to the pm2.5 problem. Feels that all of this has nothing to do with our health but has to do with politics.

-Theresa Woldstad, speaks to always burning wood, as a kid going out and collecting wood. It's always being part of Alaskan as burning a wood stove. Road dust is a contributor, oil boilers are, need more information because it's not just the wood stoves. So much confusion and miscommunication, enforcement questions, more communication.

-Joseph Copeland, owns Biotech Industries, make masonry heaters, masonry heaters burns very hot and clean for just 2 hours and emits heat for the rest of the day. You can burn wood extremely clean with these.

-Rachel Hanks, speaks to had bought a blaze king stove last year to save fuel costs. Frustrated because they would check the website or get a text message to see if they could burn, then husband would check the phone message and it would be a day or two behind. It would change almost daily. When having to change it every day because one day you could burn and the next you couldn't. They took the class at the Woodway, very good at how to operate.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS (ACTION ITEM):

Much discussion between the commissioners, including the ultra low sulfur fuel and recommending the State of Alaska DEC head that issue up, have the Borough work on enforcement. Started to make a list of items to be included in the resolution, and will then draft a resolution over the next two weeks to bring to the next meeting April 18 for consideration. What can be implemented between now and 2019 must be considered. Must continue our public education effort, and will need extra help from other agencies or volunteers. Need an affordable source of clean energy, natural gas. Much discussion on further modeling results, analysis, and how changes in code effect the PM2.5 contributions. All commissioners discuss many issues and focus on some of the main issues, and make a list of prospective control measures to add to the resolution. Some of the items are: low sulfur fuel, clean affordable energy, removal date for uncertified wood stoves, certified installer and good wood burning practices, determining the impact of compliance rate and how effective are the burn bans to be added to the modeling analysis, creative ways for public outreach, focus on how successful recent code changes are, developing staffing plan for enforcement, going after the gross emitters during the shoulder seasons when it is easier to find, wood sheds, wet wood to dry wood exchange program.

NO ACTIONS WERE TAKEN.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

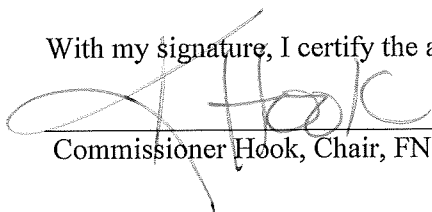
Commissioner Cahill – Thanks all for coming and staying with us, we appreciate everyone’s input and recommendations.

Commissioner Severns – Won’t be at next meeting, it’s a complex problem, I agree with some and not with all, we need to have legitimate resistance in what the EPA is telling us is going to happen. Would like to see people who burn dirty change and burn clean. Thanks North Pole City and Mayor for the use of the facility.

Commission Hook – It was nice to be in North Pole, had some new people they have not seen before, thanks all commissioners for their honesty in the conversation, thanks Bob on the phone, there is a meeting in two weeks, April 18th at the Fairbanks City Hall, other meeting are July 13 and October 17th, and just beginning to organize the 2nd annual FNSB “Clear The Air Conference, It’s Serious,” for the 3rd week in September.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

With my signature, I certify the accuracy and completeness of the minutes above.



Commissioner Hook, Chair, FNSB Air Pollution Control Commission

DATE: 4/18/17