

HAINES ALASKA NEWS AND COMMENT

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Photo by Roger Maynard

The Haines Borough Assembly in session. (left to right) Assemblymen Daymond Hoffman, Steve Vick, Scott Rossman, Borough Manager Mark Earnest, Mayor Jan Hill, Deputy Mayor Jerry Lapp, and Joanne Waterman.

RECALL: Petition Request Filed Friday

Petitions to seek recall of Daymond Hoffman, Steve Vick, Joanne Waterman

By Roger Maynard

A groundswell of dissatisfaction with the performance of the Haines Borough Assembly reached a crescendo Friday when three applications for recall against assembly members Daymond Hoffman, Steve Vick and Joanne Waterman were filed with borough clerk Julie Cozzi.

The petitions, filed by the Haines Recall Committee, allege failure to perform prescribed duties — specifically, appointing Greg Goodman to the

Haines Borough Assembly seat E on October 26, 2010 without waiting for the results of an investigation required by law after the election was challenged.

So far, the illegal appointment of Goodman has cost the borough over \$34,000 in legal fees including the costs of the borough attorney, Goodman's fees (which were paid by the borough in full) and partial reimbursement of legal fees incurred by

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Two Waste Collections in Haines This Week

It's time to dispose of hazardous wastes and junk electronics this weekend

By Roger Maynard

Hazardous Waste Collection Day

One of the big days of the year for folks who live here is the hazardous waste collection that occurs yearly. It's our chance to get rid of old paints, solvents, oil and other stuff for which disposal is either difficult or expensive. This service is available to all households and government agencies.

This year's hazardous waste collection, sponsored by the Haines Borough and Southeast Conference, will be on Friday, July 22 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or until containers are full. Bring the material to the old Haines Public Works shop yard on Un-

ion Street between 5th and 6th avenues. Material should be in the original containers if possible.

Eligible materials include poisons, disinfectants, solvents, herbicides, used oil, flammable liquids (gasoline, diesel fuel, Blazo, etc.), paint products, paint thinner, furniture stripper, antifreeze, acids, cleaners, pesticides, transmission fluid, wood preservatives, floor wax, printing & photographic chemicals, Ni-Cad & lithium batteries, auto batteries, and mercury.

Items that are not eligible are explosives, blasting caps and gun powder, reactives

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Fall 2011



Letters to the Editor

Opportunity Out of Disaster

With the current situation of the Haines Borough Assembly refusing to go by the law, borough code or represent the people who elected them, we have the opportunity to replace them ALL.

Both Title 29; 29.20,180 and Haines Borough Code HBC 2.10.250 state; If a vacancy occurs in the assembly, the remaining members shall, within 30 days, appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy.

So far ALL have failed to do so. Just because they failed to reach agreement at the June 13th special meeting does not change the code or law. The person or persons responsible for putting items on the agenda or calling special meetings needs to do so. Short of that they have failed to do their prescribed duties. They need to meet very soon and honestly work to reach an agreement and obey the law they took an oath to obey.

For all the years I have attended and recorded Haines Borough meetings I have never seen an assembly who openly refused to represent the people and openly refuse to obey the law as this current assembly.

It's time to replace ALL of them. That's hard medicine to swallow but sometimes you have to. Now is one of those times.

There are 4 positions up for election and should be filled by new people, the other 3 should be recalled. We need to find people who will represent ALL of us. Who will put the interest of the borough ahead of personal interest or vendetta.

Bill Kurz
 Haines, Alaska

Finally Some Progress!

A special thanks to the workmanship of our Borough maintenance employees! Last week they arrived at the Old School, removed the old black fabric and painted the demolition side a color closely matching the remaining structure. Visually a SIGNIFICANT improvement and it only took 2 men a couple of hours to accomplish project.

Now, if we can get our Manager to focus on the remaining tasks, we can get most of the landscaping done to where our residents and visitors can actually walk on our public lands without incurring injury! Top soil and grass seed would make a huge dent in the cosmetics of

public property in the heart of our downtown area.

According to our former Maintenance Foreman, the whole project could be completed in about 3 days with Borough Maintenance personnel. Tell your Assembly Member – GETR DONE!

Snow may be here in 90 days and we don't want to wake up next Spring to an ongoing "eye sore"!

Cheers
Joe Poor

Republican Fundraiser was a Success

We want to thank everyone involved with the District 5 fundraiser held June 27th., 2011 in Skagway/Dyea.

Thank you for supporting our Congressman Don Young on his recent visit to the Chilkoot Trail Outpost. We also want to thank the Congressman for taking time out of his very busy schedule for attending this function.

A huge thank you to all the businesses and individuals that donated their time and merchandise. With all your help the fundraiser was a complete success. Thank you everyone.

Officers for District 5,
Alaska Republican Party
Janet Kurz

We welcome letters to the editor and opinions. Letters should be typed or neatly handwritten and not exceed 150 words. Letters must be respectful and should not be libelous or slanderous. The Haines Alaska News reserves the right to edit submissions for length, clarity, and grammar. Send letters via email to editor@hainesnews.net or mailed to Editor: Haines Alaska News, Alaska Alliance for Commerce, PO Box 748, Haines, AK 99827

RECALL PT 1

(Continued from page 1)

Karen Hess, after she appealed the contest of election to superior court.

The petitions against Waterman and Hoffman further allege that on June 13, 2011, after the court declared seat E vacant, they voted not to fill the seat within 30 days as required by borough ordinance and Alaska statute, leaving Haines residents without full represen-

tation on the assembly as required by law.

The actions of the assembly particularly rankled voters at the June 13 assembly meeting when member Joanne Waterman pointedly turned her back and looked out the window as people in the chambers testified that Karen Hess should be appointed to the vacant seat. Later, during assembly deliberation, Daymond Hoffman asked, "What can they do to us if we don't appoint someone...

throw us in jail?" prompting loud laughter from Waterman.

"This is not about changing the balance of power on the assembly," says Jim Shook, Chairman of the Haines Recall Committee, "This is about the rule of law. We want to put this assembly—and future assemblies—on notice that they are not above the law."

This "notice" is bound to be effective. In fact, Haines could see all new faces on the assembly by 2012. The two seats cur-

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AK Delegation: Legislation Repealing Roadless Rule

Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C.— on July 13, Senator Mark Begich and Congressman Don Young introduced legislation to repeal the 2001 Roadless Rule in Alaska's National Forests. Senator Lisa Murkowski co-sponsored the Senate measure.

"This cookie-cutter rule is a bad fit for Alaska," Begich said. "With high unemployment and high energy costs in Southeast Alaska, the Forest Service needs greater flexibility to address these issues. Repealing the rule will help keep the few existing mills alive and allow for the development of hydro projects throughout the region as well as two promising mining projects on Prince of Wales Island. Instead of adding options, the roadless rule takes them away."

"The Roadless Rule was ill-conceived and based on a one-size-fits-all theory," said Young. "As we have seen time and time again, the one-size-fits-all approach rarely ever applies to Alaska. The economic well-being and way of life for many Alaskans relies on responsible resource development and this legislation will ensure that this

rule doesn't harm Alaska more than it already has. Over the last few decades I have watched the timber industry go from thousands of jobs to nothing; we cannot allow the government to decimate this area more than they already have. This legislation is an economic necessity so that Alaskans may start to responsibly develop our resources in these areas again."

"The roadless rule never made sense for Alaska since 96 percent of the Tongass and 99 percent of the Chugach are already protected by ANILCA and forest management plans," Murkowski said. "Exempting the Tongass from the roadless rule will help make certain that what little remains of the timber industry in Southeast can survive long enough for the Forest Service to implement its second-growth harvest policy. The exemption will also ensure that hydropower and other affordable energy projects in Southeast can move forward."

As the latest step in a complex history of litigation, a March 2011 Federal District Court ruling set aside the Tongass Exemption and reinstated

the application of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule in the Tongass National Forest. A 2003 administrative ruling had previously blocked the rule's implementation in the Tongass. The legislation introduced today would prevent use of the rule in planning and decision making for Alaska's Chugach and Tongass National Forests.

As implemented, the rule prohibits new roads in inventoried roadless areas and prohibits most timber harvest in these areas. The March court decision reinstating the rule effectively places 300,000 acres of inventoried roadless area in which logging would have been allowed under the Tongass Land Management Plan off limits to development.

Alaska's two national forests are the nation's largest. The Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska, at 17 million acres, covers an area the size of West Virginia. The Chugach National Forest, stretching from the eastern Kenai Peninsula to most of Prince William Sound is 5.4 million acres.

RECALL PT 2

(Continued from page 2)

rently held by Scott Rossman and Jerry Lapp are already up for re-election on October 4, as is the mayor's seat. And by order of the court, the vacant seat "E" will be filled by special election during that same election cycle. If the recall committee is successful in getting their recall on the ballot, then the remaining members—Vick, Hoffman and Waterman—could lose their seats, forcing another special election within 60 days after certification of the October 4th election.

According to borough clerk Julie Cozzi, the borough attorney has been consulted regarding the petition. "It's not required that we have the attorney review the petition," she said, "but we want to make sure we don't miss anything." She explained that the attorney's opinion is that the grounds stated on the application for petition are sufficient and all other statutory requirements have been met.

"Timing is important because we want to include this issue in the regular municipal election rather than force another special election," said Cozzi, "A petition cannot be certified less than 42 days before the election, so [August] 12th is the

'drop dead date' for the October 4th election. If any candidates are recalled then it triggers another special election. Every election means a lot more work and expense to the borough." A later filing could mean three elections in a short time, according to Cozzi; therefore, she is hoping to have the petitions ready by the end of the week — that will give sponsors only 3 weeks to collect an estimated 275 signatures and be on track for the October 4 election cycle.

"It looks like this is going to be a big election ballot," said Cozzi, "with the mayor, three assembly seats, a possible recall of three other assembly members, a couple of school board

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seats, and a possibility of some ballot issues — it could be a four-pager."

Shook is confident that the recall issue will make it on the ballot. "We're in touch with APOC and doing everything by the book. There are plenty of people out there upset about the performance of the borough assembly over the past few years. I'll just be happy if future assemblies get the message that they can't ignore the law."

WASTE COLLECTION

(Continued from page 1)

such as sodium metal, infectious wastes, radioactive wastes, and any item not mentioned in the eligibility list.

For more information, contact the Haines Borough at 766-2231.

Electronic Waste Collection

Need to get rid of that old computer, or television set? Haines recycling center at 2.5 mile Small Tracts Road will be

accepting electronic waste on Friday and Saturday, July 22 – 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is a charge of \$0.40 per pound.

The recycling center notes that volunteers are welcomed — contact Melissa at 766-2185 for more information

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARINGS Haines Borough Assembly

At 6:30pm, on Tuesday, July 26, in the Assembly Chambers at the Public Safety Building, 213 Haines Highway, a public hearing is scheduled for the following:

Ordinance 11-06-269

(Second Hearing)

An Ordinance of the Haines Borough Alaska amending Haines Borough Code Chapter 10.34 to authorize the use of ATVs on streets and highways within the borough and allowing use of snow machines on highway shoulders within the borough.

Ordinance 11-06-270

(Second Hearing)

An Ordinance of the Haines Borough Alaska amending Haines Borough Code Title 18, Section 18.90.050 and 18.90.070 to allow the placement of off-premises signs as a conditional use.

Important Reminder! – Sign-up prior to or at the beginning of the assembly meeting is required in order to make comments during a public hearing. It's as easy as contacting the Clerk's Office ahead of time to have your name added to the list or you can sign up yourself at the start of the assembly meeting.

More information is available at the Borough Clerk's Office or on the website: www.hainesborough.us/consider.html

Oral comments may be made at the public hearings (if you sign up) or you can send written comments to P.O. Box 1209, Haines, AK 99827 or jcozzi@haines.ak.us.

Posted 7/18/2011

Julie Cozzi, MMC, Borough Clerk

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