



MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA  
REGULAR ASSEMBLY MEETING

June 21, 2022  
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**1. Call to Order:**

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

Mayor Cremata formally acknowledged that the Assembly is gathered on the traditional land of the Chilkat people.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**2. Roll Call:**

**Present:** Mayor: Andrew Cremata **Assembly Members:** Sam Bass, Jay Burnham, Orion Hanson, Reba Hylton, Deb Potter, Dustin Stone (via telephone)

**Absent:**

**3. Proof of Notice:**

**4. Hear Citizens Present:**

Katie Auer indicated that she is angry regarding the level of care provided by the clinic, and added that:

- She joined the clinic board to promote change.
- As a new board member, she has no experience in the medical field and received no training.
- She is consistently inundated with complaints regarding the clinic.
- She does not believe the clinic is sustainable.
- The clinic has returned to the same toxic environment that recently caused the high turnover.
- Her family has considered leaving as they would like quality care for their daughter.

Kaylynn Howard indicated that she is speaking for herself, and added that:

- The offer from SEARHC is unacceptable, however the vote on the clinic should move forward.
- The Assembly should amend the resolution so that residents can still voice their support of whether or not to sell the clinic.
- If the vote is canceled and action is not taken, the issue could be dropped.
- The community should not remain complacent regarding the poor quality of care provided by the clinic.

Cooper Hays indicated that she submitted a letter to the Assembly that was unpublished, which she read aloud. The letter as read, indicated that:

- She has received inadequate care and inappropriate conduct by clinic provider.
- She is not alone, and other community members have received similar, problematic care.
- If the clinic continues to operate this way, more community members will receive inadequate care.

- The state of healthcare in Skagway is excluding a large segment of its population that cannot afford to travel for routine or preventive health care.

Billi Clem indicated that:

- The funds spent for an election regarding SEARHC could be done for less. The information could be gathered without a ballot.
- She has had fabulous experiences at the clinic. She has had bad experiences as well and changed providers. With proper management, the clinic should be able provide a good experience for the community.

Judy Mallory indicated that she has had 53 years of medical experience in Alaska and has been involved with the Skagway clinic as a public and private entity; if the community works together to right the wrongs the clinic can be again what it once was.

7. **Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution 22-19R: Repealing Resolution No. 22-14R to Cancel the Special Election Scheduled for July 12, 2022**

**Assemblymember Potter** indicated that the election should be canceled as it will not provide an accurate assessment of how the citizens feel about retaining the clinic or not and there is not time to modify the ballot. Potter indicated that a vote could be held in the fall.

**Assemblymember Bass** indicated that because the ballot language cannot be modified the election should be canceled. Another vote regarding the clinic could be held during the October regular election. Bass indicated that SMC Chapter 16 allows for the opportunity to negotiate for less than market value, however it is important to hear the citizen's opinion first.

**Assemblymember Stone** indicated that the current language for the special election is problematic, and the vote should be reassessed for the fall. Should the Assembly move forward with the special election, it could cause an awkward situation if the vote was successful.

**Main Motion/Second: Burnham/Bass** For public hearing and adoption of Resolution 22-19R.

**Public Hearing**

**Kaylynn Howard** indicated that a vote in the fall makes sense, after the summer has calmed down, and residents can have more time to educate themselves.

The main motion passed as by roll call vote, 6 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

5. **Mayor & Assembly Discussion Items:**

**Assemblymember Hylton** indicated that she had a bad, near-death experience with the clinic and that she wants the community to have consistent, reliable medical care.

**Manager Ryan** indicated that he has spent many hours discussing this issue with SEARHC and does not believe that this is the conclusion to that conversation.

**Assemblymember Burnham** indicated that he has had both good and bad care at the clinic. He received his first concussion receiving a shot at the clinic when he was seven years old. When he went to the clinic thinking he had strep throat, they indicated that he should get it looked at, which was how his throat cancer was discovered. Burnham indicated that people think the clinic can do things that it can't.

**Mayor Cremata** indicated that if the community votes to maintain ownership of the clinic, the municipality is going to have to pay for it.

**12. Adjournment:**

With no more business on the agenda, Mayor Cremata adjourned the regular Assembly meeting of June 21, 2022 at 7:50 p.m.

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Andrew Cremata, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Steve Burnham Jr., Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

**Approved:**