

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
April 5, 2008
9:12 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Meyer called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at [9:12:22 AM](#).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Mike Chenault, Co-Chair
Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Stoltze, Vice-Chair
Representative Harry Crawford
Representative Les Gara
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Mary Nelson
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Richard Foster

ALSO PRESENT

Paul Fuhs, Chairman of the Board, Marine Exchange of Alaska;
Edward Page, Captain, U.S. Coast Guard; Wayne Nicolls,
Society of American Foresters, Juneau; Matt Robus, Board
Member, Territorial Sportsmen, Inc., Juneau; Ron
Sommerville, Board Member, Juneau Shooting Sports
Foundation, Juneau; Dan Etheridge, AFL-CIO, Juneau; John
Walsh, Lobbyist, Bristol Bay Borough, Juneau; Tim
Richardson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Juneau; Lee
Kadinger, Boy Scouts of America, Juneau

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

HOMER:

Ginger Fortin, Homer; Ken Satre, Homer

KETCHIKAN:

David Johnson, Physician, Ketchikan General Hospital,
Ketchikan

ANCHORAGE:

Aves Thompson, Executive Director, Alaska Trucking
Association, Anchorage; John Crews, Alaska Vocational
Education Technical Center, Anchorage; Sue Hecks, Executive
Director, Southern Region EMS Code Blue, Anchorage; David
Matthews, AVTEC, Anchorage; Mary Hughes, Chairman,

University of Alaska Board of Regents, Anchorage; Carolyn Clift, Aqua Advisory, Anchorage; Laurie Rapuzzi, Aqua Fitness, Eagle River; Bradley Harris, POOLS, Anchorage; David Uldrich, People for POOLS, Anchorage; James Hasbrouck, Anchorage; Peter Crosby, Anchorage Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, Anchorage; Tod Williams, Anchorage; Dana Hyams, Anchorage; Nancy Meade, Anchorage; Ken Winterberger, Anchorage; Steve Nerland, Anchorage; Amy Holonics, APSC, Anchorage; Barb McMullen, Anchorage; Bobbi Ramos Olson, Anchorage

KODIAK:

Shawn Dochtermann, Crewman's Association, Kodiak

BETHEL:

Dave Trantham, Bethel; Raymond Thor Williams, Alaska Municipal League (AML), City of Bethel; Michelle DeWitt, Tundra Women's Coalition, Bethel; Eric Middlebrook, Mayor, City of Bethel; George Young, Fire Chief, Bethel

TOK:

Kathy Morgan, Tok Community Umbrella Corporation, Tok; Jeff Hermanns, Tok

FAIRBANKS:

Mike Littlefield, Fairbanks; Susan Hendricks, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Fairbanks; Karla Secor-Odonoghue, Fairbanks; Ron Dixon, Tanana Valley Campus Community Advisory Council, Fairbanks; Jim Sampson, Fairbanks; David Miller, Fairbanks; Jim Lahti, Pipeline Training, Fairbanks

NOME:

Haven Harris, Norton Sound Health Coalition, Nome

DELTA JUNCTION & KASILOF

Max Sprott, Delta Junction; Connie Vann, Kasilof; Chris Moracek, Soldotna, Central Emergency Services, Soldotna; Cynthia Smith, Kasilof; Sandy Matthews, Kasilof; Daniel Smith, Kasilof; Larry Willard, Kasilof;

OFF NETS:

Ethel Riley, Kasilof; Steve Hagedorn, Anchorage; Jim Hickerson, Unalkeet; Ben Howard, Unalkeet; Jennifer Yuhas, Special Assistant, Fairbanks North Star Borough; Sven Haakanson; Bruce Merrel; Stephen Gemmell; Mike Catsi, AWAKMC; Shelby Boothe; Chris Turletes, University Alaska-Anchorage

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

The following overview was taken in log note format. Handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 25th Legislative Session, contact 465-6814.

After the 25th Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

>SB 221-BUDGET: CAPITAL, SUPP. & OTHER APPROPS

TIME	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
9:12:49 AM	Co-Chair Meyer	Convened the House Finance Committee in order to take public testimony on SB 221.
		HOMER
9:13:41 AM	GINGER FORTIN, HOMER testified via teleconference	Testified in support for the Kendicott Ferry service to the Homer area, which would provide two weekly calls to Homer. She stated that would be an improvement.
9:14:46 AM	KEN SATRE, HOMER testified via teleconference	Spoke in support for the blade sharpener. He noted the costs associated with the required monthly travel in order to sharpen the blades.
		KETCHIKAN
9:15:46 AM	DAVID JOHNSON, PHYSICIAN, KETCHIKAN GENERAL HOSPITAL, KETCHIKAN testified via teleconference	Requested support for the budget component, allowing the hospital to upgrade the operating room. He explained that the small hospitals in Alaska have great expenses for charity care. He requested \$4.4 million dollars for the program.
		ANCHORAGE
9:17:57 AM	AVES THOMPSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Focused on two critical routes which need legislative fiscal support. #1 - Dalton Highway / \$19 million #2 - Parks Highway
9:21:59 AM	JOHN CREWS, ALASKA VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TECHNICAL CENTER, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Requested continued funding for the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC).
9:25:26 AM	SUE HECKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SOUTHERN	Addressed the impacts of the proposed removal of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for code blue projects. The deleted project which needs

	REGION EMS CODE BLUE, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	reinstatement is the emergency communications funding, updating the legacy emergency system used throughout rural Alaska. She urged that maintenance and updating the system needs to be funded @ \$265 thousand dollars.
9:28:33 AM	DAVID MATTHEWS, AVTEC, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Commented on three issues regarding workforce development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstatement for funding for Alaska Vocational Technical Center • Pipeline training facility in Fairbanks, matched through federal funding • SB 124 be reported out of the House which increases opportunity for the workforce across the State.
9:31:31 AM	MARY HUGHES, CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA BOARD OF REGENTS, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Testified for greater funding for the deferred maintenance component of the proposed budget. The proposed amount is disappointing to the University, which has millions of dollars of needed deferred maintenance projects. She requested \$50 million dollars more.
9:35:04 AM	CAROLYN CLIFT, AQUA ADVISORY, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Urged a funding match for the Municipal pools in Anchorage. She stated that the pools provide for greater quality of life and requested matching funds. Representative Gara asked if funds had previously been included. Co-Chair Meyer commented that it just happened when the bonds passed.
9:37:12 AM	LAURIE RAPUZZI, AQUA FITNESS, EAGLE RIVER testified via teleconference	Echoed sentiments of the previous testifier. She urged the matching funds for the pool, stating it is a safety issue.
9:38:21 AM	BRADLEY HARRIS, POOLS, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Added his request for the matching funds for the pool used in Anchorage. He pointed out the amount of use that the pools receive and how they help children and adults to have improved health. He urged preserving healthy lifestyles.
9:41:57 AM	DAVID ULDRICH, PEOPLE FOR POOLS, ANCHORAGE testified via	Echoed previous comments regarding matching funds for pool bonding. He urged that the funding become a legislative priority. He mentioned concerns with drowning for untrained

	teleconference	swimmers.
9:44:14 AM	JAMES HASBROUCK, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Requested \$2 million dollars for capital repairs to Anchorage's aging swim pools for the matching city bonding. He addressed the economic benefit to the State, focusing on swim team needs.
9:46:43 AM	PETER CROSBY, ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Echoed the request for the pool matching funds in the amount of \$2 million dollars. If the State fails to approve the funding, no repairs will be made. It is essential funding. The total expense for pool repair is \$4 million dollars. Co-Chair Meyer acknowledged that there are five members on the Committee from Anchorage whom all understand the need for the pool funding.
9:51:24 AM	TOD WILLIAMS, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Echoed previous sentiments for the matching fund request for pool maintenance.
9:52:10 AM	DANA HYAMS, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Testified in support for funding for the matching fund bonds for the pool. She mentioned how the request relates to a relationship with health and safety needs.
9:54:56 AM	NANCY MEADE, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Requested matching funds for the bond which passed in Anchorage for the pool maintenance, emphasizing, it is a statewide issue.
9:57:00 AM	KEN WINTERBERGER, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Echoed previous concerns for the maintenance of the Anchorage pools.
9:58:32 AM	STEVE NERLAND, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke on behalf of the University of Alaska-Anchorage for funding for a new athletic facility/center to serve that growing community. Vice-Chair Stoltze indicated he supports the request.
10:01:58 AM	AMY HOLONICS, APSC, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Reiterated previous testimony in support for the pool funding. She stated that pools ultimately save lives.
10:04:08 AM	BARB MCMULLEN, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke in support for the pool funding request and reiterated previous testimonies. She mentioned pregnant women that use the pools. Representative Gara appreciated the testimony but pointed out that there

		are people across the State that do not have a single pool in their community. He stated that these issues are bigger.
10:06:08 AM	BOBBI RAMOS OLSON, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Urged funding for the University of Alaska-Anchorage athletic facility, commenting that the current facility is inadequate.
		KODIAK
10:08:47 AM	SHAWN DOCHTERMANN, CREWMAN'S ASSOCIATION, KODIAK testified via teleconference	Testified in support for the Mission road repair project funding for Kodiak. It is the primary road in Kodiak. He added further reinstatement for funding for the Seafood Harbor data project. He stressed the importance of that project.
		BETHEL
10:12:16 AM	DAVE TRANTHAM, BETHEL testified via teleconference	Addressed two top priority projects in Bethel, which need funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire station roof • Tundra Women's coalition
10:16:03 AM	RAYMOND THOR WILLIAMS, ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (AML), CITY OF BETHEL testified via teleconference	Requested continued support for the Bethel fire station roof repair and EMS support. He also stressed the need for the facility funding for the shelter to help protect the women of the community from domestic violence. He addressed substance abuse. He mentioned a need for a swimming pool in that area, which could help address the number of people drowning in that community. He urged support for those items for the betterment of Bethel.
10:18:50 AM	MICHELLE DEWITT, TUNDRA WOMEN'S COALITION, BETHEL testified via teleconference	Emphasized the need for the funding the shelter request. The building is heavily used and is nearly 30 years old and is beyond renovation. She pointed out the partnership with the City of Bethel. She added comments to the need for the roof repair for the local fire station.
10:21:19 AM	ERIC MIDDLEBROOK, MAYOR, CITY OF BETHEL testified via teleconference	Stated that the most important project for the City of Bethel is the fire station roof repair. He stressed the urgency of that need & urged consideration. He directed comments to the need for a detox center, which could help the Troopers with their work and added consideration for a community swim pool.
10:24:12 AM	GEORGE YOUNG,	Testified in support for the repair

	FIRE CHIEF, BETHEL testified via teleconference	project funding for the Bethel Fire Department structural roof project. He added his support for the Bethel Women's shelter renovation in Bethel.
		JUNEAU
10:25:47 AM	PAUL FUHS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MARINE EXCHANGE OF ALASKA	Asked to explain a bill contained the budget called "Capstone on the Water". The request for funds will place the transmitting equipment on the airplanes. He stated that the equipment is in place, however, they are missing the receivers. He referenced the handout, identifying the receivers that have been already put in place. (Copy on File). The requested coverage would be used for the North Slope. He mentioned the missions happening in the Arctic and tracking vessels in that area coming in from out of the country.
10:29:32 AM	EDWARD PAGE, CAPTAIN, U.S. COAST GUARD	Added that the requests represents a shared commitment between the marine industry and the Coast Guard. It has been used for the search and rescue systems and was accessed by the Coast Guard effectively.
10:30:48 AM	Representative Thomas	Asked if it included weather monitors. Mr. Fuhs responded that was not possible through the proposed system but that there is another system that addresses it. Representative Thomas asked if there was equipment needed to access that. Captain Page responded that there are sights and locations that will feed the information back for vessel tracking. Representative Thomas pointed out the number of friends that he had lost because of weather condition complication with there vessels. Mr. Fuhs stated that the most important data is related to the transfer.
10:33:54 AM	Representative Kelly	Mentioned following and using the NOA system. Captain Page pointed out that those discussions have come up and concerns have been noted with the relay stations. There should be more weather sensors. Representative Kelly believed that there is opportunity with the request. Mr. Fuhs pointed out that it would be an all Alaskan vessel tracking.
		TOK

10:35:38 AM	KATHY MORGAN, TOK COMMUNITY UMBRELLA CORPORATION, TOK testified via teleconference	Noted support for the request for fire trucks. She added support for the renewal resource initiative. She pointed out that the community is in the middle of an overdeveloped spruce forest and needs to purchase a chipper.
10:38:30 AM	JEFF HERMANNNS, TOK testified via teleconference	Voiced support for the fire truck funding. He added his request for the bio-fuel project.
		FAIRBANKS
10:40:27 AM	MIKE LITTLEFIELD, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Noted concern for funding for the pipeline training component. He urged a coordinated effort to accomplish the request. Representative Thomas asked how many Union members would be included with the training dollars. Mr. Littlefield pointed out that last year, it included 100 people, not in the Unions. Representative Thomas asked for a list of those numbers including the number that went into the Union. Mr. Littlefield stated that there are many people working on the North Slope that are from outside Alaska.
10:45:13 AM	SUSAN HENDRICKS, UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA- FAIRBANKS, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Voiced support for funds for repair and renovation projects at the University. The request will cover costs to the entire statewide University system. Many of the buildings are over 40-years old.
10:47:29 AM	KARLA SECOR- ODONOGHUE, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Spoke on behalf of the bond funding match for the Anchorage Municipal pools.
10:48:55 AM	RON DIXON, TANANA VALLEY CAMPUS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Encouraged funding for the Tanana Valley campus deferred maintenance projects.
10:50:49 AM	JIM SAMPSON, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Urged funding for the \$3 million dollar request for the pipeline training center. He added support for the Tanana Valley campus project.

10:51:51 AM	DAVID MILLER, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Asked the Committee to address the Board of Regent's priorities. He explained the process to move through that process.
10:53:52 AM	JIM LAHTI, PIPELINE TRAINING, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Directed comments to funding for the pipeline training facility. He maintained that it is an appropriate training for Alaska hire in anticipation of the work that will need to be done on a new line forecasts. He stressed the need for improvement.
		DELTA JUNCTION
10:55:56 AM	HAVEN HARRIS, NORTON SOUND HEALTH COALITION, NOME testified via teleconference	Urged reintroduction for funding for EMS service purchases of those big ticket items. He mentioned the Youth and Elders Program.
10:57:34 AM	MAX SPROTT, DELTA JUNCTION testified via teleconference	Urged funding for the pipeline training facility.
		JUNEAU
10:58:31 AM	WAYNE NICOLLS, SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS, JUNEAU	Noted support for a reforestation project, which is not currently included in the proposed budget.
11:02:28 AM	MATT ROBUS, TERRITORIAL SPORTSMEN, INC., BOARD MEMBER, JUNEAU	Voiced support for funding of capital funds for a shooting range in Juneau be included in the capital budget request. He pointed out that his board is willing to collect partner monies to help with facility funding.
11:07:17 AM	RON SOMMERVILLE, JUNEAU SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, BOARD MEMBER, JUNEAU	Echoed sentiments expressed by the previous speaker. He urged funding for the indoor shooting range for the City of Juneau. He mentioned the attempt to compromise. He added support for the Afognik Island funding requests, pointing out that those dollars are not General Fund monies. Representative Kelly applauded the professionals that after retirement come forward to represent community requests.
11:12:11 AM	DAN ETHERIDGE, AFL-CIO, JUNEAU	Testified on behalf of funding for the Fairbanks Training facility. He pointed out that it would be a statewide training facility. He urged that Alaskans get the work and that the

		funding would be federally matched. Representative Kelly & Representative Gara agreed.
11:14:36 AM	JOHN WALSH, LOBBYIST, BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH, JUNEAU	Spoke in support for the Port of Bristol Bay funding in the amount of \$15 million dollars. The design is ready to go.
11:17:43 AM	TIM RICHARDSON, ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION, JUNEAU	Testified on behalf of Native Alaskans for reinstatement for Department of Natural Resources receipt authority for up to \$10 million dollars to the Native corporations on Afognik Island. It would be revenue neutral for the State budget. The offering price for the lands would be determined by a state certified appraisal. He noted support for the project is widespread and that Afognik is a popular for elk hunting by Alaska residents.
11:20:06 AM	LEE KADINGER, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, JUNEAU	Spoke in support of a new program for the boy scouts that will offer high adventure to scouts. The program will be teaching life safety skills, responsible land use and survival skills. It is for the greater good of the entire state. He added the need for maintenance of the camps.
		KENAI
11:24:02 AM	CONNIE VANN, KASILOF testified via teleconference	Spoke in opposition to the land purchase in Kasilof for providing a public sport fishing boat launch.
	CHRIS MORACEK, SOLDOTNA, CENTRAL EMERGENCY SERVICES, SOLDTNA testified via teleconference	Requested dollars for the replacement of a fire truck on the Kenai peninsula.
11:26:53 AM	CYNTHIA SMITH, KASILOF testified via teleconference	Echoed sentiments against funding for the Kasilof private property boat launch.
11:28:31 AM	SANDY MATTHEWS, KASILOF testified via teleconference	Testified in opposition to funding for the Kasilof private property boat launch.
11:30:43 AM	DANIEL SMITH, KASILOF	Spoke in strong opposition to funding for the Kasilof private property boat

	testified via teleconference	launch.
11:31:42 AM	LARRY WILLARD, KASILOF testified via teleconference	Echoed sentiments of the three previous testifiers against the boat launch and the negative impact on the river.
11:33:41 AM	ETHEL RILEY, KASILOF testified via teleconference	Spoke in strong opposition to funding for the Kasilof private property boat launch.
		OFFNETS
11:38:04 AM	STEVE HAGEDORN, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Addressed the dollars being requested for the University athletic center, noting that the current center is inadequate.
11:40:59 AM	JIM HICKERSON, UNALKLEET testified via teleconference	Identified Unalkleet School District additional funding for major maintenance. He urged support for energy relief and substance abuse dollars. He worried about the current fuel concerns of the area. schools follow a code of conduct.
11:44:13 AM	BEN HOWARD, UNALKLEET testified via teleconference	Echoed concerns with moving the Unalkleet schools up to #21 on the priority list. He pointed out how old the schools are and that there are many major maintenance concerns with the schools.
11:45:13 AM	JENNIFER YUHAS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT, FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH testified via teleconference	Commented on the request for technical programs in Fairbanks.
11:46:11 AM	SVEN HAAKANSON testified via teleconference	Noted support for the State libraries and museum projects and asked for an increase to the funding request.
11:49:20 AM	BRUCE MERREL testified via teleconference	Noted support for the State libraries and museum project. He asked for an increase to the funding request.
11:51:39 AM	STEPHEN GEMMELL testified via teleconference	Indicated support of the deferred maintenance budget request. Pointing out that repairs are badly needed.
11:56:12 AM	MIKE CATSI, AWAKMC testified via teleconference	Southeast Alaska Municipal Conference request in the amount of \$150,000 for Fish and Game database. He added support for the Bristol Bay port. He asked for the reinstatement of the Old

		Denali funding.
12:00:13 PM	SHELBY BOOTHE testified via teleconference	Supported \$500,000 increase for Phase 1 project.
12:01:38 PM	CHRIS TURLETES, UNIVERSITY ALASKA-ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Supported funding for \$50 million for UAA system facilities maintenance needed; and funding for the BIOS facility. He added his support for the planning & funding for UAA and Sports Complex.
		<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>
		The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM

#