



# Economic Stabilization Task Force

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Appointed by the City & Borough of Juneau's Mayor  
Meeting Minutes from September 24, 2020

## Call to Order

The Economic Stabilization Task Force meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Ms. Thomas.

Task Force Members Present: Linda Thomas, Max Mertz, Susan Bell, Theresa Belton, Bruce Botelho, Eric Forst, Ken Koelsch, Lauren MacVay, Laura Martinson, and Terra Peters

Task Force Members Absent: None

Staff Present: CDD Administrative Officer, Brenwynne Grigg and CBJ Finance Director, Jeff Rogers

CBJ Assembly Members Present: Mayor Beth Weldon, Loren Jones, and Alicia Hughes-Skandijs

Special Guest Speakers: President of Juneau/Lynn Canal CHARR, Jack Manning; President of Alaskan Brewing Company, Geoff Larson; and Executive Director of United Human Services, Joan O'Keefe

## Approval of Agenda

Ms. Thomas stated that she would recuse herself from conversations around the following agenda items due to a potential conflict of interest:

- COVID-19 Testing Pilot Grant Proposal
- Hospitality Industry Assistance Grant Request from CHARR

Mr. Mertz will be stepping in as Chair for these two agenda topics.

**MOTION:** by Ms. Bell to approve the agenda. Ms. Belton seconded the motion.

***Hearing no objections, the motion was approved.***

## Approval of Minutes

**MOTION:** by Mr. Forst to adopt the Economic Stabilization Task Force minutes from the September 10 meeting. Mr. Botelho seconded the motion.

***Hearing no objections, the motion was approved.***

### **CBJ Revised Pie Chart re: CARES Act Funding**

Ms. Thomas introduced Mr. Rogers and asked him to update the Task Force on the status on expending the municipal allotment of CARES Act funding.

Mr. Rogers shared an updated version of the CARES Act Pie Chart and Table, which has been used in many past Assembly meetings to inform discussions. This updated version removed all placeholder items and reported at a greater level of detail. Sections shaded in green represent funding already appropriated by the Assembly. Sections shaded in orange and yellow represent pending legislation. Mr. Rogers explained that some of the pending legislation listed is still in its generative phases; meaning ordinances are being drafted but have not been before the Assembly for introduction. Sections shaded in black represent the remainder of the CARES Act funding. Mr. Rogers introduced the possibility that some programs could expire with leftover funding, which could be repurposed if in time for the current December 30, 2020 deadline.

### **Business Stabilization Grants**

Mr. Rogers shared that Mr. Holst gave notice that awards will exceed funding by approximately \$2 million between Phases 1, 2, and 3 of the Business Stabilization Grants. Mr. Holst was preparing for the proration of grants based on Assembly guidance, and has done a great job informing staff and the Assembly of this. Due to the current state of things, the Assembly is considering an Emergency Resolution to fund the overage of \$2 million. This would negate the need for proration and the delays caused by that. At the conclusion of the September 21 Assembly meeting, the City Manager directed JEDC to issue grant awards at 75% of their presumptive amounts to get funds into the hands of businesses quickly. The Assembly Finance Committee will discuss the Emergency Appropriation Resolution for \$2 million at their September 30 meeting, and if they decide to move forward, could adopt the Resolution at the Special Assembly Meeting that directly follows.

Mr. Mertz asked if there has been recent analysis to determine whether \$2 million is a high or low estimate. Mr. Rogers stated that he has not heard, but other variables that are affecting this dollar value include nonprofits who originally applied for the Business Stabilization Grant, then also applied for the Nonprofit Sustainability Grant. Since nonprofit businesses may not double dip, this could free up some funds for other businesses. JEDC is still working out the details around this. Mr. Rogers is optimistic that \$2 million will be enough.

Mr. Mertz stated that theoretically, if the Assembly chose to fund everything currently on the table, they might still have \$4 million in CARES Act money left. Mr. Rogers confirmed this is correct.

Mr. Rogers stated that many across the nation have hoped Congress would allow States and local governments an extended timeline for which to spend the CARES Act funds. However, they have not seen any moving legislation to suggest this might be the case. The City is keeping a close eye on the topic, but unless something changes, the CBJ face paying for services currently being covered by CARES Act funding as of January 2021.

Mr. Mertz asked about costs associated with continuing the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) if the CBJ is no longer able to use CARES Act funding to pay for it. Mr. Rogers shared a spreadsheet of current EOC costs. Monthly testing services at the Juneau International Airport, the Hagevig Testing Center, and other ad hoc testing centers, total \$241 thousand in operations, while laboratory costs total \$575,000. Laboratory costs are currently being paid by the State of Alaska, but the CBJ is unsure how long that will continue. Combined, the CBJ is potentially looking at \$816 thousand a month to continue testing at its

current rate. Mr. Rogers is unclear how the loss of CARES Act funds on January 1, 2021 will affect current testing services. If Juneau is able to obtain testing equipment at Bartlett Regional Hospital, there will still be a cost associated with that. At this time, they are unsure of how that cost will compare to the costs of sending tests out to a private lab. In addition to testing costs, EOC expenses also include quarantine and isolation, sheltering in the Armory Building, the COVID hotline, PPE and supplies, wastewater testing, supplemental janitorial services, and a K-5 Childcare Coordinator.

Ms. Martinson asked to what extent Centennial Hall has seen use for quarantine and isolation to this point. Mr. Rogers replied the number is very small but he is unsure of the exact totals. He added that it is necessary to maintain a quarantine and isolation facility in the event that it is needed.

Ms. Martinson asked how many people are staying in the Armory Building for sheltering. Mr. Rogers said on average, 50-70 people per night. Some nights are as low as 30, but as we reach colder weather, we will see numbers increase to maximum capacity.

Mr. Mertz asked if the FY21 allocation of CARES funds totaling 12.5 million is a benefit to the entire fiscal year instead of just July through December of 2020 from a cost standpoint. Mr. Rogers replied that yes, there is a benefit in balancing the FY21 budget, and this is in part how the Assembly did just that. This is reflected in the macro budget tool in past Assembly Finance packets. Since the CBJ is able to use CARES Act money to offset expenses in the Police Department and Fire Department budgets, this helped to offset some of the \$16 million deficit from loss of sales tax revenue. The CBJ is losing at least \$10 - \$12 million in sales tax this year and \$15 million in Marine Passenger Fees from the summer.

Mr. Mertz asked when the CBJ would begin estimating the FY22 budget. Mr. Rogers replied that analysis has already began, but officially, the budget process begins in November after the Assembly's retreat, where they provide direction to the Manager on how to proceed with developing a more finalized budget. City departments begin preparing their budgets based on that direction in December, and budgets are introduced to the Assembly around the end of March or beginning of April 2021. Revenue projections are being currently being prepared, but will be further refined, as we get closer. The 2021 cruise season will have a large impact on CBJ revenues and there is still uncertainty around how that will look. Mr. Rogers stated that he heard from Mr. Charlie Ball, Executive Vice President for Land Operations and Customer Service at Holland America Group, and he is optimistic about the 2021 season. He believes that Alaska is an opportune travel destination, even in this environment. Even so, Mr. Rogers plans to project between 500 thousand and 700 thousand cruise ship passengers for the 2021 season at this time. Mr. Rogers added that when the local economy gains momentum in restaurants and entertainment facilities, this would have a large impact on sales tax revenue. At this time, he does not foresee any measurable decrease in property values, because the economic situation would have to become much direr.

Ms. Bell stated that Juneau's visitor volume and spending patterns are significant for the community, representing approximately 25% of the sales tax base. However, the State Legislative Session is also very important to our local economy.

Ms. Bell added that the McDowell Group prepared an Analysis of Ward Cove Cruise Dock Impacts, published in June 2020, around this dock construction in Ketchikan. The report explains how variability in cruise passenger volume affects different aspects of the economy. In Ketchikan, property values in the downtown core were relatively stable in spite of that variability. She believes this information is also relevant to understanding patterns in Juneau and encouraged Task Force members to review the report,

which is a public document.

Mr. Botelho asked where the CBJ would prioritize funds for 2021 should Congress extend the deadline for spending the CARES Act money. Mr. Rogers replied that testing and sheltering would remain a priority. Then, Police and Fire services would most likely consume the remaining funds. This path would allow the general fund to save the maximum amount of money to continue operations as normal. However, the Assembly ultimately decides and is responsible for balancing what is in the best interest of the public.

### **COVID-19 Testing Pilot Grant**

Mr. Mertz stepped in as Chair for the topic of a COVID-19 Testing Pilot Grant, and Ms. Thomas recused herself from the discussion due to a potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Mertz introduced Mr. Larson, President of Alaskan Brewing Company, who will speak on a grant request related to a COVID-19 Monitoring and Testing Platform.

Mr. Larson shared that Alaskan Brewing Company has been involved with providing hand sanitizer to the public, manufacturing a viral transport media for required testing protocols, and expediting rapid testing here in Juneau. During this time, Alaska Brewing has had discussions at the state and city levels on a number of ways to continue fighting this pandemic. The COVID-19 Testing Platform that is being proposed is another way that could help fight this pandemic. Mr. Larson stated that this proactive solution monitors COVID-19 in a way that prevents and contains the spread. Kallaco has created an IT platform, supported by testing, that is already in use at a number of Universities. Proactive testing, along with monitoring the health of individuals, is coordinated to respond quickly to a COVID-19 case that might otherwise have larger implications. Participants will first acknowledge that their information will be shared with Alaska Brewing Company's Human Resources Department. Then, they will take their temperature at least once a day; receive a prompting to answer seven health related questions; and input the data on a smartphone application. If there is a need for follow-up, a message will be broadcast to staff of any information relevant to them, and close contacts will be followed up with for quarantine. In addition, routine testing will be conducted on a weekly basis. Mr. Larson emphasized that Kallaco balances the privacy of an individual with the public health need by tracking through analog analysis as opposed to GPS digital tracking. Analog analysis inquires about where you typically spend your time, and estimates your proximity to others. Alternately, digital tracking precisely monitors your every step. Alaska Brewing Company and several other businesses would like to test this program with the goal of moving to scale in the Juneau community if it proves successful.

Mr. Botelho asked how this might work for the larger community. Mr. Larson replied that schools, for example, could potentially use facial recognition and thermal profiling to identify students and take their temperatures as they walk into the building. Mr. Larson added that participation among Alaskan Brewing Company employees is voluntary so this will be a good way of gauging how well a larger community might adopt this.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Koelsch to recommend Emergency Appropriation Resolution 2910 for \$175,000 to the Assembly. Mr. Forst seconded the motion.

### **DISCUSSION**

Mr. Mertz asked how often antigen testing would be performed. Mr. Larson replied that antigen testing

would be administered weekly. If the antigen test registers a positive, there will be a follow-up PCR test to rule out a false positive. Once a positive is confirmed, everyone potentially in contact will be tested every day or every other day for a period. By doing this, they hope to catch the virus prior to creating an environment in which many people are exposed to an infection.

Ms. Martinson asked if the Pioneer Homes or other elder care facility is on the list of businesses that will be testing this platform. Mr. Larson replied that currently, the other businesses interested in testing the platform are those in the hospitality industry. The hospitality industry is especially motivated because they do not want closures due to an outbreak.

Ms. Peters stated that a fast turnaround for test results is critical for business. Smaller businesses are struggling to maintain coverage when staff are quarantining up to 5 days, waiting test results due to having minor symptoms. Mr. Larson agreed but stated that monitoring for symptoms is just as important as testing in early detection of the virus.

Mr. Mertz reminded the Task Force that there was a motion on the table and asked for any objections.

***Hearing no objections, the motion was approved.***

### **Post-Secondary Education Grant Program**

Ms. Thomas resumed her duties as chair and asked Mr. Mertz to share an update on the Post-Secondary Education Grant Program.

Mr. Mertz shared that on September 14 the Assembly voted to move forward with spending additional CARES Act funds, and since then, has been fielding ideas. The Post-Secondary Education Grant Program was created because many individuals who are trying to attend or return to school have been financially harmed by COVID-19. This program would provide grants at \$150 per credit hour, with a total award of up to \$1,800 per student. The total funding amount for this program is proposed at \$500 thousand. Recipients of the grant awards will need to meet certain income thresholds. Mr. Mertz stated that his intent is to introduce this topic to the Task Force, give them time to consider it over the weekend, and revisit the topic at the next Task Force meeting on Monday, September 28.

### **Hospitality Industry Assistance Grants**

Mr. Mertz stepped in as Chair for this topic, and Ms. Thomas recused herself from the discussion due to a potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Mertz introduced Mr. Manning, President of Juneau/Lynn Canal CHARR, who will speak on funding needed by industry businesses and employees affected by the various levels of COVID related closures, specifically mandated to the hospitality industry.

Mr. Manning began by stating that the local Juneau Hospitality Industry has endured multiple closures and restricted openings throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has resulted in a great loss of perishable goods and product, an unstable employment base, and other unique challenges. As the fall and winter months approach, it is important to stabilize this industry, as well as provide a safe social outlet for the community in a controlled and regulate environment. The amount requested for this assistance program is \$1.3 million, with \$930 thousand directed at licensed businesses, and \$370

thousand to support qualified hospitality employees who are losing considerable wage due to a decrease in tips and scheduled hours. Mr. Manning stated that recently, the Anchorage Assembly approved \$7 million in aid for hospitality and tourism industries, in addition to small business grants. Award amounts would be dispersed based on license type according to the chart below:

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Number of Licenses</b>
Beverage Dispensary Licenses (BDL)	\$30 thousand	18
Restaurant Eating Place Licenses (REPL)	\$15 thousand	17
Brewery / Distillery Licenses	\$15 thousand	5
Club / Rec / Seasonal Licenses	\$5 thousand	12

Mr. Botelho stated that the Task Force recently received a public comment asking why this program is needed when the hospitality industry qualified for the business relief already provided. Mr. Manning replied that the hospitality industry has been subject to State of Alaska and CBJ mandates that have required they close their doors repeatedly. Funding is needed to provide the staff and supply supports needed to be able to reopen their doors when they are mandated to close.

Ms. Martinson appreciated this concept and added that it could be used as a model for assisting other industries that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Ms. Bell asked if the number of business licenses represented in the memo also represents the total licenses in Juneau. Mr. Manning replied that it does – the numbers were pulled from the State of Alaska Alcohol Beverage Control data.

Ms. MacVay agreed that unemployment claims support the need for assistance in the hospitality industry. She asked if there are other programs for industries significantly impacted, such as tourism and transportation. Mr. Manning was unsure, but added that employees in the hospitality industry suffer disproportionately because they are coming into contact with customers, and must quarantine if exposed, guaranteeing they lose wages because they are unable to work from home. Mr. Mertz added that he is unaware of other industries coming forward with similar requests.

Mr. Mertz asked when a bar becomes a restaurant and vice versa. Mr. Manning replied that a bar has a BDL. Ms. Leeann Thomas, owner of The Triangle Club, was on the call with Mr. Manning. She stated that a restaurant has a REPL, which allows for beer and wine, but 50% of their revenue must be from food sales. A BDL may choose whether to have food. Therefore, some BDL's are full bars with food and some have none.

Mr. Mertz asked Mr. Manning to clarify that he is requesting the Task Force to recommend introduction of this grant request to the Assembly as an ordinance. Mr. Manning replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Botelho stated that he is struggling with the equity issue, because there are employees in other industries that are impacted disproportionately. These industries could also choose to come forward and claim to be in the same situation, and he is interested in equal treatment. Were this to happen, this could expand the overall grant amount by two or three fold.

Ms. Martinson agreed with Mr. Botelho and advocated that the Task Force review unemployment data to target the hardest hit areas.

Mr. Forst disclosed that he works in the hospitality industry and felt that he could share some additional insight into the situation the industries' employees are facing. Much of employees' wages come from tips, and when restaurants and bars are only open at 50% of their capacity, employees make significantly less income. Employees are also typically younger and have fewer resources than others have in more established careers. Additionally, the majority of the businesses being discussed operate year-round and are not seasonal, which is another differentiating element from other industries.

Mr. Mertz stated that he is sympathetic to bars and restaurants because they are facing unique costs other industries are not facing. For example,

1. Opening and closing with zero notice and how that impacts inventory; and,
2. Trying to sustain their workforce when dealing with these closures.

Mr. Mertz feels comfortable recommending this proposal to the Assembly because of how the industry is uniquely impacted. The tourism industry is approaching its natural low point and they have known what they were dealing with. The bars and restaurants thought they were coming back online only to close again. However, he added that Ms. MacVay brings up a great point up and the Task Force may need a working group to survey the transportation industry and other industries.

Ms. Bell suggested reviewing past grant recipients and labor data over the weekend and revisiting the topic at the Task Force meeting on Monday, September 28.

Mr. Koelsch said the tourism industry has experienced hard times and has similar arguments as the hospitality industry. He suggested that any assistance should be inclusive of this as we move forward, and is in favor of discussing this more at the next Task Force meeting.

Mr. Botelho asked if Mr. Kirby Day, Director of Shore Operations with Princess Cruises, could provide data regarding employment in the tourism industry.

### **Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grants**

Ms. Thomas resumed her position as Chair for the meeting and asked Mayor Weldon and Ms. MacVay to speak on the Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant proposal.

Mayor Weldon introduced Emergency Appropriation Resolution 2911 for \$2 million in mortgage and rental assistance. This assistance program is based on a similar program, which has been very popular, in Ketchikan. Currently, Mayor Weldon is considering Catholic Community Services to serve as the Grant Administrator, with administrative fees at approximately \$30 thousand. Grant awards will be limited to one grant per residential dwelling unit with an award amount of \$1,500. Household income must not exceed \$94,240, and applicants must describe how they have been financially harmed. All awards will be paid directly to the lending company or landlord.

Ms. MacVay stated there is currently little data around the community need due to the deferments and federal support that has supported the market since March 2020. She has conducted an informal survey among Alaska-based financial institutions and reported they are all seeing the same thing. There is not much evidence of problems currently, but the need will manifest itself quickly as we move into October

and the winter months.

Mr. Mertz asked how the Mayor and Ms. MacVay feel about the income threshold of \$94,240 for Juneau, since Ketchikan's income threshold was \$68,000 in the first round. He stated that \$94,240 is 80% of the area median household income (AMI) in Juneau as defined by HUD, and asked Ms. MacVay how she felt about that threshold. Ms. MacVay replied that given more time, she could take the unemployment numbers and pull earnings data to develop a better threshold. However, she does not believe the current threshold to be too high and feels it will capture the population that will be in need. Ms. MacVay added that the notion that people who earn higher levels of income have more in savings to bridge them through this pandemic is a bad assumption. The income bracket where people materially have more in savings is a substantially higher income bracket than those being discussed.

Mr. Mertz stated that the household AMI in Juneau is \$117 thousand. While Ketchikan's original threshold was \$68 thousand for the first round, they increased that threshold to around \$90 thousand for the second round. He emphasized reaching the right group of people in need but cautioned against being so generous that everyone in town qualifies for the assistance, because the funds are limited.

Mayor Weldon stated that she felt Ketchikan's original threshold of \$68 thousand was too low but also feels that \$117 thousand is too high. Her concern is that a household of one earning \$94 thousand is a good bit of money, but a household of two or more earning \$94 thousand is not much at all. She feels that it would be wise to see the response to the program before increasing the threshold.

Ms. Martinson asked if the household income threshold is based on 2019 taxes or actual projected 2020 income. She stated that many people went from a high income to zero income in year 2020. Mayor Weldon replied that this was a good question and they would have to give it some thought.

Ms. Bell stated she would work with Mr. Jim Calvin, a Senior Economic Analyst, to see what kind of data they could bring to this discussion on Monday.

### **Heating Fuel and Electricity Assistance Grants**

Ms. Hale introduced Emergency Appropriation Resolution 2909 as a Heating Fuel and Electricity Assistance Program for \$1 million. She began by stating that receiving a PFD in July was great for many people, but many others rely on the PFD coming in October to heat their homes through the winter. She added that many even on the middle-income spectrum live paycheck to paycheck. Applicants to this program could provide 2019 taxes and self-certify how COVID-19 has negatively affected them financially. She advocated for the income threshold to be set at the household AMI level of \$117 thousand. She added that while we definitely need to care for those in the low-income bracket, those in the middle-income brackets can shift to low-income in this type of environment and we do not want to see that.

Mr. Mertz suggested that combining the mortgage and rental assistance with the heating assistance into one program with one application process could make sense and be simpler. He added that the Task Force might see a combined ordinance by their September 28 meeting at the \$3 million amount.

Ms. Hale shared that the award amount of \$500 per qualifying applicant would cover much of the fuel and electric costs for November and December so people can fill their fuel tanks for the winter.

Mr. Koelsch stated he is in favor of the \$117 thousand household income threshold at minimum, and does not understand why a threshold is needed if someone can show they have been financially negatively affected by COVID-19. If a family is in need then they should be able to apply for assistance. He continued that Juneau has a very high cost of living, and children receiving their education at home have driven costs for families even higher. He does not feel there needs to be criteria to establish that families are hurting. Mr. Koelsch shared that in Skagway, citizens are receiving \$1,000 a month without having to prove anything except that they will use it.

Ms. Belton shared that many people are unable to survive an emergency today because they do not have \$500 in savings. She added that the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) is starting an Education Assistance Program and a Household Expense Assistance Program. There is no income requirement, just self-verification and proof of expenses. She added that tribal enrollment is around 32 thousand, which is similar to Juneau's population. They have found that having only one application is ideal, because many do not have the technology needed to fill out a document on a computer and submit it. Instead, they are receiving photos of applications completed by hand.

Ms. Hale stated that she appreciates this discussion, Mr. Koelsch's perspective on the \$117 thousand income threshold, and Ms. Belton's point around many households who lack savings. She added that many people who are in need are not qualifying for assistance for one reason or another, and it is important to sustain the middle-income households as well as help the low-income households.

Ms. Thomas asked for further suggestions on the program prior to moving this to the Assembly.

Mr. Mertz suggested the Task Force spend some time considering the program over the weekend. Ms. MacVay will gather information around income as conversations continue on how broad the program should be.

Mr. Botelho said it would be helpful to see how Juneau's population of 32 thousand fits into the different income thresholds. This data would be helpful in balancing the availability of funds.

Ms. Hale asked Ms. Belton if CCTHITA is issuing checks directly to tribal members or paying the mortgage lenders, landlords, and utility companies individually. Ms. Belton replied that some individuals have requested the checks go directly to their landlords, but most are receiving the funds directly. Ms. Hale stated that the CBJ program is currently structured to pay the fuel and electricity companies directly, but it causes her to question why we would not trust Juneau citizens to use the money the way it is intended to be used. Ms. Belton replied that they chose send payments directly to their tribal members because they live all over the United States, and this was more practical.

Mr. Forst stated that by directing payments to the lenders, landlords, and utility companies, this provides some relief for those agencies as well, because they do not have to use resources to collect potentially late payments. Mr. Mertz agreed and added that it guarantees the money stays in Juneau; however, the other side of that discussion is that it frees up other income in the household just the same.

Mr. Koelsch asked if the Task Force could see data on how much the program would cost if everyone who was eligible for the program applied. Ms. Bell stated she and Mr. Calvin would do their best to provide that information.

## **United Human Services Multi-Tenant Nonprofit Center Funding Request**

Mr. Mertz introduced Ms. O'Keefe, Executive Director of Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) and United Human Services of Southeast Alaska, to speak on the funding request of \$1.1 million to go toward the total project cost of \$5.5 million to construct a multi-tenant nonprofit center.

Ms. O'Keefe thanked the Task Force and stated that this project, which is being called the Southeast Community Services Center, will be before the Assembly Finance Committee on September 30. She is asking the Task Force to provide a recommendation to the Assembly for the funding needed. Ms. O'Keefe began by stating that the United Human Services of Southeast Alaska, established in 2009, see their mission being accomplished through this project as it collocates social service agencies to create efficiencies, save money, increase sustainability, and build strong relationships. Their one-stop model is to decrease transportation barriers and facilitate resource connections, which improves outcomes for their most vulnerable population. In 2019, SAIL collaborated with the Glory Hall to purchase property adjacent to St. Vincent de Paul. Their plan is to subdivide and build two separate but complementary buildings, with the vision of creating a campus of cohesive services. Based on extrapolating data from a report written by Rain Coast Data on the Glory Hall project in February 2020, this project is estimated to create 59 direct and indirect jobs during construction, and just over \$3 million in direct and indirect wages.

Mr. Forst asked if they would need to engage in additional fundraising efforts if they receive the \$1.1 million from the CBJ. Ms. O'Keefe replied that CBJ investment would leverage funds from other agencies, because they are looking for community investment prior to granting awards. United Human Services has applied for \$1 million from the Rasmuson Foundation, \$350 thousand from the Mental Health Trust, and \$350 thousand from the Murdock Foundation. Additionally, they have a capital campaign in a special fund account opened at Juneau Community Foundation.

Mr. Mertz stated that this request is already before the Assembly, and the Task Force does not need to make an additional recommendation at this point, but could consider possibly discussing the economic impact at the next Task Force meeting on September 28. He added that a \$1 million investment from the CBJ could turn into \$5 million in construction jobs.

Ms. Thomas shared that part of the Task Force's strategy is to enable businesses, which include nonprofits, and Juneau's economy to recover in the long-term. She thanked Ms. O'Keefe for providing the economic impacts of the project to the Task Force for their consideration. The topic will be revisited on September 28, and the Task Force will decide whether they will provide written correspondence to the Assembly for the Finance meeting on September 30.

### **Good of the Order**

Ms. Bell gave an update that she has created a framework for summarizing Task Force activities, and now she and Ms. Thomas need to come together and consolidate their information. They hope to bring it before the Task Force at their meeting on October 8 for review.

Mr. Mertz shared that the Mayor has extended the work of the Task Force through the end of 2020 with the option of another extension. He added that once the current rush is resolved, meetings would scale back to every other Thursday.

Ms. Peters asked if anyone is aware of funding for employees who must quarantine for two weeks when businesses do not have sick leave to provide. Ms. Bell suggested looking into the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which allows employers to receive a payroll tax credit if they continue to pay employees, were they unable to work due to COVID-19. Mr. Mertz suggested researching this thoroughly because he is unsure of whether it applies to micro employers.

Ms. Thomas informed the Task Force of a proposal that will come before them at their next meeting on September 28, entitled Safe Space for Children. This project is a collaboration of various religious congregations in Juneau that seek to provide extra space, Wi-Fi connectivity, adult supervision, and tutoring services for students during the school day.

### **Adjournment**

At 5:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

### **Appointed Task Force Members**

Max Mertz, Co-Chair • Linda Thomas, Co-Chair • Susan Bell • Theresa Belton • Bruce Botelho

Eric Forst • Ken Koelsch • Lauren MacVay • Laura Martinson • Terra Peters