



Office of the City Clerk 491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603

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clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov (p) 907-235-3130 (f) 907-235-3143

# Memorandum 20-050

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

DATE: APRIL 21, 2020

SUBJECT: VACATION OF A 33' SECTION LINE EASEMENT LOCATED WITH LOT 6A-1 VIRGINIA LYNN 2006 REPLAT (PLAT HM 2006-20) AND AS DEDICATED ON 6A-1 VIRGINIA LYNN 2006 REPLAT (PLAT HM 2006-20).

At their April 13, 2020 meeting, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission approved the vacation of a 33' Section Line Easement located within Lot 6a-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20) and as dedicated on 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20). The right-of-way being vacated contains a driveway for the residence constructed on Lot 6A-1 and located within the SW ½ of Section 16 Township 6 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-021V2, Petitioner Virginia Tornes of Homer, Alaska.

Per AS 29.40.140, no vacation of a City right-of-way and/or easement may be made without the consent of the City Council.

The City Council has thirty days from April 13, 2020 in which to veto the decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission.

The Homer Planning Commission forwarded a recommendation for approval regarding this vacation as reflected in the December 18, 2019 Notice of Action and minutes from the December 4, 2019 regular meeting.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Voice non objection and consent to the vacation of a 33' Section Line Easement located within Lot 6a-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20) and as dedicated on 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20). The right-of-way being vacated contains a driveway for the residence constructed on Lot 6A-1 and located within the SW ½ of Section 16 Township 6 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-021V2.



Charlie Pierce Borough Mayor

April 16, 2020

Homer City Council 491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, AK 99603-7645

RE: This plat vacates a 33' Section Line Easement located within Lot 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20) and as dedicated on 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20). The right-of-way being vacated contains a driveway for the residence constructed on Lot 6A-1 and located within the SW1/4 of Section 16, Township 6 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-021V2 <u>Petitioner</u>: Virginia F Tornes of Homer, Alaska.

Dear Homer City Council Members:

In accordance with AS 29.40.140, no vacation of a city right-of-way and/or easement may be made without the consent of the city council. The KPB Planning Commission approved the referenced section line easement vacation during their regularly scheduled meeting of April 13, 2020. This petition is being sent to you for your consideration and action.

The City Council has 30 days from April 13, 2020 in which to veto the decision of the Planning Commission. If no veto is received from the Council within the 30-day period, the decision of the Planning Commission will stand.

Attached are draft, unapproved minutes of the pertinent portion of the meeting and other related material.

Sincerely,

Maxibest

Max J. Best Planning Director

MJB:jah

Attachments

# F. PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Section line easement vacation KPB File 2020-021V2 Petitioners: Virginia F Tornes of Homer, AK

#### AGENDA ITEM F. PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. This plat vacates a 33' Section Line Easement located within Lot 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20) and as dedicated on 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20). The right-of-way being vacated contains a driveway for the residence constructed on Lot 6A-1 and located within the SW1/4 of Section 16, Township 6 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-021V2

#### STAFF REPORT

PC Meeting: 4/13/2020

<u>Purpose as stated in petition</u>: The area of requested Section Line Easement Vacation is on lot 6A-1, Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20). The Section Line Easement has been vacated from adjacent lots and a portion of the subject lot 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20) by previous Section Line Easement Vacation Plat No.'s HM 2008-9 and HM 85-109. We are requesting to vacate the entire remaining Section Line Easement within Lot 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20). The subject Section Line Easement is not used for any access nor has it been used as an access. The house encroaches 14.3' and the deck encroaches 12.9' into the Section Line Easement, which will be vacated and finalized by Section Line Easement Vacation Plat associated with Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat, KPB 2020-021V2.

Petitioners: Virginia F. Tornes of Homer, AK

<u>Notification</u>: Public notice appeared in the March 12 issue of the Homer News as a separate ad. The public hearing notice was published in the March 19 issue of the Homer News as part of the Commission's tentative agenda.

21 certified mailings were sent to owners of property within 300 feet of the proposed vacation. 16 receipts had been returned when the staff report was prepared.

Public hearing notices were sent by regular mail to 42 owners within 600 feet of the proposed vacation.

19 public hearing notices were emailed to agencies and interested parties.

Public hearing notices were made available to 6 KPB staff/Departments via a shared database.

Notices were mailed to the Homer Post Office and Homer Community Library with a request to be posted in public locations.

The notice and maps were posted on the Borough bulletin board and Planning Department public hearing notice web site.

Comments Received:

ENSTAR: No comment, recommendations or objections.

KPB Addressing: Any address changes will be updated by the City of Homer.

KPB Planning: No material site or local option zone issues. A review is not required for property inside city limits.

KPB River Center: Within City of Homer.

KPB Roads Department: Out of jurisdiction, no comments.

Homer Advisory Planning Commission: Recommend to adopt the Homer City staff report and recommend approval of the preliminary plat to vacate the section line easement across Lot 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat.

State Parks: No comments.

#### Staff Discussion:

The petition submitted is requesting to vacate a remaining portion of 33 foot wide section line easement lying wholly within Lot 6A-1, Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat 2006-20 HRD. Lot 6A-1 fronts on City maintained and dedicated Mattox Road. The portion of section line easement to be vacated is no longer than 64 feet in length. The entire section line easement to the west has been vacated per plat 85-109 HRD and 2008-9 HRD, but a small portion remained.

Staff is not sure why this small section of section line easement was not vacated previously, but maybe the owner of Lot 6A-1 did not participate at the time the other section line easement was petitioned for vacation.

This portion of section line easement does not provide an access to public lands, is not part of a continuous access, and is not used by the public for access.

If approved, a section line easement vacation (SLEV) plat associated with Lot 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat will finalize the proposed right of way vacations. The SLEV Plat has not been submitted at the time the staff report was prepared.

#### KPB 20.70 – Vacation Requirements.

<u>Platting staff comments</u>: Staff reviewed the vacation and all the items required by 20.70 were met, unless otherwise noted below:

D. If the proposed vacation lies within the boundaries of an incorporated city, comments from the city advisory planning commission must be submitted with the petition.

Platting Staff Comments: The proposed vacation was reviewed and approved by the Homer Advisory Planning Commission at the meeting of December 4, 2019.

20.70.130. Vacation plat—Preparation, approval and recording. Upon approval of the vacation request by the planning commission and no veto by the city council or assembly, the applicant shall have a surveyor prepare and submit a plat including the entire area approved for vacation in conformance with KPB 20.10.080. Only the area approved for vacation by the assembly or council may be included on the plat. The final plat must be recorded within one year of the vacation consent in KPB 20.70.110.

Platting Staff Comments: A Section Line Easement Vacation plat has not been submitted at this time. **Staff recommendation:** Submit a Section Line Easement Vacation Plat for KPB review as well as submittal to AK DNR survey section.

20.70.160. Partial vacation allowed. Where the planning commission finds that a right-of-way must be preserved, but determines there is excessive width for all intended uses within the right-of-way, the commission may approve a partial vacation of a right-of-way such that the width is reduced to the maximum necessary for the intended use. Such vacation shall conform to this title for the class of right-of-way involved except where the right-of-way is not intended to be used for vehicular purposes.

Platting Staff Comments: The proposed vacation will complete the vacation of the entire section line easement between Mattox Road and Pennock Street.

20.70.170. Vehicular Access. The planning commission shall not approve the vacation of a right-of-way unless an equal or superior right-of-way for vehicular access exists or will be provided in exchange. Where two or more access points are necessary for large vacant or semi-vacant areas of land, the commission shall consider density, use, projected development, and maintain sufficient rights-of-way to serve potential use.

Platting Staff Comments: The public is not using this portion of SLE for vehicular access as it does not provide access to public lands or a continuing right of way.

20.70.180. Other access. Other lawful uses that exist or are feasible for the right-of-way shall be considered when evaluating a vacation request. When such uses exist or could exist within rights-of-way which are not suited for general road use, the commission shall not approve the vacation request, unless it can be demonstrated that equal or superior access is or will be available. The planning commission shall consider whether alternate uses present public safety issues which support approval of the vacation.

Platting Staff Comments: Mattox Road is a 60 foot wide dedicated right of way, which has been improved, and is currently maintained by the City of Homer. Mattox Road provided public access to this parcel and neighboring parcels.

20.70.190. Utility provisions. All existing and future utility requirements shall be considered when evaluating a vacation request. Rights-of-way which are utilized by a public utility or which logically would be required by a public utility shall not be vacated, unless it can be demonstrated that equal or superior access is or will be available. Where an easement would satisfactorily serve the utility interests, and no other public need for the right-of-way exists, the commission may approve the vacation and require that a public utility easement be granted in place of the right-of-way.

Platting Staff Comments: Utilities are currently in place. A 20 foot utility easement adjoining Mattox Road provides access for utility providers.

20.30.220. Section line easement vacations. Section line easement vacation petitions must comply with the requirements of KPB 20.70.040, 20.70.050 and 20.70.060. A fee is required in compliance with KPB 20.70.060. Public hearing and notice must comply with the requirements of KPB 20.70.070, 20.70.080, 20.70.100, 20.70.110 and 20.70.120. The mail notice required in KPB 20.70.090 may be by regular mail. Publication on the planning commission agenda, advertised once in local papers, posted in public areas and on the borough website prior to the meeting will satisfy the publishing requirements. The petitioner is responsible for all submittals required by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in compliance with their procedures. The petition must be reviewed and approved by the planning commission but final authority for approval and platting of the vacation rests with DNR. The petitioner is responsible for coordination with DNR and submittals to DNR.

Platting Staff Comments: A SLEV plat has not been submitted to KPB Planning Department.

**Staff recommendation:** Submittal of a SLEV plat to the KPB Planning Department and the State of AK DNR – Survey Section.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Based on the above means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70, the merits of the proposed vacations, and staff comments, staff recommends approval of the vacations as petitioned, subject to:

- 1. Consent by Homer City Council / KPB Assembly.
- 2. Compliance with the requirements for preliminary plats per Chapter 20 of the KPB Code.
- 3. Grant utility easements requested by the Homer City Council and utility providers.
- 4. Submittal of a final plat within a timeframe such that the plat can be recorded within one year of vacation consent (KPB 20.70.130).

#### KPB 20.70.110:

A vacation of a city street, public right-of-way, public area, or public easement located within an incorporated city may not be approved without the consent of the city council.

The Homer City Council shall have 30 calendar days from the date of approval in which to veto the planning commission decision. If no veto is received by the planning director within the specified period, the city or borough shall be considered to have given consent to the vacation.

KPB 20.70.110:

A vacation of a street right-of-way, public area, or public easement within the borough outside of the limits of cities may not be made without the consent of the borough assembly.

The assembly shall have 30 calendar days from the date of approval in which to veto the planning commission decision. If no veto is received by the planning director within the specified period, the borough shall be considered to have given consent to the vacation.

#### KPB 20.70.120:

- A. Denial of a vacation petition is a final act for which no further consideration shall be given by the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- B. Upon denial by the planning commission, no reapplication or petition concerning the same vacation may be filed within one calendar year of the date of the final denial action except in the case where new evidence or circumstances exist that were not available or present when the original petition was filed.

KPB 20.70.130:

THE FINAL PLAT MUST BE RECORDED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE VACATION CONSENT IN KPB 20.70.110.

END OF STAFF REPORT















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The information depicted hereon is for a graphical representation only of best available sources. The Kenai Peninsula Borough assumes no responsibility for any errors on this map.



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PClements, KPB Date: 2/19/2020 Imagery: 2016 Homer





The information depicted hereon is for a graphical representation only of best available sources. The Kenai Peninsula Borough assumes no responsibility for any errors on this map.

SECTION LINE EASEMENTS (SLE)

Date: 3/6/2020



## **Department of Natural Resources**



**GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY** 

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER Survey Section

> 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 650 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3576 Main: 907.269.8523 TDD: 907.269.8411 Fax: 907.269.8916

April 16, 2019

KPB Scott Huff 144 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, AK 99669

of

RECEIVED APR 1 9 2019 KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Dear Mr. Huff:

Subject: EV-3-303 Preliminary Decision and Public Notice

The proposed action consists of vacating the 33-foot wide section-line easement (SLE) lying within Lot 6A-1, Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat 2006-20, Homer Recording District). This action lies in Section 16, T6S, R13W, SM.

Also enclosed is a copy of the Public Notice of Preliminary Decision which will be published on the State of Alaska Online Public Notices website. https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Default.aspx.

Any comments concerning the proposed action must be submitted in writing to DNR --DMLW by 5 PM on May 17, 2019. Contact DNR with questions at 907-375-7733 or joseph.poydack@alaska.gov or Stan Brown 269-8521 or stanley.brown@alaska.gov by May 17th.

Sincerely

Joe Poydack **DNR** Adjudicator

Enc: Copy PD & Public Notice

## STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

RECEIVED

OCT 1 6 2019

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Preliminary Decision

## **Petitioners: Virginia Tornes**

#### Section Line Easement Vacation

## EV-3-303

#### Petitioned Action:

The proposed action consists of vacating the 33-foot wide section-line easement (SLE) lying within Lot 6A-1, Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat 2006-20, Homer Recording District). This action lies in Section 16, T6S, R13W, SM, as depicted in Attachment A

The reasons cited by the applicant:

 Bring home into compliance with local zoning code, part of the home is located within the easement.

#### Legal Authority:

AS 19.10.010, AS 19.30.410, AS 38.05.035, AS 38.05.945, 11 AAC 51.025, 11 AAC 51.065 and 11 AAC 51.100

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have concurrent authority for approving the vacation of SLEs.

#### Administrative Record:

The DNR Survey Case File EV-3-303 constitutes the administrative record used for the basis of this decision.

#### Borough:

The proposed action is located within the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB).

#### State Easement Interest:

33-foot wide section-line easement exists within the subject property pursuant to Chapter 19, SLA 1923. (See Discussion 1).

#### Underlying Interest:

The petitioner owns the estate underlying the SLE proposed for vacation.

## Alternate Route:

The proposed alternate access is via the constructed Mattox Road right-of-way. Access to adjacent parcels is via the existing dedicated rights-of-way. Public access to the adjoining and adjacent parcels is not negatively affected by this action.

## Land Management Policies:

1) Pursuant to AS 19.30.410 the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, or another agency of the state may not vacate a right-of-way acquired by the state under former 43 U.S.C. 932 unless:

 a reasonably comparable, established alternate right-of-way or means of access exists that is sufficient to satisfy all present and reasonably foreseeable uses.

2) Pursuant to 11 AAC 51.065, before any vacation, modification, or relocation of a public easement, the petitioner must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that equal or better access is available. Equal or better access must be access that is:

- protected by an easement of record that is adequately wide for the purpose; if the
  easement of record is new, the petitioner must arrange for a note in the vacation
  document to be recorded that identifies the new easement as a replacement for
  the vacated easement; and,
- at least equally usable, considering length, type of terrain, and level of improvement, as the easement to be vacated; if development or improvement is needed to make the replacement easement at least equally usable, the petitioner must arrange for the development or improvement to be completed before the vacation takes effect.
- the department will determine if the vacation is in the State's best interest

#### Public Use Patterns:

The subject SLE is unconstructed. A field inspection was not conducted; however, the petitioner states "there is no current or historical use of anyone other than me". The petitioners home encroaches 15' more or less into the SLE.

#### Practicality of Use:

The 33' SLE proposed to be vacated is an isolated 55' +/- long portion of SLE lying between the Mattox Road ROW and SLEs that were previously vacated in 1985 by EV-2-298 and in 2008 by EV-3-018. The subject SLE only provides access to three parcels; one of which has only 7.84' of SLE access; and all of which are currently accessing their parcels via the Mattox Road or Aurora Street rights-of-way. Sufficient dedicated public access exists that provides access to all adjacent parcels.

## Agency Review:

Initial Agency review of the proposed action began on January 29, 2019 and concluded February 28, 2019. Agencies notified included Department of Transportation/Public Facilities (DOT/PF) Central Region, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water – South Central Regional Office (SCRO), Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office (MHTLO) and DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR).

#### Agency Comments:

- All agencies submitted comments of non-objection.
- 2. No other comments or objections on the proposed action were received.

## **Discussion:**

- 1. Determination of the existence of the Section-Line Easements:
  - a. The Rectangular Survey Plat for Township 6 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska was approved on June 28, 1918 and accepted by the General Land Office on July 15, 1918.
  - b. The lands underlying the SLE proposed to be vacated were conveyed into private ownership by Patent No. 1112758. The date of entry (application filed) according to the case file abstract for BLM case file AKA 8354 was February 25, 1935.
  - c. BLM Historical Index:
    - i. Research verified that the subject lands were included in lands withdrawn for the Chugach National Forest by Proclamation No. 852 dated February 23, 1909. This National Forest withdrawal remained in effect until Proclamation No. 1519 dated April 16, 1919 eliminated certain lands from Chugach National Forest and restored said lands – including the subject lands – to entry. The subject lands were seemingly restored to homestead entry under applicable federal laws 84 days after the date Proclamation 1519 was signed (April 16 + 84 days = July 9, 1919); however,
    - ii. Research also verified that the subject lands were included in lands purportedly "reserved from sale or settlement for the support of common schools" by the Act of March 4, 1915 [i.e. Sections 16 & 36] - subject to being "surveyed under the direction of the Government of the United States". The survey of the subject land was approved and accepted by the GLO in 1918 (refer to above item "a"). However, this ACT contains language stating in part "...or where the same may have been sold or otherwise appropriated by or under the authority of any Act of Congress [i.e. the Chugach National Forest reservation], or are wanting or fractional in quantity, other lands may be designated and reserved on lieu thereof in the manner provided by the Act of Congress dated February twenty-eight, eighteen hundred and ninety-one ... "With that said, The Act of February 28, 1891 states in part "Where any State is entitled to said sections sixteen and thirty-six, or where said sections are embraced within a military, Indian, or other reservation [i.e. the Chugach National Forest reservation], the selection of such lands in lieu thereof by said State or Territory shall be a waiver of its right to said sections. And other lands of equal acreage are also hereby appropriated and granted, and may be selected by said State or Territory to compensate deficiencies for school purposes ... " Since the subject lands were already withdrawn as part of the Chugach National Forest prior to said Act of March 4, 1915 (refer to above item "i"), the Territory would be allowed to select from other designated lands. Therefore; on July 9, 1919 (refer to above item "c(i)" said lands became open to entry.
  - d. For surveyed land owned by the Territory of Alaska at any time on or after April 6, 1923 through January 17, 1949, or for surveyed federal land that was

unappropriated and unreserved at any time during that period, the width identified in Ch. 19, SLA 1923 for any section-line easement is 33 feet (11 AAC 51.025, editor's note #2).

- 2. The proposed alternate access is reasonably comparable and meets the requirements for vacation of the subject section-line easement pursuant to AS 19.30.410 and 11 AAC 51.065. The proposed alternate route is adequately wide to satisfy all present and reasonable foreseeable uses. Continued access to adjacent lands is ensured by the dedicated and constructed ROWs and the remaining unconstructed SLEs in the vicinity.
- 3. Pursuant to 11 AAC 51.065(e)(1), the department will give consideration to the recommendations of the KPB Platting Board regarding this action when a copy of the Approved Minutes are received at DNR.

Approval of the proposed action is contingent upon the following conditions: 1. Pursuant to AS 38.05.945, a Public Notice must be completed. The Department of Natural Resources may modify the decision after analyzing public comments. The advertising cost for Public Notice is at the expense of the applicant.

2. Comply with KPB's conditions of approval unless waived by the Director, DMLW.

3. A final plat (owner signed / surveyor sealed Mylar) must be submitted to DNR within two years from the date of approval of the Final Decision unless extended by DMLW, Survey Section.

4. Submittal of a Certificate to Plat, current within 90-days, with the final plat.

#### Recommendation:

Based on our findings, the applicant meets DNR's requirements to vacate the subject section-line easement. The proposed vacation may be in the state's best interest. Therefore, the Division of Mining, Land and Water, Survey Section recommends approval of this action and may proceed with adjudication and public notice in accordance with AS 38.05.945.

Prepared by:

Joseph L. Poydack, RWA Adjudicator

Approved by:

Gwen M. Gervelis, PLS Chief, Survey Section

16/2019

4/16/2019

## PUBLIC NOTICE:

## Notice of Preliminary Decision Section Line Easement Vacation EV-3-303

Per AS 19.30.410 & 11 AAC 51.065, the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water has made a Preliminary Decision (PD) giving contingent approval to a petition vacating the 33-foot wide section-line easement (SLE) lying within Lot 6A-1, Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat 2006-20, Homer Recording District). This action lies in Section 16, T6S, R13W, SM.

The public is invited to comment on the PD. Copies are available from DMLW, 550 W. 7th Avenue. Suite 650, Anchorage, AK 99501-3576 · or https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Login.aspx. All comments must be received in writing at DMLW by 5:00 p.m. on May 17, 2019. To be eligible to appeal, one must respond in writing during the comment period. If public comment analysis indicates the need for significant changes to the PD, additional public notice will be given. If no significant change is required, the PD, including any minor changes, will be issued as a Final Decision (FD). To obtain PD/FD copy, reference case number EV-3-303; include date, your email and mailing address and telephone number. If you have any questions, contact DNR, Joseph L. Poydack, 375-7733 or joseph.poydack@alaska.gov.

DMLW reserves the right to waive technical defects in this publication.

Those with audio impairments may call Anchorage DNR Public Information Center, 10-5, M-F, TDD#269-8411.



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EV 3-303 Attachment A Section 16, T6S, R13W, SM Page 2 of 2





**City of Homer** 

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Planning 491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603

Planning@ci.homer.ak.us (p) 907-235-3106 (f) 907-235-3118

December 18, 2019

# Homer Advisory Planning Commission

# Notice of Action

Request: Approval of Virginia Lynn Section Line Easement Vacation Plat Preliminary Plat

Applicants:

Virginia Tornes 4097 Mattox Rd. Homer, AK 99603 Gary Nelson RLS Ability Surveys 152 Dehel Ave. Homer, AK 99603

At the regular meeting of December 4, 2019 the Homer Advisory Planning Commission forwarded a **recommendation for approval** of the preliminary plat with staff recommendations and the attached minutes to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission.

Should you have any questions, please contact the planning office at 235-3106.

PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 4, 2019

Chair Venuti opened the Public Comment period. Seeing no one come forward to comment he closed the comment period and opened the floor to questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Smith inquired if this property would be considered within the area under a moratorium.

City Planner Abboud responded that it is considered within that area designated but the moratorium does not apply to this action.

Chair Venuti requested a motion hearing no further comments or questions from the commission.

BENTZ/RUBALCAVA MOVE TO ADOPT STAFF REPORT 19-97 AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PRELIMINARY PLAT WITH COMMENTS 1 AND 2: 1. DEPICT A FIFTEEN FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT ALONG ALL ADJACENT RIGHTS-OF-WAY. 2. REMOVE PLAT NOTE STATING, "THERE ARE NO WET AREAS ON THE PROPERTY."

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Staff Report 19-101, Section-line Easement Vacation Plat Preliminary Plat associated with Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat

Chair Venuti introduced the item by reading of the title.

City Planner Abboud reviewed Staff Report 19-101 noting that the Kenai Peninsula Borough informed the Planning Staff that a Preliminary Plat review is required.

Gary Nelson, surveyor for the applicant provided some clarification on the action requested to vacate the section line noting that it was a small holdover section.

Chair Venuti opened the Public Comment period. Seeing no one come forward to comment he closed the comment period and opened the floor to questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Davis requested some clarification on the process of vacating the section line easement and then doing a preliminary plat after the fact.

City Planner Abboud tried to provide some clarification of the process and stated that if this action was done in error it can be corrected after the fact. He reiterated that the Planning staff received the direction from the Borough.

PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 4, 2019

Mr. Nelson provided information that the Department of Natural Resources requires the action by plat.

Chair Venuti requested a motion hearing no further questions or comments from the Commission.

BENTZ/SMITH MOVED TO ADOPT STAFF REPORT 19-101 AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PRELIMINARY PLAT TO VACATE THE SECTION LINE EASEMENT ACROSS LOT 6A-1 VIRGINIA LYNN 2006 REPLAT.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Staff Report 19-100, Nomar 2019 Replat Preliminary Plat

Chair Venuti introduced the item by reading of the title.

City Planner Abboud reviewed Staff Report 19-100 from the Commission noting the review of the nonconforming status.

There was no applicant present.

Chair Venuti opened the Public Comment period. Seeing no one come forward to comment he closed the comment period and open the floor for questions from the Commission.

There was no questions from the Commission.

Chair Venuti requested a motion.

RUABLCAVA/DAVIS MOVED TO ADOPT STAFF REPORT 19-100 AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PRELIMINARY PLAT TO REMOVE A COMMON LOT LINE WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMENT:

 DEDICATE A 15 FOOT UTILITY EASEMENT ALONG RIGHTS-OF-WAY WHERE BUILDINGS DO NOT ENCROACH

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PENDING BUSINESS



**City of Homer** 

Planning 491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Planning@ci.homer.ak.us (p) 907-235-3106 (f) 907-235-3118

## Staff Report 19-101

TO:	Homer Advisory Planning Commission 19-101
FROM:	Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner
THROUGH:	Rick Abboud, City Planner
DATE:	December 4, 2019
SUBJECT:	Virginia Lynn Section Line Easement Vacation Plat

**Requested Action:** Approval of a preliminary plat to vacate the section line easement. The easement vacation is considered under a separate action.

## **General Information:**

Applicants:	Virginia Tornes	Gary Nelson RLS	
	4097 Mattox Rd	152 Dehel Ave	
	Homer AK 99603	Homer AK 99603	
Location:	West side of Mattox Rd, across from Lynn Way, north of Aurora Court		
Parcel ID:	17906106		
Size of Existing Lot(s):	0.25 acres		
Size of Proposed Lots(s):	Same. No lot line changes are proposed.		
Zoning Designation:	Urban Residential District		
Existing Land Use:	Residential		
Surrounding Land Use:	North: Multifamily residential		
	South: Residential		
	East: Residential		
and the states	West: Vacant/Residential		
Comprehensive Plan:	Chapter 4 goal 1-C-1 Promote infill development in all housing districts.		
Wetland Status:	Wetlands and a creek may be present on the lot. See staff comments below on the purpose of this plat.		
Flood Plain Status:	Zone D, flood hazards undetermined.		
BCWPD:	Not within the Bridge Creek Watershed Protection District.		
Utilities:	City water and sewer are available		

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Staff Report 19-101 Homer Advisory Planning Commission Meeting of December 4, 2019 Page 2 of 4

Public Notice:	Notice was sent to 15 property owners of 17 parcels as shown on
	the KPB tax assessor rolls.

**Analysis:** This subdivision is within the Urban Residential District. This plat depicts the section line easement vacation. Staff notes it is rare for Homer to have a vacation that does not involve a lot line change. Usually when the Homer Planning Commission reviews a plat, it also includes granting of utility easements or lot line changes. The plat under consideration here is regulated by state DNR requirements for section line easement vacations. This plat is not where one would see any other information about the land. Staff conferred with the Kenai Peninsula Borough that yes, a preliminary plat review is required. The question of whether to vacate the section line easement was addressed in a prior plat during a public hearing. This staff report only addresses the paper plat that depicts the vacation action.

**Preliminary Approval, per KPB code 20.25.070 Form and contents required**. The commission will consider a plat for preliminary approval if it contains the following information at the time it is presented and is drawn to a scale of sufficient size to be clearly legible.

- A. Within the Title Block:
- Names of the subdivision which shall not be the same as an existing city, town, tract or subdivision of land in the borough, of which a plat has been previously recorded, or so nearly the same as to mislead the public or cause confusion;
- Legal description, location, date, and total area in acres of the proposed subdivision; and
- Name and address of owner(s), as shown on the KPB records and the certificate to plat, and registered land surveyor;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

B. North point;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

C. The location, width and name of existing or platted streets and public ways, railroad rights-of-way and other important features such as section lines or political subdivisions or municipal corporation boundaries abutting the subdivision;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

D. A vicinity map, drawn to scale showing location of proposed subdivision, north arrow if different from plat orientation, township and range, section lines, roads, political boundaries and prominent natural and manmade features, such as shorelines or streams;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

E. All parcels of land including those intended for private ownership and those to be dedicated for public use or reserved in the deeds for the use of all property owners in



Staff Report 19-101 Homer Advisory Planning Commission Meeting of December 4, 2019 Page 3 of 4

the proposed subdivision, together with the purposes, conditions or limitation of reservations that could affect the subdivision;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

F. The names and widths of public streets and alleys and easements, existing and proposed, within the subdivision; [Additional City of Homer HAPC policy: Drainage easements are normally thirty feet in width centered on the drainage. Final width of the easement will depend on the ability to access the drainage with heavy equipment. An alphabetical list of street names is available from City Hall.]

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements. Easement information is not applicable.

G. Status of adjacent lands, including names of subdivisions, lot lines, lock numbers, lot numbers, rights-of-way; or an indication that the adjacent land is not subdivided;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

 H. Approximate location of areas subject to inundation, flooding or storm water overflow, the line of ordinary high water, wetlands when adjacent to lakes or non-tidal streams, and the appropriate study which identifies a floodplain, if applicable;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

 Approximate locations of areas subject to tidal inundation and the mean high water line;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

 Block and lot numbering per KPB 20.60.140, approximate dimensions and total numbers of proposed lots;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

K. Within the limits of incorporated cities, the approximate location of known existing municipal wastewater and water mains, and other utilities within the subdivision and immediately abutting thereto or a statement from the city indicating which services are currently in place and available to each lot in the subdivision;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements. Not applicable to this vacation.

L. Contours at suitable intervals when any roads are to be dedicated unless the planning director or commission finds evidence that road grades will not exceed 6 percent on arterial streets, and 10 percent on other streets;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

M. Approximate locations of slopes over 20 percent in grade and if contours are shown, the areas of the contours that exceed 20 percent grade shall be clearly labeled as such;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

N. Apparent encroachments, with statement indicating how the encroachments will be resolved prior to final plat approval; and Staff Report 19-101 Homer Advisory Planning Commission Meeting of December 4, 2019 Page 4 of 4

**Staff Response:** Plat note 5 states that the single family home encroaches by 16 feet into the easement. Vacation of the easement will resolve this encroachment.

O. If the subdivision will be finalized in phases, all dedications for through streets as required by KPB 20.30.030 must be included in the first phase.

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

## Public Works Comments: No comments.

## **Staff Recommendation:**

Planning Commission recommend approval of the preliminary plat prepared for the purpose of vacating the section line easement vacation.

## Attachments:

- 1. Preliminary Plat
- 2. Surveyor's Letter
- 3. Public Notice
- 4. Aerial Map





**ABILITY SURVEYS** MEASURING MAPPING & REPORTING ON ALASKA'S INFRASTRUCTURE SINCE 1976

152 DEHEL AVE., HOMER, AK 99603 PH. 907-235-8440 email; gary@abilitysurveys.com

October 18, 2019

Homer Planning Dept. 491 E. Pioneer Ave. Homer, AK 99603

Re: Submittal of Section Line Easement Vacation and Utility Easement Vacation applications for Virginia Tornes.

Enclosed herewith please find the SLE Vacation and the Utility Easement Vacation applications. Julie requested two checks in the amount of \$300, one being for a "plat". I question this fee because the City and Borough will only be processing the Easement Vacations. The plat is required by and will only be processed by Alaska DNR. The SLEV plat is only a DNR function and is not processed by KPB or Homer as such. The borough as platting authority will not be processing the SLEV plat. I have included check for both of her requests but believe one may not be necessary.

Please ask any questions or deliver any comments via my cell phone (907-299-1184) because I will be out of state until Nov. 2, 2019.

I hope you find the applications adequate. Thank You for your assistance.

Sincerely.

Gary Nelson, PLS



OCT 2 1 2019

CITY OF HOMER PLANNING/ZONING

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE & NOTICE OF SUBDIVISION

Public notice is hereby given that the City of Homer will hold a public hearing by the Homer Advisory Planning Commission on Wednesday, December 04, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Homer City Hall, 491 East Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, on the following matter:

## A REQUEST TO VACATE A 33 FOOT WIDE SECTION LINE EASEMENT ACROSS LOT 6A-1 VIRGINIA LYNN 2006 REPLAT, NW ¼, SEC. 21, T. 6 S., R. 13. W, S.M. HM 2006020, KNOWN AS 4097 MATTOX ROAD.

Public notice is hereby given that a preliminary plat has been received proposing to subdivide or replat property. You are being sent this notice because you are an affected property owner within 500 feet of a proposed subdivision and are invited to comment.

The proposed subdivision under consideration is described as follows:

## Section-line Easement Vacation Plat associated with Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat Preliminary Plat

A public meeting will be held by the Homer Advisory Planning Commission on Wednesday, December 04, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Homer City Hall, Cowles Council Chambers, 491 East Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Anyone wishing to present testimony concerning these matters may do so at the meeting or by submitting a written statement to the Homer Advisory Planning Commission, 491 East Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603, by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

The complete proposal is available for review at the City of Homer Planning and Zoning Office located at Homer City Hall. For additional information, please contact Rick Abboud at the Planning and Zoning Office, 235-3106.

NOTICE TO BE SENT TO PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN 500 FEET OF PROPERTY.

## VICINITY MAP ON REVERSE

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FEB 06 2020

KPB PLANNING DEPT.

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Kenal Peninsula Borough Planning Department **144 North Binkley Street** Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520 Toll free within the Borough 1-800-478-4441, extension 2200 (907) 714-2200

#### **Petition to Vacate Section Line Easement Public Hearing Required**

Upon receipt of complete application with fees and all required attachments, a public hearing before the Planning Commission will be scheduled. The petition with all required information and attachments must be in the Planning Department at least 30 days prior to the preferred hearing date. By State Statute and Borough Code, the public hearing must be scheduled within 60 days of receipt of complete application.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough is advisory to the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources regarding Section Line Easement Vacations. The State of Alaska has the final authority regarding vacation of Section Line Easements.

Initially, a sketch may be included with the vacation petition for review by the Planning Commission. After the Planning Commission takes action on the vacation, a Section Line Easement Vacation Plat must be prepared by a licensed land surveyor. The plat will be processed in accordance with KPB 20.10.080. Platting authority is vested in the Planning Director. ROW Vacation Plat

- S500 non-refundable fee to help defray costs of advertising public hearing. Plat fees will be in addition to the vacation fees.
- City Advisory Planning Commission. Copy of minutes at which this item was acted on, along with a copy of City Staff Report.
- Are there associated utility easements to be vacated? Are easements in use by any utility company? If so, which company Homer Public Works, Separate Est
- Width of easement proposed to be vacated must be shown on the sketch.
- Submit three copies of plat or map showing area proposed to be vacated. Must not exceed 11x17 inches in size. Proposed alternative dedication is to be shown and labeled on the sketch. 10

Has the section line easement been fully or partially constructed?	Yes .	NO NO
Is the section line easement used by vehicles / pedestrians / other?	🖾 Yes	No
Is alternative right-of-way being provided?	T Yes	I No See Below
The petitioner must provide reasonable justification for the vacation. QUASI right of Way is provided	Reason for vacat	ent Lot
20A-1 (adjacent West and North)		

I Peninsula Housing Initiatives, also Public Road Network.

The petition must be signed (written signature) by owners of a majority of the land affected by the section line easement proposed to be vacated. Each petitioner must include address and legal description of his/her property.

c.t	Signature Mary	Julan to Hytes
Submitted By:	Name Gary IN	elson As: APetitioner Representative
	Address 152 Dehe	el Are
	Homer, AL	99603
	Phone	
Petitioners:	1	
Signature_/	1/ Curva	OUND Signature
Name VIR	GINLA E. TO	PRN ES Name
Address PO	Box 249	7 Address
H	Dhiere. AK	
	Gald	23
Owner of Lo		Owner of
Signature		Signature
Address		Address
Owner of		Owner of

SLEV Vacation Petition & Procedures 022114

#### AGENDA ITEM E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. This plat vacates a 33' Section Line Easement located within Lot 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20) and as dedicated on 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20). The right-of-way being vacated contains a driveway for the residence constructed on Lot 6A-1 and located within the SW1/4 of Section 16, Township 6 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-021V2

#### Staff Report given by Scott Huff

PC Meeting: April 13, 2020

<u>Purpose as stated in petition</u>: The area of requested Section Line Easement Vacation is on lot 6A-1, Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20). The Section Line Easement has been vacated from adjacent lots and a portion of the subject lot 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20) by previous Section Line Easement Vacation Plat No.'s HM 2008-9 and HM 85-109. We are requesting to vacate the entire remaining Section Line Easement within Lot 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat (Plat HM 2006-20). The subject Section Line Easement is not used for any access nor has it been used as an access. The house encroaches 14.3' and the deck encroaches 12.9' into the Section Line Easement, which will be vacated and finalized by Section Line Easement Vacation Plat associated with Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat, KPB 2020-021V2.

Petitioners: Virginia F. Tornes of Homer, AK

<u>Notification</u>: Public notice appeared in the March 12 issue of the Homer News as a separate ad. The public hearing notice was published in the March 19 issue of the Homer News as part of the Commission's tentative agenda.

21 certified mailings were sent to owners of property within 300 feet of the proposed vacation. 16 receipts had been returned when the staff report was prepared.

Public hearing notices were sent by regular mail to 42 owners within 600 feet of the proposed vacation.

19 public hearing notices were emailed to agencies and interested parties.

Public hearing notices were made available to 6 KPB staff/Departments via a shared database.

Notices were mailed to the Homer Post Office and Homer Community Library with a request to be posted in public locations.

The notice and maps were posted on the Borough bulletin board and Planning Department public hearing notice web site.

Comments Received:

ENSTAR: No comment, recommendations or objections.

KPB Addressing: Any address changes will be updated by the City of Homer.

KPB Planning: No material site or local option zone issues. A review is not required for property inside city limits.

KPB River Center: Within City of Homer.

KPB Roads Department: Out of jurisdiction, no comments.

Homer Advisory Planning Commission: Recommend to adopt the Homer City staff report and recommend approval of the preliminary plat to vacate the section line easement across Lot 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat.

State Parks: No comments.

#### Staff Discussion:

The petition submitted is requesting to vacate a remaining portion of 33 foot wide section line easement lying wholly within Lot 6A-1, Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat 2006-20 HRD. Lot 6A-1 fronts on City maintained and dedicated Mattox Road. The portion of section line easement to be vacated is no longer than 64 feet in length. The entire section line easement to the west has been vacated per plat 85-109 HRD and 2008-9 HRD, but a small portion remained.

Staff is not sure why this small section of section line easement was not vacated previously, but maybe the owner of Lot 6A-1 did not participate at the time the other section line easement was petitioned for vacation.

This portion of section line easement does not provide an access to public lands, is not part of a continuous access, and is not used by the public for access.

If approved, a section line easement vacation (SLEV) plat associated with Lot 6A-1 Virginia Lynn 2006 Replat will finalize the proposed right of way vacations. The SLEV Plat has not been submitted at the time the staff report was prepared.

#### KPB 20.70 – Vacation Requirements.

<u>Platting staff comments</u>: Staff reviewed the vacation and all the items required by 20.70 were met, unless otherwise noted below:

D. If the proposed vacation lies within the boundaries of an incorporated city, comments from the city advisory planning commission must be submitted with the petition.

Platting Staff Comments: The proposed vacation was reviewed and approved by the Homer Advisory Planning Commission at the meeting of December 4, 2019.

20.70.130. Vacation plat—Preparation, approval and recording. Upon approval of the vacation request by the planning commission and no veto by the city council or assembly, the applicant shall have a surveyor prepare and submit a plat including the entire area approved for vacation in conformance with KPB 20.10.080. Only the area approved for vacation by the assembly or council may be included on the plat. The final plat must be recorded within one year of the vacation consent in KPB 20.70.110.

Platting Staff Comments: A Section Line Easement Vacation plat has not been submitted at this time.

**Staff recommendation:** Submit a Section Line Easement Vacation Plat for KPB review as well as submittal to AK DNR survey section.

20.70.160. Partial vacation allowed. Where the planning commission finds that a right-of-way must be preserved, but determines there is excessive width for all intended uses within the right-of-way, the commission may approve a partial vacation of a right-of-way such that the width is reduced to the maximum necessary for the intended use. Such vacation shall conform to this title for the class of right-of-way involved except where the right-of-way is not intended to be used for vehicular purposes.

Platting Staff Comments: The proposed vacation will complete the vacation of the entire section line easement between Mattox Road and Pennock Street.

20.70.170. Vehicular Access. The planning commission shall not approve the vacation of a right-of-way unless an equal or superior right-of-way for vehicular access exists or will be provided in exchange. Where two or more access points are necessary for large vacant or semi-vacant areas of land, the commission shall consider density, use, projected development, and maintain sufficient rights-of-way to serve potential use.

Platting Staff Comments: The public is not using this portion of SLE for vehicular access as it does not provide access to public lands or a continuing right of way.

20.70.180. Other access. Other lawful uses that exist or are feasible for the right-of-way shall be considered when evaluating a vacation request. When such uses exist or could exist within rights-of-way which are not suited for general road use, the commission shall not approve the vacation request, unless it can be demonstrated that equal or superior access is or will be available. The planning commission shall consider whether alternate uses present public safety issues which support approval of the vacation.

Platting Staff Comments: Mattox Road is a 60 foot wide dedicated right of way, which has been improved, and is currently maintained by the City of Homer. Mattox Road provided public access to this parcel and neighboring parcels.

20.70.190. Utility provisions. All existing and future utility requirements shall be considered when evaluating a vacation request. Rights-of-way which are utilized by a public utility or which logically would be required by a public utility shall not be vacated, unless it can be demonstrated that equal or superior access is or will be available. Where an easement would satisfactorily serve the utility interests, and no other public need for the right-of-way exists, the commission may approve the vacation and require that a public utility easement be granted in place of the right-of-way.

Platting Staff Comments: Utilities are currently in place. A 20 foot utility easement adjoining Mattox Road provides access for utility providers.

20.30.220. Section line easement vacations. Section line easement vacation petitions must comply with the requirements of KPB 20.70.040, 20.70.050 and 20.70.060. A fee is required in compliance with KPB 20.70.060. Public hearing and notice must comply with the requirements of KPB 20.70.070, 20.70.080, 20.70.100, 20.70.110 and 20.70.120. The mail notice required in KPB 20.70.090 may be by regular mail. Publication on the planning commission agenda, advertised once in local papers, posted in public areas and on the borough website prior to the meeting will satisfy the publishing requirements. The petitioner is responsible for all submittals required by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in compliance with their procedures. The petition must be reviewed and approved by the planning commission but final authority for approval and platting of the vacation rests with DNR. The petitioner is responsible for coordination with DNR and submittals to DNR.

Platting Staff Comments: A SLEV plat has not been submitted to KPB Planning Department. **Staff recommendation:** Submittal of a SLEV plat to the KPB Planning Department and the State of AK DNR – Survey Section.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Based on the above means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70, the merits of the proposed vacations, and staff comments, staff recommends approval of the vacations as petitioned, subject to:

- 5. Consent by Homer City Council / KPB Assembly.
- 6. Compliance with the requirements for preliminary plats per Chapter 20 of the KPB Code.
- 7. Grant utility easements requested by the Homer City Council and utility providers.
- 8. Submittal of a final plat within a timeframe such that the plat can be recorded within one year of vacation consent (KPB 20.70.130).

#### KPB 20.70.110:

A vacation of a city street, public right-of-way, public area, or public easement located within an incorporated city may not be approved without the consent of the city council.

The Homer City Council shall have 30 calendar days from the date of approval in which to veto the planning commission decision. If no veto is received by the planning director within the specified period, the city or borough shall be considered to have given consent to the vacation.

#### KPB 20.70.110:

A vacation of a street right-of-way, public area, or public easement within the borough outside of the limits of cities may not be made without the consent of the borough assembly.

The assembly shall have 30 calendar days from the date of approval in which to veto the planning commission decision. If no veto is received by the planning director within the specified period, the borough shall be considered to have given consent to the vacation.

KPB 20.70.120:

- A. Denial of a vacation petition is a final act for which no further consideration shall be given by the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- B. Upon denial by the planning commission, no reapplication or petition concerning the same vacation may be filed within one calendar year of the date of the final denial action except in the case where new evidence or circumstances exist that were not available or present when the original petition was filed.

## KPB 20.70.130: THE FINAL PLAT MUST BE RECORDED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE VACATION CONSENT IN KPB 20.70.110.

END OF STAFF REPORT

Chair Martin opened the meeting for public comment.

- 1. Gary Nelson, 152 Dehel Avenue, Homer, AK
  - Mr. Nelson is the surveyor on the project and was available for questions.

Seeing and hearing no one else wishing to comment, public comment was closed and discussion was opened among the committee.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Venuti moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve the vacations as petitioned based on the means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70, subject to staff recommendations and compliance with borough code.

Commissioner Ecklund noted that there was a house built in the section line easement. She wanted to know if someone could legally build on a section line easement without asking for a vacation. Mr. Huff responded that staff always hopes that a house will not be built in a section line easement but it does happen. People many times do not realize there is a section line easement if it is not being used. They find out that there is a section line easement when the as-built is done.

#### MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE: 10 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent

Yes: Bentz, Carluccio, Ecklund, Ernst, Fikes, Martin, Morgan, Ruffner, Venuti, Whitney No: --

Absent: Brantley, Foster