



MEMORANDUM

Resolution 23-050, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer Alaska Directing the Homer Mayor and/or City Manager to Meet with the Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor to be part of a Work Group to Develop Recommendations Regarding Potentially Merging Kachemak Emergency Services Area, Western Emergency Service Area, and Homer Volunteer Fire Department into a Single Service Area of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Erickson/Hansen.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Meeting Date: 08 May 2023
From: Shelly Erickson, Council Member

We were given a lay down a couple months ago about Fire Departments, service areas, mill rates, and exploring combining the two service areas into one. This memo was between the COH, and KPB including the respective Fire Chiefs.

While I have always liked our independence in managing our own Fire Department, I believe that it is prudent and in all of our best interest that we look at all our options to ensure cost effective service, the best use of personal, the replacement and additional equipment cost, and what that would do to the mill rate.

I think that the conversation needs to happen, even if we would choose to stay as we are. We need to look at all our options, as our world continues to change.

Attachments:

KPB Draft Resolution

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Erickson/Hansen

RESOLUTION 23-0xx

RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL, DIRECTING THE HOMER CITY MAYOR AND/OR HOMER CITY MANAGER TO MEET WITH THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH MAYOR, TO BE PART OF A WORK GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POTENTIALLY MERGING KACHEMAK EMERGENCY SERVICE AREA (KESA), WESTERN EMERGENCY SERVICE AREA (WESA) AND HOMER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (HVFD) INTO A SINGLE SERVICE ARE OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH.

WHEREAS, The City of Homer has its own Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, The requirements for training are strenuous, lengthy, costly and mandated;
and

WHEREAS, The volunteer pool is shrinking because of the training; and

WHEREAS, The paid personal that appears to be needed is growing due to these issues,
and

WHEREAS, The types of equipment that are needed or mandated by Federal/State laws are expensive, and needing replacing; and

WHEREAS, The Fire calls out fluctuate from year to year; and

WHEREAS, The cost to keep maintain and build what is needed for HVFD, could be shared and more strategic in placement of apparatus and shared use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Homer City Council hereby directs the City Mayor and Homer City Manager to be part of a Work Group in recommendations regarding potentially merging KESA, WESA and HVFD into a single service area of the KP.B.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 8th day of May, 2023

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

43 ATTEST:

44

45 _____

46 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

47

48 Fiscal note: N/A

Introduced by:
Date:
Action:
Vote:

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2023-**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A WORK GROUP TO DEVELOP
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POTENTIALLY MERGING KACHEMAK
EMERGENCY SERVICE AREA (KESA), WESTERN EMERGENCY SERVICE AREA
(WESA) AND HOMER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (HVFD) INTO A SINGLE
SERVICE AREA OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

- WHEREAS,** community members of the south peninsula area have expressed interest in a single emergency service area; and
- WHEREAS,** KESA, WESA and HVFD currently have automatic mutual aid agreements and frequently work together; and
- WHEREAS,** efficiencies and other life and safety benefits may be gained by such a formal merger; and
- WHEREAS,** a work group composed of community members from all three areas would allow for representation and a more focused review of the situation; and
- WHEREAS,** a work group would provide more opportunities for public involvement to help determine the needs of each community and the costs associated with meeting those needs; and
- WHEREAS,** establishing a temporary work group to advise and make recommendations to the mayor and assembly regarding the proposed merged service area may help to improve awareness and understanding....; and
- WHEREAS,** the Kachemak Emergency Service Area Board at its meeting on _____ recommended that the Assembly establish a work group to explore the potential benefits of a merger; and
- WHEREAS,** the Western Emergency Service Area Board at its meeting on _____ recommended that the Assembly establish a work group to explore the potential benefits of a merger; and

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Homer at its meeting on _____ recommended that the Assembly establish a work group to explore the potential benefits of a merger; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. A South Peninsula Emergency Services Area Work Group is established as follows:

- A. There is established the South Peninsula Emergency Services Area Work Group which shall consist of seven members of the public and three alternate members of the public who shall be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the assembly, and an ex-officio assembly member who shall be appointed by the assembly. Additionally, each chief (or the chief's designee) of KESA, WESA and HVFD shall be ex-officio members of the group.
- B. That two work group members shall be residents of the KESA , two members shall be residents of the WESA, and three members shall be residents of the City of Homer. Each of the three areas shall also have one alternate member.
- C. Meetings.
 1. The work group shall meet regularly at a scheduled time and place designated by the work group.
 2. Notice of all meetings shall comply with the Open Meetings Act. The notice shall set forth the time and place of each meeting.
 3. All meetings shall be open to the public as provided in AS 29.20.020 and AS 44.62.310, and in accordance with the policies set forth in AS 44.62.312.
 4. Three members shall constitute a quorum and any action shall require the affirmative vote of three or more members.
 5. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the 11th Edition of Roberts Rules of Order or such rules of procedure as the work group may adopt by motion or resolution.
 6. The work group shall provide reasonable time to hear public testimony at each meeting.
- D. Election of chair and vice-chair. At the first regular meeting following appointment and confirmation of the work group members, the work group shall elect by majority vote of the work group members a chair and vice chair who shall hold office until successors are elected.

- E. The work group shall have no authority to act on behalf of the assembly or the administration or communicate on the borough's behalf other than to make recommendations to the administration and assembly.
- F. The work group shall provide a final report to the assembly by ??? 2023 and then discontinue unless extended by the assembly.
- G. Filling vacancies. Vacancies on the work group shall be filled by appointment by the mayor and confirmation by the assembly.
- H. Compensation prohibited. All work group members shall serve without compensation.

SECTION 2. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2020.

Brent Johnson Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner, Acting Borough Clerk