



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

144 North Binkley Street • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520
Toll-free within the Borough: 1-800-478-4441
PHONE: (907) 262-4441 • FAX: (907) 262-1892
www.kpb.us

MIKE NAVARRE
BOROUGH MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dale Bagley, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Mike Navarre, Mayor *MN*

DATE: June 16, 2015

SUBJECT: Mayor's Report for Ordinance 2015-11, Establishing the Nikiski Law Enforcement Service Area

Agenda Item M. 3

Committee PEP

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Following an increase in burglaries and other crimes in the Nikiski community a number of residents participated in a committee formed by the Nikiski Community Council to identify the problems and potential solutions. This group met weekly from October 2014 through January 2015 and recommended the formation of a law enforcement service area with the same boundaries as the Nikiski Fire Service Area.

When a service area is formed using the petition process the borough code requires the administration to submit a report to the assembly providing the proposed boundaries, describing the need for and estimated cost of the service area, the total assessed valuation within the area proposed, and the population of the area. Although this service area is proposed without using the petition process, following is a report to provide information for the assembly's consideration.

1. Boundary.

The proposed boundary matches the Nikiski Fire Service Area boundary, which is shown on the attached Exhibit A. This includes a large portion of the Nikiski area extending from just north of the City of Kenai to Point Possession, across Cook Inlet to the KPB west boundary, south to an area west of the southern border of Beluga, and east back to the northern border of Kenai.

2. Need for Service Area.

This effort began in the wake of an increase in criminal activity. Anecdotally, approximately 300 residents attended a community meeting held in September 2014 to discuss possible ways to address a rash of property crimes that had been committed recently. During that meeting Captain Greenstreet, Soldotna Alaska State Trooper Detachment E Commander, reportedly stated that 22 burglaries had been reported in 2014 to

date, 38 in 2013 and 30 in 2012. We have received an updated report from Captain Greenstreet and will provide a summary to the assembly later today.

3. Estimated Cost of Service Area.

Predicting the cost of this service area is extremely speculative as there are many unknown variables. The committee members who proposed formation of a service area estimated that 9 law enforcement officers would be appropriate for this service area. That is equivalent to the number of law enforcement officers employed by the City of Seward. The City of Seward 2014/2015 budget shows personnel costs at \$1,648,892, non-personnel operating expenses of \$195,800, and capital outlay of \$24,000 for a total budget of \$1,868,692.

This does not include the initial capital costs that would be incurred to locate, design and construct a law enforcement station, and to acquire vehicles, equipment and supplies. These costs might be financed through the issuance of service area general obligation bonds if approved by the assembly and voters.

Whether the City of Seward operating costs will be similar to borough operating costs is unknown. First, the borough ordinance provides for the option of contracting out this service or hiring police officers in-house. If this service is provided by a contractor the rates would be negotiated as a part of the contract negotiations. If it is provided in-house, most of the employees would be in bargained positions subject to the collective bargaining agreement and its negotiated wages and benefits. Other personnel-related costs expected to be incurred include recruitment costs (considering how difficult it is at this time to recruit for law enforcement positions in Alaska), training (new officers and ongoing), equipment (specialty equipment for vehicles and tools), uniforms, fuel consumption, specialty fleet maintenance (this might be done with contracted mechanics), provisions for a holding cell, and public information office support.

Costs associated with insurance will also be incurred. Preliminary estimates of premiums for worker's compensation, general liability, automobile liability, police professional liability and excess liability show a total of approximately \$145,000 per year. However, this could change significantly once insurers have more claim data based on our experience.

Additionally, the Seward budget attributable to its police department probably does not reflect additional general administrative costs that would be incurred with the formation and subsequent operation of this service area. Initially this would include at least land management, capital projects, purchasing, risk management, finance, legal, 911, human resources, and the mayor's office. The 911 Communications Center estimates that formation of this service area would, at a minimum, require the addition of one dispatch position. As the borough does not currently have many criminal law provisions this should not initially have a large impact on the legal department because the state prosecutors handle state law criminal matters. However, if any charges are filed alleging violation of borough criminal ordinances the borough legal department would have to pursue those charges.

4. Total Assessed Valuation.

The assessing department provided the following information on current taxable assessed values and estimated tax revenue in the Nikiski Fire Service Area as well as the area including only the east side of the Nikiski Fire Service Area in case that is of interest to the assembly:

NIKISKI FIRE SERVICE AREA BOUNDARIES IDENTICAL

PIN COUNT	TYPE	TAXABLE VALUE	MILLS	TAX REVENUE
8690	REAL PROPERTY	678,459,300	1.5	1,017,688.95
177	OIL & GAS	878,259,310	1.5	1,317,388.97
256	PERSONAL PROPERTY	43,077,996	1.5	64,616.99
				2,399,694.91

NIKISKI FIRE SERVICE AREA - EAST SIDE ONLY

PIN COUNT	TYPE	TAXABLE VALUE	MILLS	TAX REVENUE
7762	REAL PROPERTY	651,249,300	1.5	976,873.95
58	OIL & GAS	5,553,055	1.5	8,329.58
256	PERSONAL PROPERTY	43,077,996	1.5	64,616.99
				1,049,820.53

5. Population.

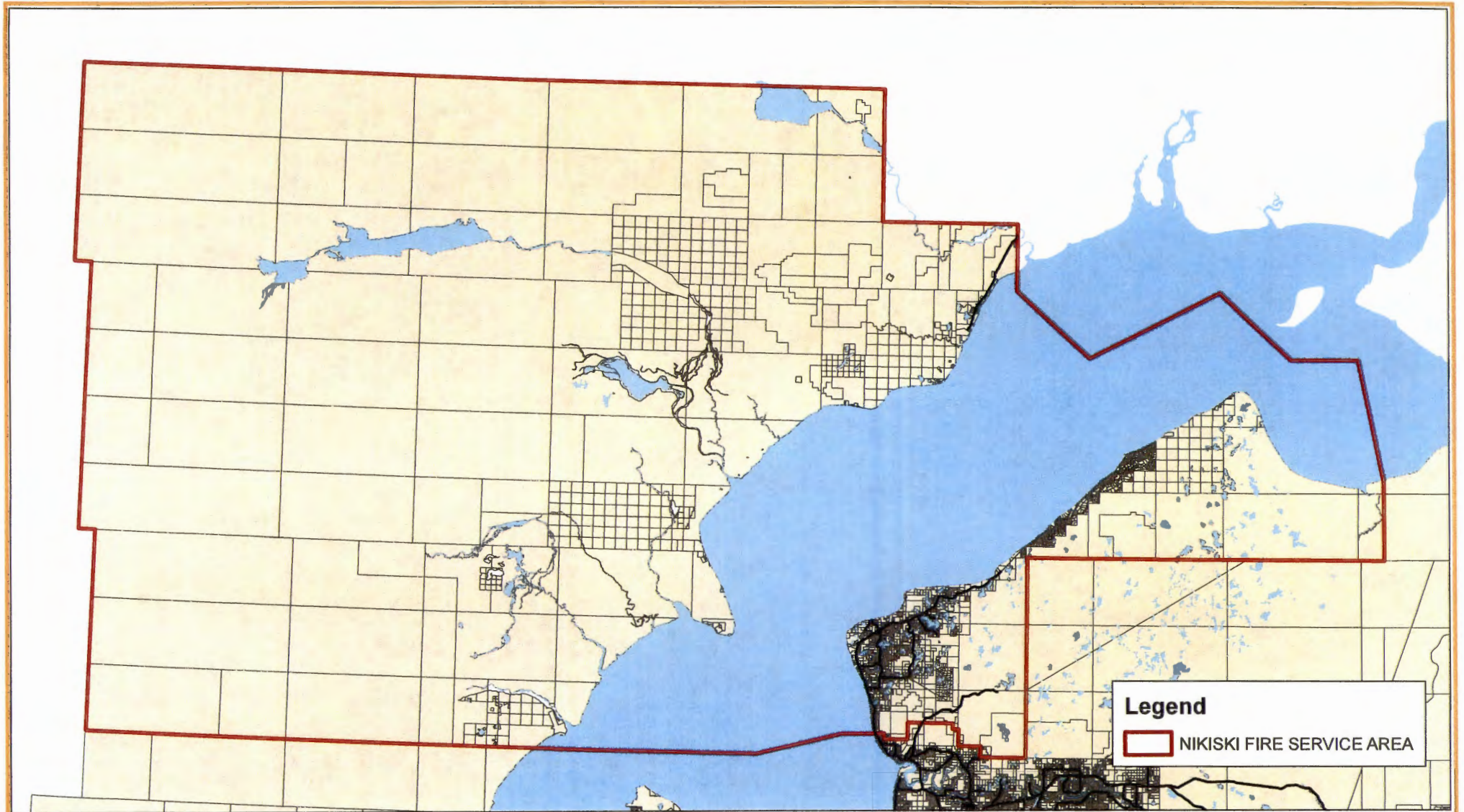
According to the GIS division of the Planning Department the estimated population of the proposed service area as of 2013, which is the most current available data, is as follows:

Community Name	Population in 2010	Current Population
Beluga	20	17
Nikiski	4493	4652
Point Possession	3	3
Salamatof	980	1120
Tyonek	171	174
Total		5966

6. Miscellaneous.

During the community meeting held June 4, 2015, there were a number of comments made that reflect some misunderstandings about this service area. Following briefly addresses these comments:

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- a. Numerous people believed the service area would primarily address property crimes. This is not correct. Police officers are required to uphold the law, which includes all laws.
 - b. Some appeared to believe the service area board will make decisions regarding staffing, operational costs, capital development and acquisition of necessary equipment. While the assembly will consider recommendations of the service area board, the assembly is the final decision-maker on these issues.
 - c. Some suggested the service area board would administer the service area. While the service area board would provide strategic vision and remain involved in service area decisions, like the other service area boards, the chief would report to the mayor as the chief executive of the service area.



Legend
[Red outline] NIKISKI FIRE SERVICE AREA

0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles



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.

Nikiski Fire Service Area



Date: 5/29/2015

02015-11

Total Incidents Row Labels	Incidents Year Reported						Grand Total
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Crime Against Person							
Assaults	62	66	53	46	62	56	345
Harassment	37	51	46	23	2	1	160
Homicide	1	1	1	1	1		5
Offense Against Minors	2	2	2	2	1	4	13
Robbery		2	1				3
Sexual Assaults	1		8	3	2	4	18
Sexual Assaults of Minor	4	2	6	3	1	2	18
Crime Against Property							
Burglary	31	35	20	35	37	31	189
Criminal Mischief (Vandalism)	31	30	33	29	20	9	152
Financial Crimes	4	15	1	3		3	26
Theft-Auto	8	7	4	5	4	6	34
Theft-Larceny	36	71	50	61	58	49	325
Other Crime							
Alcohol	10	3	13	1	4	1	32
Drugs	6	13	10	8	7	8	52
Other Criminal	28	28	29	21	20	20	146
Weapons	5	3	2	1	3	2	16
Public Administrative Order	15	12	16	7	13	15	78
Traffic							
Driving Under the Influence	38	19	30	15	18	25	145
Driving with Suspended License	17	24	29	14	29	19	132
Leaving Scene	1	2	2	1	3	1	10
Motor Vehicle Crash Non-Roadway	1	3	1	1	5	6	17
Motor Vehicle Crash Roadway	86	101	115	87	89	56	534
Other Traffic Infractions	103	103	33	17	11	12	279
Wildlife Enforcement							
Big Game	15	26	28	27	18	17	131
Big Game Guiding					1	1	2
Commercial Fish					2		2
False Statement on License and Tags	5		2				7
Fish and Game			1	1	2		4
Personal Use Fishing	1	1			3		5
Sport Fish	7	7	6	1		1	22
Activity							
Non-Criminal	1519	1709	1917	1812	1656	1717	10330
Deaths Other than Homicide	14	12	10	11	13	14	74
Provide Information and Education	14	8	20	9	11	17	79
Other				1	2	25	28
Grand Total	2102	2356	2489	2246	2098	2122	13413