

# Kenai Peninsula Borough

## Community & Fiscal Projects

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Brent Hibbert, Assembly President Pro Tem  
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**THRU:** Charlie Pierce, Mayor *CP*

**FROM:** Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager *BH*  
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director *BH*  
Ben Hanson, IT Director *BH*

**DATE:** October 29, 2020

**RE:** Resolution 2020-076, Amending the Spending Plan Approved for CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds Received from the State of Alaska, to Fund Supplement Fire and Emergency Service Area Personnel Costs, Hospital Costs for Air Purification Project, and the Technology Communications Tower Site Development Project (Mayor)

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This resolution, upon approval, is the sixth amended plan to the borough's Coronavirus Relief Fund Spending Plan (CRF). The amended plan addresses three budget revisions.

**Fire & EMS Service Area Personnel Costs (CAR05):** Provide the October and November 2020 funding for the EMS personnel that are substantially dedicated to the COVID-19 healthcare emergency, moving \$845,000 from CAR21 to CAR05. These service areas have a specific response plan for COVID-19 that also create the justification for reimbursing these costs under the CRF.

**Hospital Costs (CAR03):** The air purification system purchase and installations project is funded under project codes CAR03 and CAR13. This amendment moves funds from CAR13 to CAR03 in the amount of \$77,734.19 for the air purification systems that will be installed in the Central and South Peninsula Hospitals, which is the appropriate project code for the hospital costs.

**Technology Communications Tower Site Development Project (CAR09):** In an effort to improve internet access to rural Borough residents, the Borough received proposals from ACS and SpitWSpots, and awarded projects to both entities. ACS's project focused solely on internal network upgrades, while SpitWSpots' project consists of a significant construction effort, erecting new communications towers at four locations. The SpitWSpots' awarded proposal was limited in scope to

match the funding available through the CRF, selecting five sites that SpitWSpots deemed optimal to both expansion residential internet access and their overall network design.

As of October 29<sup>th</sup>, several KPB CARES projects have closed under budget. KPB approached SpitWSpots to discuss expansion of their proposal, identifying Nikiski Fire Station #3 as a potential additional tower location. A communications tower at Nikiski Fire Station #3 could bring significant community benefit, as this is an area that is underserved in many aspects of communication (internet, State ALMR Radio, cell service). The location is also unique in that KPB is currently constructing Station #3, which may allow some flexibility in the site prep and tower design.

Because SpitWSpots has tower construction contractors mobilized with their other four tower sites, time is of the essence if the project is to be successful within the CARES grant constraints.

Your consideration of this resolution is appreciated.

Attachment: Coronavirus Relief Fund Spending Plan Proposed for Amendment (10/29/20).