



Public Hearing Summary

June 19, 2020

6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting ID: 920 0073 5671

Brent Johnson, Chair

Kelly Cooper

Willy Dunne

Ordinance 2020-31: Expanding the Anchor Point Fire and Emergency Medical Service Area Boundaries to Include the Ninilchik Area (Johnson)

CALL TO ORDER

In accordance with KPB 16.04.040, a Ninilchik public hearing was held on June 19, 2020, via Zoom. Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to hear comments from interested persons favoring or opposing Ordinance 2020-31.

There were present:

Brent Johnson, Chair
Kelly Cooper
Willy Dunne

The Assembly appointed members of the public hearing special committee.

Also in attendance were:

Patty Burley, Deputy Borough Attorney
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director
Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager
Jon Marsh, Chief Anchor Point Fire & Emergency Medical Service Area
Johni Blankenship, Borough Clerk

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Johnson provided an overview of the service area boundary process.

Patty Burley, Deputy Borough Attorney explained the service area boundary expansion process.

Chair Johnson explained the proposed boundary and the purpose of the service area boundary expansion.

PUBLIC HEARING (3 minutes per speaker)

Katherine Covey, Ninilchik Emergency Services (NES) stated the board was in support of the ordinance.

Andrea Grace Huhndorf asked for clarification regarding the proposed personnel and how the personnel would be distributed within the service area. She further asked if Anchor Point would also have to vote on the question.

Chair Johnson, Patty Burley and Brandi Harbaugh addressed the questions and reiterated what was discussed by the members of the working group.

Janice Nofziger addressed the committee regarding training of the members and asked how the new service area would impact senior citizen exemptions. She further asked how residents who do not own property would pay the taxes for the service area. Finally, she addressed the nonprofit status if the areas were to merge.

Chair Johnson stated the residents who do not own property would not pay the tax. Brenda Ahlberg addressed the collaboration for additional training and training resources. Chair Johnson and Brenda Ahlberg addressed the senior citizen exemption program and subsistence concerns.

Dawson Slaughter, Anchor Point Fire and Emergency Medical Service Area (APFEMSA) Board Chair, addressed the training question by providing an overview of the training program at APFEMSA.

Dave Bear, NES Chief, also addressed training and reiterated the ability to provide a higher level of care with the service area merger.

Katherine Covey, NES stated the newly appointed board would be responsible for recommending a new chair.

Dave Bear, NES Chief, also added clarification regarding who would be recommended to be chief and deputy and how that would possibly play out. He indicated that the merger was a great deal for the residents of Ninilchik.

Ryon Turley asked who the medical director would be. Dawson Slaughter stated Dr. Levy would be the medical director and he would have oversight and assist with the program.

Dick Kapp asked for clarification regarding the change to the ordinance which addressed the NES asset transfers contingency language. Patty Burley and Brandi Harbaugh addressed the question indicating it included assets that would be needed to run the fire department. Brenda Ahlberg stated any assets that were obtained using federal funds would need to be dealt with specifically along the federal guidelines. She further addressed the nonprofit entity and the ability for the nonprofit to continue to exist.

Debbie Cary thanked everyone and asked that community education efforts continued.

Shannon Schwendeman thanked everyone.

Megan Pacer Homer News thanked everyone and asked for clarification on how to ask questions or submit comments.

Also in attendance:

Danita Dodge
John Nofziger
Kaye Waldsmith
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CLOSING REMARKS

President Cooper thanked everyone for attending.

ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



Public Hearing Summary

June 26, 2020

6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting ID: 920 0073 5671

Brent Johnson, Chair

Kelly Cooper

Willy Dunne

Ordinance 2020-31: Expanding the Anchor Point Fire and Emergency Medical Service Area Boundaries to Include the Ninilchik Area (Johnson)

CALL TO ORDER

In accordance with KPB 16.04.040, an Anchor Point public hearing was held on June 26, 2020, via Zoom. Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to hear comments from interested persons favoring or opposing Ordinance 2020-31.

There were present:

Brent Johnson, Chair
Kelly Cooper
Willy Dunne

The Assembly appointed members of the public hearing special committee.

Also in attendance were:

Patty Burley, Deputy Borough Attorney
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director
Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager
Jon Marsh, Chief Anchor Point Fire & Emergency Medical Service Area
Michele Turner, Deputy Borough Clerk

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Johnson provided an overview of the service area boundary process.

Patty Burley, Deputy Borough Attorney explained the service area boundary expansion process.

Chair Johnson explained the proposed boundary and the purpose of the service area boundary expansion.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Assembly Member Dunne stated he was pleased to be part of the public process and stated there was great discussion throughout the process. He looked forward to further discussion at the Assembly Meeting on July 7, 2020.

Chair Johnson stated one of the questions asked at the last public hearing was regarding how this process affected the employees of both APFEMSA and NES. He stated that he had this discussion with Borough Attorney, Colette Thompson – stating it would not affect the employees at APFEMSA and that the employees at NES would have an opportunity to apply. He stated the same situation applied to the volunteers.

PUBLIC HEARING (3 minutes per speaker)

Chair Johnson called for public comment with none being offered.

CLOSING REMARKS

Jon Marsh, Chief Anchor Point Fire and Emergency Medical Service Area stated they had received concerns regarding the service area board name. He suggested a new name, such as South Emergency Services and/or West Emergency Services, with its own branding.

Assembly Member Dunne stated that was confusing as Kachemak Emergency Services was also a 'south' emergency service area, but also agreed that a shorter name would be better.

Brenda Ahlberg, KPB Community and Fiscal Projects Manager agreed that a new shorter name that encompassed all communities in the area was positive.

President Cooper stated she appreciated the process and the communities that participated. She stated the NES investment-dollars concern was being addressed and that Deputy Attorney Burley was contacting the board next week and was preparing a report for the July 7, 2020 assembly meeting. Ms. Cooper stated the other concern was regarding NES Chief Bear as far as his opportunities for that department. She stated all the concerns were heard and were being addressed, reassuring everyone of a transparent process. She stated she looked forward to further discussion at the July 7, 2020 assembly meeting.

Chair Johnson thanked all that attended and testified.

Also in attendance:

Robert Dash
Dawson Slaughter
Debbie Cary
Akmomdad
Arnold E. Mason

ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing adjourned at 6:24 p.m.