

Blankenship, Johni

From: Colin Brayton <loopy2sail@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2017 11:34 AM
To: Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Ordinance 2017-09

My name is Colin Brayton. I am a Volunteer for the Bear Creek Fire Service Area for 2.5 years.

I am in support of ordinance 2017-09.

Best regards,

Colin (F12)

Mayme Ohnemus
P. O. Box 754
Cooper Landing, AK 99572
(907) 595-1214

**Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Meeting
May 16, 2017**

I request support for Ordinance 2017-09 the establishing of the Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Service Area (EPHESA) and in the future I would support using Federal Payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT) funds for funding for EPHESA.

1973 Cooper Landing received our first ambulance. At the time this was an agreement between the State of Alaska and the Cooper Landing community. The State promised to provide the ambulance, operation, maintenance, and fuel expenses for the ambulance which was provided through DOT. Cooper Landing would provide the volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians to man the ambulance. (In the early 90's the State removed their share of responsibility, but it has created a huge difficulty for our community to continue providing these lifesaving services.)

I was one of fifteen to take the American Red Cross Advanced First Aid Emergency Care classes and to volunteer to help man the ambulance. Mark and Dodie Wilson owners of Hamilton's Place provided their café for the classes and offered to house the ambulance at their garage until the old school building set up and prepared for housing the ambulance. In 1976 the fire/ambulance hall was built with Cooper Landing Community Club sponsored grant and donations.

This was truly a community effort to provide emergency services. Our large area of response covers approximately 35 miles of the Seward Highway, 30 miles of the Sterling Highway and 20 miles of the Hope Road into the community of Hope for a total of 85 miles. You're aware of the dangerous curves and the two summits in this area which slows our response time. When responding to emergencies in Hope or Turnagain Pass it takes a minimum of 45 minutes. Stabilizing and transporting the patient to a hospital in Anchorage, Seward or Soldotna is another 3 to 4 hours. Occasionally it is necessary to call for LifeMed to transfer via helicopter. It takes another 1 to 2 hours for the ambulance to be available for another call. Each call can tie up our volunteers and ambulance for up to and extend more than six hours. Cooper Landing Emergency Services in order to provide services with limited funds and volunteers voted twice on shrinking the area of response, but chose instead to continue serving the historical area as best they can.

The majority of calls are vehicle accidents, but we also respond to medical and injury emergencies. Tourism draws a number of visitors to our scenic area. There are several trails in our area for hiking, biking, skiing, snow machining, and trails for horseback riding. The Kenai River and Russian River provide site seeing float trips, fishing, and canoeing, kayaking and boating opportunities. Our campgrounds are filled with families enjoying the great outdoors. Kenai Lake and the airstrip provide opportunity for air traffic. Campfire on Snug Harbor Road is busy with many young campers throughout the summer. Residents, seniors and Princess Lodge guests may also need help from time to time. The potential for emergency services are varied and numerous.

One never knows when emergency services will be needed. Saturday April 28th our grandson hooked himself in the head fishing at the bridge. The volunteer paramedics checked him out at the hall. They sent us to the ER to have the hook removed. It was the first hook of the 2017 season to be removed at Central Peninsula General Hospital. For the record he placed his homemade hook on the manikin. The paramedics weren't able to remove the hook, however, we were thankful for their kindness and the reassurance they offered our grandson and us.

The ambulance and fire department have responded to vehicle, house and forest fires. Fire is a definite threat to our community. 1991 the Pothole Fire threatened our community. The threat of forest fires remain high and it's important for quick response.

Our community is surrounded by federal lands. The Kenai River dissects our community as well as the Sterling Highway. The Seward and Sterling Highway is the only artery serving the Kenai Peninsula. We all drive these routes at one time or another. You, your family and/or friends may also be in need of emergency services in this area. Our Emergency Services would like to be available for you if the need arises.

I'm aware this federal funding will only be available for emergencies on federal lands and will not be applied toward privately owned land emergencies, such as Princess Lodge guests or Cooper Landing residents at our private homes; however, having the emergency services available in our community will be a comfort to all of us. We need your support on Ordinance 2017-09 allowing the opportunity for additional funding to keep these services available.



Ambulance Squad 1975

*Sincerely,
Mayme*

Blankenship, Johni

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 9:02 PM
To: BoroughAssembly
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: H S Norwood

Your Email: rohobawr@alaska.net

Subject: 5/16/2017 Budget Meeting

Message:

Recession? What recession?

It makes zero sense to put in a new EMS to serve the visitors to the Kenai Peninsula ... without expecting those visitors to offset the costs with a Bed Tax.

Ms. Schaefer. I don't live in your district but when you are running for reelection count me in to work on your campaign.