

# Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

---

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Kelly Cooper, Assembly President  
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**FROM:** Brent Johnson, Assembly Member BJ

**DATE:** May 22, 2020

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

---

The neighboring communities of Ninilchik and Anchor Point share a desire for consistent and dependable fire and emergency medical services. Both communities have been satisfied with their level of services in the past, but firefighters and EMS personnel are aware of deficiencies that can only be remedied with additional staffing. Furthermore, Ninilchik is subject to the rigors of fund raising to support their mostly volunteer service.

A working group was appointed by Mayor Pierce and approved by the KPB Assembly to hold public meetings, discuss the possibility of forming a joint Ninilchik-Anchor Point service area, and make recommendations to the Assembly. The Working Group found:

- Fewer volunteers are recruiting to serve on both Ninilchik and Anchor Point teams.
- A joint service area would be more efficient, especially for Ninilchik, than separate service areas.
- A stand-alone service area for Ninilchik would necessitate a mill rate of 5.75 to support satisfactory services.
- A joint area would significantly reduce the cost of ambulance runs for Ninilchik residents.
- A joint service area with a mill rate of 2.95 would provide for ten full time employees, a sustainable fund balance, and a reasonable capital outlay plan.
- A joint service area mill rate of 2.95 would increase staffing at Ninilchik and at Anchor Point fire stations, but would not be sufficient for full time staffing at either station.
- A joint service area would be efficient because a chief, assistant chief and mechanic could be shared.

Ultimately, the choice is up to the voters. But they can't make that choice unless the measure is placed on the ballot.

Your consideration is appreciated.