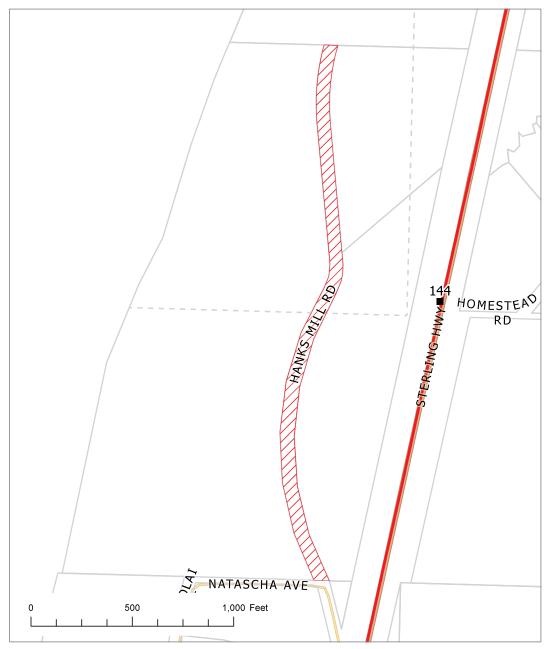
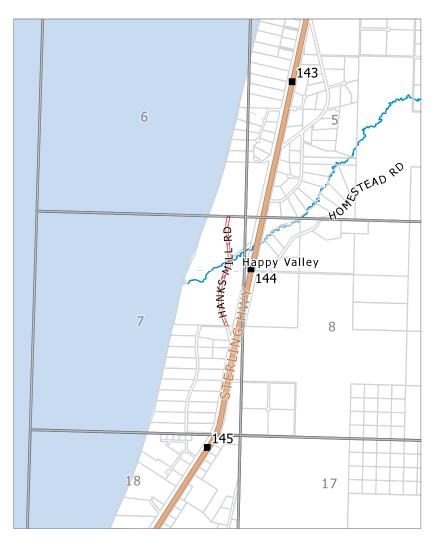
## E. NEW BUSINESS

3. ROW Vacation; KPB File 2022-077V Request: Vacate Hanks Mill Road, formerly known as Old Sterling Highway

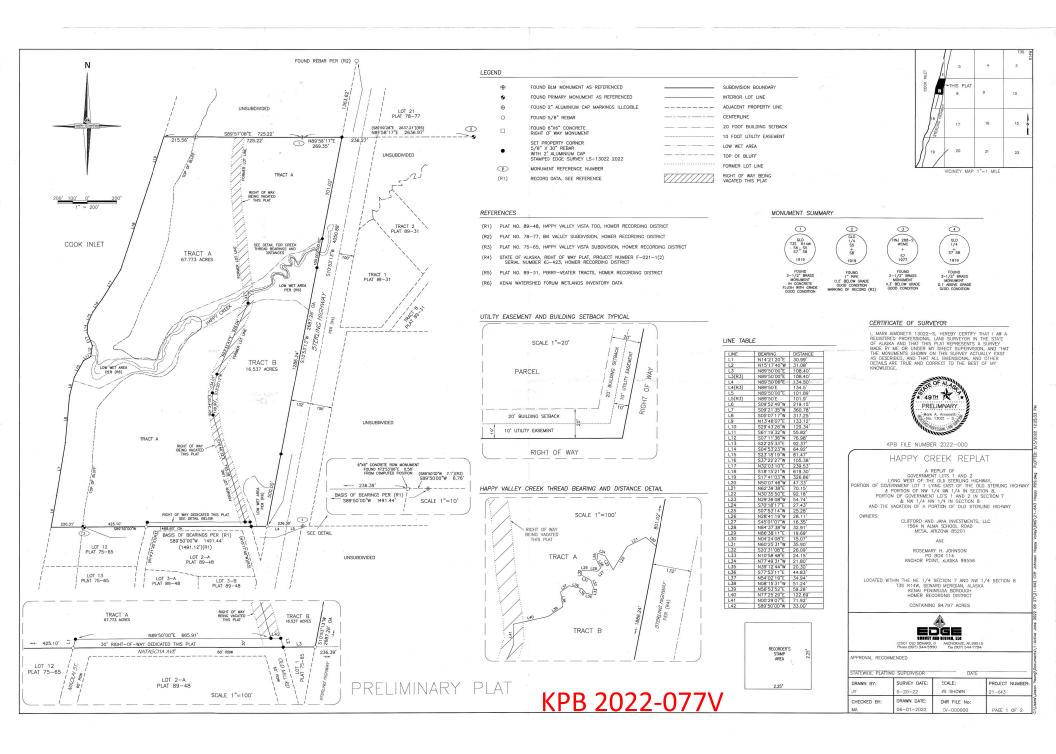






KPB File # 2022-077V S07 & 08 T03S R14W Happy Valley





#### NOTES

- BUILDING SETBACK A SETBACK OF 20 FEET IS REQUIRED FROM ALL STREET RIGHTS-OF-WAY UNLESS A LESSER STANDARD IS APPROVED BY RESOLUTION OF THE APPROPRIATE PLANNING COMMISSION.
- THE FRONT 10 FEET ADJACENT TO THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY IS A UTILITY EASEMENT. NO PERMANENT STRUCTURE SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED OR PLACED WITHIN A UTILITY EASEMENT WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH THE ABILITY OF A UTILITY TO JSE THE EASEMENT.
- THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVED THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF OLD STERLING HOHWAY, AT THE MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2022. THE VACATION RECEIVED CONSENT BY THE KENAI PENINSULA SSEMBLY, AUGUST 00, 2022.
- 4. ANY PERSON DEVELOPING THE PROFERTY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL REQUIRED LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL PERMITS, INCLUDING & U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WETLANDS DETERMINATION IF APPLICABLE.
- ROADS MUST MEET THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOROUGH IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR CERTIFICATION AND INCLUSION IN THE ROADS MAINTENANCE PROGRAM PER KPB 14.06.
- NO PRIVATE ACCESS TO STATE MAIN'AINED RIGHT OF WAYS PERMITTED UNLESS APPROVED BY THE STATE OF ALASKA DEFARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.
- 7. RESERVATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS AS CONTAINED IN U.S. PATENT, AND/OR ACTS AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF.
- THIS SUBDIVISION IS SUBJECT TO RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC AND OR GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES IN AND TO THAT PORTION OF SAID PREMISES L'HING BELOW THE MEAN HIGH WATER MARK OF COOK INLET AND ANY OURSTIONS OF RIGHTS OF ACCESS TO COOK INLET IN THE EVENT SAID LANDS DO NOT IN FACT ABUT THE INLET.

  NLET.
- THIS SUBDIVISION IS SUBJECT TO A GENERAL EASEMENT FOR WATER COURSE OVER THAT PORTION OF THE PREMISES WHICH THE LIBES OF THE HERBIN MANED CREEK (HAMPY VALLEY CREEK) AND TO ANY CHANGES IN THE BOUNDAMY LIBES OF SADD CREEK, AS IT NOW EASTS, BY MATURAL CAUSES.
- THIS SUBDIVISION IS SUBJECT TO A GENERAL ELECTRICAL EASEMENT, WITH NO DEFINED LOCATION, GRANTED TO HOMER ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION ON JUNE 30, 1959 IN BOOK 17 PAGE 27, HOMER RECORDING DISTRICT.
- 11. SECTION LINE EASEMENTS AFFECTING THIS SUBDIVISION HAVE BEEN VACATED BY PLAT 88-55, HOMER RECORDING DISTRICT.
- 12. <u>WASTEMATE DEPOSAL</u> LOTS WHICH ARE AT LEAST 200,000 SQUARE FEET IN SZE MAY NOT BE SUITABLE SYSTEM MUST WEED THE THE STATE OF THE ADMITT WAS ASSOCIATED TO SYSTEM MUST MEET THE REGULATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE ADMICS DEPARTMENT OF DIMENSMENTAL CONSERVATION OF DIMENSMENTAL CONSERVATION.

#### PLAT APPROVAL

THIS PLAT WAS APPROVED BY THE KENA PENINSULA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION AT THE MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2022.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

PRELIMINARY PLAT

#### CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP AND DEDICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT KOA FAMILY TRUST IS THE OWNER OF THE REAL PROPERTY SHOWN AND DESCRIBED HEREON AND THAT ON BEHALF OF CUFFORD AND JANA JOHNSON INVESTMENTS, LLC, I HEREBY ADOPT THIS PLAN OF SUBDIVISION AND BY FREE CONSENT DEDICATE ALL RIGHTS-OF-WAYS AND PUBLIC AREAS TO PUBLIC USE AND GRANT ALL EXSEMENTS TO THE USE SHOWN.

CLIFFORD AND JANA JOHNSON INVESTMENTS, LLC CLIFFORD JOHNSON, CO-MANAGER 1564 N ALMA SCHOOL ROAD MESA, ARIZONA 85201

#### NOTARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

FOR: CLIFFORD JOHNSON ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE ME

THIS \_\_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_

NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE

#### CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP AND DEDICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I AM THE OWNER OF THE REAL PROPERTY SHOWN AND DESCRIBED HEREON AND THAT I HEREBY ADOPT THIS PLAN OF SUBDIVISION AND BY MY FREE CONSENT DEDICATE ALL RIGHTS-OF-WAYS AND PUBLIC AREAS TO PUBLIC USE ANY GRANT ALL EASEMENTS TO THE USE SHOWN.

ROSEMARY H. JOHNSON PO BOX 114 ANCHOR POINT, ALASKA 99556

NOTARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

FOR: ROSEMARY H. JOHNSON ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE ME

THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_

NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE

KPB FILE NUMBER 2022-000

### HAPPY CREEK REPLAT

A SECULT OF

COVENNEST LOTS I AND 2

LYING WEST OF THE QLD STERLING HIGHWAY,

PORTION OF COVENNMENT LOT I LYING EAST OF THE QLD STERLING HIGHWAY

& PORTION OF NW 1/4 NW 1/4 IN SECTION 8,

PORTION OF GOVERNMENT LOTS I AND 2 IN SECTION 7

WE NO 1/4 NW 1/4 IN 1/4 IN SECTION 8

AND THE MOCRITION OF A PORTION OF OLD STERLING HIGHWAY

OWNERS:

CLIFFORD AND JANA INVESTMENTS, LLC 1564 N. ALMA SCHOOL ROAD MESA, ARIZONA 85201

AND ROSEMARY H. JOHNSON PO BOX 114 ANCHOR POINT, ALASKA 99556

LOCATED WITHIN THE NE 1/4 SECTION 7 AND NW 1/4 SECTION 8 T3S R14W, SEWARD WERDIAN, ALASKA KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH HOMER RECORDING DISTRICT

CONTAINING 84.797 ACRES



APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

DRAWN BY: PROJECT NUMBER CHECKED BY: DRAWN DATE: DNR FILE No:

KPB 2022-077V

# ITEM 3 - RIGHT OF WAY VACATION VACATE PORTION OF HANKS MILL ROAD (FORMALLY OLD STERLING HIGHWAY)

KPB File No.	2022-077V			
Planning Commission Meeting:	June 27, 2022			
Applicant / Owner:	Rosemary Johnson of Anchor Point, Alaska and Cliff and Jana Johnson			
	of Mesa, Arizona			
Surveyor:	Jason Young, Mark Aimonetti / Edge Survey and Design, LLC			
General Location:	Hanks Mill Road, Natascha Avenue, Sterling Highway / Happy Valley,			
	Anchor Point, APC			
Legal Description:	Hanks Mill Road, formally known as Old Sterling Highway, within Section			
	7, Township 3 South, Range 14 West.			

### STAFF REPORT

<u>Specific Request / Purpose as stated in the petition:</u> To vacate Hanks Mill Road (Old Sterling Highway). Findings for justification of right-of-way vacation of Old Sterling Highway.

- 1. The section of the Old Sterling Highway proposed for vacation terminates at the North boundary, parcel to the north has had right-of-way vacated.
- 2. The section of Old Sterling Highway proposed for vacation provides access to large tract parcels, two of which will be combined with this platting action. Large parcel to the North has sufficient access from the Sterling Highway. Parcels created by this platting action will have sufficient access from the Sterling Highway to the East and Natascha Avenue to the south.
- 3. The current condition of the right-of-way is unmaintained and not traveled. The historical culverts at the Happy Creek crossing have washed out and created 70+ foot vertical banks making it unsafe and impractical to cross.
- 4. The current public use patterns of the section of right-of-way proposed for vacation has had a history of promoting trespass across private land. With a pattern of public leaving the right-of-way to cross west adjacent to Happy Creek to the Cook Inlet. Along with this trespass has been a history of vandalism and large-scale littering.
- 5. The current underlying land ownership is all private large tract parcels adjacent to proposed right-of-way vacation.
- 6. Alternative right-of-ways are in place and are the current public use patterns. The "New" Sterling Highway to the East provides the public necessary North-South right-of-way. The shore of the Cook Inlet to the West also provides the public necessary North-South right-of-way. The large parcel to the North does not and cannot use the right-of-way proposed for vacation for access due to unmaintained conditions.
- 7. The practicality of use of right-of-way proposed for vacation is poor. The right-of-way dead ends and leads to nowhere. The current conditions promote only foot travel and the washed out culverts at the Happy Creek crossing are unsafe conditions and a public safety hazard.

**Notification:** Public notice appeared in the June 16, 2022 issue of the Homer News as a separate ad. The public hearing notice was published in the June 23, 2022 issue of the Homer News as part of the Commission's tentative agenda.

The public notice was posted on the Planning Commission bulletin board at the Kenai Peninsula Borough George A. Navarre Administration building. Additional notices were mailed to the following with the request to be posted for public viewing.

Library of Anchor Point

Post Office of Anchor Point

Six certified mailings were sent to owners of property within 300 feet of the proposed vacation. Two receipts had been returned when the staff report was prepared.

Public hearing notices were sent by regular mail to eight owners within 600 feet of the proposed vacation.

Twenty-one public hearing notices were emailed to agencies and interested parties as shown below;

State of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game State of Alaska DNR State of Alaska DOT State of Alaska DNR Forestry Anchor Point Advisory Planning Commission Emergency Services of Anchor Point Kenai Peninsula Borough Office Kenai Peninsula Borough Land Management Ninilchik Traditional Council Alaska Communication Systems (ACS) ENSTAR Natural Gas General Communications Inc, (GCI) Homer Electric Association (HEA)

<u>Legal Access (existing and proposed):</u> Hanks Mill Road was originally Old Sterling Highway. The name was changed by Street Name Resolution SN 2010-01. The Alaska DOT&PF ROW Research Map indicates the management falls under the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Hanks Mill Road is located near mile 144 of the Sterling Highway. The southern portion of Hanks Mille Road is maintained by the borough to the intersection with Natascha Avenue. The portion of the right-of-way north of Natascha Avenue appears to be the remains of an old road with no clear travel way shown. Per the submittal this is not a widely used right-of-way that has not been maintained for years.

There are currently two government lots located west of Hanks Mill Road that are along the coast of Cook Inlet. Two additional lots are between Hanks Mill Road and the Sterling Highway. The proposed vacation will be finalized with a plat that will reconfigure the lots to create two tracts. Tract A will have access from the Sterling Highway and Natascha Avenue to the south. Tract B will front along the Sterling Highway and will have some frontage from the remaining portion of Hanks Mille Road and Natascha Avenue. Any access from the Sterling Highway will require approval from the State of Alaska DOT.

The property to the north does not indicate the current status of the right-of-way. The legal description for the property does not indicate that the right-of-way is in existence. Staff was unable to determine the status but did not find any indication that a formal vacation had been done. A thorough title report may indicate if the property is subject to any public easements that would provide a connection of the Old Sterling Highway. The lot will continue to have frontage along the Sterling Highway and currently has an existing driveway that is near the Lofty Heights Court dedication. The former travel way within the property but does appear to be grown over.

The plat will be dedicating a 30 foot wide matching dedication to bring Natascha Avenue, a borough maintained right-of-way into compliance for width.

The section line easements within the subject property as well as the property to the north have all been vacated per the Section Line Easement Vacation Plat, HM 88-55.

The existing block does not comply with block requirements. The property is between Cook Inlet and the Sterling Highway. Section Line easements can be used to provide a compliant block but there were vacated in 1988. The location of the existing right-of-way does not provide a compliant block and the vacation will not improve nor worsen the block requirements.

KPB Roads Dept. comments	Out of Jurisdiction: No
	Roads Director: Uhlin, Dil
	Comments: No comments
SOA DOT comments	The ROW for Sterling Highway appears to be shown correctly. However, the
	vacation area appears to be a portion of the Old Sterling Highway that has not
	been previously relinquished or vacated by DOT. I have a query into our Property

Management (	group ab	out how	they	would	like	to proceed	with th	e action
proposed, and	what step	ps would b	e nec	essary	to va	cate the Sta	te DOT	interest.

<u>Site Investigation:</u> Happy Creek runs through the property and the existing right-of-way crosses it as well as the associated wetlands. There are some steep slopes present within the right-of-way proposed to be vacated. Per the findings provided with the petition, the washout of culverts and lead to some erosion within the right of way that has resulted in steep areas.

KPB River Center review	A. Floodplain Reviewer: Carver, Nancy Floodplain Status: IS in flood hazard area Comments: Flood Zone: VE,D Map Panel: 02122C-1830E In Floodway: False Floodway Panel:  B. Habitat Protection  Reviewer: Aldridge, Morgan Habitat Protection District Status: Is NOT within HPD Comments: No comments  C. State Parks Reviewer: Russell, Pam Comments: No Comments
Alaska Fish and Game	No objections. The proposed actions will not affect fish, wildlife, habitat, or public access to public lands or waters. All lands surrounding the ROW are privately owned and the only identified water along the ROW, Happy Creek, is not identified as anadromous.

<u>Staff Analysis:</u> The petition is to vacate Hanks Mills Road. The vacation will be the entire width for approximately 2,700 feet. The property involved with the project is government lots and portions of aliquot lands. There is not a plat showing the dedication of Hanks Mill Road. The property descriptions do exclude the portions of the right-of-way. Hanks Mill Road was formally the Old Sterling Highway. At some point after the construction of the new Sterling Highway, the old portion stopped receiving maintenance. The jurisdiction appears to be under local authority, KPB, per the DOT mapper but there may be some state interest still associated with the right-of-way. The portion to be vacated is nothing more than slight trails that receive no maintenance for the borough.

The right-of-way provides access to lands owned by one owner that will be proposing a replat to make sure all lots have legal access. The neighbor to the north has additional access. The right-of-way proposed for vacation does appear to continue to the north through the neighbor's property but there is no indication at this time of the existence and it only appears to be a trail at this time.

## 20.65.050 - Action on vacation application

- D. The planning commission shall consider the merits of each vacation request and in all cases the planning commission shall deem the area being vacated to be of value to the public. It shall be incumbent upon the applicant to show that the area proposed for vacation is no longer practical for the uses or purposes authorized, or that other provisions have been made which are more beneficial to the public. In evaluating the merits of the proposed vacation, the planning commission shall consider whether:
  - 1. The right-of-way or public easement to be vacated is being used;

**Staff comments:** It is only a trail that per the submittal is being used for trespass, loitering, and littering.

- A road is impossible or impractical to construct, and alternative access has been provided;
   Staff comments: Due to years of neglect, the right-of-way is in disrepair and provides a safety issue due to terrain.
- 3. The surrounding area is fully developed and all planned or needed rights-of-way and utilities are constructed:

**Staff comments:** Subdivisions have occurred to the south with proper right-of-way dedications and utility easements. Property to the north is a large acreage parcel with potential to be subdivided to provide its own access and easements.

4. The vacation of a public right-of-way provides access to a lake, river, or other area with public interest or value, and if so, whether equal or superior access is provided;

**Staff comments:** The right-of-way does not provide direct access to Cook Inlet, although it is being used for access by trespass per the submittal.

5 The proposed vacation would limit opportunities for interconnectivity with adjacent parcels, whether developed or undeveloped;

**Staff comments:** The proposed replat will provide access to new lots, no lots will be denied access and larger lots may provide dedications in the future.

- 6. Other public access, other than general road use, exist or are feasible for the right-of-way; **Staff comments:** The right-of-way could be used for pedestrian use but per the submittal, there are safety concerns due to years of no maintenance and terrain.
- 7. All existing and future utility requirements are met. Rights-of-way which are utilized by a utility, or which logically would be required by a utility, shall not be vacated, unless it can be demonstrated that equal or superior access is or will be available. Where an easement would satisfactorily serve the utility interests, and no other public need for the right-of-way exists, the commission may approve the vacation and require that a utility easement be granted in place of the right-of-way.

**Staff comments:** Any requested utility easements by providers will be required unless the owner works with the utility providers to change or reduce the request.

8. Any other factors that are relevant to the vacation application or the area proposed to be vacated. **Staff comments:** Additional steps may be required and State approval prior to finalization.

A KPB Planning Commission decision denying a vacation application is final. A KPB Planning Commission decision to approve the vacation application is subject to consent or veto by the KPB Assembly, or City Council if located within City boundaries. The KPB Assembly, or City Council must hear the vacation within thirty days of the Planning Commission decision.

If approved, the Assembly will hear the vacation at their scheduled July 5, 2022 meeting.

The authority of the ability to vacate this right-of-way is being questioned. The Certificate to Plat supplied for the plat did not provide any insight in to the right-of-way. Staff looked through some state documents but did not find reference this right-of-way. The State of Alaska DOT is reviewing to determine their interest in the right-of-way. If it is determined to still be a State of Alaska right-of-way, the approval may be used as a recommendation to the State. The State may have additional requirements or processes needed in order to finalize this process if they agree to the vacation. The surveyor and owners will need to work with the State of Alaska for resolution. The planning department will not allow for the finalization of the vacation until written permission is received from the State of Alaska.

If approved, Happy Creek Replat, KPB File 2022-077, will finalize the proposed right-of-way vacation. The Plat Committee is scheduled to review the plat on June 27, 2022.

KPB department / agency review:

oposed
oposed
ERLING

**Utility provider review:** 

HEA	No comments
ENSTAR	No comments or recommendations
ACS	No objections
GCI	Approved as shown

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on consideration of the merits as per KPB 20.65.050(D) as outlined by Staff comments, Staff recommends <u>APPROVAL</u> as petitioned, subject to:

Page **5** of **7** 

- 1. Consent by KPB Assembly.
- 2. Consent or requirements be met as outlined by State of Alaska DOT in regards to their interest in the right-of-way.
- 3. Compliance with the requirements for preliminary plats per Chapter 20 of the KPB Code.
- 4. Grant utility easements requested by the utility providers.
- 5. Submittal of a final plat within a timeframe such that the plat can be recorded within one year of vacation consent (KPB 20.70.130).

## **KPB 20.65.050 – Action on vacation application**

- H. A planning commission decision to approve a vacation is not effective without the consent of the city council, if the vacated area to be vacated is within a city, or by the assembly in all other cases. The council or assembly shall have 30 days from the date of the planning commission approval to either consent to or veto the vacation. Notice of veto of the vacation shall be immediately given to the planning commission. Failure to act on the vacation within 30 days shall be considered to be consent to the vacation. This provision does not apply to alterations of utility easements under KPB 20.65.070 which do not require the consent of the assembly or city council unless city code specifically provides otherwise.
- I. Upon approval of the vacation request by the planning commission and no veto by the city council or assembly, where applicable, the applicant shall have a surveyor prepare and submit a plat including the entire area approved for vacation in conformance with KPB 20.10.080. Only the area approved for vacation by the assembly or council may be included on the plat. The final plat must be recorded within one year of the vacation consent.
- J. A planning commission decision denying a vacation application is final. No reapplication or petition concerning the same vacation may be filed within one calendar year of the date of the final denial action except in the case where new evidence or circumstances exist that were not available or present when the original petition was filed.
- K. An appeal of the planning commission, city council or assembly vacation action under this chapter must be filed in the superior court in accordance with the Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure.

The 2019 Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan adopted November, 2019 by Ordinance No. 2019-25. The relevant objectives are listed.

Goal 3. Preserve and improve quality of life on the Kenai Peninsula Borough through increased access to local and regional facilities, activities, programs and services.

- Focus Area: Energy and Utilities
  - Objective A Encourage coordination or residential, commercial, and industrial development with extension of utilities and other infrastructure.
    - Strategy 1. Near Term: Maintain existing easements (especially section line easements) in addition to establishing adequate utility rights of way or easements to serve existing and future utility needs.
    - Strategy 2. Near Term: Maintain regular contact with utility operators to coordinate and review utility easement requests that are part of subdivision plat approval.
    - Strategy 3. Near Term: Identify potential utility routes on Borough lands.
- Housing
  - Objective D. Encourage efficient use of land, infrastructure and services outside incorporated cities by prioritizing future growth in the most suitable areas.
    - Strategy 1. Near Term: Collaborate with the AK Department of Transportation, incorporated cities within the borough, utility providers, other agencies overseeing

Page **6** of **7** 

local services, and existing communities located adjacent to the undeveloped areas that are appropriate for future growth, to align plans for future expansion of services to serve future residential development and manage growth.

Goal 4. Improve access to, from and connectivity within the Kenai Peninsula Borough

- Focus Area: Transportation
  - Objective B. Ensure new roads are developed in alignment with existing and planned growth and development.
    - Strategy 2. Near Term: Establish subdivision codes that dictate road construction standards to accommodate future interconnectivity and/or public safety.
    - Strategy 3. Near Term: Identify areas of anticipated growth to determine future access needs.

END OF STAFF REPORT



