

Kenai Peninsula Borough Finance Department

MEMORANDUM

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

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *CP*

FROM: Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director *BH*
Lisa Kosto, 911 Senior Manager *LK*

DATE: February 13, 2020

RE: Ordinance 2019-19-29, Appropriating Funds for Three New Borough E911 Dispatcher Positions to Replace Three Vacant State E911 Dispatcher Positions

For many years the Kenai Peninsula Borough (borough) and the Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS) have worked together to provide 911 services for the community. Numerous changes have occurred over the years and in December 2013 we entered into the current agreement for the operation of the Soldotna Public Safety Communications Center ("Communications Center").

Among other things that agreement requires each party to fill certain positions at the Communications Center to ensure adequate personnel are available with equitable costs borne by both parties. However, three of DPS's eight dispatcher positions have been vacant since September 2019 equaling 1,868 hours that the borough had to cover using overtime. A fourth state position remained vacant from July 1, 2019 until September 5, 2019. The missing state personnel time totals about 2080 hours, which is equal to one full-time position for a year. The state has publicly announced its intention to centralize E911 call-taking for Alaska State Troopers and has alerted the borough of its intention to ultimately remove all state positions from the Communications Center in Soldotna. It has met with the borough administration three times to discuss revising the agreement to address this transition but no agreement has been reached.

Funds are needed to reimburse the borough's E911 division for the overtime costs it has incurred and to fund three new positions to fill the vacancies left unfilled by the state. This ordinance would appropriate the funds needed to do that for this fiscal year. The borough intends to continue its efforts to negotiate with the state and to recover costs it is owed by the state under the current agreement.

Your consideration is appreciated.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT FUNDS VERIFIED	
Acct. No.:	<u>100.27910</u>
Amount: \$	<u>152,251.00</u>
By: <i>PP</i>	Date: <u>2/12/2020</u>