

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Community & Fiscal Projects

MEMORANDUM

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

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *CP*

FROM: Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager *Bl*
Ben Hanson, IT Director *BH*

DATE: September 1, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution 2020-058, Authorizing the Sub-Award of Sub-Subrecipient Agreements for Rural Internet Grants *(Mayor)*

This memo is to "fill in the blanks" for the above referenced resolution.

In late July 2020, the Kenai Peninsula Borough solicited proposals for projects seeking to improve internet connectivity to rural residents of the Borough. The Borough made available significant funding, some \$2,000,000, though proposers would face an exceptionally difficult timeframe to complete projects. Evaluations were conducted and an intent to award was sent to the two proposers August 25, 2020. The following is a brief description of the project(s) and funding required to complete these project(s).

SPITwSPOTS

Award Amount: \$1,537,500

Project Description: Tower installation and deployment. Providing direct service level improvements to the communities of Ninilchik, Nikolaevsk and Tyonek, South Cohoe, Bear Creek and their surrounding areas. Site selection is not without its challenges. The Bear Creek/Seward location is still in active discussion.

Benefit: 3,000 to 4,000 parcels with potential radio visibility, with up to 150 mbit service potential.

Alaska Communication Services

Award Amount \$262,500

Project Description: Upgrade of Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexers (DSLAMs) which will deliver higher bandwidth over greater distances with equipment providing up to 50 Mbps at a location.

Benefit: Approximately 485 households impacted by this funding source, with up to 50 mbit service potential.

Additionally, \$200,000 was left in reserve for subscriber "bounties", which is intended to motivate providers to active and acquire subscribers within the performance period of the grant, rather than posturing for future expansion. All projects under this sub-award will be complete no later than November 30, 2020.