

# Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Brent Hibbert, Assembly President  
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**FROM:** Willy Dunne, Assembly Member (B) for W.D.

**DATE:** February 16, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Amendment to Resolution 2021-010, Approving Additional Positions in the Central Emergency, Nikiski Fire, Kachemak Emergency and Western Emergency Service Areas Using Existing Available FY21 Funds (Mayor)

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Resolution 2021-010 asks the Assembly to approve 15 new Borough employee positions at an annual cost of over \$2 million, while doing so outside of the normal budget process.

Growing government by adding \$2 million per year of additional personnel expense should happen, if at all, only with public hearings and thorough deliberation which is best accomplished through the Assembly's normal budget process. Resolution 2021-010, as proposed, does not provide context of Borough-wide budget impacts and additional tax burdens on property owners. For example, the KESA service area board is currently discussing whether to approve an FY22 budget that includes a 35% increase in personnel costs with a concomitant 19% increase in mill rate to property owners if those additional employees are added.

This amendment, if adopted, would allow the WESA to hire 5 new positions immediately. This need has been thoroughly discussed, planned and approved by the Assembly and local voters with the expansion of the former Anchor Point Fire and Emergency Medical Service Area. The proposed increase in Borough employees in Central, Nikiski and Kachemak Emergency Service Areas could then be discussed and potentially adopted as part of the normal budget process over the next few months.

The amendment would, in effect, remove all reference to service areas other than the Western Emergency Service Area, with the intention to approve five new positions in WESA.

Amend Resolution 2021-010 as follows:

Amend the title to read, "A Resolution Approving Additional Positions in the [CENTRAL EMERGENCY, NIKISKI FIRE, KACHEMAK EMERGENCY AND] Western Emergency Service Area[S] Using Existing Available FY21 Funds"

Delete Whereas clauses 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9.

Amend the final Whereas clause to read, "WHEREAS, [EACH OF] the [RESPECTIVE] WESA service area board[S] requests immediate implementation of the increase of personnel using currently available FY 2021 funds;"

Delete Sections 1, 2 and 3 and renumber Sections 4 and 5 to "1" and "2".

I would appreciate your support of this amendment.