

MEMORANDUM

TO: Grace Merkes, Assembly President
Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: John J. Williams, Borough Mayor
Craig Chapman, Finance Director
Bob Garlock, Solid Waste Director

FROM: Bonnie L. Golden, Grants Manager

DATE: February 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Ordinance No. 2007-19-37: Accepting and appropriating a grant from the Denali Commission in the amount of \$50,000 for junk vehicle removal in the Village of Tyonek

One of the primary goals of the borough's solid waste program is to reduce the number of abandoned and junk vehicles that create health and safety hazards for our residents and litter our rural areas. In 2001, \$75,000 was appropriated to begin a junk vehicle removal program. That amount has been deemed woefully inadequate to address removal of the immense numbers of vehicles abandoned within our jurisdiction.

In addition to lack of funds, another challenge that deters removal is that many of these vehicles are located in remote areas accessible only by boat or plane. The borough has committed \$10,000 through its fiscal year 2007/2008 budget to survey and identify the junk vehicles in Tyonek. However, additional funding is needed to collect, crush, and transport the vehicles to an appropriate disposal site. The Borough sought supplemental funding through the Denali Commission for the purposes of collecting, loading, and transporting junk vehicles from the Village of Tyonek to an appropriate disposal site.

The borough believes that transporting abandoned and junk vehicles out of the Village of Tyonek will minimize health and safety concerns. Most importantly, it allows the community an opportunity to dispose of these vehicles that pose a threat to natural resources such as surface water and vegetative habitat. The Village of Tyonek supports this project and has committed to working with the borough to properly dispose of junk vehicle from Tyonek. (See attached letter from the Native Village of Tyonek dated October 3, 2007.)

In a letter dated January 25, 2008, the Denali Commission notified the Borough of its approval to fund the borough's junk vehicle removal project in Tyonek. The Rural Alaska

Community Action Program (RurAL CAP) will administer the project funds on behalf of Denali Commission. (See attached letter from Denali Commission and website notification printout.)

A shortened hearing date has been requested for the following reasons: (1) Denali Commission grants are generally for one year, (2) the Solid Waste Department wishes to conduct this project before the beginning of next winter's inclement weather, (3) the Borough Assembly has scheduled only one meeting for March, making April 1 the next possible date for a public hearing – 10 weeks from the date of the notification letter. Your consideration for a shortened hearing date is appreciated.

/bg

Enclosures as stated