

December 7, 2010

Cassie Parkinson
P.O. Box 1446
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Hi, my name is Cassie Parkinson. I am a long time resident of Anchor Point and a member of the Anchor Point Volunteer Fire Department. I currently am the member elect EMS Chief and in the past, I have also served my community on the Anchor Point Fire and Emergency Medical Service Area Board.

Tonight I am here to address my concern over Ordinance 2010-42 and its supporting documentation. I am mostly concerned with the implications of how this ordinance can and will inadvertently affect my EMS Squad , my Fire Department, my Service Area Board and my community as a whole. I am here to represent myself and the EMT s of Anchor Point. This ordinance can and will affect how our Department is supervised and operated by the Service Area Board.

The collective goal of the Anchor Point Fire and EMS Service Area Board and the Anchor Point Volunteer Fire Department is to provide the utmost professional emergency Fire and EMS service to our community. This ordinance and the supporting documentation has the implication to drastically change the Chain of Command as we know it and adversely affect the services that we provide as volunteers. I understand the want for uniformity, but all Services Areas and communities differ somewhat to substantially within this Borough. Central Emergency Service needs are different from those of Bear Creek, Nikiski Service Area needs are completely different from those of Anchor Point Service Area. Each Service within this Borough cannot be made to conform to the same mold or a huge disservice to each community would occur. I am concerned that this ordinance, if passed will threaten the livelihood of our Volunteer organization. The volunteers of Anchor Point are explicitly opposed to the passing of this ordinance.

The registered voters of the Service Area requested, by petition to have the SA B established as written in the original Ordinance 83-48.

I would respectfully request that this ordinance is not passed. This Ordinance is highly opposed within the Anchor Point Community.

Sincerely,

Cassie Parkinson

Agenda Item 0.3.c.

Committee P+P

Page Number 107

Subject:

FW: Ord 2010-42 Anchor Point fire/EMS powers

From: Mary Griswold [mailto:mgrt@xyz.net]

Sent: Saturday, December 25, 2010 12:15 PM

To: Gary Knopp; Bill Smith; mako@xyz.net; Charlie Pierce; linda@clerkworksak.com; ragweb@gci.net; Hal Smalley; rtauri@gci.net; sue mcclure; Carey, Dave; Thompson, Colette; Blankenship, Johni

Subject: Ord 2010-42 Anchor Point fire/EMS powers

Dear assembly members and mayor,

Regarding Ordinance 2010-42 Anchor Point Fire/EMS service area board powers and duties

I have thought for a long time that the powers and duties of the fire/EMS service area boards should be clarified and made consistent for all similar service areas. Certainly, the Anchor Point fire/EMS service area board should not be singled out for special limitations.

I recommend that the powers described for the South Peninsula Hospital service area board, as amended here with underlined text, be adopted for all of the fire/EMS service area boards:

The service area board shall advise and make recommendations to the mayor and the assembly concerning the operation and management of service area activities, review and recommend the annual service area budget, oversee implementation of the annual service area operating plan, and perform such additional functions as the assembly may authorize. The board shall promptly furnish accurate and complete copies of the minutes of all board meetings to the mayor and the assembly.

One of the most important functions of a service area board is to approve the preliminary annual budget for assembly consideration. This involves reviewing and adjusting the long range plan, evaluating the previous year's goals and accomplishments, identifying upcoming needs, and determining the next fiscal year's priorities to fit the funds available.

Secondary to approving the preliminary annual operating plan and budget, the board is responsible to oversee its implementation. The department chief or administrator reports to the board on a regular basis in order to discuss progress and challenges. The board may approve changes to the plan or budget, which are then forwarded to the assembly or mayor as recommendations for action.

The service area boards are in fact advisory, so they should retain the power to advise the mayor and assembly of actions they have taken. This is important in instances where the board is fulfilling objectives of its operating plan or meeting requests from administration. The board should be expected to advise the mayor and assembly when such activities are accomplished in addition to making recommendations for future actions.

Language that service area boards "shall have the power to provide for fire protection and emergency medical services within the service area" should be removed from the code. It is misleading to state that the service area board is empowered to provide fire/EMS because service area board members are legally prohibited from being volunteer or paid responders in the departments they oversee.

The Central Peninsula Hospital service area board is also required to submit copies of the board meeting packets to the mayor and assembly. I do not think this level of detail is necessary or desirable.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mary Griswold
Homer

January 3, 2011

President Gary Knopp, and Members
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
144 N. Binkley Str.
Soldotna, AK 99669

Re: Ord. 2010-42

After much review and consideration, I herewith urge the Assembly to pass Ordinance 2010-42, to change the language for the Anchor Point Fire and Emergency Service area, as outlined in the ordinance.

When the Fire Service Area made the decision, in 2004, to contract for services with the Non Profit, Anchor Point Volunteer Fire Association, it changed the dynamic of the relationship between the elected Board of directors and the Borough Administration. It would appear to me, this should have been enacted at that time. For several reasons, not the least of which is more borough assistance to the Service Area Board of Directors.

The editorial in the Homer News last week (December 30, 2010), I thought spoke to the issue very well, and I concur with it. I see this ordinance as a win- win for the Board of Directors, for the community, and for the tax payers for the service area. To quote"The changes are not about the job the board is doing, they're about better serving the community and minimizing the borough's liability should something go wrong."

And I believe the issue of liability is critical, and can impact all borough taxpayers. I do not believe it is in the interest of the public at large, the taxpayers, the department, the volunteers or the service area board to delay implementation for 12 months.

I urge your support of Ord. 2010-42.

Thank you.

Milli Martin
PO Box 2652
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-6652

January 4, 2011

Cassie Parkinson
P.O.Box 1446
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Good Evening, my name is Cassie Parkinson. I am the EMS Chief for the Anchor Point Volunteer Fire Department. I was here at the last assembly meeting to address my concern over this ordinance. So much miscommunication and misinformation has been passed around that it is hard to find the truth in the matter. I touched on my concern over how the implications of this ordinance would impact my EMS Squad and my Fire Department. The chain of events stemming from this ordinance has had a huge impact on our community, our Fire Department and neighboring Departments. Working relationships that our Department had with other Departments have been hurt by this. Damage has been done that at this point is not irreversible, but may soon be if something is not done to rectify the situation. Our Organization is 100% volunteer. The volunteers are very worried about the situation and many have voiced concerns about how long they will stay with the Department because of this. If the volunteers choose to no longer volunteer, then we will not be able to serve our community. The Mayor's office says that they are trying to work with us to rectify issues, but in fact they are hindering more than helping. Our Service Area Board seems to get circumvented by the administration in their endeavor to comply with mandates.

I have heard Mr. Haggerty say on several occasions that this ordinance will not change anything....but it has. Many of our core volunteers feel that the Borough and their Assembly Representative do not care what happens to them or our organization. If this Ordinance is to pass, it may cause a large majority of our volunteers to quit. Please, open your eyes to the ripple effect...it starts small, but the wide spread damage caused as it spreads can become a catastrophe. The memorandum attached to this ordinance outlines several changes to be made. The Borough administration is making a huge ordeal over the horrendous condition of Anchor Point's equipment. If our equipment is such a priority, then why has the Mayor's office not helped us to get the required mechanics, of which there are only three in the entire Borough, to work on our equipment? As a borough entity, the administration should be fighting for us instead of against us. First we were told to get a mechanic, so we did.... Then we were told to make sure the mechanic was ASE certified..... so we did.... Then we were told the mechanic had to be certified on emergency apparatus..... In essence every attempt by the Service Area Board to comply with the demands of the Mayor's office was circumvented in some way. After more that a year of trying to get a mechanic on the payroll, we now have one on payroll, and the repairs and maintenance are now happening. The information that is being given is misleading and incomplete. The Mayor's office has even put our service area and volunteers at risk in their endeavor to work with us. When Ms Wilcox, deadlined our mainline fire engine on November 24, 2010, the back up engine from CES arrived at our station to cover our area on December 7, 2010. I do not call that working with, I call that

sabotage. That little act alone has proven to the volunteers of our organization that the Borough does, in fact, not care about the volunteers.

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Communication has been noted as a big factor in all of this. Communication is a two way street and in this instance has been circumvented by roadblocks from both ends. If the information you have is misleading and incomplete, then how can someone make an educated decision on what is best for all involved? The members of the Anchor Point Volunteer department are opposed to this ordinance. I am somewhat distressed about the fact that our Assembly Rep is the one supporting this ordinance when he knows how we feel about it.
