


Michaella Anderson

From: Jason Garron • 
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: Road service areas

Hello

I got your letter concerning the consolidation of road service areas, thank you. I am commission chair of McCloud rd service area. It is a sparsely populated area that I could easily see being consolidated with another area. I feel very strongly that consolidation should NOT happen without complete agreement of the people involved. It would be very problematic to have someone not currently living in the service area be in charge of plowing, maintenance etc. Thank you.

Jason Garron
Sent from my iPhone

Michaela Anderson

From: Sam Atwell
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:17 AM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: Road Service Area Legislative Proposal

Dear Senator Robert Myers,

Thank you for including the Road Service Area Commissions' opinions in your decision-making regarding the Borough's request. In short, I agree with your view that the authority to consolidate Road Service Areas should remain with the residents of functioning Road Service Areas and not with the Mayor or the Assembly. Your proposal well reflects my sentiments.

Since the Mayor, Assembly, or Road Service Area Department has not contacted the end-users of their proposal (the local residents) about this matter, I view their attempt to gain such authority with high suspicion. The result will place the burden of dysfunctional Service Areas onto the back of functioning ones. For example, our neighboring Service Area has roads in high disrepair due to the lack of a functioning Committee. And, although our Service Area struggles to maintain enough volunteers for the Committee to care for our own zone, we still have enough dedicated residents to keep it going. If our neighboring Service Area were to be added to our own without our consent, it is unlikely that we would have the volunteers to continue the job or the finances to care for either. We have enough troubled projects that we do not know how we will someday address without worrying about the neglect of other Service Areas.

Your sensitivity to the needs of your constituents is well appreciated. Please keep such authority in the hands of functional Service Areas. For those that are not functional or do not have enough volunteers to maintain a Commission, such maneuvers are understandable. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance. Thank you for your service to all Alaskans.

v/r

Michaela Anderson

From: Dan LaBrosse ▶
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 8:53 PM
To: Sen. Robert Myers; Dodie Delaney Polar Heights; Shawn Conell
Subject: Road Service Consolidation by the Mayor and Assembly is a bad idea!

Dear Senator Myers,

AS President of the Polar Heights Service area I am against any consolidation efforts without a vote of the people in those areas having a say. I don't see any efficiency in doing such and if anything it will cause many property owners more grief and less say in what goes on in their areas. Right now the property tax that is collected goes back into our roads and services and I can't think of a more effective solution. We even coordinate our service with the closest service area to us as we share the same contractor so this makes our areas run smoothly and gives our members easy access to us if things aren't done right. I personally inspect our roads and work with contractors to make sure the work is done right or it is corrected if there are problems. This is the most effective use of our property tax dollars in my view and I am happy to provide this service as a volunteer. Removing our service area into a much larger one would not provide the same result and I would highly doubt that our members would vote for such a consolidation. Making bigger service areas only serves the administration and not the people. We need less administration and more boots on the ground ensuring that the area residents that pay these taxes are getting a fair shake for their hard earned tax dollars. I've shared my view with the other Road Service Commissioners for the Polar Heights Service Area and I would encourage them to speak up as to their views on this matter as well.

Signed:

Daniel A. LaBrosse, M.A. CRC

President, Polar Heights Service Area, and Road Commissioner for over 20 years now.

"Serving Alaskans for a better future"

"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence" Calvin Coolidge

Michaela Anderson

From: Jonathan Holmgren
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: Fwd: Road service areas

Hi Robert,

As the ten year volunteer road Commissioner for the Goldstream Subdivision just north of Fairbanks, I find that our service area is just about as big as I would want to be responsible for. There are many bigger road service areas, but their road commissions tend to become real political entities as opposed to just a couple of people getting the necessary work done. I would be adamantly against being forced to combine with another service area to save a bit of administrative work on the boroughs part. As it is, they want me to have four meetings a year when only a few people (two last meeting, one was another commissioner) attend the meeting I hold once a year. Their rules and procedures are set up for the larger areas.

Keep it simple for the volunteers.

Jon Holmgren

Feel free to contact me at the phone number below.

--

Jon Holmgren
Jon's Machine shop

17 February 2021

Dear Michaela,

I received the work draft for **A Senate Bill** "An act relating to road service area consolidation", that you sent and which I forwarded to the other Kris Kringle subdivision residents. The many replies that I have received have all been against having Kris Kringle Subdivision merge with another subdivision. Their concerns, comments, and questions are listed below:

- Concern of merging with a new subdivision development.
- The language of the Bill was too vague to commit to a merger.
- Residents are happy with our present service situation.
- Saving for our future service area goals might be hindered by consolidation.

- Several Concerns:

First is why does the Borough want administrative Streamlining? Would this mean a loss of Borough jobs or does the Borough just want to move positions around? Would this reduce the Borough budget or would they just spend the money somewhere else?

Second is why take the vote away from the Public, the Tax Payers? Why do they believe the Mayor and Assembly would know better than the Voters/Tax Payers?

Third are the Taxes paid by the property owners in the current Road Commission areas. Would the accounts be consolidated? Will this affect the current MIL Rates?

The attachment says it is a draft. What does the original legislation say and why is that not attached so we can compare? What is the purpose of the area printed in Bold type on page 2, paragraph 2 (D).

Last but not least, I believe we should be speaking with our elected official, Robert Myers, directly to get his opinion and position on this. Senator Myers has a Facebook page and the number for his Fairbanks Office is: 907-451-2157.

Keep us posted on this, please.

Candy Rydlinski
Commissioner
Kris Kringle Subdivision

Michaela Anderson

From: Gary Tellep <gary.tellep@alaska.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:58 PM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: Consolidation of Borough Service Areas

I've lived in the Scenic Heights Subdivision as a residential homeowner since 1998 and for about the last 10 years have served as it's primary Road Service Commission Chair. The neighbor who handled the duty before me did it about a dozen years so our system has worked quite well for over 30 years at least. That old adage "if it ain't broke then don't fix it" certainly applies to us. I suspect the Borough is trying to accommodate somebody(s) and streamlining is just subterfuge. For almost 20 years we utilized the same contractor for primary services (snow plowing mostly) and after his retirement for the past 2 seasons we have received wonderful service from his Borough bid replacement. I've maintained a close business relationship with both owners while Commissioner and our system works very well. We are perhaps a 5 minute response time from the UAF Fire & EMS crews and likewise benefit not only geographically but professionally from their personnel. I am a retired Alaska State Trooper (26 years service) with most of it in the Fairbanks area. I have my share of horror stories for Trooper road response access to areas that opt out of the program. So dealing with "streamlining" and "consolidations" is nothing new, generally doesn't work well and ultimately you end up with less service vs. better. That's my perspective from a career in DPS. So for us here in Scenic Heights status quo would be in our best interest. I suspect you will find the sentiments much the same from our contiguous neighbors too. You can contact me directly at [907-451-1234](tel:907-451-1234) Thanks.

Senator Robert Myers
Senator.Robert.Myers@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Myers,

I received your letter concerning the proposed changes to the Borough Service Areas Statute that addresses possible consolidation among adjacent service areas. We understand, that in some cases, that the combining of adjacent service areas may streamline the administrative services furnished by the Borough's Rural Services Department. We feel that the final decision should be left up to a vote by the residents of the two (or more) affected service areas to approve any consolidation, not an approval by the office of the Mayor and assembly. Any consolidation among service areas should have a benefit to both service areas, not just to the Borough.

Sincerely,
William Smyth, LeRoy Wiedeman, Marton Wubbold
Summerwood Road Service Area Commissioners

Michaela Anderson

From: Dave Yokel
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: input to bill to consolidate road service areas

Dear Sen Myers,

I've been a road service area commissioner for over 20 years, and throughout that time I've been the commission chair and sometimes only commissioner. This is not a fun job, but I do it to serve my neighbors, as well as myself. I don't want the job to get more difficult by adding more parcels to the service area I serve, but I certainly understand the Fairbanks North Star Borough's administrative problem dealing with about 110 service areas. I doubt this situation was envisioned when our state constitution was framed. So I see the need for some well-thought-resolution, and I appreciate your stance that we shouldn't just leave it up to the mayor and assembly. We might just as well be a 1st class borough as do that.

Your bill is draft, but I don't see in it any means to deal with consolidating two or more service areas with different levels of desired service and subsequently different mill rates to pay for those levels of services. Please take this into consideration.

Thank you,
Dave Yokel

Michaela Anderson

From: Pat Reinhard
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: Road Service Area Consolidation

Senator Myers,

I am in receipt of your proposed bill to consolidate road service areas and would like to say that I am not in favor of this idea. As a road commissioner, I find that the FNSB already limits what a commissioner can do with the funds raised via taxation and attempting to make administration life easier for themselves is not high on most road service area commissioner's list of priorities. Please inform Borough leaders that what is a Priority is having our legislators concentrate on balancing our Alaska State budget and not looking for ways to make their life easier.

Thank you,

Patrick Reinhard

Jones Road Service Area

Fairbanks North Star Borough

Michaela Anderson

From:
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 1:23 PM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: Road Service Area Consolidation

Senator Myers,

I am a commissioner on the Whitman Road Service Area in the North Pole area. When the Whitman neighborhood attempted to organize as a road service area many years ago, FNSB was trying to consolidate road service areas at that time, so they attempted to have us join another nearby road service area, but it was turned down by the votes of the people involved. A few years after that failure, the residents of Whitman again applied to become a road service area, but this time there was no attempt by FBNSB to have us join another road service area, so the Whitman Road Service Area was created. There is a great resistance to consolidation of road service areas, so I doubt it will work even though I agree that it would more efficient.

I know that this proposed bill has nothing to do with enabling FNSB to acquire road powers, but I think that would result in better roads in this area because the problem with allowing neighborhoods to decide for themselves whether or not to organize a road service area is that there are those who will resist doing so to avoid taxes which leads to some local roads being in very poor shape. I believe that there was some sort of survey of what needs to be done to prepare this area for

The increase in the population of Eielson AFB due to the arrival of a new fighter squadron there, and one conclusion was that there needs to be an improvement in the condition of the local roads.

Sincerely,

J. M. Curran



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Michaela Anderson

From: Phyllis Pendergrast
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:06 AM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: Rural Services Proposal

Dear Senator Myers,

My name is Charles Lemke and I have been the Road Commissioner Chair for the University Heights subdivision for many years.

I applaud your support for Service Area Self Determination. It very much concerns me to think we might be thrown together with another road service area without having a voice.

Our area is well served. We have been responsible stewards for the services, maintenance and upgrading of our system. We have achieved this while being financially responsible. We maintain a reserve that could see us through most any challenges we might face, or to be able to take advantage off any opportunities that might come along.

Please call on me as needed and I would be happy to voice my concerns. Our community is a safe and attractive place to live. Our property values are reflected in the care we give our neighborhood. We understand what it takes to make our subdivision solid.

Respectfully,

Charles W. Lemke
University Heights Commissioner Chair

Michaela Anderson

From: Alan & Joan Hoza ■ 1>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: Service District Bill

Hello,

I was given your name from our Service District Chairman, and some information about what the Borough has requested. I am also a service district commissioner.

First, thank you very much for standing up for the right of different areas to have input as to whether districts are joined or not! It would be a big mistake for the Borough to be able to just redistrict everyone.

Also, there is the issue that different areas want to pay for different levels of service. Two districts might have different mill rates, and therefore could not be joined unless there was a vote to approve the raised or lowered amount that would be assessed. The Borough is trying to help areas that want services, but they also have to recognize that a lot of areas do not want to tax themselves.

Thank you for your hard work in Juneau!

Joan Hoza

Michaela Anderson

From:
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:31 PM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Cc: Michaela Anderson;
Subject: Requested Response To: An Act relating to road service area consolidation

Feb 23, 2021

Re: Response to Letter Dated Feb 12, 2021 from Senator Myers

Dear Senator Myers;

As Service Area Commission Chair for the Birch Hill Service Area I received your letter, copy of your proposed changes to how service areas would be consolidated and request for comment. Below my signature is a copy of the email that we gave as our response to your Chief of Staff, Michaela Anderson. Italics added for separation of text.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely

Tom DeRuyter
Birch Hill Service Area Commission Chair

Michaela,

You have asked for input from the Commissions of the Birch Hill Service Area concerning a Bill being carried by Senator Myers for the Fairbanks North Star Borough concerning road service areas. We have discussed the amendments found in your attached "An act relating to road service area consolidation". We agree with the amendments and have no objection to this act moving forward.

We are opposed to the Borough's request to give the consolidation power to the Assembly and Mayor based upon an issue of financial fairness. Road service areas will have been managed differently so that the roads in one area will be in better/worse condition than another. Road service areas accumulate savings should they not need to spend their entire operational budget in any one fiscal year. Any one service area will have more/less saved funding than another service area. If you combine service areas without addressing this fairness issue, one group of people will have to put out to fix somebody else's roads and one service area will inherit tax dollar savings from another. In addition, one service area will have a larger/smaller tax base vs. miles of road to maintain than others. This needs to be considered.

The Borough should identify those service areas it would like to consolidate and work with the respective Commissioners to address everyone's concerns. The Commissioners should be required to take public comment from those in their service area before voting to consolidate.

We found that the only other acceptable option was to do nothing (make no changes and leave the current law as is).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Michaela Anderson

From: Sandy Dauenhauer
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:56 PM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Cc: Roy E;
Subject: Consolidation of RSAs

Hello, Senator Myers:

I have read the proposed legislation and spoken with Michael Bredlie, Director of Rural Services at the borough.

Like most service areas we want to remain independent and not be forced to join another area.

I understood from talking to Michael that there are occasions when neighboring areas believe consolidation would suit them financially or in terms of planning but cannot meet the legal requirements for doing so, such as voter participation sufficient for a legal consolidation. My impression was that granting the borough administration the authority to assist in consolidation in such voluntary circumstances would be helpful. I would have no objection to this, provided it be made clear this authority will NOT be extended to override objections to consolidation by the commissioners or residents of other areas.

There is one item that confused me in the proposed bill. On page 2 there is a reference to (B) "during the last 12 months, the service area board has not met with a quorum present and in accordance with law." It appears to be saying (to one not accustomed to reading legal documents) that the protection of the requirement for positive votes from both affected areas would not extend to areas that have not met with a legal quorum in the last 12 months. I just want to point out that the borough has excused road service areas from the meeting requirement for the last 12 months because of covid-19. In my area there are several households, including mine, that do not have the internet quality for Zoom meetings. It may be wise to include some provision that would take such extraordinary circumstances into consideration to avoid leaving more remote areas vulnerable to involuntary consolidation because of inability to meet for some period of time.

I appreciate your attention to protection of the rights and responsibilities of commissioners and the authority of residents to make decisions regarding their road service areas.

Sandra Dauenhauer, Chair Serendipity Hill Road Service Area, Old Nenana Highway

Michaela Anderson

From: Joseph Cermak
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:26 AM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: Ref: An Act relating to road service consolidation

Dear Senator Myers,

My name is Joseph Cermak and I am the Commission Chair for the Keystone Road Service area.

As I read Section 1, the Borough would normally have to place a question to vote on by the affected residents. Your note is specific to an exception to this rule (2) to enable the Borough to abolish or consolidate road service areas without voter approval.

I do not object to (2) if it is specific for abolishment of an inactive road service area met by conditions (A) and (B) or (C).

Consolidation is a whole different matter. All the voters should have a say on whether the larger service area is in the best interest of all parties. The existing precedents are:

- (1) Residents have to vote to tax themselves to form a road service area
- (2) Residents have to vote on raising the tax cap within a road service area

It would make sense that residents should also choose to merge road service areas as it affects how their taxes are going to be used.

Again, I would support language allowing the borough to abolish a road service area if requirements are not being met without the need of a resident vote. Consolidation, I think should continue to go out to a vote of the residents for approval.

Sorry for the lateness of this reply. I did want to give this some serious thought. I will try to follow the bills progress online. Thank you for your consideration in sending the road commissioners a letter.

Joseph Cermak
Road Service Commissioner
Keystone Road Service Area

Michaela Anderson

From: Carl Olson
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:56 PM
To: Sen. Robert Myers
Subject: Road Service area consolidation

Senator Myers,
I see no problem with the language that you have proposed for road serves area consolidation.

Carl Olson Chair
Pleasureland subdivision
North Pole, AK

3/3/21

Dear Senator Myers:

My name is Scott Cuchna. I have been a Road Commissioner for roughly 25 years, and Chair for about 23 of them.

Thank you very much for asking for input on this Bill. I find it funny the Borough would try to pass this Bill without telling anyone. But, then again, I can see that.

I strongly oppose this Bill due to the fact that good developed service areas (I mean people that care about our roads, school buses, fuel trucks, water trucks, and emergency service vehicles) could possibly be realigned with service areas that don't care about their roads, some of which have very few people running them and no budget to speak of. There are many good service areas and some that seem to be lacking. You are probably familiar with them with all because of the door knocking you do, which I greatly appreciate. Thank you again.

If you would help us out, propose a Bill limiting them to taking 5% admin fees instead of the 20% the Borough gets now. That might possibly get more people interested in becoming a Road Commissioner and have some money in their accounts to handle their service areas. Currently, the Borough doesn't do much beyond paying the bills, and relies on their Road Commissioners to make the work happen. I have had a few meetings about quality of work with a contractor and got little help.

Thank you again,

Scott Cuchna

Musk Ox Subdivision