

**SUBJECT:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMENDING MSB 5.25 TO PROVIDE FOR A FIVE MEMBER BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE ROAD SERVICE AREAS MEADOW LAKES RSA NO. 27 AND GOLD TRAIL RSA NO. 28.

**AGENDA OF:** February 4, 2025

**ASSEMBLY ACTION:** Amended and Adopted with Assemblymembers Hale, Nowers, and Gamble opposed. 04/01/25 - BJH

**AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED:** Introduce and set for public hearing.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	<div>1 / 23 / 2025</div> <div>___X___ N S for Assm Bernier</div> <div>Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos</div>
Department Director	<div>Expired certificate</div> <div>X Tom Adams, PE</div> <div>Signed by: Tom Adams</div>
Finance Director	<div>Recoverable Signature</div> <div>X Liesel Weiland for CH</div> <div>Signed by: Liesel Weiland</div>
Borough Attorney	<div>1 / 23 / 2025</div> <div>X Nicholas Spiropoulos</div> <div>Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos</div>
Borough Manager	<div>1 / 23 / 2025</div> <div>X Michael Brown</div> <div>Signed by: Mike Brown</div>
Borough Clerk	<div>1 / 27 / 2025</div> <div>X Brenda J. Henry for</div> <div>Signed by: Brenda Henry</div>

**ATTACHMENT (S):** Ordinance Serial No. 25-017 (3 pp)

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** This ordinance is sponsored by Assemblymember Bernier to increase the membership of the board of supervisors for the Road Service Areas (RSAs) in Assembly District 7 to five member boards.

The affected Road Service Areas are:

RSA 27, Meadow Lakes (also extends into Assembly Districts 4 & 5) RSA 28, and Gold Trail (also extends into Assembly District 6)

Most service areas in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough have an advisory board of supervisors to advise the Manager and Assembly as to the operations of the service area. These boards are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Assembly. The boards are focused on the particular services for the area in which the service area exists. MSB 5.15.010 provides a default rule that boards of supervisors consist of three members unless otherwise provided by ordinance. Currently, there are other service area boards of supervisors with five members instead of three members.

The proposed ordinance here will add language to the relevant RSAs noted above to increase the membership of the board of supervisors from three to five members.

The RSAs here are mostly in District 7 with some overlap into other assembly districts. With many issues to confront, there is a high level of public interest and attention to the delivery of road services in these areas. With an ever-expanding population for the Borough and abundant land in District 7, these areas are also poised for future growth and development. Expanding the membership on the boards allows for more involvement in the road service area activities and also helps bring more people to the table to be involved with and vote on the wide variety of issues the board must discuss. More people can provide input for issues like improvement lists, maintenance plans, and tax rates.

In addition, with only three members on an RSA advisory board, no two members can talk about roads or road services outside of an advertised meeting because of the Alaska Open Meetings Act. The Open Meetings Act prohibits a majority of members from talking about the Board's area of concern outside of an advertised meeting. This can be stifling when board members merely want to point out examples to each other or want to bring observations to someone else's attention with transitory things like weather, traffic patterns, and road conditions. With a five member board, this would allow two members of the board to communicate outside of a meeting without concerns over violating the Open Meetings Act.

**RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:** Introduce and set for public hearing.