



SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPTING MSB 5.25.150 WILLOW-CASWELL FIRE SERVICE AREA TO CONSOLIDATE THE WILLOW FIRE SERVICE AREA AND THE CASWELL FIRE SERVICE AREA AND SUBMITTING THE QUESTION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, REGULAR BOROUGH ELECTION.

AGENDA OF: July 16, 2024

ASSEMBLY ACTION: Adopted without objection and Assemblymember Gamble excused 08/06/24 - BJH

AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED: Introduce and set for public hearing.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	6/17/2024 X Casey Laughlin <small>Signed by: Casey Laughlin</small>
Department Director	 Recoverable Signature X Ken Barkley <small>Signed by: Ken Barkley</small>
Finance Director	6/18/2024 X Cheyenne Heindel <small>Signed by: Cheyenne Heindel</small>
Borough Attorney	6/18/2024 X Nicholas Spiropoulos <small>Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos</small>
Borough Manager	6/18/2024 X Michael Brown <small>Signed by: Mike Brown</small>
Borough Clerk	 Recoverable Signature X L. M cKechnie to Form Only <small>Signed by: Lonnie McKechie</small>

- ATTACHMENT (S) :** Ordinance Serial No. 24-067 (5 pp)
 Resolution Serial No. 24-068 (2 pp)
 Attachment: Letters of Support (2 pp)
 Attachment: Fire Service Area Map(s) (3 pp)
 Attachment: MSB 5.25.059 (3 pp)
 Attachment: MSB 5.25.144 (1 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Willow Fire Service Area and Caswell Fire Service Area have been working together operationally as a single fire department for many years. During this time the department has operated under a common Fire Chief, shared staff support, and functioned largely

as one organization to maximize efficiency and effectiveness to their respective communities. During this time of collaboration the department has operated using a single pool of on-call responders with common operating procedures. Department responders already wear the same uniform with a common patch on their shoulder. This operationally combined department has responded to hundreds of emergency calls protecting their residents and endured some of the largest disasters in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Through the coordination and cooperative efforts of both Fire Service Area Boards, they have created an efficient and effective response team.

The Board of Supervisors of each Service Area now wishes to achieve a greater level of fire protection for their community by initiating a formal consolidation effort with the goal of merging these two service areas into one, the Willow-Caswell Fire Service Area. The Boards of both service areas, each by unanimous vote, have requested the Borough initiate the process to combine, or consolidate, the fire service areas by placing it on the ballot for their respective voters to decide.

Consolidating these two service areas will enhance fire protection even further to the residents and businesses of the community through a number of service improvements and enhanced efficiencies. As they already operate as one joint organization on a daily basis, they will continue to maximize available resources and personnel for emergency responses. Capital and operational planning will improve as a single capital and operating budget will be prepared and implemented for the new service area. By forming one service area the cumulative mil rate for a large portion of the new district will decrease significantly. Apparatus and facilities can be planned to maximize coverage for the entire community based on need. Other benefits will be realized by removing the duplication of administration and reducing overhead to a single entity eliminating duplicated efforts. The Department of Emergency Services supports this effort and believes it is consistent with the mission to provide the highest level of service available to the community in a cost efficient manner.

No boundary changes are being requested, this is solely a consolidation of the two existing service areas into one. Any parcel not currently in either the Willow Fire Service Area or Caswell Fire Service Area will not be included in the consolidated Willow-Caswell Fire Service Area.

The description of the properties within the proposed unified fire service areas, the proposed unified service area boundaries, and the parcels, right-of-way, and easements necessary to provide

services are illustrated on the attached map(s). Other information related to the proposed area is:

The description of the properties within the proposed unified fire service area include illustrated on the attached map(s) and those within the following area:

Township 18 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 All

Sections 9, 10, 11, 12,
13, 14, 15, and 16 All

Township 19 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Section 3 Lot 1, USS 5547

Sections 4, 5, and 6 All

Section 8 Parcel 1 - forty-acre exemption #2007-107 EXM
Recorded as 2007-019901-0

Township 19 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 All

Township 19 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,
7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 All

Sections 16, 17, 18, 19,
20, 21, and 22 All

Sections 26, 27, 28, 29,
30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 All

Township 19 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Sections 1, 2, and 3 All

Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 All

Sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,
26, and 27 All

Sections 34, 35, and 36 All

Township 20 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Section 31 All

Township 20 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Sections 30, 31, 32, 33,
34, 35, and 36 All

Township 20 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Sections 6 and 7 All
Sections 18 and 19 All
Sections 30, 31, 32, 33,
34, 35, and 36 All

Township 20 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Section 1 All
Section 11 Lots 7, 8, and 9,

Willow Crest Subdivision, according to Plat No. 67-6,
recorded June 2, 1967, in the Palmer Recording District,
Alaska

Government Lot 3 and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Sections 12 and 13 All
Sections 23, 24, 25, and 26 All
Sections 34, 35, and 36 All

Township 21 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Sections 30 and 31 All

Township 21 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Section 25 All
Section 36 All

Excepting therefrom the area within the corporate limits of
the city of Houston.

Township 21 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, and 20 All

Township 21 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Sections 12, 13, and 24 All

Township 22 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19,
20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28,
29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 All

Township 23 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska

Section 8 S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$
Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21,
28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 All

- The total assessed value of taxable real property in the proposed unified area is \$630,570,050.
- The total value of taxable personal property in the proposed unified area is zero.
- The population of the proposed unified area is 2,138.
- The estimated cost of the proposed service for the first year is \$1,662,813, which is approximately 2.637 mills.

Should the Assembly approve the ordinance calling for the submission of the question to the voters, which is found in the ordinance, the vote will be scheduled for the upcoming regular Borough election to be held on November 5, 2024.

The voters in each service area would vote on the unification separately and the unification would need to pass in both service areas for the unification to move forward.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Administration recommends placing the question of the unification of the Willow and Caswell fire service areas before the voters at the next regular Borough election to be held on November 5, 2024.



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Department of Emergency Services
Willow FSA Board of Supervisors



To: Lonnie McKechnie, Borough Clerk
From: Mike Jonrowe, Board Chair
Date: January 10, 2024
Subject: Consolidation of Willow FSA and Caswell FSA

Dear Ms. McKechnie,

The Willow Board of Supervisors has voted in favor of officially proceeding forward with the consolidation of the Willow Fire Service Area, and the Caswell Fire Service area, into one new fire service area to be known as the Willow Caswell Fire Service Area. This will allow the citizens of each fire service area to become educated about the fire service areas and through that process cast their vote on the question of consolidation into one fire service area.

If I can be of anymore assistance, I can be reached at the email listed below.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Jonrowe".

Mike Jonrowe, Board Chair
Willow Fire Service
Board of Supervisors
mikejonrowe@gmail.com



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Department of Emergency Services
Caswell FSA Board of Supervisors



To: Lonnie McKechnie, Borough Clerk
From: Cheryl Newsome, Board Chair
Date: January 10, 2024
Subject: Consolidation of Willow FSA and Caswell FSA

Dear Ms. Mckechnie,

The Caswell Board of Supervisors has voted in favor of officially proceeding forward with the consolidation of the Caswell Fire Service Area, and the Willow Fire Service area, into one new fire service area to be known as the Willow Caswell Fire Service Area. This will allow the citizens of each fire service area to become educated about the fire service areas and through that process cast their vote on the question of consolidation into one fire service area.

If I can be of anymore assistance I can be reached at the email listed below.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl A. Newsome".

Cheryl A Newsome, Board Chair
Caswell Fire Service
Board of Supervisors
photocan@mtaonline.net

Proposed Willow-Caswell FSA



Fire Stations and/or EMS

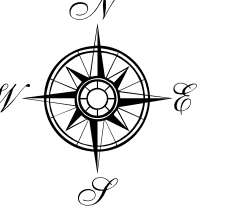
- Public Safety EMS
- Public Safety Fire
- Public Safety Fire/EMS

Proposed Willow-Caswell FSA

Schools

Roads

- Highway
- Major
- Medium
- Minor
- Private
- Primitive
- Not Constructed
- For Remote Addressing (no access)
- Alaska Railroad



MSB IVGIS Division March 22, 2024

WILLOW-CASWELL FSA

OR 24-067
RS 24-068
IM 24-126

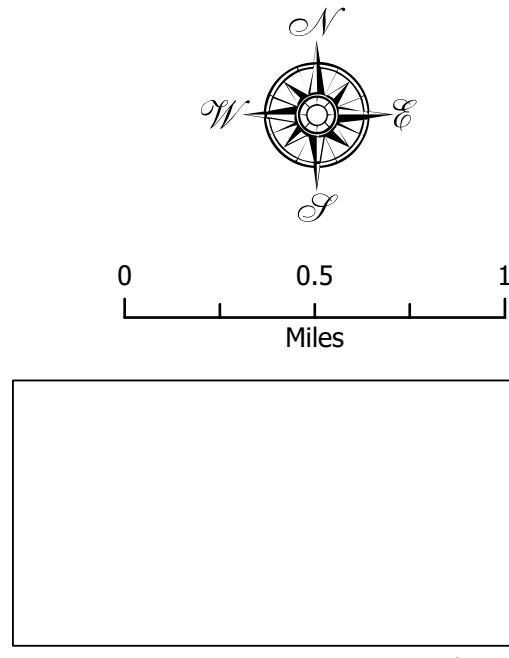
CITY OF HOUSTON

WEST LAKES

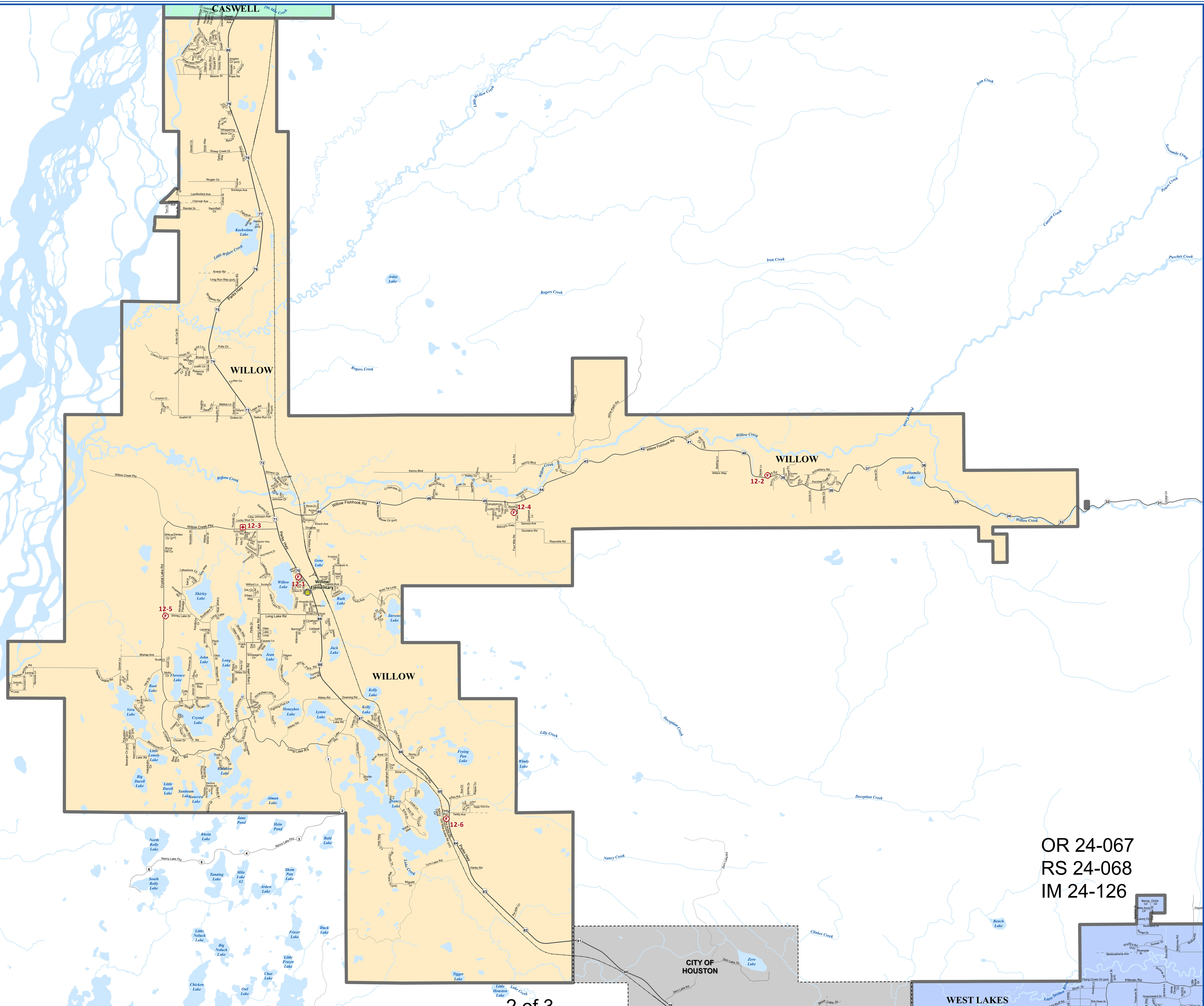
WILLOW
FSA #35



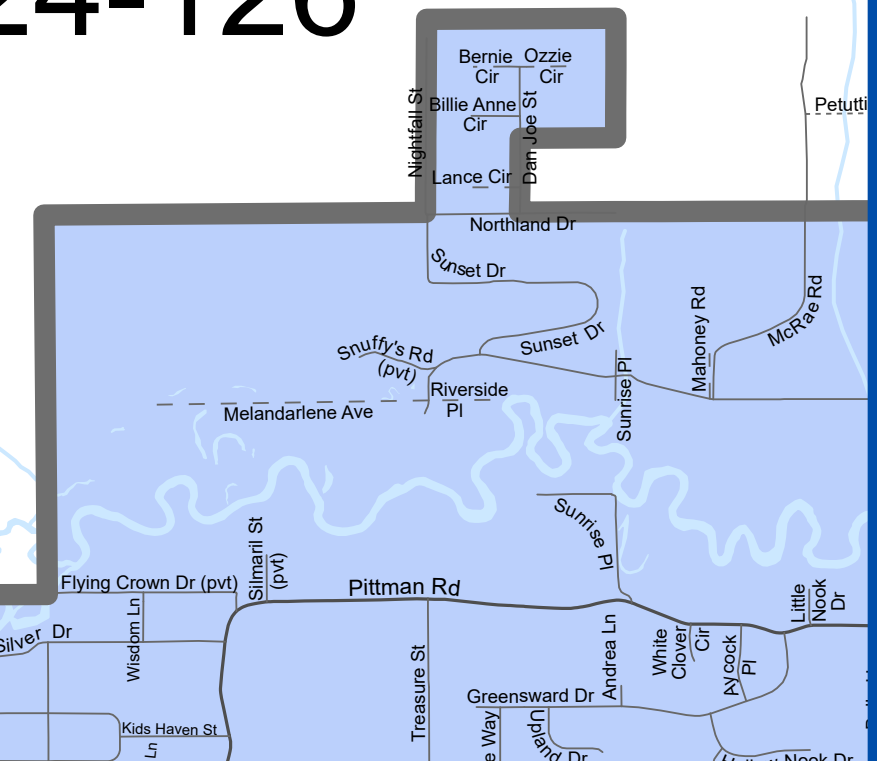
- Fire Stations and/or EMS
 - Public Safety EMS
 - Public Safety Fire
 - Public Safety Fire/EMS
- Schools
- Fire Service Areas
 - Butte
 - Caswell
 - Central Mat-Su
 - Greater Palmer Consolidated
 - Sutton
 - Talkeetna
 - Trapper Creek (inactive)
 - West Lakes
 - Willow
- Reads
 - Highway
 - Major
 - Medium
 - Minor
 - Private
 - Primitive
 - Not Constructed
 - For Remote Addressing (no access)
 - Alaska Railroad



MSB IT/GIS Division August 14, 2022



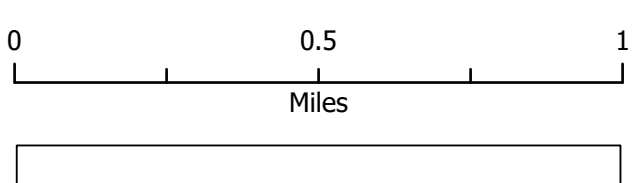
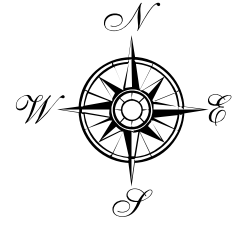
OR 24-067
RS 24-068
IM 24-126



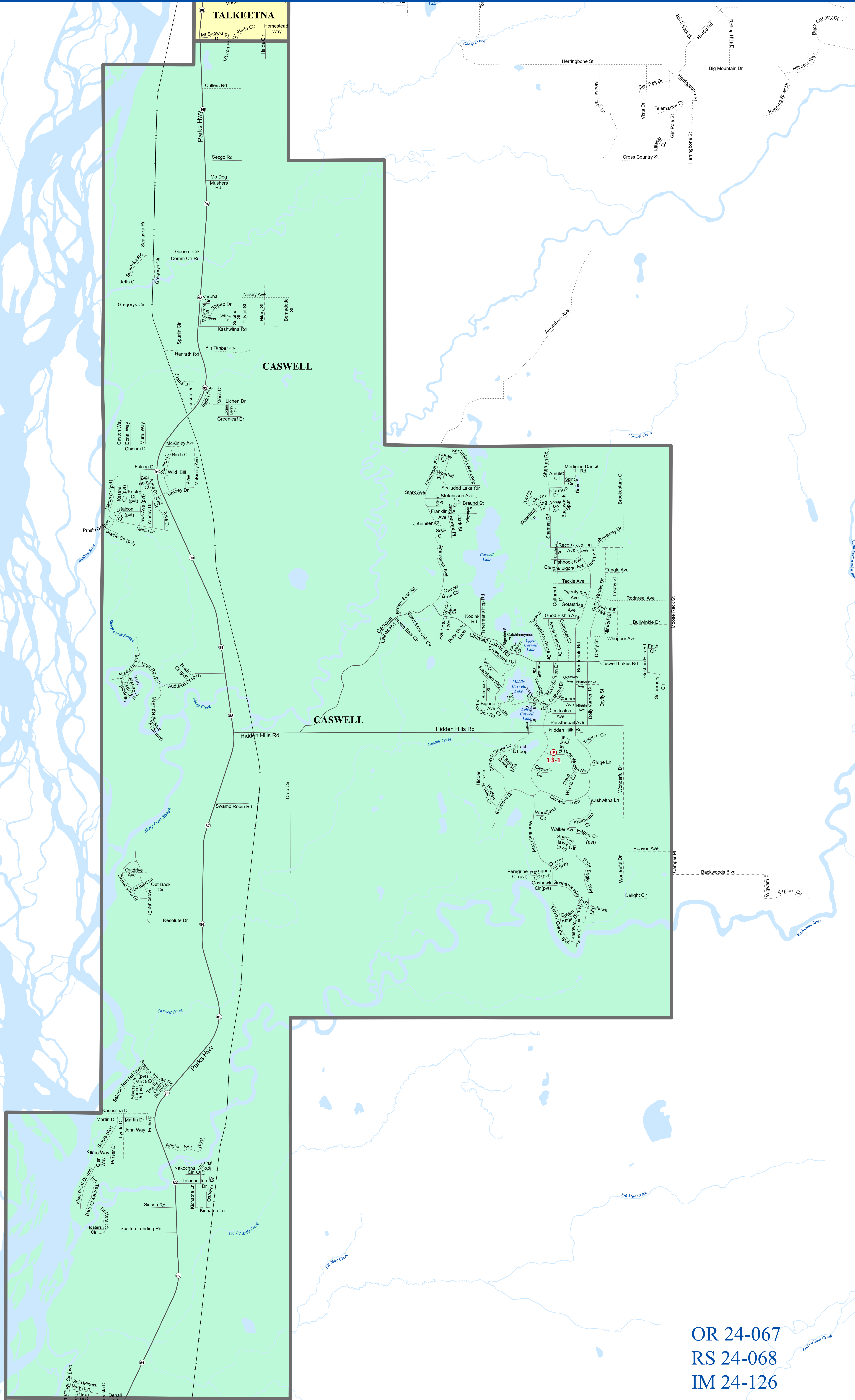
CASWELL
FSA #135



- Fire Stations and/or EMS
 - Public Safety EMS
 - Public Safety Fire
 - Public Safety Fire/EMS
- Schools
- Fire Service Areas
 - Butte
 - Caswell
 - Central Mat-Su
 - Greater Palmer Consolidated
 - Sutton
 - Talkeetna
 - Trapper Creek (inactive)
 - West Lakes
 - Willow
- Roads
 - Highway
 - Major
 - Medium
 - Minor
 - Private
 - Primitive
 - Not Constructed
 - For Remote Addressing (no access)
 - Alaska Railroad



MSR IT/GIS Division, August 14, 2023



OR 24-067
RS 24-068
IM 24-126

5.25.059 SERVICE AREA NO. 35: WILLOW FIRE SERVICE AREA.

(A) *Establishment.* There is established the Willow Fire Service Area No. 35 more particularly described as:

Willow Fire Service Area No. 35:

**Township 18 North, Range 4 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 All

Sections 9, 10, 11, 12,
13, 14, 15, and 16 All

**Township 19 North, Range 2 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Section 3 Lot 1, USS 5547

Sections 4, 5, and 6 All

**Township 19 North, Range 3 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 All

**Township 19 North, Range 4 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,
7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 All

Sections 16, 17, 18, 19,
20, 21, and 22 All

Sections 26, 27, 28, 29,
30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 All

**Township 19 North, Range 5 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Sections 1, 2, and 3 All

Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 All

Sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,
26, and 27 All

Sections 34, 35, and 36 All

**Township 20 North, Range 2 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Section 31 All

Township 20 North, Range 3 West,

Seward Meridian, Alaska

Sections 30, 31, 32, 33,
34, 35, and 36 All

**Township 20 North, Range 4 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Sections 6 and 7 All

Sections 18 and 19 All

Sections 30, 31, 32, 33,
34, 35, and 36 All

**Township 20 North, Range 5 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Section 1 All

Section 11 Lots 7, 8, and 8,
Willow Crest Subdivision, according to
Plat No. 67-6, recorded June 2, 1967, in
the Palmer Recording District, Alaska

Sections 12 and 13 All

Sections 23, 24, 25, and 26 All

Sections 34, 35, and 36 All

**Township 21 North, Range 4 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Sections 30 and 31 All

**Township 21 North, Range 5 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Section 25 All

Section 36 All

Excepting therefrom the area within the
corporate limits of the city of Houston.

(B) *Services.* The services to be provided in this service area are all things necessary and proper to provide fire protection.

(C) *Board of supervisors.* The Willow Fire Service Area No. 35 Board of Supervisors shall consist of a three-member board that shall operate pursuant to MSB 5.15.010. The three-year terms shall be calculated on a calendar year basis.

(Ord. 10-053, § 2, 2010; Ord. 10-050, § 2, 2010; Ord. 06-134, § 3, 2006; IM 97-041, page 2, presented 3-4-97;

Ord. 96-028, § 2, 1996; Ord. 87-122, § 4, 1987; Ord. 85-59, § 5, 1985; Ord. 84-92, § 5, 1984; Ord. 83-50, § 5, 1983)

5.25.144 SERVICE AREA NO. 135: CASWELL FIRE SERVICE AREA.

(A) Establishment. There is established the Caswell Lakes Fire Service Area No. 135 more particularly described as:

**Township 21 North, Range 4 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, and
20 All

**Township 21 North, Range 5 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Sections 12, 13, and 24 All

**Township 22 North, Range 4 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19,
20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28,
29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 All

**Township 23 North, Range 4 West,
Seward Meridian, Alaska**

Section 8 S ½ S ½
Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21,
28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 All

(B) *Services.* The services to be provided in this service area are all things necessary and proper to provide fire protection.

(C) *Board of Supervisors.* The Caswell Fire Service Area No. 135 Board of Supervisors shall consist of a three-member board that shall operate pursuant to MSB 5.15.010. The three-year term shall be calculated on a calendar year basis.

(Ord. 09-104, §§ 2, 3, 2009; Ord. 09-002, § 2, 2009; Ord. 08-095, § 3, 2008)