

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REPEALING MSB 4.70, TERMINATING THE WASTEWATER AND SEPTAGE ADVISORY BOARD.

AGENDA OF: September 6, 2022

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

Defeated with Assembly members  
Tee, Sumner & Bernier in support  
9-27-22 *BM*

MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Introduce and set for public hearing.

APPROVED BY MICHAEL BROWN, BOROUGH MANAGER: *WB*

| Route To: | Department/Individual | Initials  | Remarks   |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|-----------|
|           | Public Works Director | Tom Adams<br><small>Digitally signed by Tom Adams<br/>Date: 2022.08.23 15:30:13 -0800</small> |           |
|           | Finance Director      | <i>CV</i>   |           |
|           | Borough Attorney      | <i>TA for N.S.</i>  |           |
|           | Borough Clerk         | <i>Jim 8/30/22</i>  | <i>BM</i> |

ATTACHMENT(S): Fiscal Note: YES ☐ NO ☒  
Ordinance Serial No. 22-099 (1 pp)  
MSB 4.070 (2 pp)  
Resolution Serial No. 22-071 (4 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board (WSAB) was established in 2011 for the purpose of advising the Assembly on issues relating to wastewater and septage issues within the Borough. Since that time, Borough staff, together with the WSAB, have researched and analyzed the Borough's needs for septage and leachate treatment, according to the direction of the Assembly.

On August 2, 2022, the Assembly held a special meeting to discuss landfill and septage issues. On August 17, 2022, the Assembly passed Resolution Serial No. 22-071, directing staff to discontinue the Borough's efforts toward analysis or development of a septage treatment facility and to disband the WSAB.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:

Approval of an ordinance terminating MSB 4.70 Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board.

## CHAPTER 4.70: WASTEWATER AND SEPTAGE ADVISORY BOARD

### Section

#### 4.70.010 Establishment and purpose

#### 4.70.020 Composition

#### 4.70.030 Functions and duties

#### 4.70.040 Meetings; organization

#### **4.70.010 ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.**

(A) There is established a wastewater and septage advisory board.

(Ord. 11-087, § 2 (part), 2011)

#### **4.70.020 COMPOSITION.**

(A) The board shall consist of seven voting members.

(B) All members of the board shall be residents of the borough.

(C) As feasible, the seven-member board shall consist of a representative from the following:

- (1) a staff representative from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough;
- (2) a representative from the city of Houston;
- (3) a representative from the city of Palmer;
- (4) a representative from the city of Wasilla;
- (5) a representative with an environmental engineering background;
- (6) a representative from the septage industry; and
- (7) an at-large member.

(D) Each board member may serve more than two consecutive terms. The terms of members initially appointed shall be staggered so that as nearly as possible an equal number of vacancies occur each year.

(E) The board shall select among its members, on a yearly basis, a chair and vice-chair. The chair and vice-chair shall be selected by a majority of the members.

(Ord. 11-087, § 2 (part), 2011)

**4.70.030 FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.**

(A) The wastewater and septage advisory board is established for the purpose of providing advice to the assembly relating to wastewater and septage issues within the borough.

(B) All matters pertaining to the board, unless otherwise specified in this section, shall be governed by MSB 4.05.

(Ord. 11-087, § 2 (part), 2011)

**4.70.040 MEETINGS; ORGANIZATION.**

(A) The board shall hold quarterly meetings or more frequently if necessary, and the manager shall make sure all meetings have staff in attendance.

(Ord. 20-100, § 2, 2020; Ord. 19-028, § 2, 2019; Ord. 11-087, § 2 (part), 2011)

Adopted: 08/17/22

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 22-071**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY DIRECTING  
STAFF TO DISCONTINUE EFFORTS TOWARD A SEPTAGE TREATMENT FACILITY  
PROJECT AND TO DISBAND THE WASTEWATER AND SEPTAGE ADVISORY BOARD.

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Assembly adopted Resolution Serial No. 11-087 establishing the Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board (WSAB) for the purpose of advising the Assembly on issues relating to wastewater and septage issues within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, in February 2012 the WSAB passed Resolution No. 12-01 in support of acquiring land for the construction of a regional wastewater and septage treatment facility which the Assembly provided funding for in August 2014 through Resolution No. 14-084; and

WHEREAS, in May 2012, the WSAB passed Resolution No. 12-02 in support of conducting a site feasibility study for a regional wastewater and septage treatment facility which the Assembly approved in July 2012 through Resolution Serial No. 12-083; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014 the WSAB recommended the Assembly designate the landfill as the preferred site for the septage and leachate facility through Resolution No. 15-02, which the Assembly approved through Resolution Serial No. 15-060; and

WHEREAS, in August 2017, the Borough received the first loan of the Alaska Clean Water Fund in the amount of \$5,000,000 for

preconstruction expenditures (e.g., planning, design, and related tasks) for the leachate and septage treatment facility; and

WHEREAS, in January 2018 Clark Engineering completed a Preliminary Engineering Report evaluating septage and leachate treatment alternatives; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Assembly adopted Resolution Serial No. 18-042 endorsing treating leachate separately from septage and exploration of a public/private partnership for septage treatment using a waste-to-energy method in conjunction with solid waste disposal; and

WHEREAS, in February 2020, the Borough solicited for a public/private partnership to treat septage and received no proposals in response; and

WHEREAS, in November 2020, the Assembly adopted Action Memorandum No. 20-125 endorsing application for funding of the proposed septage treatment facility through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program; and

WHEREAS, all septage generated in the Borough is currently hauled to Anchorage for disposal at the Turpin Street Station, which Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility has informed the Borough will remain available to receive septage from the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the city of Palmer was open to the possibility of receiving privately hauled septage at its wastewater treatment



plant, which would require additional engineering analysis to determine the feasibility and costs; and

WHEREAS, in March 2021, the Assembly endorsed a feasibility study of the city of Palmer's wastewater treatment plant for septage disposal, to provide valuable information for consideration by Borough staff and the Assembly before moving forward with any septage projects; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2022, the Borough completed a feasibility study which identified two options for septage treatment and disposal: 1) a new facility at the Borough landfill or 2) an upgrade to the city of Palmer Wastewater Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2022, the WSAB set forth Resolution 22-01 in support of advancing a preliminary engineering study to provide further analysis and additional information regarding a preferred alternative; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2022, the Assembly held a special meeting to discuss landfill and septage issues, and directed discontinuation of the Borough's efforts toward analysis or development of a septage treatment facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly hereby suspends any further efforts toward analysis or development of a septage treatment facility project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WSAB is to be disbanded upon adoption of this resolution.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 17 day  
of August, 2022.

  
EDNA DEVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

[Clerk's note: MSB 4.70, Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board is  
scheduled to be repealed through Ordinance Serial No. 22-099, on  
September 6, 2022.]

YES: Nowers, McKee, Yundt, Tew, Sumner, and Bernier

NO: Hale