

**SUBJECT:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY DIRECTING ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION AMENITIES AT THE JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA.

**AGENDA OF:** May 5, 2020

**ASSEMBLY ACTION:**

*Adopted with Assembly member  
McKee opposed 5-5-20 (BO)*

**MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:** Introduce and set for public hearing.

**APPROVED BY JOHN MOOSEY, BOROUGH MANAGER:** John Moosey

Digitally signed by John Moosey  
Date: 2020.04.22 12:51:54  
-08'00'

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator	EK	
	Community Development Director	EP	
	Finance Director	Cheyenne Heindel	Digitally signed by Cheyenne Heindel Date: 2020.04.21 14:38:11 -08'00'
	Borough Attorney	Nicholas Spiropoulos	Digitally signed by Nicholas Spiropoulos Date: 2020.04.21 14:57:26 -08'00'
	Borough Clerk	<i>Sum 4/28/20 (BO)</i>	

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Fiscal Note: YES ☐ NO ☒ Resolution Serial No. 20-038 (4 pp)

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The Jonesville Public Use Area, located in Sutton near milepost 61 of the Glenn Highway, is a popular outdoor recreation area for both residents and visitors. The area is being negatively affected by overuse, misuse, and general lack of planning. Additionally, the lack of any developed recreation amenities such as a campground, restrooms, shooting range, and trash receptacles is creating a public health hazard due to the amount of human waste, trash, and random shooting.

Due to increased daily usage, uncontrolled shooting, unorganized camping, and overall rampant disregard for safety and respect of the land and surrounding areas, the area is being negatively affected and the public has indicated that they no longer feel safe recreating there.

**DISCUSSION:**

In 2016, the Sutton Community Council reached out to the State of Alaska and the Borough for assistance, as both governmental agencies own land impacted by the rampant use of the area. Staff investigated the possibility of developing recreation amenities at the public use area and believe a cooperative management agreement is the quickest avenue for making improvements.

From those original discussions with the Sutton community, the Community Development Department, Land & Resource Management Division has been working closely with the Sutton community, leading the effort to draft and finalize a management plan for the Jonesville Public Use Area.

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources has indicated it does not have, and does not anticipate having, funds necessary to complete or implement a management plan for the Jonesville Public Use Area. The Borough is in a position to complete and implement the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan which will require a management agreement with the State. Alaska Statute 38.05.027 provides that the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Commissioner may enter into a cooperative resource management agreement with the Borough.

The public health hazards associated with the current levels of use and lack of recreation amenities is anticipated to worsen in the near future. The plan and management agreement will provide the authority to mitigate negative activity and develop amenities and guidelines to enhance the use and safety of this area.

There is significant support from the Sutton community to move forward with the plan and management agreement with the state.

**RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:**

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly direct the Borough Manager to develop a long-term management agreement with the State of Alaska for the purpose of developing, constructing, and maintaining the Jonesville Public Use Area to include a campground, restrooms, and a designated shooting range for public use.