

Panel Returns Study

Time 10/5/75
p. 2

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The State Boundary Commission yesterday remanded a report on the incorporation of the Chugiak-Eagle River Borough back to the Department of Community and Regional Affairs for "additional information."

The commission took the action at an informal meeting to review the petition for incorporation of the Chugiak Eagle River area.

Included in the information the commission requested was the historical background on the Eagle River incorporation issue, a profile describing the service areas and financial background of the vicinity and copies of the Chugiak-Eagle River Comprehensive Plan.

Commission chairman Sig Strandberg said the commission was "reluctant" to take the remanding action "because we want to

proceed with the hearings, but we've got to do it."

"We've got to have that information," he said. "We want to make sure that information presented to the public is absolutely verifiable."

Formal public hearings on the proposed incorporation are scheduled for Nov. 1 at 10 a.m. at Chugiak High School.

The commission will consider both public input and information from the Department of Community and Regional Affairs report before making a decision on the issue.

If the commission decides in favor of the Chugiak-Eagle River incorporation, it has the discretionary power to decide if an election on the matter is necessary.

If incorporation is approved, the matter will go to the state legislature for review.

Chugiak-Eagle River

NEW BOROUGH IN SIGHT

UNIFICATION OF the Anchorage community into one governmental operation has not stilled the voices of those who favor a separate borough in the Chugiak and Eagle River area.

The movement for the creation of a new government in that suburban area is so strong, in fact, that one of the first things the new municipality of Anchorage may have to cope with will be the amputation of part of its territory.

This will come as no surprise. A new borough in the Eagle River area, in fact, was formed under provisions of a law enacted by the 1974 legislature. But the new government was abolished by court order before it could get into operation.

THE NEW BOROUGH was scheduled to begin functioning last July 1. But the courts held its formation failed to follow prescribed constitutional guidelines. Part of the opposition to the new borough came from the administrative headquarters of the Greater Anchorage Area Borough, which didn't want to see the split come about.

But the Anchorage borough government ceased to function last night when the unified municipality came into being. And with that change, the climate toward the as-

pirations of separate government advocates in Eagle River and Chugiak may well have shifted.

During his unsuccessful campaign for mayor of the new municipality, Borough Mayor Jack Roderick spoke against separate status for Eagle River and Chugiak. City Mayor George Sullivan, on the other hand, said he believed the people of that area should have their own government, if that's the decision of the majority.

AND THAT'S precisely what many Chugiak and Eagle River residents want to see come about.

Petitions asking for the creation of a new borough were formally accepted by the state last week, clearing the way for a Boundary Commission decision on whether the area meets the standards for incorporation as a separate borough. If the commission rules favorably, an election will be held to determine whether the area will go its own way.

The outcome may well be predetermined. Said the Chugiak-Eagle River Star in an editorial last Thursday:

"Based on Tuesday's vote, we are more confident than ever of earlier predictions that the separate borough will pass by an even greater margin than it did before."