Local Boundary Comm. May 5 '98
Re: Incorporation of Talkeetna

Dear Sir,

I am responding to the Petition to incorporate Talkeetna as a City.

After reading the Petition there are several inaccuracies I would like to point out.

Sally & Jordan Greer are no longer residents of Talkeetna. There is no current 1.8 mil tax levy in existence by the Mat-Su Borough for water & sewer customers. Solely user fees.

The idea of efficiency & economy as the purpose for forming a gov't is nonsense.

Various boards of supervisors for local service areas have had vacancies for years. Water & sewer supervisors have met only upon times of crisis or public demand. Then lapse into silence & inaction. Various road supervisors get into office solely to fix roads they use, then relinquish efforts for the public good. Flood control has never met to my knowledge.

These are supposed to be local people in charge of their service areas

MAY 07 1998
Local Boundary Commission
DCRA/MRAD

8/

So there are dramatic fluctuations in interests of efficiently maintaining public services.

Even with Brad Ault a local man employed by the Mat-Su Borough, services provided, for instance, roads, are inconsistent in quality.

At least the Mat-Su Borough has a built in support staff + infrastructure for providing services.

Now 758 people are supposed to duplicate the borough gov't. A public works director, engineer, attorney, clerk, etc when we already are paying for this.

Adding a 3.5 mil rate on top of existing services is not economy.

For a City of Talkeetna to assume only partial services & have the Mat-Su Borough provide the rest is only a needless dual gov't.

If the Mat-Su Borough gov't with 50,000 people can't afford to fund a Parks + Recreation Dept. how is 758 people going to do it, when a Fire Dept isn't even planned on.

What screwed up priorities!!

3

A mandatory 4% sales tax, ultimately, means we the residents, are beholden, to the prosperity of the tourist industry.

It is unclear how they assume $1,000 in burial fees. Is this an average of 5 burials at $200 each or an increase to $1,000 each. If it is the latter this would be callous & outrageous.

Taxing currently veterans senior citizens exempt property I think is outrageous as these people are on fixed incomes.

Additionally the Talkeetna Cemetary is owned by The State of Alaska DNR not BLM.

BLM owns the village airstrip in town.

After reviewing the names of the petitioners, with Mike Fisher a long time resident, we both concur the majority of the petitioners are neither long term residents, that is over 20 yrs, nor substantial taxpayers. (i.e. business's)

So this is a lopsided segment of the community desiring political control

So where is the purpose of gov't for the common good altruistic in nature demonstrated?

4/

The lack of providing for fire service garbage collection & transfer site are immediate, not future needs

On page 29 village + city are different entities. Inconsistent language.

A review of the language is certainly needed by an attorney

Actually enough inaccuracies & inconsistencies are present to label this undertaking, even for presentation as incompetent.

And these are the people who wish to lead us in gov't.

No thank you!

Sincerely
Art Wettanen
Talkeetna

P.S. A special Land Use District could be formed to meet the downtown core areas special perceived needs.

Additionally those seeking political control have plenty of opportunity to serve on all the various boards of supervisors + Mat-Su Borough Assembly