

HAINES BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION No. 21-01-899

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY OF THE HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA, AUTHORIZING A CONTINUING CLOSURE OF A PORTION OF BEACH ROAD.**

**WHEREAS**, commencing November 30, 2020, the Haines Borough experienced a major Winter Storm event; and

**WHEREAS**, between midnight on November 30, 2020 and 10:00 am December 2, 2020, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Haines Borough received more than 7 inches of rain; and

**WHEREAS**, the Winter Storm event resulted in a massive landslide across a portion of Beach Road, ("Beach Road Landslide"), completely destroying several homes, causing the deaths of two Borough residents, interrupting the supply of electricity to approximately twenty homes and making that portion of Beach Road east of the landslide ("Beach Road"), impassable to vehicular traffic ; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 2, the Haines Borough Mayor issued a Declaration of Emergency for the Haines Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Haines Borough Assembly adopted Resolution No. 20-12-897 on December 8 certifying the Mayor's declaration of emergency and continuing the emergency declaration in effect until lifted; and

**WHEREAS**, a portion of Beach Road has been closed by the Borough through emergency orders since December 2, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, before and after adoption of Resolution 20-12-897 a team of geoscientists with different specialties dispatched to the Borough by the State of Alaska have been examining conditions immediately adjacent to the Beach Road Landslide and, in consultations with landslide specialists from the United States Geological Survey, assessing the risks of further landslides adjacent to Beach Road; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the collective opinion of these professionals that re-occupancy of several homes be halted until further assessment of the Beach Road Landslide occur given the risk of additional landslides in the vicinity of the Beach Road Landslide; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 28, 2020 the State of Alaska issued a Request for Proposals for a Geotechnical Engineering Consultant to provide data specific to safety within certain locations in the Borough including areas in the immediate vicinity of the Beach Road Landslide in order to help the Borough make decisions on allowing permanent re-occupancy of homes, reconnecting utilities and clearing the Beach Road Landslide to allow resumption of vehicular traffic on that portion of Beach Road east of the Beach Road Landslide; and

**WHEREAS**, the Geotechnical Engineering Consultant will be required to prepare a report addressing safety of re-occupancy of homes, safety for reconnection of utilities and safety for road reconstruction; and to provide the Haines Borough Emergency Operations Center support either by remote monitoring or on-site assessment for any future approved limited access across or near the Beach Road Landslide for residents or for construction activities; and

**WHEREAS,** Closing Beach Road east of the current barricades will preserve public health by avoiding additional fatalities should a person using Beach Road be buried by a landslide and avoiding the risk of volunteer and paid public safety, EMT's, firefighters and search and rescue personnel being injured while responding to incidents of personal injury or missing persons following another landslide.


**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Haines Borough Assembly, authorizes the continuation of the existing closure of that portion of Beach Road east of the existing barricades to all vehicle and pedestrian traffic from 12:01 a.m. January 13, 2021 until further notice and directing Borough staff to erect, post and maintain signs and barricades informing the public that this portion of Beach Road is closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic and that entry into the closed area is at their own risk.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

Attest:

  
Alekka Fullerton, Borough Clerk



  
Douglas Olerud, Mayor