

**A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly supporting a new
Public Safety Building.**

WHEREAS, COVID-19 taxed an already deteriorating Public Safety Building (PSB); and

WHEREAS, the existing PSB was erected in 1977 as a temporary structure and is considerably beyond its useful life; and

WHEREAS, the existing construction incorporates modular designed building units on wooden pile foundations, located within the tsunami hazard zone; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, assessment of the building found that the building ranked as one of the community's most important structures and identified that it was out of compliance due to structural deficiencies, that it does not comply with ADA standards, and that a major renovation would require significant code upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough 2025 Comprehensive Plan (created in September of 2012) identified the goal of "Accomplish deferred maintenance of Public Safety Building/or construct new Public Safety facility" as a major goal; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, a report on the status of the PSB was commissioned and found significant structural issues due to water infiltration and that the building is beyond its useful life and should be replaced, rather than repaired; and

WHEREAS, the enormity of the project to replace the PSB has stifled progress and that all Haines Borough first responders (Police, Ambulance, Dispatch, Volunteer Fire Department, EOC, Search and Rescue) have had to make due with a crumbling, dangerous building; and

WHEREAS, in the last two years, the Haines Borough has experienced THREE emergencies requiring the engagement of the local EOC (COVID Pandemic response, December 2020 Extreme Weather event and accompanying fatal landslide, and January 2022 Extreme Weather event) and the lack of dependable internet, electrical service, and space impaired the response as well as prevented the Haines Borough from providing needed access to critical services; and

WHEREAS, during activation of our EOC, and mandatory evacuations of several areas of town, the EOC had to unplug some electronics in order to plug in other electronics; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough has purchased a Decontamination Unit required due to the COVID-19 pandemic which needs to be housed inside the apparatus bay (due to weather and water access); and

WHEREAS, one of our fire trucks is housed during the winter over 35 miles away from town because there is no place to keep it out of the winter weather in town; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough has incurred the cost of a new ambulance (yet to be received) but has no room in the apparatus bay of the existing PSB for two ambulances (although we have community need for two ambulances); and

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WHEREAS, the building was built before the internet; electrical service is so complicated and fragile that local electricians have refused to work on the failing electrical system and the 911 system crashes regularly due to the inferior electrical service; and

WHEREAS, the PSB is home to a significant amount of Information Technology (IT) infrastructure, our Borough servers, dispatch technology, E911 system, communications infrastructure, etc. and the building itself cannot support the existing IT needs (our 911 system crashes regularly) let alone support increased IT needs as training requirements increase (particularly for Police Department) and to support remote work;

WHEREAS, training needs and demands are high for all departments housed in the PSB, and since travel for training from our remote, rural Alaskan home is extraordinarily expensive, the addition of more remote training facilities would be invaluable to our community; and

WHEREAS, our PSB also houses our community jail and we currently have no adequate area to monitor individuals in the midst of a mental health crisis—they must be housed in a cell; and

WHEREAS, we currently have no centralized space for health monitoring, including COVID testing, and the new building will have space not only for first responders training, but also for community training and health classes, including incorporating nutritional, CPR, Diabetes prevention, and other classes for both the community and anticipates incorporating high school students interested in medical careers; and

WHEREAS, it is critical for the Haines community to have a functioning PSB which provides modern infrastructure, including broadband, needed access to critical services, is designed to jointly and directly enable work, education and training (both in person and remotely) as well as providing health monitoring and education for our community; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough has engaged Bettisworth North to provide architectural drawings to fulfill all of our identified needs for a new PSB; and

WHEREAS, the new PSB is designed to serve the Haines Community for at least another 50 years; and

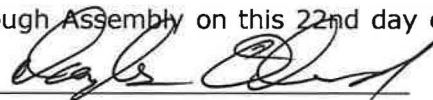
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Haines Borough Assembly fully supports the critical need for a new Public Safety Building to provide a multi-purpose community facility designed to jointly and directly enable work, education and health monitoring in the Haines Borough.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 22nd day of February, 2022.

Attest:


Alekka Fullerton, CMC, Borough Clerk




Douglas Olerud, Mayor