

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Charlie Pierce, Vice President

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Linda Murphy, Assembly Member *LB for L.M.*

DATE: April 13, 2012

RE: Ordinance 2012-07, Amending KPB Titles 2—Administration, 4—Elections and 16—Service Areas to Provide that All Kenai Peninsula Borough Service Area Boards are Appointed Instead of Elected

As Charlie Pierce would say, I have had a learning moment, and I am now ready to throw in the towel and admit defeat. Although I still believe that moving to appointed service area boards is in the best interest of the borough, I am apparently in the minority on this issue, and it isn't one that I am willing to fall on the sword for.

As an assembly, we work well together and, while we don't always agree, we are respectful of one another and we do not question the motives of those with whom we disagree. However, this has not been the case with some members of the public as well as a few service area board members. I have been called un-American, have been compared to Chinese dictators and have had my integrity questioned over this issue. I find it more than sad that political discourse on the local level has become so mean spirited and divisive. I believe this is one reason so few people want to run for office and, if I didn't have such thick skin I would probably be questioning whether I would want to run again in a year's time.

Yes, I have had a few service area board members and members of the public tell me that they think the ordinance is great. However, without their verbal support at a meeting, I don't feel I can continue to support this ordinance. So, unless I see an uprising of support at the next two meetings, I will be voting against my own ordinance.