



LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

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STATE OF ALASKA LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting for January 19, 2023 at 10:00 am
Anchorage
Via Zoom Meeting

Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Present at the meeting are commissioners John Harrington, Lance Roberts, and Larry Wood. All commissioners are attending via video teleconference. Also attending the meeting are Jedediah Smith (LBC staff), Sandra Moeller (director, Division of Community and Regional Affairs), Gene Hickey (Dept. of Law), as well as two members of the public who were not identified.

Commissioner Roberts motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Harrington seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Harrington motioned to approve the minutes for the January 19, 2022. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. Smith noted that Chair Wood submitted several non-substantive, grammatical corrections to the minutes. The motion passes 3-0.

Commissioner Harrington motioned to approve the 2022 LBC annual report to the legislature. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion.

Commissioner Roberts commented that a section of the report stating the city of Soldotna was unwilling to extend piped water utility service beyond municipal boundaries is technically not legal because the utility is required to serve its approved service area as long as customers are willing to pay for the service.

Chair Wood asked whether there were any members of the public that wanted to speak on the report. There were none.

The motion to adopt the 2022 LBC annual report to the legislature was approved 3-0.

Chair Wood said he would like the Commission to consider a more in depth discussion on borough formation in a work session later in the spring, exploring the model borough boundaries.

Commissioner Harrington said he would like to expand the conversation beyond the borough model, which has a strong disincentive against organizing.

Division director Moller said there has been a hiatus in municipal incorporation, and looks forward to the discussion.

Smith said he anticipated receiving a draft borough incorporation from Hoonah sometime in the first quarter of 2023.

Gene Hickey said the City of Soldotna had filed it's brief to the Supreme Court and the Commission's brief is due March 6, at which point it will be up to the Supreme Court to review and schedule oral arguments on the appeal.

Commissioner Roberts said he looked forward to a spring work session.

Commissioner Harrington asked for a map of all boroughs and REAA school districts.

Sara Chambers, boards and regulations advisor for the Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development, said she is available if the Commission has questions on governance issues or needs an extra set of eyes on materials.

Commissioner Harrington motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:35 a.m.

APPROVED: _____

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LARRY WOOD, CHAIR

ATTEST:

JEDEDIAH SMITH, STAFF