

KETCHIKAN CHARTER COMMISSION

AGENDA STATEMENT

NO G-4

MEETING OF January 30, 2004

ITEM TITLE Application and acceptance of funds from the Local Boundary Commission through the Ketchikan Gateway Borough SUBMITTED BY Glen Thompson
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SUMMARY STATEMENT:

As documented in Item F-2 of this Agenda, the Ketchikan Charter Commission is without operating funds or an office for conducting business. In light of that, Chair Thompson sent an email to Dan Bockhorst of the Local Boundary Commission asking if there were any State funds available to assist the Commission in this regard.

The attached email documentation indicates that if the Ketchikan Charter Commission submits their needs and a budget showing where funding will be spent, Mr. Bockhorst will prepare a grant agreement with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough as a pass-through agency in order for the KCC to acquire the funds. The reason the grant will go through the Borough is that the Ketchikan Charter Commission has no corporate structure and the Borough will be the petitioner at the end of the Commission's process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

"I move to authorize the Chair to submit a letter of explanation as to the need and use of funding for the Ketchikan Charter Commission, a copy of the anticipated funding needed and a request for grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 to be administered by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough."

[X] Continue Summary Statement [] Continue Recommended Action

----- Original Message -----

From: [Dan Bockhorst](#)

To: [Glen Thompson](#)

Cc: [Gene J Kane](#) ; [Diane L Hunt](#) ; [Roy Eckert](#) ; [Scott Brandt-Erichsen](#) ; [Karl Amylon](#) ; [Steve Schweppe](#)

Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2004 11:50 AM

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Ketchikan Consolidation Commission]

Glen: I received your e-mail. As indicated previously, this agency has pledged its support of the Ketchikan consolidation effort. As continued evidence of the good faith nature of that pledge, the Director of our agency, Gene Kane, has agreed to grant \$10,000 to assist in the development of the Ketchikan Consolidation Commission.

For technical reasons, we want to grant the funds to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough for use in support of the work of the Ketchikan Consolidation Commission (the Ketchikan Consolidation Commission has no corporate structure and the Borough will be the petitioner in the end). The funds must be spent by June 30, 2004.

Please provide me with a brief description and budget regarding the manner in which the funds will be spent. We'll then prepare a grant agreement on that basis between this agency and the Borough. I assume that neither the Borough nor the City of Ketchikan will object to such an arrangement.

----- Original Message -----

Subject:	Re: Ketchikan Consolidation Commission
Date:	Wed, 28 Jan 2004 10:44:21 -0900
From:	Dan Bockhorst <dan_bockhorst@dced.state.ak.us>
To:	Gene J Kane <gene_kane@dced.state.ak.us>
CC:	Diane L Hunt <diane_hunt@dced.state.ak.us>

Gene:

I am forwarding an e-mail to you from Glen Thompson, Chair of the Ketchikan Consolidation Commission. Mr. Thompson is asking DCED to help fund the duties

[X] Continue Summary Statement [] Continue Recommended Action

of the Ketchikan Consolidation Commission, which involve preparation of a petition to the Local Boundary Commission for consolidation of the City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough by September 30, 2004. This is an important project that relates to the core mission of this agency. I recommend highly that we offer a \$10,000 grant to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough to provide support to the efforts of the Consolidation Committee.

The goal of the group is fully consistent with the provisions of Article X, Section 1 of Alaska's Constitution – maximum local self-government with a minimum of local government units.

I recognize that that discretionary funds for this agency are very limited in these times of budget cutbacks. I checked with Diane and understand that the Division has \$10,000 in grant funds that could be allocated to assist in the development of the petition. The funds would have to be spent by June 30, 2004. The Borough will be the formal petitioner. The Commission is also asking the Borough to provide funds to support its efforts.

As you know, there is precedence for such assistance. The Department has provided grants to others (e.g., the Aleutians East Borough) to develop petitions to the Local Boundary Commission. The Department has also prepared petitions on behalf of some groups in certain cases (e.g., detachment from the North Slope Borough, dissolution of 5 cities). The Department commonly assists all prospective petitioners in the development of petitions in one form or another. Detailed background information about the nature of the Ketchikan Consolidation Commission and its work is provided below.

Detailed Background about the Ketchikan Consolidation Commission

A group of citizens in Ketchikan, known as the "Ketchikan One Government Committee," developed an initiative to place the following question on the October 7, 2003, ballot:

Shall a commission be elected to prepare a petition, including a home rule charter, to consolidate the City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and shall the Ketchikan Gateway Borough file the petition with the Local Boundary Commission by September 30, 2004?

LBC staff worked with Glen Thompson, Chair of the Group, and other group members regarding the matter. LBC staff also conferred with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Attorney, City of Ketchikan Attorney, and Mayor of the City of Ketchikan regarding the matter.

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Clerk approved an application for an initiative petition for the election of a commission to prepare a proposal for consolidation of the City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

[X] Continue Summary Statement [] Continue Recommended Action

On August 13, the Ketchikan One Government Committee - a subcommittee of the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors - filed an initiative petition to form a locally-elected commission to prepare a proposal for consolidation of the City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. The petition had been signed by nearly 900 signatures; 598 valid signatures were required for certification. On August 14, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Clerk certified the petition.

On October 7, voters of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough approved an areawide initiative proposition creating an elected commission to prepare a petition, including a home rule charter, to the Local Boundary Commission for consolidation of the City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough as a home rule borough.

On January 13, voters throughout the Ketchikan Gateway Borough elected seven members to the Ketchikan Consolidation Commission. Brad Finney, Jerry Kiffer, and John Harrington were elected to the seats designated for residents of the Borough outside the City of Ketchikan. Mike Painter, Debby Otte and Dennis McCarty were elected to the seats designated for residents of the City of Ketchikan. Glen Thompson was elected to the at-large seat.

The Consolidation Commission held its first meeting on January 21. Glen Thompson was elected Chair, Mike Painter was elected Vice-Chair and Debby Otte was elected Secretary. The Commission discussed need for financial support, and plans for public input in the development of the consolidation proposal. The Commission is obligation under a citizen-approved initiative to prepare a petition for consolidation of the City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough in time to allow the.....

Glen Thompson wrote:

Dan, things are progressing nicely. We had our first commission meeting last Wednesday and will meet again this Friday. I was elected chair so you will probably hear from me frequently. I plan to introduce a resolution to adopt the Ketchikan 2001 petition as a working draft this next meeting.

One of the problems facing us is that we have no funding. We expect to need some clerical and office assistance and our budget could range as high as \$30,000 depending on how much the individual commissioners are willing and able to do themselves (all have full time jobs and are volunteers). We plan to request funding from the Borough, but my question to you is whether there are any state funds available?

KETCHIKAN CHARTER COMMISSION

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Best

Glen