

**WESTERN EMERGENCY SERVICE AREA
PO BOX 350
72440 MILO FRITZ AVENUE
ANCHOR POINT, AK 99556-0350
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 9, 2025
18:00 HOURS**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Dawson Slaughter called the meeting to order at 18:07 hours.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman, Dawson Slaughter led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Janet Cully, Seat A; Dawson Slaughter, Seat B; Mark Ball, Seat C; Katherine Covey, Seat D

Staff Members Present: Jon Marsh, Chief; Cassie Parkinson, FF Tech/ Acting Secretary

Absent: Janice Nofziger, Seat E; Rob Mathis, Deputy Chief

Visitors: Brent Johnson, KPB Assemblyman; WES Captain, David Bear

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Discussion: None.

 K Covey / **M Ball** moved and seconded to approve the Agenda as written.

 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent Motion Passed

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, Regular Board Meeting, June 11, 2025.

Discussion: None.

 K Covey / **M Ball** moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting as written.

 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent Motion Passed

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Comments:

KPB Assemblyman, Brent Johnson commented that KPB Assembly member, James Baisden has introduced an ordinance to increase the homeowner exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000. This ordinance will have a big impact on service areas, specifically the budget. There was mention of the general fund and mil rates. This will go to a vote of the public in October. This has nothing to do with the Firefighter Exemption. Board Member, Janet Cully asked what the process would be for increasing the Firefighter Exemption. Mr Johnson commented that the

Firefighter Exemption will not go to a vote, it is something that can be done in house. He will look into it and do some research to find out what can be done.

REPORTS

A. Chief's Report ~ Jon Marsh, Chief:

Key Points: Same classes going on. Firefighter II will be testing July 26 and EMT 1 class is ongoing through the summer. A FADO class is tentatively being discussed for July/August with KESA and HVFD. It keeps getting pushed further out. Homer Fire Chief, Mark Kirko has announced his retirement. He will be leaving the end of July.

The previous 12 months' EMS billing collection rate through May 2025 is 70%. \$409,805.53 total charges for the year. \$214,030.07 in payments, with pending charges of \$105,822.75.

2025 Calls for Assistance: 386 YTD, with 77 calls since last meeting.

Board Member, Janet Cully asked the Chief about the ambulance billing. She stated that the collection percentage rate was low. She asked about reports and audits and how collections were handled. Chief explained that our billing is outsourced to a company in Washington that handles ambulance billing. They cover the requirements for billing.

B. Deputy Chief's Report ~ Grants:

Nothing new to report. Same as last meeting.

C. SREMSC / KPESI Report ~:

None.

PENDING BUSINESS & FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST MEETING

A. Recruitment and Retention Committee:

There has been a lot happening.

The Committee would like an email address for a centralized communication point. There was discussion of having a borough email address vs a Gmail or Hotmail. Chief Marsh stated that he would talk to IT about a Borough email account if that was what the committee really wanted. There was a question of who would manage the email because of limited access to the Borough Server and internal logins, due to online security. The easier way would be for the committee chair to create a free email account and manage it.

There was a request for volunteer information that the committee could review and possibly make recommendations for changes. A volunteer application packet was requested for review. There was discussion of what information specifically the committee would like to look at, such as SOG's, or any information about volunteers that is available. There was discussion of a one page information sheet that outlined processes and requirements for volunteers.

A PSA and two survey forms were presented for review and comments. The purpose of the surveys is to gather data and compile information to see what could be done, if anything, to improve volunteerism. There was discussion on how to proceed with sending out the surveys.

The committee is looking for a Brand.

2 community members have reached out, wanting to be on the committee. These community members are Blake Sawyer and Jonathan Crocker. There was one community member who had expressed interest in becoming a volunteer. The Nikolaevsk Community Council has reached out to the board members on the committee. There was much discussion about getting volunteers in the village, call volumes, the Nikolaevsk Station, and apparatus that may or may not be housed in that Station. There was discussion about how to keep volunteers engaged. There was discussion about training and what types of in-house or certification training that could be done. There was discussion about the difference between support firefighter and certified firefighter.

Board Member, Katherine Covey noted that she loves and supports what the committee is trying to accomplish, but it also needs to be noted that the committee is auxiliary and not the Board or the Department. The committee definitely needs to be titled and stand itself out. The committee needs to get together and get organized before it jumps ship. In regards to Nikolaevsk and other outlying areas, residents need to understand that they will need to begin the volunteer process at one of the active Stations, by completing training, orientation, and pulling shift duties before other stuff can happen.

NEW BUSINESS

A. No New Business.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL

Expense report
Chief's Report
Committee PSA
Committee Surveys

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

BOARD COMMENTS

Seat A; Janet Cully: No comments.

Seat B; Chair, Dawson Slaughter: No comments

Seat C; Vice Chair, Mark Ball: No comments

Seat D; Katherine Covey: No comments.

Seat E; Janice Nofziger: No comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Discussion: The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for August 13th, 2025. This meeting will be at Station 3 in Anchor Point.

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 will be the next scheduled meeting.


ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair, Dawson Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 19:24.


Dawson Slaughter, Board Chair

08/13/2025

Date Approved


Cassie Parkinson, Acting Secretary, WES Board

08/13/2025

Date Approved