WESTERN EMERGENCY SERVICE AREA
PO BOX 350
72440 MILO FRITZ AVENUE
ANCHOR POINT, AK 99556-0350
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 08, 2025
18:00 HOURS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Dawson Slaughter called the meeting to order at 18:03 hours.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

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

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

Absent: Janet Cully, Seat A; Janice Nofziger, Seat E

Visitors: KPB Assemblyman, Brent Johnson

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Discussion: None.

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

__3__ Yes, __0__ No, __2__ Absent Motion Passed

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, Regular Board Meeting, August 13, 2025.

Discussion: None.

___**K Covey**___/___**M Ball**___ moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting as written.

__3__ Yes, __0__ No, __2__ Absent Motion Passed

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, Special Board Meeting, September 2, 2025.

Discussion: None.

___**M Ball**___/___**K Covey**___ moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2025 Special Board Meeting as written.

__3__ Yes, __0__ No, __2__ Absent Motion Passed

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Comments:

Brent Johnson: glad to see residents of Nikolaevsk here at the last meeting. It's nice to see community members expressing interest and waiting to see if anything happens.

REPORTS

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

Key Points: EMT 1 Class has completed. Students are scheduling testing times. AK State Fire Conference was held in Sitka the week of September 29 – October 3. DC Rob Mathis, Mark Ball and Sarah Duncan attended the conference. EMS Symposium is scheduled for November 4 – 8. We have five who will be attending. J Soplanda, D Matthews, J Long, A Clary and L Marsh. There is a Fire I and II academy with HVFD and KESA tentatively scheduled for early 2026. Homer will be taking the lead on this.

The previous 12 months' EMS billing collection rate through August 2025 is 75%. The collection rate is higher than it has been in the past. $395,846.72 total charges for the year. $229,315.99 in payments, with pending charges of $92,975.77.

2025 Calls for Assistance: 574 YTD, with 104 calls since last meeting, which was August 13. We are on pace to hit about 750 calls for this year.

B. Deputy Chief's Report ~ Grants:

Resolution for the DOI grant was enacted. The ITB (invitation to bid) is in process right now. Waiting to see what comes in. There is a possibility the project will be under the grant award amount.

As for AFG/Safer grants, we have heard nothing and the Government Shut Down impacts these programs.

C. WES Recruitment and Retention Committee Report ~Janet Cully:

No written report from Committee Chair.

Board Member, Mark Ball reported that to his knowledge there had been no committee meeting held or scheduled. Also, he does not know if any community members have joined or committed to the committee.

There was much discussion about the committee.

Board Chair, Dawson Slaughter requested the topic of the recruitment and retention committee be added to the Agenda under New Business for the November Board Meeting.

PENDING BUSINESS & FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST MEETING

A. No Pending Business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY27 Staffing (positions):

Chairman, Dawson Slaughter requested this be added to agenda. The Board needs to discuss staffing requests due to submittal deadlines. This has been a recurring request from the Board.

There was discussion about requests for more staffing, impacts to property taxes and mil rates. There needs to be consistency in showing the need for additional staffing. The Board needs to continue to ask for additional positions, even if the requests are denied. Staffing requests are due to finance around the end of November, so the Board will have to decide its course of action at the November Board Meeting.

It was noted that the Board needs to show their support, because these requests do not move forward without it.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL

Expense report
Chief's Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brent Johnson: Thanked Chief Marsh and Deputy Chief Mathis noting his appreciation in working with them and attending Board Meetings. Commented that he was glad to be a part of the Merger and feels it was good for the community. Moving forward, it will be interesting to see what happens with the increase in property tax exemptions passing. Comments on the monetary impact of the increased exemptions to the Service Areas. Mike Hicks from Kasilof is the new Assemblyman. Not sure who will be the next KPB Assembly President.

Brent was thanked by all for everything he has done to support the Service Area and the Board.

BOARD COMMENTS

Seat A; Janet Cully: No comments.

Seat B; Chair, Dawson Slaughter: Thanks everyone

Seat C; Vice Chair, Mark Ball: No comments

Seat D; Katherine Covey: Thank you Brent for regularly attending our Board Meetings. Please pass it along to your replacement.

Seat E; Janice Nofziger: No comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Discussion: The next regularly scheduled meeting is November 12, 2025. Are there any scheduling conflicts for Board Members? The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held November 12, 2025 at Station One in Ninilchik.

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 will be the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair, Dawson Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 18:25.

Dawson Slaughter, Board Chair

11/12/2025
Date Approved

Cassie Parkinson, Acting Secretary, WES Board

11/12/2025
Date Approved