



Kenai Peninsula Borough

144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Assembly

Ryan Tunseth, President
Kelly Cooper, Vice President
Willy Dunne
Cindy Ecklund
Dale Eicher
Scott Griebel
Michael Hicks
Lenora Niesen
Sarge Truesdell

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

6:00 PM

Seward - Seward Community Library and Museum
239 Sixth Avenue, Community Room, Seward

Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938

[https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89716948642?](https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89716948642?pwd=fEb3zpJksgh1maera2nn3XZRWifPat.1)

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CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The invocation was given via Zoom by Frank Alioto, Chaplain for Central Emergency Services.

ROLL CALL

[Clerk's Note: Vice President Cooper attended via Zoom.]

Present: 9 - Ryan Tunseth, Kelly Cooper, Cindy Ecklund, Willy Dunne, Dale Eicher, Lenora Niesen, Michael Hicks, Sarge Truesdell, and Scott Griebel

Also present were:

Peter A. Micciche, Borough Mayor
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director
Sean Kelley, Borough Attorney
Michele Turner, Borough Clerk
Sue Ellen Essert, Deputy Borough Clerk

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Assembly President Tunseth stated that the Assembly held Budget Work Session #1 and discussed its agenda items.

[9 Present: Cooper (via Zoom), Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

Assembly Member Niesen stated the Finance Committee met and discussed its agenda items.

[9 Present: Cooper (via Zoom), Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

Assembly Member Ecklund stated the Lands Committee met and discussed its agenda items.

[9 Present: Cooper (via Zoom), Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

Assembly Member Truesdell stated the Policies and Procedures Committee met and discussed its agenda items.

[9 Present: Cooper (via Zoom), Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

Assembly Member Dunne stated the Legislative Committee met and discussed its agenda items.

[9 Present: Cooper (via Zoom), Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Niesen moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda.

Copies have been made available to the public, Borough Clerk Michele Turner noted by title only the resolutions, ordinances and other new business items that were on the consent agenda.

[KPB-7603](#) April 7, 2026 Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes
approved

[KPB-7616](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Cheerleaders –
2026 Division II State Academic Award Recipients (Ecklund)
This Commending Resolution was adopted.

[KPB-7617](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School – 2025 Division II
State Wrestling Champions (Ecklund)
This Commending Resolution was adopted.

[KPB-7618](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Debate Team –

2026 Division II State Academic Award Recipients (Ecklund)

This Commending Resolution was adopted.

[KPB-7619](#)

A Resolution Commending the Seward High School National Ocean Sciences Bowl Team – 2026 Award Recipients (Ecklund)

This Commending Resolution was adopted.

[KPB-7620](#)

A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Girls' Basketball – 2026 Class 2A State Champions (Ecklund)

This Commending Resolution was adopted.

The following public hearing items met the required conditions of KPB 22.40.110 and were added to the consent agenda:

[2026-13](#)

An Ordinance Authorizing a Public Purpose Non-Commercial Communication Site Lease Agreement with the Cooper Landing Community Club, Inc. (Mayor)

This Ordinance was enacted.

[2025-19-34](#)

An Ordinance Appropriating Supplemental Funds from the General Fund and Authorizing the Maintenance Department to Redirect Funds Previously Appropriated for the Ninilchik School Septic Replacement Project to the Nikiski North Star School Septic Replacement Project (Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

[2025-19-35](#)

An Ordinance Amending the Records Micrographics Technician Job Descriptions and Appropriating Necessary Funds for the Positions (Tunseth at the Request of the Borough Clerk)

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

[2025-19-36](#)

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds for Reimbursement of Costs for Replacement of the Fire Alarm System for the Kenai Health Center (Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

[2025-19-37](#)

An Ordinance Accepting and Appropriating Grant Funds from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Volunteer Fire Capacity Program on behalf of Bear Creek Fire, Kachemak Emergency, Nikiski Fire and Western Emergency Service Areas (Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

NEW BUSINESS

[2026-022](#) A Resolution Approving Twenty-Seven Unincorporated Communities for Participation in the State's Fiscal Year 2027 Community Assistance Program (Mayor)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-021](#) A Resolution Approving an Automatic Aid Agreement and Operational Plan Between the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the City of Kenai, on Behalf of the Central Emergency Service Area, the Nikiski Fire Service Area, and Kenai Fire Department (Mayor)

[Clerk's Note: Resolution 2026-021 was amended by deleting the final Whereas clause: [WHEREAS, AT IT'S MEETING ON APRIL 15, 2026, THE KENAI CITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDED _____ THROUGH KENAI RESOLUTION _____;]

This Resolution was adopted as amended.

[2026-024](#) A Resolution Urging the State Senate to Pass House Bill 101 Raising the Age of Consent to 18 (Eicher, Tunseth, Cooper, Mayor, Niesen, Ecklund, Dunne, Griebel, Hicks, Truesdell)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-14](#) An Ordinance Authorizing a Communications Site Lease Agreement with GCI Communication Corp., in Beluga (Mayor) (Hearing on 05/05/26)

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2026-16](#) An Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance of 5 Parcels of KPB-Owned Land to the City of Homer for Less Than Fair Market Value in Support of a City Need. (Mayor, Cooper, Dunne) (Hearing on (05/05/26)

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2026-17](#) An Ordinance Re-Authorizing the Conveyance of KPB-Owned Land to the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for a Public Highway Right-of-Way in Support of the "Sterling Safety Corridor Improvements, MP 82.5 To 94" Project (Mayor) (Hearing on 05/05/26)

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2026-18](#) An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of Borough-Owned Land for a Material Site in Beluga by Competitive Lease Offering Through Sealed Bid Procedures (Mayor) (Hearing on 05/05/26)

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda

President Tunseth called for public comment with none being offered.

The motion to approve the agenda and consent agenda as amended carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Tunseth, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, Truesdell, and Griebel

COMMENDING RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

[KPB-7604](#) A Mayoral Proclamation Declaring April 2026 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month”

[Clerk's Note: Mayor Micciche presented the proclamation to Grace Williams from Sea View Community Services.]

[KPB-7616](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Cheerleaders – 2026 Division II State Academic Award Recipients (Ecklund)

[Clerk's Note: Assembly Member Ecklund presented the commending resolution to the athletes and coaches.]

[KPB-7617](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School – 2025 Division II State Wrestling Champions (Ecklund)

[Clerk's Note: Assembly Member Ecklund presented the commending resolution to the athletes and coaches.]

[KPB-7618](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Debate Team – 2026 Division II State Academic Award Recipients (Ecklund)

[Clerk's Note: Assembly Member Ecklund presented the commending resolution to the team and coaches.]

[KPB-7619](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School National Ocean Sciences Bowl Team – 2026 Award Recipients (Ecklund)

[Clerk's Note: Assembly Member Ecklund presented the commending resolution to the team and coaches.]

[KPB-7620](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Girls' Basketball – 2026 Class 2A State Champions (Ecklund)

[Clerk's Note: Assembly Member Ecklund presented the commending

resolution to the athletes and coaches.]

PRESENTATIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE

1. [KPB-7605](#) Seward High School Student Council, Joel Williams, Math Teacher
[Clerk's Note: Seward High School student council members gave a presentation to the Assembly.]
2. [KPB-7624](#) Seward Senior Center Grant Update, Dana Paperman, Executive Director
[Clerk's Note: Dana Paperman, Executive Director of Seward Senior Center gave a presentation to the Assembly.]

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

President Tunseth called for public comment:

Six students from Seward Elementary and one student from Seward High School spoke in support of school funding:

Brandon Tatum, addressed the Assembly regarding Bear Creek Fire Service Areas budget.

The 20 minute aggregate was reached and the public comment period was closed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

[KPB-7606](#) Mayors Memo

1. Assembly Requests/Responses - None
2. Agreements and Contracts
 - a. [KPB-7607](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-019 Summer & Winter Maintenance- East region, Unit 1
 - b. [KPB-7608](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-020 Summer & Winter Maintenance- East Region, Unit 3A
 - c. [KPB-7609](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-023 Summer & Winter Maintenance- East Region, Unit 3B
 - d. [KPB-7610](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for RFP26-014 Homer Middle School Parent/Student Drop Off

- e. [KPB-7611](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-009 Soldotna High School Siding- Phase II

3. Other

- a. [KPB-7612](#) Revenue- Expenditure Report- March 2026
- b. [KPB-7613](#) Budget Revisions - March 2026

ITEMS NOT COMPLETED FROM PRIOR AGENDA - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ORDINANCES

[2026-09](#) An Ordinance Amending Borough Code, KPB 2.58.058 and KPB 4.30.060, Relating to Dual Service Prohibitions and Incompatibility of Offices (Mayor)

[Clerk's Note: Assembly Member Griebel disclosed he may be interested in future borough positions and requested to be excused from the vote. Per KPB 22.40.140, President Tunseth ruled Mr. Griebel would be excused from the vote.]

Truesdell moved to enact Ordinance 2026-09.

President Tunseth called for public comment with none being offered.

The motion to enact Ordinance 2026-09 carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Tunseth, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, and Truesdell

Abstain: 1 - Griebel

[2026-12](#) An Ordinance Amending Borough Code, KPB Chapter 2.60, to Establish the Department of Public Safety Communications and Sunset the Advisory Board under KPB 2.60.040 (Mayor)

Truesdell moved to enact Ordinance 2026-12

President Tunseth called for public comment with none being offered.

The motion to enact Ordinance 2026-12 carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Tunseth, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, Truesdell, and Griebel

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolutions

[2026-023](#) A Resolution Urging the State Legislature to Pass House Bill 374 Relating to the Base Student Allocation (Ecklund, Dunne)

Dunne moved to adopt Resolution 2026-023.

President Tunseth called for public comment:

Joshua Gerard, spoke in support of Resolution 2026-023.

There being no one else to speak, the public comment period was closed.

Assembly Members Dunne, Ecklund and Truesdell spoke in support of Resolution 2026-023. Assembly Members Niesen, Eicher and Cooper spoke in opposition to Resolution 2026-023.

[Clerk's Note: President Tunseth passed the gavel to President pro tem Niesen and spoke in opposition to Resolution 2026-023. President pro tem Niesen returned the gavel to President Tunseth.]

The motion to adopt Resolution 2026-023 failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Ecklund, Dunne, and Truesdell

No: 6 - Tunseth, Cooper, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, and Griebel

2. Ordinances for Introduction

[2026-20](#) An Ordinance Amending KPB 5.18.200 and KPB 5.18.430 Relating to Borough Sales Tax to Increase the Maximum Amount of a Sale Subject to Borough Sales Tax to \$1,000 and to Exempt a Class of Residential Rentals, Subject To Voter Approval (Ecklund, Dunne) (Hearing on 05/19/26)

Truesdell moved to introduce Ordinance 2026-20 and set for public hearing.

President Tunseth called for public comment with none being offered.

Assembly Member Dunne spoke in support of introducing Ordinance 2026-20. Assembly Members Hicks, Eicher, Niesen, Cooper and Griebel spoke in opposition to introducing Ordinance 2026-20.

Ecklund moved to Call the Question.

The motion to Call the Question carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Tunseth, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, Truesdell, and Griebel

The motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-20 and set for public hearing failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Ecklund, and Dunne

No: 7 - Tunseth, Cooper, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, Truesdell, and Griebel

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

President Tunseth called for public comment:

Mica Vanbuskirk, thanked the Assembly for traveling to Seward and for working on school funding.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the public comment period was closed.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly Member Dunne thanked those who testified regarding school funding. He stated he was working with the Seldovia Recreational Service Area to explore options for keeping the school pool open. Mr. Dunne also reported that he participated in the Democracy Fair held in Homer on April 18, 2026.

Assembly Member Hicks expressed appreciation to the Mayor, fellow Assembly Members, and Borough staff for their service. He also thanked the Borough Clerk for her excellent work and thanked everyone for their testimony.

Assembly Member Ecklund requested that it be noted that the majority of the student commending resolutions recognized academic achievements, not solely athletic accomplishments.

Assembly Member Eicher thanked the Assembly for its support of Resolution 2026-024.

Assembly Member Truesdell noted the strong community support for the athletes from the area. He also enjoyed the testimony provided by Seward Elementary students.

Assembly Member Griebel thanked those who provided testimony and stated he really enjoyed the students presentations. He reported attending the Road Service Area Board meeting on April 14, 2026, and the Central Emergency Service Area meeting on April 16, 2026, and provided brief updates on both.

Assembly Member Niesen announced that the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District was hosting an Industry Overview Forum at the Seward Gateway Hotel on April 23, 2026.

Assembly Vice President Cooper stated it was nice to celebrate the Seward students during the meeting. She thanked emergency response personnel for their continued service and thanked everyone who provided testimony.

Assembly President Tunseth thanked participants for the informative presentations. He also congratulated Borough Clerk Michele Turner on earning her Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation and Deputy Clerk Sue Ellen Essert on earning her Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REPORTS

ASSEMBLY MEETING AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. May 5, 2026 12:10 PM
Budget Work Session #2
Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Borough Administration Building
Remote participation available through Zoom
Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938

2. May 5, 2026 6:00 PM
Regular Assembly Meeting
Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Borough Administration Building
Remote participation available through Zoom
Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the assembly, President Tunseth adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting of April 21, 2026.

Michele Turner, MMC, Borough Clerk

Approved by the Assembly: _____

