



Kenai Peninsula Borough

144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Meeting Minutes - Final

Assembly

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

6:00 PM

Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938
[https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89716948642?
pwd=fEb3zpJksgh1maera2nn3XZRWlPat.1](https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89716948642?pwd=fEb3zpJksgh1maera2nn3XZRWlPat.1)

Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Frank Alioto, Chaplain for Central Emergency Services.

ROLL CALL

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 Budget Work Session #2 was held.
[9 Present: Cooper, Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

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

[9 Present: Cooper, Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

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

[9 Present: Cooper, 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, Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Cooper 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-7646](#) April 21, 2026 Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes
approved

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

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

This Ordinance was enacted.

[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)

This Ordinance was enacted.

[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)

This Ordinance was enacted.

[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)

This Ordinance was enacted.

NEW BUSINESS

[2026-026](#) A Resolution Approving a New Collective Bargaining Agreement (Mayor)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-027](#) A Resolution Authorizing a Standardization Policy for the Use of NeoGov (Mayor)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-028](#) A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Fifth Amendment to the Operating Agreement with CPGH, Inc. (Mayor)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-19](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Funds for Fiscal Year 2027 (Mayor) (Second Hearing on 06/02/26)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-38](#) An Ordinance Appropriating \$31,460,051.15 in Educational Bond Proceeds for the Purpose of Financing the Certain Educational Capital Improvements in the Borough (Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2026-22](#) An Ordinance Authorizing a Communications Site Lease Agreement with Vertical Bridge S3 Assets, LLC, in Kenai (Mayor)

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-39](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the North Peninsula Recreation Service Area Operating Fund for Heater Replacements at the North Peninsula Community Recreation Center (Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2026-21](#) An Ordinance Amending Borough Code, KPB 2.45.050, Adopting the Updated Kenai Peninsula Borough Emergency Operations Plan and Providing for Periodic Updates (Mayor) (Hearing on 06/02/26)

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[KPB-7658](#) Authorizing the Issuance of a Letter of Non-Objection to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board Regarding the Renewal of Jimmie Jack

Fishing, Inc., Liquor License No. 60427, Outside Kenai City Limits

approved

[KPB-7659](#)

Petition to Vacate a portion of the varied width Steik Avenue and associated 10-foot utility easement in Lot 30 HM 2001-80, lying within the following limits, the projection of Oil Well Road as dedicated in HM 2001-80 and the seismograph right-of-way known as Gravel Pit Trail, along the northern boundary of Tract 107, and the intersection with Prosser Street right-of-way to the east as dedicated by Ninilchik Right-of-Way Map, Plat HM 84-115, and identified on the submitted sketch, Ninilchik Area.

[Clerk's Note: At its regular meeting of April 13, 2026, the Planning Commission unanimously approved the referenced petition to vacate.]

approved

[KPB-7660](#)

Petition to Vacate the western approximately 274.4-foot portion of the north 30' of Augusta National Road east of the intersection of Grant Avenue, including the adjacent 15-foot utility easement, adjacent to the parcel created by Plat Waiver 96-17 and Lot 4A, Block 3, South Bend Bluff Estates (Plat KN 2002-42), as dedicated by Plat KN 2002-42, Ciechanski Road Area.

[Clerk's Note: At its regular meeting of April 13, 2026, the Planning Commission unanimously approved the referenced petition to vacate.]

approved

[KPB-7661](#)

Confirming an Appointment to Resilience and Security Advisory Commission (Mayor)

Jonathan Crocker, At-Large Seat, Term Expires 09/30/2028

approved

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda as Amended

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

PRESENTATIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE

1. [KPB-7647](#) Central Peninsula General Hospital Quarterly Report, Angela Hinnegan,

Chief Executive Officer (10 Minutes)

[Clerk's Note: Angela Hinnegan, Chief Executive Officer, gave a presentation to the Assembly.]

2. [KPB-7648](#) South Peninsula Hospital Quarterly Report, Ryan Smith, Chief Executive Officer (10 Minutes)

[Clerk's Note: Ryan Smith, Chief Executive Officer, gave a presentation to the Assembly.]

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

President Tunseth called for public comment with none being offered.

MAYOR'S REPORT[KPB-7649](#) Mayor's Memo

1. Assembly Requests/Responses
2. Agreements and Contracts
 - a. [KPB-7650](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-021 Humpy Point Driveway Construction
 - b. [KPB-7651](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-018 Boroughwide Grounds Maintenance FY27 – Seward/Moose Pass/Cooper Landing
 - c. [KPB-7652](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-017 Boroughwide Grounds Maintenance FY27 – Area 2 North
 - d. [KPB-7653](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-016 Boroughwide Grounds Maintenance FY27 – Hope
 - e. [KPB-7654](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-011 Boroughwide Grounds Maintenance FY27 – Area 4 Homer
 - f. [KPB-7655](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-008 Boroughwide Grounds Maintenance FY27 – Area 1 Central
3. Other
 - a. [KPB-7656](#) Capital Project Reports – March 31, 2026

- b. [KPB-7657](#) Investment Report quarter ended March 31, 2026

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolutions

[2026-025](#)

A Resolution Determining the Amount to be Provided from Local Sources for School Purposes During Fiscal Year 2027 and Approving the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Total Budget (Mayor)

Niesen moved to adopt Resolution 2025-026.

President Tunseth called for public comment.

The following people spoke in support of Resolution 2026-025:

Jason Tauriainen, KPB School Board President

Patricia Bouton, Soldotna

The following people spoke in support of funding to the cap:

Heather Fernstrom, Soldotna

Erin Pearce, Bear Creek

Minor Student

Winter Marshall-Allen, Homer

Dawn Magness

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

Ecklund moved to amend Resolution 2026-025 as follows:

SECTION 2 to read, "That [\$62,359,080] \$68,685,024 shall be made available from local sources to fund school district operations for Fiscal Year 2027 as follows:

(A) Local Effort [45,996,566] \$ 52,322,510

(B) Borough Maintenance 10,126,165

(C) School District Utilities 81,600

(D) Insurance 5,827,900

(E) Audit 174,162

(F) Custodial Services 152,687

TOTAL LOCAL FUNDING PER AS 14.17.410 [\$62,359,080] \$68,685,024"

Assembly Members Eicher, Cooper, Griebel, Niesen, Truesdell and Dunne spoke in opposition to the Ecklund amendment.

President Tunseth passed the gavel to Vice President Cooper and spoke in opposition to the Ecklund amendment. Vice President Cooper returned the gavel to President Tunseth.

The motion to amend Resolution 2026-025 failed by the following vote.

Yes: 1 - Ecklund

No: 8 - Tunseth, Cooper, Dunne, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, Truesdell, and Griebel

Assembly Member Ecklund spoke in opposition to Resolution 2026-025.

President Tunseth passed the gavel to Vice President Cooper and encouraged Assembly Member Ecklund to reconsider her vote regarding Resolution 2026-025. Vice President Cooper returned the gavel to President Tunseth.

Assembly Member Niesen spoke in support of Resolution 2026-025.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2026-025 carried by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Ecklund

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

President Tunseth called for public comment.

The following people addressed the Assembly regarding school funding:

Patricia Bouton, Soldotna
Winter Marshall- Allen, Homer
Robanne Stading, Homer
Dawn Magnus, Soldotna
Jason Tauriainen, Nikiski
Minor Student

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

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly Member Dunne thanked everyone for their participation and providing

public comment. Mr. Dunne congratulated Jonathan Crocker on his appointment to the Resilience and Security Commission and Michael Wojciak on receiving the Alan Haskins Principal of the Year Award.

Assembly Member Niesen announced that Nikiski Middle/High School presented the play *Anything Goes* on May 8 and 9, 2026. Ms. Niesen reported that she attended the KPEDD Industry Outlook Forum in Seward on April 23, 2026; the North Peninsula Recreation Service Area meetings on April 27 and May 4, 2026; and the Nikiski Senior Service Area meeting on April 29, 2026. She provided a brief update on each meeting.

Assembly Member Griebel thanked borough departments and staff for their budget presentations. Mr. Griebel also expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts of the administration and school board.

Assembly Member Hicks expressed appreciation for the Mayor, borough staff, and fellow Assembly Members.

Assembly Member Eicher encouraged the public to listen to the Finance Committee budget presentation.

Assembly Member Truesdell stated that he appreciated the budget presentation from Kenai Peninsula College. Mr. Truesdell also recognized Teacher Appreciation Week.

Assembly Member Ecklund congratulated Seward High School students Leo Nipp and Noah Flowers for earning first place in the 36th Annual Caring for the Kenai Competition in April. Ms. Ecklund also announced that the Bear Creek Community Council held its inaugural bylaws vote and board election on May 4, 2026.

Vice President Cooper expressed appreciation for the budget presentation provided by Borough Finance Director Brandi Harbaugh.

Assembly President Tunseth thanked educators and firefighters for their service. Mr. Tunseth also thanked the Mayor and borough staff for their work on the new collective bargaining agreement for borough employees and the ongoing budget process. He extended condolences to the family of Kenai resident Willy Wilson.

ASSEMBLY MEETING AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. May 18, 2026 11:00 AM
Budget Work Session #3
Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Borough Administration Building
Remote participation available through Zoom
Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938

2. May 19, 2026 11:00 AM
Budget Work Session #4
Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Borough Administration Building
Remote participation available through Zoom
Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938

3. May 19, 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 9:17 p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting of May 5, 2026.

Michele Turner, MMC, Borough Clerk

Approved by the Assembly: _____