
From: Jeff Wolf <jewolf123@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 10:36 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Please Forward to the Assembly
Attachments: Letter to Assembly 2026.docx; BCFSA Board Meeting Minutes 02102026.pdf; BCFSA Code Blue Grant 2011.pdf

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Hello,

I have attached my letter to the KPB Assembly with supporting documents. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jeff Wolf
jewolf123@gmail.com
(907) 362-4341

May 18th, 2026

Dear Representatives of the Borough Assembly,

My name is Jeff Wolf. I live in the Bear Creek Borough Census Area, serve as a captain for the Bear Creek Fire Department (BCFD), and as a Bear Creek Fire Service Area board member.

I am writing in support of the Kenai Borough Assembly maintaining the current mil rate as approved by the BCFSA Fire Board. On February 10th, 2026, all board members reviewed the proposed budget for this year and approved it in a unanimous roll-call vote. During this meeting, and at previous meetings, all board members had an opportunity to review the complete BCFSA finances. No objections were brought up during these meetings.

The budget submitted uses conservative accounting practices that properly fund the capital replacement of fleet apparatus on the expected lifetime use assigned when initially purchased. The capital replacement fund had not been properly budgeted for replacement of apparatus in past years, or optimistic projections were included that assumed grant awards that had not been secured. This budget avoids those traps.

There have been comments about misappropriation of funding. Some of this is towards the Rescue 5 ambulance unit. This unit has a multipurpose role. It is capable of patient transport. Also, it allows the department to haul search/ rescue equipment, provide a warm area for rest and rehabilitation of firefighters on fire calls, and shelter for other operations needed on emergency response. There are no other vehicles in the area capable of patient transport north of the three bridges leading into Seward if a disaster were to occur. This unit provides transport assurance if travel into and out of the city is disrupted.

Furthermore, the BCFSA has been the authority having jurisdiction for emergency medical response in the Bear Creek Fire Service Area since 1986. BCFSA has a memorandum of understanding with the Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corps (SVAC) to provide services but holds liability that appropriate services are provided. If there was a reason that services are not available, BCFSA is still expected to fulfill the need. I would like to reference a letter from a former BCFD Fire Chief Mark Beals with his application to the State of Alaska Code Blue from 2011 stating his concern that has been ongoing since this time. This letter shows the current problem that BCFSA must have assurance that EMS treatment and transport is adequately provided.

Is this funding worth the cost for the community? BCFD provides a CPR / First Aid Program that allows teachers in our middle school to provide classes to our middle school students, and other community members. We provide Emergency Trauma Technician and Emergency Medical Technician Class annually for all agencies and community members at no cost. As an emergency responder and taxpayer, I ask that you preserve the ability of this department to provide all the services needed to keep our community safe. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jeff Wolf
31285 Wilma Avenue
Seward, AK 99664

BEAR CREEK FIRE SERVICE AREA

Board Meeting Agenda

6:00 PM

February 10, 2026

13105 Seward Hwy, Mile 5

SERVICE AREA REPRESENTATIVES

<i>Seat A</i> Brandon Tatum Board Member Expires 10/2028	<i>Seat B</i> Gregory Haas Board Member Expires 10/2028	<i>Seat C</i> Andra Woodard Board Member Expires 10/2027	<i>Seat D</i> Jeffrey Wolf Vice Chair Expires 10/2027	<i>Seat E</i> Jason Bickling Board Chair Expires 10/2026
<i>Assembly Representative</i> Dale Eicher	<i>Fire Chief</i> Richard Brackin	<i>Fire Technician</i> Coby Taylor	<i>Fire Technician</i> William Mangan	

CALL TO ORDER - 6:01 PM

ROLL CALL Gregory Haas, Jeffrey Wolf, Jason Bickling, Brandon Tatum, Andra Woodard, Richard Brackin, Coby Taylor, William Mangan, Craig Hampton, Morgan Woodard, Zach, Woodard.

CHANGES / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Andra Woodard motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Gregory Haas second. An “in favor” and “opposed” vote was held with no opposition to the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 01/13/2026

Jeffrey Wolf motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Andra Woodard second. An “in favor” and “opposed” vote was held with no opposition to the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & PRESENTATION – LIMIT 5 MINUTES

None Present

CORRESPONDENCE

- BCFSA Expenditure report to date: BCFSA Expenditure report to date was delivered, showing financial expenses and encumbrances for FY26 YTD, as well as invoicing since the meeting prior. Discussion followed with a question concerning the software maintenance line item. Richard Brackin explained that it is in place for when a software is needed and that it usually does not come into play unless a new computer is added to the Service Area’s pool of computers. Richard followed that this is becoming an obsolete line item and will be drawn down in future fiscal years.
The question was asked concerning the life cycle of computer equipment. Richard Brackin responded that typically, there is a range of 5-7 years for replacement.

- KPBA Assembly Report
Not Present

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- No Unfinished Business

BEAR CREEK FIRE SERVICE AREA

Board Meeting Agenda

6:00 PM

February 10, 2026

13105 Seward Hwy, Mile 5

NEW BUSINESS

- **ORDINANCE 2026-XX - ACCEPTING EMERGENCY RESPONSE EQUIPMENT FROM THE BEAR CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE & EMS, INC. (BCV) ON BEHALF OF BEAR CREEK FIRE SERVICE AREA AND RECONVEYING USED EQUIPMENT TO BCV.**

Gregory Haas motioned to recommend approval of the ordinance accepting emergency response equipment from Bear Creek Volunteer Fire & EMS Inc. on behalf of the Bear Creek Fire Service Area and reconvey used equipment back to the BCV. Brandon Tatum second. Discussion followed, including the cost of the new machine, and what grant the old machine was purchased through.

A Roll-Call Vote was held, with the following results.

Brandon Tatum - Yes

Gregory Haas - Yes

Andra Woodard - Yes

Jeffrey Wolf - Yes

Jason Bickling - Yes

The Motion Passed.

- **Embroidery Services - Richard Brackin opened the topic, explaining that there is a need to have embroidery work done for Bear Creek, and the vendor often used is Fireside Designs, owned by Ariel Brackin, his wife. Richard continued that in an effort to address the conflict of interest, he would be removing himself from the decision-making, and leaving it to the Board to decide the vendor for embroidery. Richard then turned the delivery of possible vendor findings over to William Mangan.**

William Mangan presented his findings to include quote samplings from Alaska Stereographics, and Local Vendors, with Fireside Designs being the lowest bidder for the work sampled. Discussion began, and then a motion was brought to the discussion by Andra Woodard. Jeffrey Wolf second. Further discussion followed, including size of sampling, and the notification that there was a second embroidery business in the Seward Area. William Mangan stated that he had reached out to the second vendor but had received no response. Discussion continued concerning the need to provide additional effort in the future for local options.

Andra Woodard motioned to approve the use of Fireside Designs for embroidery work for no more than \$500 in FY26. Jeffrey Wolf second.

A Roll-Call Vote was held, with the following results.

Brandon Tatum - Yes

Gregory Haas - No

Andra Woodard - Yes

Jeffrey Wolf - Yes

Jason Bickling - Yes

The Motion Passed.

Richard Brackin returned to the discussion and stated that, though the motion passed, he would make the request by project in the future instead of the fiscal year.

BEAR CREEK FIRE SERVICE AREA

Board Meeting Agenda

6:00 PM

February 10, 2026

13105 Seward Hwy, Mile 5

- FY27 Budget - Jeffrey Wolf motioned to approve the FY27 Budget, Andra Woodard second. Presentation followed.

Richard Brackin presented the budget to the Board for review. Richard presented the budget, highlighting changes made based on previous discussions, including updates to staffing, service provider roles, and performance measures. Key initiatives for 2027 include initiating an in-house ALS education program, continuing to grow volunteer shifts, transitioning to a new ambulance for responses, and utilizing remaining paving grant funds for additional groundwork projects.

Richard continued with a review of the department's budget detail, highlighting increases in categories such as contract services, physical examinations, software maintenance, and insurance premiums. He explained the increase made to communications intended to cover cell stipends for staff using personal phones due to communication issues. Richard also discussed capital outlay needs, including the replacement of telecom equipment and minor medical equipment, and mentioned the department's participation in a VFC grant program. Richard also covered the transfer of funds for bond debt, 911 Dispatching, and Capitol Project funding.

Richard also reviewed the Capital Projects fund, highlighting the progress made in repairing its deficiency and the expected trend of easing off transfers by 2030. He presented the rolling stock inventory, detailing the replacement schedule for large apparatus and discussing the status of various projects.

A Roll-Call Vote was held, with the following results.

Brandon Tatum - Yes

Gregory Haas - Yes

Andra Woodard - Yes

Jeffrey Wolf - Yes

Jason Bickling - Yes

The Motion Passed.

Andra Woodard asked that the FY27 Code Blue Grant be allowed in New Business though a change was not made during agenda approval. An allowance was made.

- Code Blue Grant - The subject of the grant was delivered by Richard Brackin covering the items being requested and the match required, explaining that the request was for a recommendation to move forward with the grant submittal with the knowledge that by doing so would commit the Service Area to the \$1,342.20 match, plus shipping for the FY27 budget. The items requested in the grant, a LifePak15 Monitor Package. The board discussed concerns about the transition of ALS transport services to Bear Creek Fire, with discussion about the plan moving forward. Jason Bickling clarified that operational decisions fall to the fire chief and mayor, while the Board's role is legislative. Richard Brackin - Asked that the \$1,500 be budgeted to account for price fluctuations that could lead to overages in cost.

Brandon Tatum motioned to approve the grant as presented. Gregory Haas second. An "in favor" and "opposed" vote was held with no opposition to the motion.

BEAR CREEK FIRE SERVICE AREA

Board Meeting Agenda

6:00 PM

February 10, 2026

13105 Seward Hwy, Mile 5

CHIEF REPORT

- Run Report - 11 Calls for 2026.
5 Being EMS, 2 of those being Delta/Echo levels calls. 1 of the 5 had no priority given (SAR)
4 Fire calls.
- Training Report
 - Weekly Training
 - a) 01/14 Firefighter 1 (Spencer Brown)
 - b) 01/15 Vitals & IV practice (Will Mangan)
 - c) 01/22 EMS Scenarios (Will Mangan)
 - d) 01/29 ETT Class (35) (ETT, Jan 26 - Feb 01)
 - e) 02/05 Run Review & Business Meeting.
 - Other Training
 - FSI2 - Testing on Feb 14 & 15.
 - FFI - Testing March 21. 14 responders testing out from 4 agencies. Additional responder from City of Kenai testing out.
 - Live Fire Instructor - On hold, pending new dates.
 - Fire Officer I - Last week in Feb
 - May - Truck Conference
 - June - Swiftwater Rescue
- New Volunteers - None
- Maintenance
 - a) Station – Break in glycol line reserve reservoir.
 - b) Vehicles – Refrigerant hose and turbo hose for 118 have been delivered. 30A plug has been swapped out in 118.
Ambulance has been delivered. Designation Rescue 5. Mobile radios have been installed. There was no need for vendor to install set up as plug-n-play. Still need to install portable radio chargers.
 - c) Equipment – Snow Machine has been registered.
- Public Education –
 - a) Feb 16 - Annual Banquet. Most Calls - Craig Hampton, Most Trainings - Jason Harrington, Firefighter of the Year - Spencer Brown.
 - b) Feb 22 - Grizzley Glide Event
- Juneau Fire Chief's Summit - Traveled to the Fire Chief's Summit in Juneau and addressed the following legislation.
HB207/SB140 creating a placeholder for Fire Service project funds, HB287 removing the \$10,000 cap for Volunteer Exemptions and allowing local preference, Permanent Disability set at 40%, and the need to increase it to 75%. Unsure of legislation.

BOARD COMMENTS TO PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Jeffrey Wolf stated that an ETT class was complete and had 100% passing rate, with 5 high-schoolers attending.

Greg announced his absence from the next two meetings due to a scheduling conflict.

ADJOURNMENT 8:22 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Bear Creek Fire Service Area Board of directors scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

**Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.
Code Blue EMS Equipment Request Form**

Page of

EMS Agency Name Bear Creek Fire Service Area Contact Person: Mark Beals, Fire Chief Email: bearcreek@seward.net

P.O. Box 1565 13105 Swd Hwy, Mile 5 Seward, AK 99664-1565 907-224-3345 907-224-3344

Mailing Address Physical Shipping Address City, State, Zip Code Phone Number Fax Number

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY - ONE ITEM PER FORM - INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Priority	Equipment Description	Model	QTY	Item Cost	Shipping	Total Cost w/ Shipping	Potential Vendor
1	Life Support (BLS) Equipment Kits for Standby Ambulance	n/a	1	43,600.00	<small>If shipping costs are unknown at this time, explain how it will be paid for.</small> Shipping costs are estimated into item cost	43,600.00	<small>Attach quote or catalog page.</small> Moore Medical LLC 1690 New Britain Ave PO Box 4066 Farmington, CT 06032-4066

Cash Match Amount Guaranteed By Whom Match Letter Included

\$ 4,360.00 = 10% KPB on behalf of Bear Creek Fire Service Area A letter guaranteeing the cash match must be submitted with this request form.

Justification (Attach Additional Sheet if needed.) Choose One

Being part of the Emergency Services is being prepared for everything. The Bear Creek Fire Service Area is requesting items to stock our stand-by (BLS) Ambulance. New Replacement

... see attached sheet.

Maintenance Plan (Attach Additional Sheet if needed.)

The Bear Creek Fire Service Area plans on supplying any replacement parts or pieces should that become necessary through funds from our Annual Operating Budget.

 Date 12-14-2011 Signature & Printed Name of EMS Agency Representative Signature & Printed Name of Local EMS Medical Director Date

Signature & Printed Name of Subarea EMS Coordinator Date Signature & Printed Name of Regional EMS Director Date

Justification – Ambulance Outfitting

Being part of the Emergency Services is being prepared for everything. The Bear Creek Fire Service Area is requesting items to stock our stand-by (BLS) Ambulance that we acquired from Central Emergency Services in excellent serviceable condition with 74,000 miles on. It has becoming more and more apparent with the decline of available Volunteer EMT's at our supporting ambulance corporation that in the near future Bear Creek Fire Service Area will be providing its own ambulance and services in the very near future. To make that possible we will need to fully stock our BLS ambulance. We are currently preparing our application for BLS certification to the State of Alaska and our requested items are the requirements listed on the website for such registration. Additionally we are holding an Emergency Trauma Technician course with 14 of our responders currently enrolled.

With this in mind we are we are requesting the following items for use; Pediatric Immobilization Kit, Adult Immobilization Kit, Stair Chair Pro, First Responder Kits, Suction Unit and Accessories, Dual Head Motorola Radio, Cell Phone Repeater –Ambulance Kit, and an Iridium Extreme Satellite Phone.

We will be prepared for situations such as mass casualty calls, or instances where the regular ambulance service may not be able to reach us in a timely manner be it due to weather or major disaster. Having an outfitted ambulance available could prove to be a crucial tool in the Bear Creek Fire Service Area's preparedness plan.



SEWARD VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS
P.O.BOX 1136
SEWARD, ALASKA 99664
PHONE: (907) 224-3987
FAX: (907) 224-2684

Dear Code Blue Committee:

December 14, 2011

The Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corps supports the activities of the Bear Creek Fire Service Area.

Bear Creek Volunteers provide automobile extrication and rescue response to the Eastern Kenai Peninsula along the Seward Highway. The Bear Creek Volunteers have been providing support to the Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corps Volunteers through a cooperative mutual aid agreement since Bear Creek Volunteer Fire Departments inception over thirty years ago.

We strongly support any funding that may come available for appropriation to the Bear Creek Fire Service Area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Mike Moore, President
Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corps

From: tyler mallory <tylermallory12@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 12:16 PM
To: Turner, Michele; Mayor Peter Micciche
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Bear Creek Fire Service Area
Attachments: bear creek letter.docx

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Hello,

Attached is a letter in support of the Bear Creek Fire Service Area. Please forward to the assembly members for their information.

Respectfully,

Tyler Mallory
907-242-5045

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

My name is Tyler Mallory, and I am writing this letter as a Seward resident regarding the Bear Creek Fire Service Area.

I live inside city limits, and do not volunteer at Bear Creek. I am, however a responder with the Seward Fire Department and the Fire Marshal. In the last few years, I have been honored to serve alongside, and train with the volunteers and paid staff at the Bear Creek Fire Department. I have watched their growth as a team, their ability to respond to all hazards in their area, and their increased training capacities strengthen their department and ours.

I am concerned watching the information being spread regarding their budget. The department has grown immensely over the last few years, but not because of the budget, but rather the dedication and work of their paid staff and volunteers. The amount of training, work and community outreach the department has done has grown every year, and is making everyone in the Bear Creek area safer. This work has been done without changing the mill rate, while drastically increasing the amount of highly trained volunteers and staff. These people significantly improve the safety of their community. The discussions happening regarding cutting their budget are short sighted and often misinformed regarding how they are spending their money. For example, there has been a significant amount of talk regarding the purchase of the ambulance they recently acquired. That ambulance is a replacement for the one they have already had, that was purchased by former chief Mark Beals, who also recognized the need for an ambulance in the Bear Creek Fire Service Area. It was voted on by the Assembly and approved in the budget for a replacement. This ambulance will give them the ability to respond to calls in their area and better serve their community. It is not a replacement for SVAC, but rather a supplementation. While SVAC dutifully responds to the entire eastern peninsula there have been times when they have been on other calls when needed. There is also the reality that being a large highway with significant traffic, it is likely that there will be an accident that stresses the capabilities of SVAC. Bear Creek having access to their own ambulance gives them the ability to assist in those instances, and provide high quality care to citizens of the area. This is just one area of conversation that has been misrepresented.

While I understand the desire to lower property taxes, doing so through the mill rate for the fire department is short sighted and dangerous. Fires grow significantly faster now than they did 30 years ago. Data shows that due to the furniture and items that are in homes now compared to legacy furniture, rooms are reaching flashover in under 5 minutes, compared to 15-20 minutes using legacy furniture. Fast response is crucial to not only saving property, but also saving lives. Bear Creek has reduced their response time significantly, especially with paid staff at the station, and on call pay for volunteers to stay at the station overnight. Reducing the ability of the Bear Creek Fire Department to pay for staff, stipends and training will significantly impact response times, which will immediately reduce property conservation efforts, and eventually, will lead to lost lives.

The work of the fire service will often go unnoticed, until it is needed. This is the reality that fire departments live with every day. But when it is needed, it should be well trained, properly equipped and funded. Not doing those things reduces not only the firefighters safety, but also the safety of the entire community. Failing to properly fund the Bear Creek Fire Department will have drastic consequences at some point. Who it impacts, we will not know until they call for help. But eventually, someone in the community will feel the impact of a poorly trained, staffed, equipped and funded department if these cuts go through. I hope the community and you as assembly members recognize this and keep the department funded.

Respectfully,

Tyler Mallory

907-242-5045

From: milligans north <milligansnorth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:45 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Please forward to assembly

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May 19, 2026

To the Borough Assembly,

Have you ever held your toddler while he turns blue because he is choking? Have you ever been haunted by the fact that your teen driver would have survived that car accident if only there had a been a timely emergency medical response?

We can be fairly confident that the Bear Creek residents that are attempting to lower the mil rate have never been in one of those scenarios. I am writing because I am in strong disagreement with that attempt, because by extension it will lower the funding base for the Bear Creek Volunteer Fire Department.

I am opposed to the mil rate being lowered because it decreases the effectiveness of the staff, the volunteers, and the operations of the BCVFD.

The staff of BCVFD is tasked, among other responsibilities, with coordinating training of volunteers, maintaining the station and equipment, and responding to calls while at the station. Just because a volunteer is willing, it doesn't mean they will accomplish any good at all if they are not properly trained. The staff ensures that the necessary training is scheduled and executed in a logical, thorough manner. The station, the vehicles, and the equipment are a worthy investment, but if they are not maintained and cared for by staff, they will become a loss. And during the work day, there are not as many volunteers who can drop everything to respond to an emergency call...which is exactly why maintaining a staff is critical.

The volunteers for BCVFD are simply that: volunteers. They do not necessarily bring with them any relevant experience or technical knowledge that will enable them to be effective in the role. However, trainings have been expertly and thoroughly provided so that these volunteers can become skilled in emergency response. These trainings require funding to take place! And funding also allows volunteers to be on shift overnight, which can drastically reduce the time it takes them to reach those in the most dire of situations.

The operations for this department are not becoming any less expensive in this economy. I can completely understand the desire to lower the mil rate, but that is completely counterproductive to the safety of our community. The department is not asking for any extra funding, but to simply continue at current standards. Those community members begging for a lower mil rate may soon be the ones

in an emergency, instead begging for a first responder to hurry. Only then will they regret their attempt to lower the mil rate, and will bemoan that the assembly listened to them.

Please do not lower the mil rate in the Bear Creek community. Our safety depends on it.

Sincerely,

Wendy Milligan

From: Greg Haas <gmhaas907@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 10:02 PM
To: Turner, Michele
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fwd: Bear Creek Service Area Tax Relief and Sustaining Community Services

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the KPB system. Please use caution when responding or providing information. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, know the content is safe and were expecting the communication.

My apologies, I should have sent this directly to you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Greg Haas** <gmhaas907@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, May 17, 2026 at 6:46 PM
Subject: Bear Creek Service Area Tax Relief and Sustaining Community Services
To: <sgriebel@kpb.us>, <rtunseth@kpb.us>, <lniesen@kpb.us>, <struesdell@kpb.us>, Eicher, Dale <deicher@kpb.us>, <cecklund@kpb.us>, <mhicks@kpb.us>, <kcooper@kpb.us>, <wdunne@kpb.us>, <pmicciche@kpb.us>, seversjak@gmail.com <seversjak@gmail.com>, bearcreekcommunitycouncil@gmail.com <bearcreekcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>
CC: <jason.bickling@gmail.com>, Brackin, Richard <RBrackin@kpb.us>

Kenai Peninsula Assembly Members, Mayor Micciche, Volunteer Fire Dept Leadership, and Bear Creek Residents,

I want to speak clearly and directly regarding the Bear Creek Service Area budget, our current tax structure, and the future direction of our community.

Three months ago, I voted alongside the other members of the Bear Creek Service Area Board to approve the current budget. That vote should not be interpreted by anyone, including Borough leadership, as an endorsement of maintaining the current mil rate, nor as support for the continued expansion of operational spending without reassessment.

I was newly elected to the Board and chose to respect the existing process, existing obligations, and the realities of the structure I inherited. I believed it was important to understand the system fully before potentially becoming oppositional. However, from my earliest meetings, I raised concerns regarding personnel growth, operational expansion, long-term sustainability, and the lack of corresponding tax relief despite rapidly increasing assessments.

Those concerns remain.

I ran for the Board for two reasons: to learn through public service, and to help ensure our tax dollars are used responsibly, efficiently, and in alignment with the needs of the community paying them.

Like communities across the Borough, Bear Creek residents have experienced substantial increases in assessed property values over the past several years. Unlike many other areas in 2025, however, Bear Creek residents did not receive any reduction in the mil rate to offset those increases.

That reality has become a growing source of frustration throughout our community.

At the center of this discussion is the 2007 voter authorization that increased the mil rate to support construction of a new fire and emergency services facility. The language presented to voters was explicit and overwhelmingly focused on capital improvements and construction.

The ballot language stated:

“YES — A ‘yes’ vote approves the sale of the bonds and construction of a new fire and emergency services facility — based on receiving \$2.1 million additional grant funding.”

The proposition also opened with:

“Shall the KPB spend \$3.5 million for capital improvements related to the Bear Creek Fire Service Area and issue up to \$1.4 million of general obligation bonds to provide funding for the project.”

The language then continued with references to construction, design, property acquisition, site preparation, and equipping the facility.

Reasonable people can read that language and conclude the community voted to fund and construct a facility and its associated capital improvements. To the Borough’s credit, that project was completed successfully and continues to provide an important emergency response asset nearly twenty years later.

But over time, many residents believe we have experienced operational scope creep beyond the original public understanding and intent of that authorization.

I will not assert this happened because of corruption or bad intentions. It happened gradually through opportunity, increasing assessment-driven revenue, institutional momentum, and a continued expansion of professional operational expectations.

The problem is not public safety. The problem is accountability and proportionality.

I lived in the Bear Creek Service Area while serving on active duty in the Coast Guard and have a lifelong commitment to protecting lives and supporting emergency response capability. I believe emergency services matter deeply. I support funding what is necessary for a safe and functional community.

What I do not support is the assumption that every increase in available revenue must automatically translate into additional recurring operational costs, expanded staffing structures, or permanent growth in personnel obligations regardless of actual call demand or demonstrated community need.

Historically, our rural service area succeeded through a balanced three-part structure:

1. taxpayers and community support,
2. professional stewardship of equipment and operations, and
3. a strong volunteer response culture.

That balance has shifted.

Assessment growth dramatically increased available revenue. Operational and personnel costs expanded. Additional policies, staffing expectations, and overtime structures developed. Meanwhile, volunteer participation and community ownership have diminished under increasingly rigid operational expectations.

Many residents now feel we have become more expensive without sufficient justification.

I also want to be clear: disagreement over spending priorities should not be mischaracterized as opposition to emergency services, firefighters, or public safety professionals. Reasonable people can support emergency

response capability while also questioning whether the current trajectory of operational growth is financially sustainable or aligned with voter expectations.

I strongly support maintaining the highest possible level of training, readiness, and operational preparedness for our volunteer responders. A strong volunteer corps requires investment, mentorship, realistic standards, and opportunities to build both capacity and confidence within the community. Our volunteers should feel empowered, trusted, and prepared to serve, not sidelined by a system that increasingly assumes permanent professional expansion can lead the needs of Bear Creek.

Trust is on the line for the Borough, the Service Area, and community leadership. Residents supported funding a facility and maintaining emergency response capability. Many do not believe they voted for indefinite operational expansion funded by continuously rising assessments while taxpayers receive no meaningful relief.

We are now at a decision point.

We can continue using capital-project revenue and increased assessments as justification for operational growth, or we can acknowledge that taxpayers deserve restraint, accountability, and a serious effort to reduce the mil rate while still maintaining dependable emergency services. With the over-the-horizon reality being, how to ensure future trust when the government needs to ask for an increase in the mil rate?

I strongly support Assembly Member Cindy Ecklund's efforts to advocate for the Bear Creek community and pursue tax relief. She has consistently listened to residents who feel their concerns about spending growth and accountability have not been adequately acknowledged.

I remain committed to working collaboratively with Borough leadership, the Assembly, our Fire Chief, volunteers, and residents to restore trust, strengthen volunteer participation, control unnecessary spending growth, and ensure taxpayers see meaningful relief while preserving the emergency services our community depends on.

Respectfully,

Greg Haas
Bear Creek Service Area Board Member

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@kpb.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 3:59 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Molly Dischner

Your Email: medischner@gmail.com

Subject: school funding

Message:

Please pass additional funding for our schools, up to the cap and as much as legally allowed. (Or more - test the law.) Our students need well funded schools, sports programs, strong library and media literacy programs, the list goes on, etc. Our communities need pools and well-educated and supported youth. I am a homeowner and willing to pay additional property taxes to support our schools. Thank you.

Borough Assembly,

I am writing because a reduction to Bear Creek Fire Department's funding is again being brought forward and I would like to express my opposition to it. I am both a resident of the Bear Creek service area and a volunteer with BCFD. While the latter informs my opinion, I share these thoughts only in my capacity as a member of the community being served by BCFD and not in any way representing the opinions of others within BCFD.

I would like to begin by stating that I do not hold any position that has me immersed in the numbers of how every dollar is being spent. There are others who know more than I do about that and can speak to it accordingly. Having said that, it is my understanding that when the initial proposal was put forth there were costs that should have been accounted for but were not. Amongst those costs are \$54,200 in insurance, \$44,000 in utilities, and \$225,000 for replacing equipment that was scheduled to be retired as per industry standards. It seems appropriate to me that this, and other relevant factors, be given consideration when discussing a reduction of funding.

I have seen BCFD provide an increasingly high degree of service to the people of the community. This department has created a robust culture of professionalism through well-structured, extensive training opportunities. A decade ago, only half of the BCFD were licensed EMTs or above. Today, nearly 90% of the department has at least an EMT license. And of those, half have licenses beyond EMT-1, including all the way to Paramedic. Without getting bogged down in acronyms, I will simply say that this is an incredible accomplishment. And it is one that is only achievable through the dedication of volunteers, hard work of paid staff, and funding for quality training. Having such a capable, well-trained team is an investment of considerable value. As with all organizations, the department will see the arrival of new volunteers and the departure of old ones. But, due to current members' high degree of training, new volunteers will have an array of experienced people to learn from. This is a considerable difference from a department that just has two or three people who handle all the EMS calls. This will significantly reduce the amount of time it takes for new volunteers to get brought "up to speed" with their EMS skills, firefighting skills, and ability to operate equipment. Having so much institutional knowledge to draw upon will also supply them with both the confidence and ability to provide a higher level of care to the community.

While the backbone of BCFD is its volunteers, the coordination and leadership come from its paid staff. The quality of the training is a direct result of the hard work they have put into developing a structured schedule that ensures all necessary skills are taught and reviewed throughout the course of a year. They help organize the BCFD side of interdepartmental trainings that ensure all departments in our area are prepared to

assist each other in largescale fires and mass casualty events. They write the grants that have brought in more than \$1.1 million over the last 5 years with another half million dollars in pending applications. They help ensure that when volunteers respond to a call, they can do so with full confidence in the equipment, vehicles, and tools needed to assist a patient.

I understand that people would like to see a decrease in taxes. But I (and many patients) have seen the results of that tax investment: faster call response times, a higher level of patient care, more efficient use of resources, and ultimately a greater service being provided to the community.

Sincerely,
Joshua Beiningen

From: milligans north <milligansnorth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:45 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Please forward to assembly

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the KPB system. Please use caution when responding or providing information. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, know the content is safe and were expecting the communication.

May 19, 2026

To the Borough Assembly,

Have you ever held your toddler while he turns blue because he is choking? Have you ever been haunted by the fact that your teen driver would have survived that car accident if only there had a been a timely emergency medical response?

We can be fairly confident that the Bear Creek residents that are attempting to lower the mil rate have never been in one of those scenarios. I am writing because I am in strong disagreement with that attempt, because by extension it will lower the funding base for the Bear Creek Volunteer Fire Department.

I am opposed to the mil rate being lowered because it decreases the effectiveness of the staff, the volunteers, and the operations of the BCVFD.

The staff of BCVFD is tasked, among other responsibilities, with coordinating training of volunteers, maintaining the station and equipment, and responding to calls while at the station. Just because a volunteer is willing, it doesn't mean they will accomplish any good at all if they are not properly trained. The staff ensures that the necessary training is scheduled and executed in a logical, thorough manner. The station, the vehicles, and the equipment are a worthy investment, but if they are not maintained and cared for by staff, they will become a loss. And during the work day, there are not as many volunteers who can drop everything to respond to an emergency call...which is exactly why maintaining a staff is critical.

The volunteers for BCVFD are simply that: volunteers. They do not necessarily bring with them any relevant experience or technical knowledge that will enable them to be effective in the role. However, trainings have been expertly and thoroughly provided so that these volunteers can become skilled in emergency response. These trainings require funding to take place! And funding also allows volunteers to be on shift overnight, which can drastically reduce the time it takes them to reach those in the most dire of situations.

The operations for this department are not becoming any less expensive in this economy. I can completely understand the desire to lower the mil rate, but that is completely counterproductive to the safety of our community. The department is not asking for any extra funding, but to simply continue at current standards. Those community members begging for a lower mil rate may soon be the ones

in an emergency, instead begging for a first responder to hurry. Only then will they regret their attempt to lower the mil rate, and will bemoan that the assembly listened to them.

Please do not lower the mil rate in the Bear Creek community. Our safety depends on it.

Sincerely,

Wendy Milligan

From: Amy Cyr <amycyr009@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 11:46 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Bear Creek FD Mill Rate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the KPB system. Please use caution when responding or providing information. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, know the content is safe and were expecting the communication.

Good Morning,

I hope you are having a great day wherever you find yourself today. I am writing to you to voice my concern for the proposed reduction in mill rate for the Bear Creek Fire Department. The history of the Bear Creek Fire Department contains times of mismanagement, lack of quality leadership and training, and unmaintained equipment. This is not one of those times. Today, Bear Creek has more frequent and higher quality fire and EMS trainings, a younger and more capable volunteer body, and lower response times than ever. However, those rougher times in Bear Creek's history have contributed to the position that the Bear Creek Fire Department is in today-- paying the price to catch up on equipment maintenance, training scars, and experienced personnel that are essential in providing the best possible fire and EMS service to the community of Bear Creek.

My name is Amy Lyons and I began my time in the fire service as a volunteer Firefighter/EMT with BCVFD. I was immediately welcomed into the community at Bear Creek Fire and was provided high-quality training and experience. Little did I know, this was preparing me to later transition into a full-time Firefighter/EMT position at Seward Fire Department. I still maintain my membership at Bear Creek Volunteer Fire Department because I value their experienced personnel, their strong partnership, and their drive to continue to improve. Working at Seward Fire, I have been reminded again and again of how important their relationship with Bear Creek really is. I am not only writing with concern for the fate of Bear Creek Fire, but also the organizations that partner with Bear Creek FD. Seward Fire Department, Lowell Point Fire Department, and Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corp. all rely on the response of Bear Creek FD for mutual aid. Bear Creek FD is equipped with the best tankers we have in the area, and is manned by experienced engineers. Not only that, but the manpower that comes with a Bear Creek FD response cannot be replaced. Being able to call for mutual aid on a fire in Seward or Lowell Point jurisdictions is invaluable. Likewise, with only one ambulance service in the entire area encapsulating Lowell Point, Seward, Bear Creek, and beyond, often results in long ambulance response times to EMS calls. As of now, Bear Creek FD is often on scene treating the patient long before the ambulance arrives. Without the funding to provide for staff and volunteers at Bear Creek FD, the response time on EMS calls would suffer dramatically. Medical emergencies like stroke and heart attack cannot afford to wait! Every second matters on emergencies like this, and could mean the difference between life and death,

between brain damage or not, between one house on fire or the whole neighborhood going up in flames. The fate of Bear Creek FD's budget does not only affect that agency and the people in that jurisdiction, but impacts all of the people in the surrounding areas as well.

The current mill rate allows for the staff to be employed that maintain the equipment, vehicles, and building, who obtain certifications and teach volunteers, who are there to help your loved ones on the worst day of their lives. But this can only be possible with a budget that allows for these necessities. Please don't send Bear Creek FD back to the days of injuries, poor training, and slow response times for the sake of saving some money. Jeopardizing the safety of our community and those surrounding it is not worth it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope it sheds some light on what we stand to lose should the mill rate be lowered.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Amy Lyons

From: Joshua Beiningen <joshua.beiningen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 5:53 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Please forward to Assembly
Attachments: Borough Assembly Letter.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the KPB system. Please use caution when responding or providing information. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, know the content is safe and were expecting the communication.

Hello,

I would appreciate it if you could forward this letter to the Borough Assembly.

Thank you for your time,
Joshua Beiningen

Borough Assembly,

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