
Subject: FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>R2025-025 Ecklund Amendment

From: Lori Landstrom <ljlandstrom81@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 4:18 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>R2025-025 Ecklund Amendment

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Dear Mr. Mayor and Borough Assembly members,
As a Bear Creek Fire Service Area taxpayer I wholeheartedly support a decrease in the BCFSAs mill rate. The building is built, the current mill rate revenue more than covers the bond payment.
Please support a slight decrease in our mill rate.
Thank you.

[Lori Landstrom, Bear Lake Road, Seward](#)

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

-Mahatma Gandhi

Subject:

FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Seward mill rate decrease

From: Cole Petersen <cole@metcoalaska.com>

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 7:00 PM

To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>

Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Seward mill rate decrease

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Good day,

To all that will listen -

The Bear Creek Fire Department is out of control with spending and revenue!

They can't find enough things to spend money on. They get grants for things that they don't really need but it sounded like a good idea.

The community revenue sharing grant they get is a game to see what they can spend it on.

Last year they had to start sharing it with another non profit and they threw a fit about that but I'm sure they had a hard time spending their half.

There is currently three full time employees there. I can't see what three people could do there daily!! I feel like the current Chief only wants to move it into a full time paid department. That department has had roughly the same amount of calls each year for the last 20 years approximately 140 calls and gotten by just fine with an Administrative Assistant and a paid Chief and a great group of volunteers.

Their budget has increased by almost double in the last 5 years all at the expense of the taxpayers in bear creek and we don't get any more service than we did 20 years ago.

In 2007 bear creek residents voted to increase the mill rate to replace the aged out fire station.

The vote passed and the station was built.

That mill rate increase is now paying them almost triple due to the drastic increase in property tax values. The community did not vote to increase their operating budget when they voted. It was supposed to pay back 90 thousand dollars per year for the new station

Not pay for new staff and other things they don't need.

They run an average of 135 -150 calls per year, some take 15 minutes some take many hours. With their almost one million dollar budget the math works out to mean every time that the go on a call it costs the taxpayers over \$6,000 on the high years and \$7,500 on the low years.

I'm all for fire and EMS they are a must have and I know that they need funds to do that but I feel like knowing what actually goes on there that they are over funded by a lot.

Please consider a mill decrease to go back to paying the original amount back each year that was voted on.

Cole Petersen

Blying sound Ct
Seward AK

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Subject:

FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Public comment to Finance Committee and Assembly ie Bear Creek FSA Budget.

From: Mark Beals <flightandfire@live.com>**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 8:33 PM**To:** G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>**Cc:** Turner, Michele <MicheleTurner@kpb.us>; Cindy Ecklund <ecklundc@gmail.com>**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Public comment to Finance Committee and Assembly ie Bear Creek FSA Budget.

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Dear KPB Assembly

My name is Mark Beals and I'm a past Volunteer Fire Chief of Bear Creek Fire Service Area retiring in 2014 after 34 years of service.

In the Regular election October 2, 2007, voters of the Bear Creek Fire Service Area approved Proposition 4, general obligation bond to provide for a new Fire Station. The bond proceeds of \$1,400,000 was to be used for planning and constructions. In 2007 for each \$100,000 of assessed and real property value in the Bear Creek Fire Service Area an annual tax of approximately \$100.00 (an amount equal to 1.0 mill) would be levied to retire the proposed 20-year general obligation bond debt.

That one (1.0) mill now brings in approximately \$285,404 in the proposed FY2026 budget. The bond payment amounts to \$85,855, leaving an excess of \$199,549 from the collected mill rate revenue. That was money that was approved for the bond payment, not for operation as its now being used.

Last year I did a presentation to the board and to the Assembly in Seward asking for a 0.25 mill rate reduction after several residents asked me, due to my history with the Bond issue and department. Instead, you approved a new initiative with the increased revenue to start paying the volunteer to staying at the station for shifts at a cost of \$69,056. As of May 6, only \$13,682.50 or 20% has been expended. Why was this new expenditure approved?

In the FY 2026 budget work session presentation by Chad of the Finance Department this year, he said the service area was in a good financial position and that the board could reduce the mill rate, yet it was not done. I would guess after the funds remaining in the FY25 budget, that the service area will be over the suggested fund balance.

The Mayor Micciche in the budget packet has said " Unsustainable budgets eventually results in unaffordable mill and tax rates for our borough residents". Bear Creek has seen a 240% increase in property values per a local real estate agent in Seward in the past 10 years. We are putting new families out of the home ownership market that effects are school, and volunteers needed for emergency services, to name a few ramifications.

I urge the KPB Assembly to consider the significant impact this mill rate has on our community and take action to reduce it by 0.25

Thanks for your consideration.

Mark L. Beals, RN/EMT CEN CFRN
Bear Creek Volunteer Fire Chief, Retired
Volunteer Member 1980 to 2014.

Subject:

FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Support for Amendment to Resolution 2025-025 brought by Assembly Member Ecklund

From: Albi Schmidt <albilynn@yahoo.com>**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 9:30 PM**To:** Baisden, James <jbaisden@kpb.us>; Ecklund, Cindy <CEcklund@kpb.us>; Tunseth, Ryan <rtunseth@kpb.us>; Johnson, Brent <bjohnson@kpb.us>; Ribbens, Peter <pribbens@kpb.us>; Cooper, Kelly <kcooper@kpb.us>; Cox, Tyson <tysoncox@kpb.us>; Dunne, William <wdunne@kpb.us>; morton@kpb.us; G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Support for Amendment to Resolution 2025-025 brought by Assembly Member Ecklund

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Good evening KPB assembly members

I am a resident, business owner and taxpayer in the Bear Creek Fire Service Area and am writing in full support of Assembly Member Ecklund's amendment to resolution 2025-025. The mill rate for the Bear Creek Fire Service Area was increased by 1.00 mill in 2007 to pay for the new Bear Creek Fire Station and community center. This 1.00 mill rate now brings in over \$300,000 per year in taxes while the bond payment for the building is less than \$90,000 per year. This is bringing in an excess of \$200,000 per year with just this 1.00 mill rate that was approved by the voters for this building project. Instead of the administration putting this excess \$200,000 into the bond, building improvements, maintenance, grounds keeping and preventative maintenance on the building which was the intention of the voters, they are "banking" this into a fund that they are using to replace an ambulance that is not currently being used or needed and a government duplication for a privately sourced service that has been serving the Bear Creek Fire Service area and beyond reliably and with the utmost fiscal responsibility since 1953. This duplication of services has far reaching implications that are extending beyond the financial irresponsibility for the tax payers of the area. When the taxpayers voted to approve this bond they were told that if the property values or the amount of taxes that this 1.00 mill would bring in was excessive that the rate would be decreased with a further decrease once the bond was paid off. This 0.25 decrease in the mill rate for this area would be a welcomed first step in fulfilling that agreement with the voters and taxpayers in this area.

As you may remember I spoke vehemently at the Seward based Assembly meeting against the continued overfunding and incremental increases in Bear Creek Fire Service Area's budget. These continued increases and assembly approvals have continued to fund the Mayor and Fire Chief Brackin's personal agendas to fund a duplicate ambulance service for the Bear Creek Fire Service Area that is already provided by the Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corps (SVAC). As I stated at the Seward based meeting, SVAC has provided these services to the area from Lowell Point to Mile 36 of the Seward Highway and beyond for over 70 years. Bear Creek Fire Service Area makes up a very small area of this coverage from Mile 3.5 to Mile 8 of the Seward Highway. SVAC is a 501c3 non profit that operates on patient transport revenues and does not receive money from taxes from any of the residents in their service area. The Mayor made it VERY clear at the Seward based Assembly meeting along with many other meetings that I have personally attended that he fully supports a governmental take over of this service for the Bear Creek Fire Service area along with the entire Eastern Peninsula area at the expense of all the taxpayers of these areas. The Mayor's "leadership" in conjunction with Fire Chief Richard Brackin's agenda have created a toxic and potentially harmful patient care environment that is unlike any other seen in the past 40 years in this area. What was once a spirit of teamwork, comradery and togetherness has been replaced with harsh words, lack of communication and lack of a patient focus in a once close knit group of services that once operated under the shared vision of community emergency response with a strong thread of volunteerism at the core. As each of the fire departments around the region have "grown" with paid personnel we have seen over and over the decrease of engaged volunteers on emergency calls. Where SVAC once saw 5-10 volunteers on every EMS call, now there is 1 or 2 paid responders who's one focus is "getting there before the ambulance does". That is not a patient focus but rather a spirit that goes against what is ultimately at times best for the patient. I would encourage further discovery and conversation with more than the Mayor and Fire Chief Brackin to get the full picture of the so called need that the Mayor claims increasing the Bear Creek Fire Service's budget will be filling. I along with the entire group of officers at Seward

Volunteer Ambulance Corps would welcome a meeting, a call or any other form of continued conversation about the role that SVAC fills and how the organization fulfills the EMS needs of the region we serve.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will support Assembly Member Ecklund's request for an amendment to resolution 2025-025.

Sincerely,
Albi Tatum

Subject:

FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Bear Creek Mil Rate Decrease

From: nilsson@gci.net <nilsson@gci.net>**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 12:45 PM**To:** G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Bear Creek Mil Rate Decrease

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To Whom It May Concern:

We have lived in the Bear Creek area of Seward, Alaska since 1996, and own a home at 14765 Willow Drive. After several years of large increases in our property taxes, we are encouraged to see the possibility of there being a decrease in the Mil rate from 3.25 to 3.0, which will alleviate some of the burden of these taxes.

We fully support assembly member Cindy Ecklund in her proposal to decrease the Mil rate in the Bear Creek area.

Respectfully,

Stefan and Binget Nilsson

Subject:

FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Bear Creek Fire Department proposed budget amendment

From: harbor@gci.net <harbor@gci.net>**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 3:44 PM**To:** Turner, Michele <MicheleTurner@kpb.us>**Cc:** Mayor Peter Micciche <pmicciche@kpb.us>; Brackin, Richard <RBrackin@kpb.us>; jewolf123@gmail.com; jbickling@cityofseward.net; awoodard@cityofseward.net**Subject:** <EXTERNAL-SENDER> Bear Creek Fire Department proposed budget amendment

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6/3/25

Michele Turner, Borough Clerk

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Dear Michele,

At 3 pm today I became aware that a handful of individuals are supporting an amendment to the Bear Creek Fire Department budget request. No amendment has been presented to the Bear Creek Advisory Board for its consideration. The Board thoroughly reviewed and took into consideration all public input during the budget review process. The Bear Creek Fire Department Board does not support the proposed amendment without having received appropriate review.

Please include this email for consideration by the Assembly in its budget determinations this evening.

Sincerely,

James Sheehan, President

Bear Creek Fire Department Advisory Board