



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, January 20, 2026

6:00 PM

Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938
[https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89716948642?
pwd=fEb3zpJksgh1maera2nn3XZRWlfPat.1](https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89716948642?pwd=fEb3zpJksgh1maera2nn3XZRWlfPat.1)

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CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

ROLL CALL

[Clerk's Note: Mr. Dunne 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 Member Niesen stated the Finance Committee met and discussed its agenda items.

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

[1 Absent: Dunne]

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

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

[1 Absent: Dunne]

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

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

[1 Absent: Dunne]

Assembly President Tunseth stated the Committee of the Whole met and discussed its agenda items.

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

[1 Absent: Dunne]

[Clerk's Note: An executive session was held pursuant to AS.62.310(b) on specific litigation matters for a candid discussion of facts and strategy regarding Parker v. KPB, et al. 3KN-25-706CI.]

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[KPB-7403](#) January 6, 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:

[2025-19-22](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Funds from the Road Service Area Capital Project Fund for the Purchase and Installation of a Plow on a New Vehicle (Mayor)
This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

[2025-19-23](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Forestry Funds to Reimburse Personnel Expenditures Incurred to Support the 2025 Goldstream Creek Fire

(Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

COMMENDING RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

[KPB-7406](#) A Resolution Commending the Soldotna High School Girls Wrestling Team for Winning the 2025 State Championship Title (Truesdell, Mayor)

[Clerk's Note: Assembly Member Truesdell read the commending resolution into the record.]

This Commending Resolution was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

[2026-006](#) A Resolution Adopting an Alternate Allocation Method for the FY26 Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program and Certifying that this Allocation Method Fairly Represents the Distribution of Significant Effects of Fisheries Business Activity in the Cook Inlet Fisheries Management Area (Mayor)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-005](#) A Resolution Requesting the Alaska Legislature Provide Municipalities Authority to Set the Not to Exceed Amount for the Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Optional Real Property Tax Exemption (Eicher)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-02](#) An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Elections, to Update Election Worker Compensation, the Candidate Filing Period, add a New Candidate Withdrawal Period and Extend the Terms of Office for Current Elected Officials to Align with a November Election Date (Eicher, Niesen and Tunseth at the request of the Borough Clerk) (Hearing on 02/17/26)

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[KPB-7404](#) Confirming Appointments to the Seldovia Recreational Service Area Board (Mayor)

Paul A. Cziko, Seat B, Term Expires 10/2026

approved.

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda as amended.

President Tunseth called for public comment.

Joan Corr, spoke in support of Ordinance 2026-02 and election processes.

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

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-7406](#) A Resolution Commending the Soldotna High School Girls Wrestling Team for Winning the 2025 State Championship Title (Truesdell, Mayor)

PRESENTATIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

President Tunseth called for public comment with none being offered.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor's Report Cover Memo

[KPB-7409](#) Mayor's Report Cover Memo

1. Assembly Requests/Responses - None
2. Agreements and Contracts

a. [KPB-7410](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-006 DOI Skid Units

ITEMS NOT COMPLETED FROM PRIOR AGENDA - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

President Tunseth called for public comment with none being offered.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly Member Dunne thanked the Mayor for the updates provided in the Mayor's Report and concluded with a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Assembly Member Niesen reported that she attended the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development quarterly meeting and the Nikiski Fire Service Area meeting. Ms. Niesen thanked all Fire Service Area volunteers for their dedication, time, and hard work.

Assembly Member Griebel expressed his appreciation for the presentation given by Mr. Tappan, Economist, at the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Griebel also attended the Central Emergency Service Area Board meeting on January 15, 2026, and provided an update.

Assembly Member Hicks thanked Mr. Tappen, Economist, for his presentation and congratulated the Soldotna High School girls' wrestling team on their championship win.

Assembly Member Eicher stated that he attended the Bear Creek Fire Service Area Board meeting on January 13, 2026, and provided an update.

Assembly Member Truesdell reported that he attended the Board of Education Finance Work Session on January 12, 2026, and provided a brief update. Mr. Truesdell also thanked the Borough Road Department and contractors for their hard work during the recent severe weather.

Assembly Member Ecklund stated that she attended the Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Service Area Board meeting on January 19, 2026; however, due to a lack of quorum, no meeting was conducted.

Vice President Cooper thanked all Borough road crews for their continued hard work. Ms. Cooper also thanked Finance Director Brandi Harbaugh for attending the South Peninsula Hospital Service Area Board meeting on January 8, 2026, for the budget kickoff.

President Tunseth thanked the Borough road crews for their recent efforts and Central Emergency Services for their response to the cannery fire. Mr. Tunseth also expressed appreciation to fellow Assembly Members for their continued support, as well as to Borough staff.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REPORTS

ASSEMBLY MEETING AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. February 3, 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 6:53p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting of January 20, 2026.

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

Approved by the Assembly: _____