



Kenai Peninsula Borough

144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Meeting Minutes - Final

Assembly

Peter Ribbens, President

Kelly Cooper, Vice President

James Baisden

Tyson Cox

Willy Dunne

Cindy Ecklund

Brent Johnson

Leslie Morton

Ryan Tunseth

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

6:00 PM

Seward Community Library & Museum

239 Sixth Avenue, Community Room

Seward, Alaska

Meeting ID: 835 6358 3837 Passcode: 606672

[https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/83563583837?](https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/83563583837?pwd=eTO44Um9ao1JJGaVtBJG86PXlsuNvm.1)

[pwd=eTO44Um9ao1JJGaVtBJG86PXlsuNvm.1](https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/83563583837?pwd=eTO44Um9ao1JJGaVtBJG86PXlsuNvm.1)

Meeting ID: 835 6358 3837 Passcode: 606672

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

ROLL CALL

[Clerk's Note: Assembly Member Dunne attended via Zoom.]

Present: 9 - Brent Johnson, Tyson Cox, Ryan Tunseth, Vice President Kelly Cooper, President Peter Ribbens, Cindy Ecklund, James Baisden, Willy Dunne, and Leslie Morton

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 Tunseth stated the Finance Committee met and discussed its agenda items.

[9 present: Baisden, Cox, Cooper, Dunne (via Zoom), Ecklund, Johnson,

Morton, Tunseth, Ribbens]

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

[9 present: Baisden, Cox, Cooper, Dunne (via Zoom), Ecklund, Johnson, Morton, Tunseth, Ribbens]

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

[9 present: Baisden, Cox, Cooper, Dunne (via Zoom), Ecklund, Johnson, Morton, Tunseth, Ribbens]

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

[9 present: Baisden, Cox, Cooper, Dunne (via Zoom), Ecklund, Johnson, Morton, Tunseth, Ribbens]

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 and ordinances on the consent agenda.

[KPB-6810](#) April 1, 2025 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:

[2024-19-34](#) An Ordinance Accepting and Appropriating Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration for Upgrading the Mechanical and Power Plant at South Peninsula Hospital (Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

[2025-06](#) An Ordinance Providing an Exception to Borough Code to Accept the FY26 Late-Filed Senior Citizen Grant Applications for the Senior Citizen Program (Mayor)

This Ordinance was enacted.

New Business

- [KPB-6811](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Football Team – 2024 Alaska Nine-Man State Champion (Ecklund)
This Commending Resolution was adopted.
- [KPB-6812](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Girls' Cross Country Running Team – 2024 Alaska Division II State Champions (Ecklund)
This Commending Resolution was adopted.
- [KPB-6813](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Girls' Basketball – 2025 Alaska Class 2A State Champion (Ecklund)
This Commending Resolution was adopted.
- [KPB-6814](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Girls' Cheerleaders – 2025 Alaska State Division II Academic Award Winners and Competition Runner-Ups (Ecklund)
This Commending Resolution was adopted.
- [KPB-6822](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School - 2025 Alaska Division II State Wrestling Champions (Ecklund)
This Commending Resolution was adopted.
- [2025-018](#) A Resolution Urging the U.S. Congress and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to Address Outages of National Data Buoy Center Stations (Morton, Dunne, Tunseth, Johnson, Ecklund, Cox)
This Resolution was adopted.
- [2024-19-35](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Funds for the Central Peninsula Landfill Leachate Infrastructure Improvements Project (Mayor)
This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.
- [2025-07](#) An Ordinance Amending KPB 4.10.100 Relating to the Use of Public Funds on Ballot Propositions to Mirror State Law (Cox) (Hearing on 05/20/25)
This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.
- [KPB-6823](#) Confirming an Appointment to the Planning Commission

Karina England, City of Seward Seat, Term Expires 07/31/26
approved.

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda

President Ribbens 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 - Johnson, Cox, Tunseth, Cooper, Ribbens, Ecklund, Baisden, Dunne, and Morton

COMMENDING RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

[KPB-6811](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Football Team – 2024 Alaska Nine-Man State Champion (Ecklund)

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

[KPB-6812](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Girls' Cross Country Running Team – 2024 Alaska Division II State Champions (Ecklund)

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

[KPB-6813](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Girls' Basketball – 2025 Alaska Class 2A State Champion (Ecklund)

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

[KPB-6814](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School Girls' Cheerleaders – 2025 Alaska State Division II Academic Award Winners and Competition Runner-Ups (Ecklund)

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

[KPB-6822](#) A Resolution Commending the Seward High School - 2025 Alaska Division II State Wrestling Champions (Ecklund)

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

[KPB-6815](#) Mayor's Proclamation Declaring April 2025 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" (Mayor)

[Clerk's Note: Mayor Micciche presented the proclamation to Seaview Center]

and Seward Safe Harbor representatives.]

PRESENTATIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE

1. [KPB-6816](#) Otto Nipp, Seward High School Student Body President (10 Minutes)
[Clerk's Note: Otto Nipp, Seward High School Student Body President and Somi Clem Daniel, Seward High School Student Activity Director, presented to the Assembly.]

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

President Ribbens call for public comments.

The following people addressed the assembly regarding school funding:

Erik Davidson, Hope
Tara Swanson, Seward
Christy Jorden, Lowell Point
Mary Beth Zimmerle, Seward
Dr. Erin Parrison, Seward

Albi Tatum, Bear Creek, spoke in opposition to Bear Creek Fire Service Area.

Pursuant to KPB 22.40.080 the 20 minute aggregate was reached and the public comment period was closed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

[KPB-6824](#) Mayor's Report Cover Memo

1. Assembly Requests/Responses - None
2. Agreements and Contracts
 - a. [KPB-6825](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB25-044 – Kenai River Center Roof
 - b. [KPB-6826](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for RFP25-022 – Emergency Operations Plan Update
 - c. [KPB-6827](#) Authorization to Purchase a Replacement of Ambulance, Under the Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC) Cooperative Contract AM 10-23
3. Other

- a. [KPB-6828](#) Budget Revisions – March 2025
- b. [KPB-6829](#) Revenue-Expenditure Report – March 2025
- c. [KPB-6830](#) Tax Adjustment Request Approval
- d. [KPB-6831](#) Litigation Status Report – Quarter Ending March 31, 2025

ITEMS NOT COMPLETED FROM PRIOR AGENDA - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Postponed Items

[2025-017](#) A Resolution Requesting the Alaska Legislature Provide Municipalities Authority to Enact a Cap on Real Property Tax Assessments Increases (Mayor, Cooper) [Postponed on 04/01/25]

[Clerk's Note: The motion to enact Resolution 2025-017 was on the floor from the April 1, 2025 meeting.]

[Clerk's Note: Public hearing on Resolution 2025-017 was held at the April 1, 2025 meeting.]

Assembly Members Cooper and Tunseth spoke in support of Resolution 2025-017.

Assembly Members Johnson, Cox, Morton and Ecklund spoke in opposition to Resolution 2025-017.

Cooper moved to amend Resolution 2025-017 as follows:

Amend Section 1 to read, "That the Assembly requests the current legislature review and amend AS 29.45, relating to Municipal Taxation, and any other relevant state statutes, to provide discretionary authority for municipalities to enact, at their option, a cap or limit on real property tax assessment increases **of 5% or more** [no more than] 5%] from the previous year's assessment unless there have been improvements or changes to the property. State law should provide that municipalities must enact such a cap by ordinance and the State shall not penalize municipalities that enact the optional cap." and

Section 2 to read, "That a proposed amendment to AS 29.45.110 is provided below for the Alaska Legislature's consideration with additions shown in bold underline:

AS 29.45.110. Full and true value

(a) The assessor shall assess property at its full and true value as of January 1 of the assessment year, except as provided in this section, AS 29.45.060, and 29.45.230. The full and true value is the estimated price that the property would bring in an open market and under the then prevailing market conditions in a sale between a willing seller and a willing buyer both conversant with the property and with prevailing general price levels. The assessor shall determine the full and true value as provided in standards adopted by the department under (e) of this section or another set of standards provided by ordinance. Notwithstanding any requirements of this section to the contrary, a municipality may, by ordinance, provide a cap on real property assessments that limits assessment increases for a property to [no more than] a 5% or greater increase from the previous year's assessment, unless the assessment increase for the property is based on the addition of structures or other improvements that were not previously known to the assessor. A municipality is authorized to enact other requirements to administer and enforce a limit on assessment increases in accordance with this section and the state shall not penalize, in any way, a municipality for enacting a limit on assessment increases. The department shall provide such guidance and assistance to local municipalities as may be needed to implement this provision."

The motion to amend Resolution 2025-017 carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Johnson, Cox, Tunseth, Cooper, Ribbens, Ecklund, Baisden, Dunne, and Morton

The motion to adopt Resolution 2025-017 as amended failed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Tunseth, Cooper, Baisden, and Morton

No: 5 - Johnson, Cox, Ribbens, Ecklund, and Dunne

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolutions

[2025-019](#)

A Resolution Amending Resolution 2024-037 to Extend the Last Meeting and Final Report Deadline of the Tourism Industry Working Group (Cooper)

Tunseth moved to adopt Resolution 2025-019.

President Ribbens called for public comment, with none being offered.

Cox moved to amend Resolution 2025-019 as follows:

Section 1 to read, "Resolution 2024-037 is hereby amended to extend the deadlines established in Section 4 of Resolution 2024-037 by [30]**60** days. The last meeting of Tourism Industry Working Group is extended to [May] **June** 15, 2025 and a final report, if adopted, will be provided to the Assembly by [May] **June** 30, 2025."

The motion to amend Resolution 2025-019 carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Johnson, Cox, Tunseth, Cooper, Ribbens, Ecklund, Baisden, Dunne, and Morton

The motion to adopt Resolution 2025-019 as amended carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Johnson, Tunseth, Cooper, Ribbens, Baisden, Dunne, and Morton

No: 2 - Cox, and Ecklund

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

President Ribbens called for public comments.

The following people addressed the assembly regarding school funding:

June Premerton, Seward

Mica Van Buskirk, Seward

Sara Spanos, Seward

Fifth Grader, Seward Elementary

Bob Birdwell, Seward

Grace Williams, Seward

Zen Kelly, Board of Education President

Becky Dunn, Bear Creek, addressed the Assembly regarding school funding and Resolution 2025-017.

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

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly Member Dunne thanked everyone for attending and congratulated the Seward athletes. Mr. Dunne stated he appreciated the comments regarding school funding and wished all a good night.

Assembly Member Johnson congratulated the Seward students for their athletic excellence and for their academic excellence. Mr. Johnson stated he was supporting funding the school district to the cap.

Assembly Member Ecklund thanked the Assembly for coming to Seward. Ms. Ecklund thanked everyone for the comments regarding school funding. Ms. Ecklund wished everyone a happy Easter.

Assembly Member Morton congratulated the Seward student athletes and also for the public testimony.

Assembly Member Cox thanked Seward residents for attending the meeting. He congratulated Karina England on her appointment to the Planning Commission. Mr. Cox wished everyone a happy Easter.

Assembly Member Tunseth thanked the Seward residents for attending the meeting and thanked the library for the use of the facility. Mr. Tunseth congratulated the Seward student athletes and thanked Chief Brackin and Nick Chapman for their budget presentations. Mr. Tunseth gave an update from the April 7, 2025 Board of Education Finance Committee and work sessions, as well as the April 10, 2025 Kenai River Special Management area meeting. He congratulated AJ Hall, from Kenai, who was inducted into the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Tunseth noted that the City of Kenai was starting the bluff stabilization project. He noted the new Triumvirate Theatre grand opening was Friday, April 18, 2025 at 4:00pm.

Assembly Member Baisden thanked everyone in Seward for attending.

Assembly Member Cooper thanked staff for the work setting up the meeting. Ms. Cooper noted that the South Peninsula Hospital Operating Board was conducting a phone survey within the service area.

PENDING LEGISLATION

1. [2025-05](#) An Ordinance Amending Borough Code Sections KP.B 3.04.110 and KP.B 3.04.115 Regarding Minimum Qualifications for Employment (Mayor)

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REPORTS

ASSEMBLY MEETING AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. May 6, 2025 6:00 PM
Regular Assembly Meeting
Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Borough Administration Building
Remote participation available through Zoom
Meeting ID: 835 6358 3837 Passcode: 606672

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the assembly, President Ribbens adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting of April 15, 2025.

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

Approved by the Assembly: _____