APPROVED MINUTES
Central Emergency Services Area
Regular Monthly Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2026

A. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

B. **Roll Call and Introductions:**
Present: Ryan Kapp, Ralph Linn, Steve Tachick, Marty Hall, and Gary Hale
Absent:
Guest Present: Sue Linn
Staff Present: Chief Roy Browning, Deputy Chief Dan Grimes, Fire Marshal Chuck Roney, EVT Salzer, and Jen VanHoose.

C. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Hale made a MOTION to approve the 09.17.26 agenda. Mr. Tachick seconded. MOTION passed.

D. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Hall made a MOTION to approve the 05.21.26 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Mr. Hale seconded. MOTION passed.

E. **Presentation:**

F. **Chief's Report:**
- June 5th – KPB Emergency Manager, Brenda Ahlberg, retired. Kaleena Barnes is the new Emergency Manager.
- June 11th – Met with CPH Leadership on RHTP grant with KPB Grants Manager, Heather Geer, on Community Paramedicine concept.
- June 26th – Attended LN Curtis demo on nozzle presentation at Kenai Training Center with Sr. Capt. Killian and FF Meade.
- June 30th – New Station move-in for Fire/EMS 24-hour operations.
- July 21st – Met with Mayor/Finance Director and KPB Chiefs on proposed Stryker EMS equipment purchasing.
- July 24th – New Soldotna Fire Station #1 Ribbon Cutting-Grand Opening.
- August 6th – New ambulance ordered.
- August 8-17th – Engineers promoted, Niemann, O'Connor, Groseclose, Ratky, and Leslie.
- August 13th – New pick-up Ford F-350, snowplow will be ordered later.
- August 18th – Kenai Peninsula Chief's Meeting in Homer.
- August 19th – KPB Safety Meeting.
- August 19th – FF Anthony Long on PM Externship in Houston, TX for 6 weeks.
- August 24th – New KPB Facility Manager, Greg Stein, walk-thru of Station 2, Annex, and Arc Loop Training Site.
- August 24th – Three firefighters started KPC PM Program- Joshua Ukena, Severin Donnelly, and Eugene Lee.
- August 31st – New Firefighter Hiring Interviews – Two new firefighters hired.
- September 8th – Station/Office furniture arrived and assembled.

Operation's Report:
- Call volume year to date: 2,181
- New station project: punch list items still being worked on; many small projects complete, still working on back parking lot drainage, AV in training room, waiting on gym equipment to be ordered. Thanks to Tim Weekley, Jason Craig, Chuck Roney, and Jen VanHoose for their resolve in ensuring completion of so many items.
- Apparatus and Equipment Committee: New trailer for off-road response vehicles that was

ordered in early spring (approx. 26 ft with v-nose) should be complete as of yesterday, shipping time to Soldotna is estimated to be two weeks. Our old ATV's/Snowmachines will be auctioned this fall.

- Station 6 began 24-hour staffing with full-time personnel on July 14th; thank you to the entire Fire Ops Committee for working to re-write our Response SOG to best reflect incorporating a new fire station into our response matrix while maximizing that crew and all other stations in the most effective way for every call.
- Congratulations to Severin Donnelly and Eugene Lee who completed their AEMT class this spring and are now qualified to operate at that level with CES. Both of them are also in Paramedic School that began a couple weeks ago, along with Josh Ukena.
- Congratulations to Logan Niemann and Sean O'Connor on their promotions to Engineer over the summer. There are several more in the queue to be announced quite shortly. This is a big step forward in responsibility and leadership at CES, and we are proud of each of them for their growth and commitment.
- Our summer hire personnel (David Price and Seth Reese) have completed their time, and are back to volunteer status. Both of them were instrumental in allowing us to move into the new fire station; they worked extremely hard to support numerous operations every single day they were here – Outstanding job!
- CES personnel Capt. Nate Nelson and Engineer Caleb Lambe completed another in-house Swiftwater Rescue Technician Certification class for nine additional personnel – which puts us at almost half the department with this training and certification. Excellent work!
- The shifts are voting on the current trial run of the 48/96 shift schedule. 75% in favor will continue the 48/96 schedule.
- Our Station 3 fill-site has been down for numerous months with a bad pump. We had to special order a pump to replace it, and the pump is now in Soldotna at IPA. They are due to install it next week.
- Fill the Boot was held in July this year, and raised just over $12,000 for the MDA Assoc.
- Two personnel, Engineer/PM Isaac Millard and FF/PM Brennan Leslie have been accepted on the dive team and will complete their Open Water I Dive course next week.
- CES partnered with SafeKids and hosted our first Car Seat check event at the new fire station recently, and it was well received with numerous community members stopping by to use those services.
- Thanks to the Cadets and crew at CES for their participation in this year's Progress Days Parade, we had a great turnout, and the cadets learned that powerwalking is harder than it looks.
- Shift personnel have been working on several different fronts to keep CES moving forward as a department, to include wear-testing different PPE, trial testing new fire hose and new nozzles. These efforts ensure that our tactics and technology meet in the most effective way to make us a safer, more efficient fire department.
- The Alaska Fire Conference is in the Soldotna/Kenai area this year, Sept 28th – Oct 2nd, with CES members assisting with the conference planning and support, as well as teaching and hosting classes. We are also offering up an open house on Tuesday, Sept 29th from 6pm until 8pm for conference attendees.
- Thanks to A-Shift for bringing their crews up to participate in the annual SafeKids Walk Your Kid to School event yesterday; it was a great turnout.
- Alll shifts worked together to complete our annual fire hose service testing, which is a lot of work – thanks to all personnel who made it happen, and special thanks to FF/EMT Matt Meade for coordinating the logistics and tracking the progress.
- Saturday, November 7th, is our Annual Awards Ceremony.
- Last, but not least, our mechanics have been having quite the busy summer and have spent a huge amount of time keeping our fleet in excellent shape and doing all the little things that support our overall operations; to include but not limited to:
    - Doing 15 pump tests and associated repairs
    - One annual aerial ladder service and inspection
    - Engine replacement in unit 935
    - Upfitting of new off-road rescue equipment

- Bi-annual servicing of boats 1 and 2
- Relocation of service tools, parts inventory, and tires to new facility
- Ladder testing of ground ladders across the fleet

G. Finance Report: 79% of the fiscal year remaining. Discussed FY27 budget and answered questions from the board.

H. Unfinished Business:

I. New Business:

1. FY Annual Report – Discussed and went over all accounting lines for FY26 with original budget and budget remaining. Overall remaining budget was 10%.
2. VFC Grant
    - Discussed the wildland firefighting equipment that is needed. Plan is to purchase multipurpose gear (both EMS & Fire) and wildland shelters. The gear will maintain a clean cab and less transfer of carcinogens. Mr. Linn made a MOTION to approve matching funds of 10%, not to exceed $5,000.00. Mr. Hale seconded. MOTION passed.

J. Public Comment:

K. Board Member Comments:

Mr. Hale said we had a great summer; can see why we don't have board meetings in the summer with it being so busy. Appreciates the outcoming that came to the open house and is thankful for what the staff has done to accommodate the community. Please vote come November.

Mr. Hall is thankful for the ribbon cutting ceremony and is grateful to all staff for their hard work.

Mr. Linn said thanks again for getting the station project completed. Went to the 9.11 breakfast/ceremony and was impressed with all of the young families and their behaved children. It is wonderful to see families being raised in this occupation. It was nice to have Rick Monyahan recognized for his years of service.

Mr. Tachick said thanks to everyone for the building. It has been a long time to get here. Thanks to every member from Cadets to Volunteers.

Mr. Kapp said he was impressed with the attendance of the ribbon cutting ceremony with 300-400 attending. It was a great event. Notice: there is a Coat Event for kids at Love Inc on Friday from noon to 4 and on Saturday from 11-3, please spread the word. Also, Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday in Kenai at 10am.

Next Board Meeting Date, Time, and Place: The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Station 1.

L. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Ryan Kapp
Ryan Kapp, Chair

10/15/26
Date

Gary E Hale Jr
Gary Hale, Secretary

10-15-2026
Date