# Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Service Area

## Board Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM | August 17, 2026 | Bear Creek Fire Station, 13105 Seward Hwy.

*SERVICE AREA REPRESENTATIVES*

| *Seat A* | *Seat B* | *Seat C* | *Seat D* | *Seat E* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Rachel Sullivan* | *Keith Klingen* | *Sean Carrington* | *Judy Ingersoll* | *Jessica Hogan* |
| *Board Member* | *Board Member* | *Board Member, Chair* | *Board Member* | *Board Member, Vice Chair* |
| *Expires 10/2027* | *Expires 10/2028* | *Expires 10/2028* | *Expires 10/2026* | *Expires 10/2026* |
| | *Fire Chief* | *Fire Technician* | *Assembly Representative* | |
| | *Richard Brackin* | *Coby Taylor* | *Cindy Ecklund* | |

**A.** **Call to Order** 1800 hrs.

**B.** **Roll Call** - Rachel Sullivan, Keith Klingen, Sean Carrington, Jessica Hogan.
**Also Present**: Richard Brackin, Cindy Ecklund.

**C.** **Approval of the Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Rachel Sullivan, 2nd, Keith Klingen.

**D.** **Approval of the Minutes 07/20/2026**
Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Rachel Sullivan, 2nd, Keith Klingen.

**E.** **Public Comments/Presentation** *(3 minutes per speaker)*
Cindy Ecklund – Stated that she had been refreshing herself with EPHESA, following that the fund has a balance of over $900,000 and when FY26 is finished, an additional $100,000 will be added, which is nowhere near the acceptable range according to the budget chart.
Cindy followed that there were concerns from East Peninsula community members that there were deficiencies in supplies when there were calls along the highway, stating that there was a need for straps to strap in a patient before they were put into a helicopter. Cindy also stated that an agency had to go to the Seward Community Foundation for radios.
Cindy stated that she did not know how EPHESA had such a large fund balance, and a lack of supplies like those mentioned.
Cindy addressed the 911 dispatching fees for EPHESA, asking if the payment covers all of the calls in the area, or just EPHESA. Richard Brackin responded that it covered EPHESA calls. Cindy asked why the other agencies were getting billed of 911 dispatching service.
Richard Brackin responded that the billing to agencies for dispatching was for the calls that were "off-highway" calls, defining EPHESA as the three highways and the rights-of-way that are found within the service area boundaries. The cost of dispatching is based on call volume for the agency. EPHESA calls have a cost associated with that call volume and each agency has calls that are independent of EPHESA calls that have a cost from the dispatch center.
Cindy stated that she didn't know why these agencies had the costs mentioned when there was a fund balance that could pay for those things.
Richard Brackin stated that the balance was intended for a couple of things. There is $500,000 kept in the fund balance for a match to a communications tower to be built in Turnagain Pass.
The remainder of the fund balance has allowed EPHESA to initiate a water source project for Coper Landing, Hope, and Moose Pass. This is a board requested project that will draw

from the fund balance for over the next three years, hopefully providing on-site draft cisterns for each of those agencies.

Cindy asked what the agencies are supposed to use if they are short on supplies? Richard Brackin stated that the topic of general supplies had not come up in conversation. Richard followed that there were conversations for extrication equipment, stabilization equipment, and radios in year past, with all of the requests being fulfilled by EPHESA.

Conversation continued concerning levels of compensation to the contracted agencies, that is intended to be used by the contracted agencies for their needs.

**G. Coordinator's Report**

- EPHESA Expenditure Report: Richard Brackin - Addressed the expenditure report for the previous month.
  There were no questions asked.
- EPHESA Call for Service Report: Richard Brackin - 14 calls since last meeting.
- Agency Strengthening Grant - Richard Brackin – The FY27 grant agreement has been completed, with Cooper Landing already having their application in. As applications are completed, we will spool up a purchase order and follow with invoicing.

**H. Contracted Agencies Reports**

- Hope Sunrise ES: Jessica Hogan – Couple of exciting calls on the Hope Highway. Lots of training happening.
- Cooper Landing ES: Rachel Sullivan – There is a fly-casting competition with a soup meal coming up. All are invited to come. 155 calls for the year. Cooper Landing is losing it's chaplain. Harrison Dever is coming to Cooper Landing on Wednesday to do some cardiac training.
- Moose Pass Fire Co: Not Present.
- Girdwood Fire Dept: Not Present.
- Bear Creek Fire/EMS: Richard Brackin – 77 calls for the year. Very slow for Bear Creek. Firefighter 1 and & Haz-Mat A&O is coming up, with schedule coming out soon.
  Waiting on the instructor group for EMT 2 & 3.
  Phoenix Chapter will be hosting through Lowell Point Fire a Pump Ops Class on the 19th & 20th, and a Water Supply Class on the 26th & 27th. 24 student limits.

**I. Unfinished Business**

None.

**J. New Business**

None.

**K. Board Comments**

Rachel Sullivan - I have lots of ideas, but I know that this isn't the time for us to build next year's budget, so long as that overage from last year is still available for us to talk about

grant funding in the future, then I'm a happy camper, but I just don't want to see it disappear.

Kieth Klingen - I'd just like to say thanks for letting me be here. Appreciate it. Excited to be part of the conversation and see what I might be able to offer and value.

Jessica Hogan - Well, welcome, Keith. It's great to have you.

**L. Announcement of Next Meeting & Location**
Bear Creek Fire Station @ 6PM on September 21st.

**M. Adjournment** 1858 hrs.