

Aleutians East Borough
Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback called the Aleutians East Borough Special Assembly Meeting to order by videoconference in each community on September 11, 2025, at 2:00 PM.

Roll Call for Elected Officials

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback	Present
Brenda Wilson	Present
Jim Smith	Excused
Chris Babcock	Present
Paul Gronholdt	Present
Tom Hoblet	Present
Josephine Shangin	Excused
Warren Wilson	Present

Advisory

Samantha McNeley	Present
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A quorum was present.

Staff Present

Anne Bailey, Administrator
Glennora Dushkin, Administrative Clerk
Ernie Weiss, Natural Resources Director
Jacki Brandell, Finance Director
Beverly Ann Rosete, Borough Clerk

Others Present

Paolo Jurkovich

Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION Paul made a motion to include public comment on non-agenda items.
SECOND Brenda seconded the motion.

MOTION Warren made a motion to adopt the agenda with an amendment to include public comment on non-agenda items.
SECOND Tom seconded the motion.

Hearing no objections, the agenda will stand as presented.

Community Roll Call and Public Comments on Agenda Items

The communities of Akutan, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, Sand Point, and the Anchorage office were participating by videoconference. The meeting was also broadcast on KSDP radio.

Paolo Jurkovich said he knows there is a talk about fixing or replacing the pool. He said he had a chance of looking at the pool and may have a solution. It involves putting in fiberglass lining and plumbing. He thinks he can do it fairly reasonably. He said he is thinking of putting in a bid. He said it is refurbishing the pool to a like-new condition with a fiberglass liner and can be guaranteed for 50 years.

Mayor Osterback thinks it's a great idea. He suggested Mr. Jurkovich put a bid together that the Assembly can review.

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Paul commented that it would be nice if the Assembly could take action in the next meeting to get things rolling.

Chris commented that he is in favor of fixing the pool, but because this is a public facility, we have to make sure all the necessary requirements are met.

Warren commented that he is in favor of this idea, knowing Mr. Jurkovich has been in the fiberglass industry his whole life.

Brenda asked Mr. Jurkovich if he is licensed. He responded no, but he will obtain a license.

Chris asked if Mr. Jurkovich would take into consideration the weight of the water and all the engineering. Mr. Jurkovic responded yes, he will take everything into consideration.

Conflict of Interest

Mayor Osterback asked for any potential conflict of interest to be discussed. There were no conflicts on this agenda.

Minutes

- August 15, 2025, Special Assembly Minutes

MOTION Brenda made a motion to accept the July 10, 2025, Special Assembly Meeting Minutes.

SECOND Chris seconded the motion.
Hearing no objections, the minutes will stand as written.

Financials

- July 2025 Financials

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve the Unaudited June 2025 Financials.

SECOND Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey said the Raw Fish Tax came in at about \$423K, which is 69.7% of the 5-year average; however, this is an improvement from July 2023 and July 2024. The Interest Revenue brings in about \$133K.

Warren asked how much is in the AMLIP account that is drawing interest? Administrator Bailey said she does not have the numbers now, but can give them at the next meeting.

Paul commented that the Raw Fish Tax looks better than we anticipated. There is also a rumor of a price increase for the salmon fleet.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Tom, Brenda, Paul, Warren, Chris Advisory: Samantha
MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

Investment Report

The July 2025 report from APCM is in the packet.

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Consent Agenda

- **Resolution 26-14**, Appointing Election Judges for the October 7, 2025 Regular Borough Election
- **Resolution 26-15**, Appointing Canvass Committee for the October 7, 2025 Regular Borough Election

MOTION Warren made a motion to approve Ordinance 26-01.

SECOND Brenda seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

The Borough Clerk reviewed both of the resolutions.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Warren, Paul, Brenda, Tom, Chris Advisory: Samantha

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None

Public Hearings

No items on the Public Hearings.

Ordinances

- **Ordinance 26-01** Amending Title 2, Sections 2.12.030(A) and (B) of the Aleutians East Borough's Code of Ordinances

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Ordinance 26-01.

SECOND Josy seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

The Borough Clerk Rosete said that Ordinance 26-01 is to amend Title 2, Section 2.12.030 A and B to establish an agenda-setting process to include agenda items requested by Assembly members and/or Borough citizens. The proposed changes are further outlined in the ordinance included in the packet.

Paul commented that he will support it, but perhaps 10 days is too long for the agenda items to be submitted to the staff. Borough Clerk responded that per Borough code, packets should be delivered to the Assembly 2 days before the meeting. The clerk thought 10 days would give the staff some time to gather information, if needed, to support the agenda item.

Mayor Osterback commented that we have a small staff. This will give them time to research information to be presented to the Assembly to make a good decision.

Tom commented that he understands what the borough is trying to do, but this is the first time he has seen that items need to be submitted 10 days before the meeting.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Brenda, Paul, Tom, Chris, Warren Advisory: Samantha

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None

Resolutions

- **Resolution 26-11**, authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a contract with Deeptree, Inc. for managed Information Technology Services in the amount not to exceed an annual total of \$60,000

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MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-11.

SECOND Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrative Clerk Dushkin reviewed the resolution.

Paul commented that the Unalaska meeting was Zoom-bombed. He asked what we were paying for the IT Services we currently have. Administrator Bailey said, It's about the same. With the current budget, we have about \$67,000 budgeted for IT services. What Deeptree will be offering is not just IT, it also includes the fees for Adobe, Microsoft, and Teams. Deeptree Company is small, so it will be able to meet our needs well.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Warren, Tom, Chris, Paul, Brenda Advisory: Samantha

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

- **Resolution 26-12**, relating to the disposal of surplus, obsolete, or unneeded supplies

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-12.

SECOND Warren seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Tom, Warren, Paul, Chris, Brenda Advisory: Samantha

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None

- **Resolution 26-13**, Supporting Local Area Fishermen Proposals to Increase the South Peninsula State-waters Pacific Cod Guideline Harvest Level

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-13.

SECOND Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Natural Resources Director Weiss reviewed the resolution.

Paul asked what Proposal 9 does. Tom explained the chart provided with the resolution.

Natural Resources Director Weiss commented that his understanding of Proposal 9 is that it will close all the waters adjacent to Unimak Island, including the South Peninsula. Is that true?

Tom said no.

Warren commended Tom on taking this on because of the fact that PCod on the South Peninsula has decreased for the communities of False Pass, King Cove, and Sand Point.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Brenda, Paul, Warren, Chris, Tom Advisory: Samantha

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

Old Business

New Business

- **Quarter 2 – Aleutians East Borough Strategic Plan Update**
Administrator Bailey reviewed the Strategic Plan. She said everything is progressing.

Reports and Updates

- **Administrator's Report**
 - King Cove Road**-The Fish & Wildlife Service conducted ANILCA Section 810 hearings in August in King Cove and Cold Bay, and a virtual hearing was held for the communities of Sand Point, Nelson Lagoon, and False Pass. A land appraisal has been conducted, and the results are being reviewed.
 - Cold Bay Clinic** – This project is complete. The HRSA project was completed by July 31, 2025. The close-out documentation is being completed. On August 20, 2025, the Administration authorized UIC Nappairit to conduct work to correct an issue with the boiler for \$18,527.
 - Cold Bay Dock** - The State of Alaska was conducting work on the fender piles on the dock. HEKO Services has completed the work and is scheduled to demobilize from Cold Bay on August 22, 2025.
 - Sand Point Harbor Float** – this project has been progressing, but we are still within the grant deadline. We have a substation with a backorder on it, and we anticipate it in the next 2-3 weeks. As WMC was driving the piles, a water line was discovered that was buried without being completed. M&N, WMC, and the Borough considered installing the waterline to the float system. WMC provided an estimated construction cost of approximately \$950,000. This cost estimate exceeds the funding available for this project.
 - Sand Point School DEED Grant** - UIC has made significant progress at the Sand Point School. On August 20, 2025, Change Order No. 3 was executed, which summarized the change orders for the DEED project. This project is anticipated to be completed in November 2025.
 - School Items** - Akutan School Boilers: LONG was hired for Akutan School Boiler Replacement. They plan on being out at the end of October. The boiler has been ordered, but it is still not here. King Cove, False Pass, and Sand Point Boiler as well as the Cold Bay Terminal boiler, have been inspected. They are in the process of giving us a quote for additional quotes for items they found that needed repair.
 - False Pass School Site Inspection:** At the August 14, 2025 Assembly Meeting, the Assembly approved Resolution 26-07 authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a contract with DOWL for a False Pass School Condition Assessment in an amount not to exceed \$82,180. On August 28, 2025, the engineers, the architect, and I travelled to False Pass to conduct the site visit. An assessment report will be finalized soon.
- Administrator Bailey said she and Mayor Osterback participated in a seafood round table meeting with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington, DC.

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Paul commented that, on the administrator's report, she mentioned that a detailed report on the King Cove Road project will be provided. He continued to ask if the report was from the Fish and Wildlife Service. Administrator Bailey said no, it will be her report.

Paul asked if there is a change to the Sand Point School Deed project completion date. Administrator Bailey responded that, as of now, the completion date is November 2025 but we keep getting change orders so we will add a few days to it.

- **Natural Resources Department Director's Report**

- Salmon**

- Area M - South Peninsula sockeye harvest stands at 1.73 million, below the previous 5-year average of 2.4m. For South Pen June, we are at 25% of the 5-year average, so we are looking at a possible disaster declaration request in a resolution. 2025 North Pen Sockeye harvest is at 1.17m, below the 5-year average of 2.08m.

- Area L – Chignik Sockeye salmon escapement has topped 1 million only 3 times before going back to 1980: in 1991, 2001, and in 2015. The effort in the CMA was reported at just 28 vessels this season, continuing a downward trend from 104 participating vessels in 1980.

- Area T - Bristol Bay Sockeye in 2025 are larger on average than in 2024. Size-at-age sockeye, however are smaller than average. Bristol Bay harvest of 41.5m exceeded the forecast of 34.8m.

- AYK - Yukon River chum salmon escapement at the Pilot Station sonar was above the previous 5-year average escapement, while Kuskokwim River and Norton Sound chum escapement were below the 5-year average escapements.

- Alaska Board of Fisheries - a Board of Fisheries Proposals for the 2025/2026 meeting cycle were due April 10, and all proposals except the Statewide meeting proposals have been posted on the Board's webpage. Agenda change requests (ACRs) for the Work Session were due August 29 and are not yet posted. We don't anticipate any ACRs that might impact our area. A list of salmon Proposals is included in the packet.

- We do have rooms for both on PCod and Salmon meetings at the Egan Center.

- A list of meetings is also included in the packet.

Paul commented that he was reading the AYK final report to clarify the Yukon Fall Chum. The amount they need for escapement to open the fishery for subsistence is 300,000, but they only have 286,000.

- **Fishery Analyst's Report**

- The Fishery Analyst's report is in the packet.

Mayor Osterback commented that he and Administrator Bailey met with the Secretary of Commerce. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit the Secretary's support in advancing specific trade and domestic policy and initiatives needed to improve the competitive position of U.S.-produced seafood in global markets and ensure the long-term viability of the US seafood supply chain. There was also a lot of concern and discussion about the imports from Russia and China. The importance of the Pollock Fishery in the Bering Sea was also discussed. It was a well-attended round table meeting.

Mayor Osterback mentioned that they also had a meeting with Essential Air Service to discuss how our area can work with EAS and our airlines to maybe pick up a portion of the

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fares. They also met with MARAD and thanked them for all the help and funding we have gotten for our projects.

Assembly Comments

Tom commented that they talked to the aviation planner, and they want us to do a full master plan update at a cost of about \$1.5M in order for us to pursue funding for our new airport. Tom asked if the Borough is willing to work with the City of False Pass to help expedite this plan. Administrator Bailey responded that the Borough would need additional information and asked if Tom could send it to her.

Mayor Osterback added that he asked the Aleut Corporation to send the Borough land plans. He also asked Tom to include information on what areas they are looking to put the airport in, so we know who owns the land. When we get that information, then we can sit down and take a look at it. The more information the Borough can get, the faster we can help expedite this.

Paul made a request to include a discussion item about the litigation that is ongoing in Port Moller. He said he is asking to talk about it, and then we can decide if we want to get involved.

Administrator Bailey responded that she had already asked the Borough's legal counsel for a document, so they are working on it.

Warren commented that the litigation will be over between the parties. There were ongoing meetings with May Roger and a couple of processors, and we even talked about A season. He said he knows we are trying to save the community, but there are a lot of government agencies getting involved. We have to let this lawsuit ride between those parties before they can negotiate with any processors to acquire any plants that are affected in this shutdown.

Warren commented that he feels for Tom about their airport in False Pass. He said 3 years ago, they went to Juneau to advocate for an upgrade in the King Cove runway. They always want to know the size of the aircraft that can land there. He encouraged Tom, and he knows that if the city and tribes get involved, it can get moving.

Mayor Alvin encourages Tom to keep talking to EAS.

Tom said, land would not be an issue, because the land they are looking at is corporation land and they have some surface rights to the land. They are looking at 6 miles or so.

Mayor Osterback said he is not ruling out any type of transportation because we need something better than we have.

Tom asked if we could get help from our DC lobbyist. Mayor Osterback said we need a road map first before we can ask somebody. Tom said he will get to the Borough.

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Public Comments

Next Meeting Date

- October 09, 2025

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 3:17 PM.


Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST


Beverly Rosete, Clerk