

Aleutians East Borough
Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback called the Aleutians East Borough Regular Assembly Meeting to order by videoconference in each community on October 09, 2025, at 2:00 PM.

Roll Call for Elected Officials

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback	Present
Brenda Wilson	Present
Jim Smith	Present
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

Bikky Shrestha

Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION	Warren made a motion to adopt the Agenda
SECOND	Brenda 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.

Conflict of Interest

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

Presentation

- FY2025 Audit Discussion
Bikky Shrestha discussed the FY2025 Audit Plan.

Paul confirmed with Bikky that this is just the planning presentation. Bikky responded, yes.

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Minutes

- September 11, 2025, Regular Assembly Minutes

MOTION Chris made a motion to accept the September 11, 2025, Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes.

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

Financials

- Finance Directors' Report

Finance Director Brandell reviewed her report. She pointed out that all the tasks requested by BDO have been completed and uploaded for BDO's testing procedures. They are also pulling out documents for sample testing as they come in. All the routine tasks are going smoothly.

- August 2025 Financials

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve the August 2025 Financials.

SECOND Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the August financials. She pointed out that the Raw Fish Tax shows \$492K for the month of August, \$38K of that was from the smaller processors from the prior months. So, for the month of August, we received \$454K, which is about 89% of the 5-year average. Another one to point out is the Interest Revenue, we are doing very well and still coming in strong. We are only about 16.6% of our expenditures.

Paul commented that we are a little ahead of what we predicted when the budget was drawn up, and now we are doing ok. The administrator agreed and mentioned that we have to keep in mind that for the next couple of months, the fish tax will be low.

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

Investment Report

The August 2025 report from APCM is in the packet.

Consent Agenda

Public Hearings

- **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 Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

The Borough Clerk reviewed the ordinance 26-01.

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

Ordinances

Resolutions

- **Resolution 26-16**, Authorizing the Mayor to Negotiate and Execute a Subaward Agreement with the Alaska Municipal League for the Renew America's School Grant

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-16.

SECOND Jim seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

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

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

- **Resolution 26-17**, Relating to the disposal of surplus, obsolete, or unneeded supplies

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-17.

SECOND Jim seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Paul asked if this is a lump sum bid for everything or item by item. Administrator Bailey responded that each item will be listed individually. Paul continued to ask where the items were. Administrator Bailey said in the old King Cove Office.

Warren asked if the amount in the resolution was the minimum bid. Administrator Bailey said yes.

Jim asked if those price are discounted prices. Jacki said those are the prices they were paid for.

Mayor Osterback asked if the prices include freight. Finance Director Brandell said no, and she also noted that these prices were several years ago.

Warren commented that some of the items have lost their value.

Jim asked if there were any restrictions. Mayor Osterback responded no.

Chris commented that the first dollar amount was a little misleading. He suggested putting the word per item.

Brenda suggested to leave it as is, and if there are no bidders the we could bring it up again.

Administrator Bailey said that the public notice posting for bids will have all the information they need.

Finance Director Brandell pointed out that, per our code, we have to put a minimum bid that is at least the fair market value, and we have to go through this process before we can dispose of the items.

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ROLL CALL Yeas: Jim, Brenda, Warren, Paul, Chris Advisory: Samantha
MOTION CARRIED Nays: Tom

- **Resolution 26-18**, Authorizing the appropriation of the Series E Bond funds to the Sand Point Pool, Deferred Maintenance and Project Contingency

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-18.

SECOND Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Paul commented that this is a good move and he would vote for it. He continued to ask what the Borough's next move regarding the Sand Point Pool.

Mayor Osterback responded that he and Administrator Bailey met with Paulo Jurkovich to talk about his plans for remodeling the pool. The Borough asked him to submit a formal bid for the Assembly to look at. And once it gets approved, we will move forward, and the pool could be up and running.

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

- **Resolution 26-19**, Authorizing the Mayor to Negotiate and Execute Amendment No. 1 for the Memorandum of Agreement between the Aleutians East Borough and the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities for the King Cove to Cold Bay Road

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-19.

SECOND Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Paul asked, with the government shutdown, was there any discussion about the King Cove Road and what may happen? Administrator Bailey responded not right now.

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

Old Business

- King Cove Office Building
Administrator Bailey reviewed the King Cove Office Building.

New Business

- Peter Pan Litigation Memorandum (Informational Only)
Administrator Bailey reviewed the Peter Pan Litigation Memorandum.

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Paul commented that it would be nice to know what Silver Bay's position is or if they have changed their business plans because of the ongoing litigation. He said that it was a shame to see a plant there, but nobody can do anything because of this litigation.

Reports and Updates

- **Administrator's Report**

Cold Bay Dock: The State of Alaska of PND Engineering continues to work on the environmental and design portion of the Cold Bay Dock Project. There will be a virtual public meeting towards the end of October.

Sand Point Harbor Float: This project is still in the process of being completed. Moffatt & Nichol is also coordinating with the City of Sand Point and the State Fire Marshall on the completion of the fire line. The substations are delayed and won't be delivered until November, so the project completion date is now extended to December 2025.

Sand Point School DEED Grant: On October 1, 2025, DOWL, ECI, AMC, and others travelled to Sand Point to conduct an inspection of the school. The sheetrock is down, so they were able to go in and see all the work and identify some of the items that need to be fixed.

School Items: Akutan School Boilers: LONG is tentatively scheduled to conduct the work in Akutan from October 20-29, 2025. The King Cove Boilers, False Pass Boilers, Sand Point Boilers, and the Cold Bay Terminal Boilers were all inspected by Cool Air Mechanical. There are some items identified that need work.

Other Items: Deeptree, Inc. will be our new IT Services soon. Administration is in the process of reviewing the contract and anticipates having it signed soon.

Administrator Bailey thanked the Finance department for working so hard on the audit.

Administrator Bailey also mentioned that we received a communication from the Federal Government saying that the Essential Air Service was supplementally funded through November 2nd.

Paul asked if the Cold Bay Dock public hearing is a virtual one? Administrator Bailey said it will be virtual, and the State of Alaska is the host of the meeting. Paul proceeded to ask if Administrator Bailey gets a report from the people who inspected the school. Administrator Bailey said she has not received a report in writing yet.

Mayor Osterback added that when the engineers arrived, they spent approximately 4-5 hours inspecting the school. It seems that everyone is satisfied with their progress on the project. Mayor Osterback said that the Sand Point Harbor Project has been extended until December due to the part not arriving on time.

Jim asked about the completion date of the Sand Point School project. He commented that it seems like it was slow progress. Administrator Bailey responded that it's expected completion date is November 21, 2025, but that may be extended slightly because we keep having change orders that occur as we find new problems with the building. So, the completion date might be extended.

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

Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers: Ernie attended the 1-day annual meeting of the Association of Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers (GAPP) in Seattle, September 18th. 2 new pollock studies were presented at the meeting, from McKinley Research and from Northern Economics. Links to these are included in the packet. Additionally, here is some 'how-to' messaging to communicate pollock fishery positives. Pollock plays a significant part in our fish tax, so it is important. Natural Director Weiss said he will probably testify on behalf of pollock communities at the NPFMC in February.

Alaska Board of Fisheries: All proposals for the 2025/2026 Board of Fish meeting cycle have now been posted. A link to a reference sheet for PCod proposals, Salmon proposals, and the statewide proposals is included in the packet. There are several proposals recently posted for the Statewide finfish meeting in March 2026 that may be of interest to AEB fishermen. ACR's have also been posted. None of the 9 ACRs would impact AEB fisheries. The staff proposal for the PCod also has been posted. The AEB has offshoot rooms reserved at the Egan Center for both the Pacific Cod meeting (room #8) and the February salmon meeting (room #5). Computers, printers, meeting audio, coffee and AEB staff will be available during both, and NRD staff will attend all Board meetings this cycle, including the AYK meeting in Fairbanks.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council: The meeting ended a day early. They set crab specs, and later in the day, the department published the quota allocations. They set preliminary ground fish specs, which are not different from last year's. They say that there is not going to be a Bering Sea Pot cod rationalization program. There is a link in the report that shows all the council motions.

Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness: President Trump issued Executive Order 14276 in April 2025. NMFS has requested public comment on ways to achieve the goals of EO 14276 (federal register notice) written comment due by October 14th. The AEB Natural Resources staff are working on comments to submit on behalf of the Borough. One priority we plan to address in our comments is getting protections for fishermen, much like farmers have under the USDA. At the Alaska Fisheries Roundtable Mayor Osterback recently attended along with the Alaska delegation, Commerce Secretary Lutnick, Agriculture Secretary Rollins, and others, to discuss the implementation of the executive order, Secretary Rollins referred to 'farmers of the sea', signaling that the USDA is seeing seafood as another food source that deserves federal support. The AEB Administration sees this as an opportunity to help fishermen. Our comments will also address the timing and slow response of the fishery disaster determination process, and how some fishermen have lost their businesses waiting for disaster funding. We will also talk about how the AEB has had successful collaboration with agencies on important scientific studies. We'll brag about our (Charlotte's) work on electronic monitoring and advocate for broader implementation of EM. Included in the report is the AEB's Summer Fish Tax Revenue.

Paul asked if Ernie would have more information about the salmon disaster at the next meeting. The Natural Resources Director said that his plan is to bring a resolution specifically on the South Peninsula Sockeye. There is no deadline on those, and it looks like this is the one that qualifies. Paul asked if there is any plan to have a booth in the EXPO this year. The Natural Resources Director said we are not planning to attend the expo or have a booth.

Tom commented that he wanted to see that resolution come through.

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Warren asked if the Bering Sea rationalization that Ernie mentioned was for cod and crab? Natural Resources Director Weiss said the council denied the Bering Sea Pot Cod, and they are taking no further action on pot cod. Warren proceeded to ask what vessel size the Natural Resources Director said he could find out.

Mayor Osterback commented that when they had a meeting in Washington, DC, every time the Secretary of Agriculture talks about the fishermen, she refers to them as farmers of the sea. It seems like she recognizes that fishermen have to be treated as in agriculture and have a low price protection. The Secretary of Commerce asked us to figure out what's important in our areas, identify the problem, and also present some solutions. Mayor Osterback added that he has been conversing with Ernie and Charlotte, and they will put something together for the Assembly to look at.

Natural Resources Director Weiss said the Pot Cod rationalization is for those 60 and over for catcher vessels and catch-processor vessels.

Paul commented that at the end of the council meeting, NMFS said that because of the government shutdown, they are going to have big problems setting the tax at the December meeting, do you have any additional information about what options they have? The Natural Resources director mentioned that Bob Foyl is the one who mentioned that anything over 15 days of government shutdown would be a problem for them to get real data for tax setting.

- **Fishery Analyst's Report**

AFSC Cod Tagging Project: We are just finishing up adding the final batch of tags to include in the tech memos. The full study will be published by the end of the year. I am currently working on producing a high-level synthesized report that will be available to the Assembly and stakeholders in October. This report will provide a summary of all the work we've done to date, and an overview of movement within and out of the GOA.

The GOA stock assessment author for PCod did a very comprehensive presentation of the September meeting. This is the first time he's gone on record and published a presentation, going through the work he's been doing to quantify the movement between the Western Gulf and the Bering Sea and how to incorporate that in the stock assessment. He outlines 3 potential solutions he sees how to move forward, dealing with the Western Gulf and Bering Sea connection.

Unimak Acoustic Telemetry Project: I traveled to AFSC the week of September 8th to work with our collaborators to finish preparing and modifying our gear (pre-assembling moorings, attaching hardware to collar floats, etc.). We were able to successfully complete all assembly and packing, which arrived in King Cove prior to field work. Our project team arrived in King Cove on September 30th to begin preparing and staging our field equipment. The charter took place October 1-4th, and we successfully deployed all the receiver and test transmitter moorings. We opportunistically tagged 20 fish, 10 were double tagged with satellite tags to track survival. The primary goal was to train the crew on fish handling and tagging procedures, and was very helpful to fine-tune the protocols for this. We had two volunteers Miguel (left) and James (right), who both did an excellent job, and the entire crew learned the process very quickly. We plan to retrieve them in the spring and will give us some idea, how many acoustic receivers would cross Unimak Pass and capture fish movements between the Western Gulf and the Bering Sea.

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Salmon Tagging Pilot: I am continuing to analyze the tags and will have more information next month, as I am prioritizing cod projects right now.

Miscellaneous: I am continuing to support the Trawl EM fleet as needed to transition from paper to eLog DFLs. Chordata LLC and I are coordinating with NOAA AKRO to update the eLog to conform to the new NOAA API that the eLog will be required to submit to starting in 2026.

Paul asked if the Fishery Analyst Levy could be more specific on what dates the two cod reports will be available. Fishery Analyst Levy responded that the high-level report she was referencing is very brief and is hoping to have that by next week. The other report is the NOAA technical memorandum, so that will be the official first publication by NOAA of this date that will be available for use outside of our resource group. She suspects it will be out by the end of this year, but with the government shutdown, she is unsure.

Tom asked if the report would show some migration of the stocks. The Fishery Analyst said, yes, it will show the number of fish tagged and summarize the movement between the regions. Tom continued to ask if it would show which catcher caught them. Levy said yes, they would know. They typically know when it's caught because it goes into a wheelhouse, and they can see it in real time.

Mayor Osterback asked if other entities are doing this kind of research as well. Fishery Analyst said, Yes and No. Other people are doing similar types of work, but certainly not in any Boroughs. We are certainly leading the chart in terms of PCod, we are the only ones doing this type of work for PCod. Other groups are doing similar work in sablefish or rockfish.

Jim asked where the Fishery Analyst got the equipment. She responded that they talked to a lot of people around the world that done similar work. We borrowed some of their designs, and then we adopted them based on our needs.

Assembly Comments

Samantha reported on what's going on in Nelson Lagoon. There were a lot of cool projects that they were able to get done, like the brand new dock at their water lake. This was a 5-year project and was finally done. They also have a brand new power plant. They hired a contractor to build a tribally owned storage building to store all their equipment. All fire hydrants were replaced. Their fuel farm will also be done this month. They have a good representation from UCC.

Chris asked if Nelson Lagoon's water line has been fixed. Samantha said they still have issues with it every year. They're still trying to figure out how to fix the issue permanently, but right now they are just trying to maintain it. They are working on getting another water tank. Chris commented that he is happy to see that they are using the school. Samantha responded that they've been wanting to use the school for so long, too. She said they use it a lot for culture camp, and is hoping to do more gym nights.

Warren asked if the Borough would pay for anybody's way out to attend the Fish Board meeting. Mayor Osterback said that was never brought up until now. Natural Resources Director suggested that each ACs could send 1 person out to relay the comments of local ACs. Mayor Osterback asked Warren if their local King Cove AC would send somebody out. Warren said the King Cove local

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AC will have a meeting to talk about that. With the Pcod issue we have. The federal season is almost not accessible to the smallest fleets we have here in the villages to be able to harvest those cod. And with the prices going up, it is a good idea to have somebody there to push this. Mayor Osterback asked if False Pass would send somebody out. Tom said they will be there.

Tom commented that he thinks every community needs to have representation at these meetings.

Mayor Alvin directed Ernie to reach out to AC to see if they are sending somebody out so we can figure out what we need to do.

Warren commented that they do not have a plant anymore in King Cove, and some of the fishermen are doing better than the others with the salmon season they just had. There are some fishermen who were not able to fish because of the RSW restriction. Maybe we can get a local person or a sponsor to bring up a proposal to raise the quota to 50% or 60%.

Public Comments

Next Meeting Date

- November 13, 2025

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 3:42PM.


Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST


Beverly Rosete, Clerk