

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 December 11, 2025, at 2:00 PM.

Roll Call for Elected Officials

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback	Present
Brenda Wilson	Present
Chris Babcock	Present
Glen Gardner Jr.	Present
Jim Smith Sr.	Present
Josephine Shangin	Present
Paul Gronholdt	Present
Warren Wilson	Present

Advisory

Samantha McNeley

A quorum was present.

Staff Present

Anne Bailey, Administrator
Glennora Dushkin, Administrative Clerk
Assembly
Ernie Weiss, Natural Resources Director
Charlotte Levy, Fishery Analyst
Jacki Brandell, Finance Director
Seward Brandell, Accounting Clerk
Beverly Ann Rosete, Borough Clerk

Others Present

Tom Hoblet
Cadance Nielsen

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Minutes

- November 13, 2025, Regular Assembly Minutes

MOTION Chris made a motion to accept the November 13, 2025, Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes.
SECOND Brenda seconded the motion.

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Hearing no objections, the minutes will stand as written.
Josy corrected the minutes. It was noted by Borough Clerk Rosete.

Financials

- Finance Director's Report.
Finance Director Brandell reviewed her report.

- October 2025 Financials

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

SECOND Josy seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey said this is 33.3% through our budget year. A few items to note are the Raw Fish Tax, which we received about \$ 192,000, representing about 59% of the 5-year average. We are bringing in less than we used to. Also, to point out that we did not receive any fish Tax in November, which has not happened since 1999. Another item to point out is the Interest Revenue; we are still getting a good yield where we put our money. Expenditures are tracking along as they should.

Paul commented that bonuses for pink salmon are coming out, which will increase the fish tax. He also mentioned that at the Fish Expo, he asked about the future of Trident in Akutan and the response was that everything was on hold.

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

Investment Report

The October 2025 report from APCM is in the packet.

Consent Agenda

- **Resolution 26-22** adopting an alternative allocation method for the FY26 Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program and certifying that this allocation method fairly represents the distribution of significant effects of fisheries business activity in FMA 2: ALEUTIANS ISLANDS AREA.
- **Resolution 26-23** adopting an alternative allocation method for the FY26 Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program and certifying that this allocation method fairly represents the distribution of significant effects of fisheries business activity in FMA 3: ALASKA PENINSULA AREA.

MOTION Brenda made a motion to bring the Consent Agenda to the floor.

SECOND Glen seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey discussed both resolutions.

Glen asked what year the FMA 3 population is based on. Administrator Bailey said it is based on 2024 data.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Jim, Paul, Glen, Warren, Brenda, Josy, Chris Advisory: Samantha

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MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.
Public Hearings

Ordinances

Resolutions

- **Resolution 26-21**, authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a contract agreement between the Aleutians East Borough and Hickey & Associates for lobbying/consulting services for 2026.

MOTION Chris made a motion to approve Resolution 26-21.

SECOND Brenda seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Chris, Brenda, Warren, Jim, Glen, Paul, Josy Advisory: Samantha

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

- **Resolution 26-24**, authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute an Agreement with the Law Office of James F. Clark to provide legal representation for the Land Exchange in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-24.

SECOND Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Paul commented that it might be good if Mr. Clark meets with the Assembly. He added that Mr. Clark has the background and qualifications to do the work.

Administrator Bailey agreed, and she said we could arrange something since Mr. Clark is based in Juneau.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Paul, Glen, Josy, Brenda, Warren, Jim, Chris Advisory: Samantha

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

- **Resolution 26-25**, authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute an agreement between the City of Saint Paul and the Aleutians East Borough for collecting and remitting taxes on Northern Region Bering Sea Snow Crab and Central Bering Fishermen's Association Bering Sea Snow Crab delivered in Akutan in 2026

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-25.

SECOND Josy seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey and Natural Resources Director Weiss reviewed the resolution.

Brenda asked if this agreement has a one-year term. Administrator Bailey confirmed that this is a one-year agreement only and if it comes up next year, it will be well in advance.

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Paul said he would support this resolution this year, but highly unlikely next year. Based on circumstances and discussions in the workshop, it makes some sense to support it this year.

Warren commented that when it was suggested to give up the 1%, it came to his mind that during the 2022-2023 disaster declaration, St. Paul had 1% added to the money they received from the government. They took away from other communities to give an extra 1% to help them out. He thinks this is what they are looking for now.

ROLL CALL
MOTION CARRIED

Yeas: Warren, Chris, Jim, Josy, Paul, Brenda, Glen
Nays: None. Advisory: Samantha

- **Resolution 26-26**, Authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a contract with Sand Point Marine LLC to repair the Sand Point Swimming Pool in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

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

SECOND Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Glen commented that Paulo is one of the best in fiberglass work and suggested aqua blue for the pool as that is the current color.

Chris said he is happy with what Paulo came up with and asked if Paulo would take care of all the permitting.

Paul asked what the timeframe is for the contract. Administrator Bailey said as soon as possible. Mayor Osterback said if he starts in August, the completion date is said to be in October.

Warren asked if the pool had to be 10 feet deep. He said that if it does not have to be 10 feet deep, it might save us from having to warm up a lot of water, and if the framework that is underneath the pool is deteriorating, it will cost a lot of money.

Mayor Osterback said there is going to be two inches of foam, so there will be a fair amount of insulation between the pool and the ground. Paulo will use the existing outline of the pool. Trying to change things now will probably change the completion timeline. Mayor Osterback added that Paulo will prebuild everything in Washington and have it shipped to Sand Point.

Chris asked if the pool would have a diving board and mentioned it might be the reason why it must be 10 feet. Administrator Bailey responded that, according to the guidelines, certain requirements must be met for public use, one of which is to keep it at 10 to meet the criteria. Chris continued to ask if this resolution is just for the pool, not including the heating system. He also asked if we would hire someone who would oversee and maintain the heating system in the pool.

Mayor Osterback commented that, as we were trying to fix the pool, we had brand-new heating systems installed, and all the equipment in the pump room has been replaced.

Chris also asked if we will hire someone to strictly maintain the heating system so it's not being fixed by 20+ people like in the past.

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Mayor Osterback said we have contracts with a company that will routinely go out to our facilities to check and maintain our systems.

Administrator Bailey added that the School District will be responsible for having an employee who will oversee the pool.

Paul said he attended the AML presentation about pools and it was really informational and encouraging.

Chris said he thinks this is good and it's been on our schedule for a time and what is being presented to us is very good.

Brenda said this will open it up to the whole Borough to utilize to learn how to swim because it affects all of our communities and when kids grow up they end up being on boats and they don't know how to swim.

Josy asked if there would be some kind of warranty or will there be an annual maintenance check once the pool is completed or if once it's done it's done. Mayor Osterback said some of the fiberglass boats Paulo built are still sitting in the harbor. Plus, he owns a house in Sand Point and would like to utilize the pool.

Jim asked if anyone has seen a fiberglass pool before. Administrator Bailey said, of this size, no.

Paul said everything Paulo does is first-class.

Brenda called to question.

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

Old Business

New Business

- **Advisory Appointment**

Borough Clerk Rosete reviewed the advisory Appointment. Two letters of interest were received, one from Tom Hoblet and the other from Samantha McNeley.

MOTION Glen made a motion to accept the Advisory Appointment

SECOND Brenda seconded the motion.

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

- **Strategic Planning Quarter 3 Update**

Administrator Bailey reviewed the Strategic Planning Quarter 3 Update. She said everything is progressing.

Brenda commented that the Strategic Planning process is awesome, it shows all the little things that we all need to remember.

Chris said that the strategic plan is very beneficial to the administration. It makes us transparent.

Paul commented that sometimes strategic planning occurs concurrently with the Board of Fish meetings. Administrator Bailey said she scheduled the Strategic Planning meeting for March, and it will be an in-person meeting.

- **Drug Enforcement Discussion**

Administrator Bailey reviewed the Drug Enforcement Discussion.

Chris commented that this was a good program, and his understanding is that the guy now works for the Postal Service as a Postal Inspector for drugs. He said they are still seeing drugs come in through Lake Clark. Chris mentioned that Lake Clark inspects luggage; they have a red-flagged list, but some people carry illegal drugs in their purses. He asked Jim or Glen if they could elaborate more on this.

Mayor Osterback asked if Glen is on the Eastern Aleutian Tribes board of directors. Glen confirmed yes, and he said, as well as Brenda.

Glen said he does not know what happened to the City of Sand Point and why they dropped this program. He knows that the EAT have picked it up and have been funding it through the years. He thinks that the Borough that represents the same people as EAT should do what they were doing prior. Glen said he knows that they do work at the airport. Glen said that, yes, there is money from the Borough, but it is for Behavioral Health. Glen added that he would like to see the Borough work with EAT and the City of Sand Point on this project.

Mayor Osterback commented that, according to Paul Mueller, the project has full funding for the next couple of years. He added that every year, the Borough put out a request for proposals from each community. This is a more effective approach because it aligns with our budget cycle. We always put together a financial workshop so we can go through everything in our budget, to see what we have and how much money we spend on each project and item. If the City of Sand Point comes up with a request from us, then the Assembly can see what we have available for this project. Last year, we had a deficit, but thanks to our AMLIP account, which generates interest income, we can cover the deficit. Mayor Osterback added that most of the money that the Borough has is already designated.

Glen commented that he does not have a problem with that and asked when the budget planning begins. Administrator Bailey responded that the budget process starts around February, and it will be introduced and approved in May.

Paul commented that we have to find a way to target some money.

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Mayor Osterback said that most of our communities have bars and liquor stores, and it would be nice if they put a dedicated portion of money to help with this project.

Brenda commented that this project is funded by a 3-year grant, of which 1 year has already been used up, and another 5-year grant, of which 2 years have already been used up.

Jim commented that Borough used to pay for this project, then EAT took over for less money. He said he always pushed for more action in Sand Point, but he does not have a reason why they won't come out more. This group works with the DEA and FBI; their work is really great, but it is not centralized in Aleutians East.

Chris added that in Lake Clark, he used to see them standing outside and talking to people, but he does not see that presence anymore, and he heard that they are doing more in the Postal Service. He added he is not sure what Aleutian Airways was going through the luggage to inspect.

Jim said the City of Sand Point cannot afford to finance this project.

Mayor Osterback commented that the best approach is to submit a request and a plan for the Assembly to look at and decide upon.

Chris added that we wanted to make sure that the money we are giving to EAT is accountable, and if it's going to this drug program to stop drugs from coming into our communities from Anchorage. Mayor Osterback said on March when we have our Strategic Planning, we will have EAT give an update. That way, all of us will know.

Glen agreed and said it is a good idea to sit down with Paul Mueller, work together, and see how we can make this better.

- **Cold Bay Dock Discussion**

Administrator Bailey reviewed the Cold Bay Dock Discussion.

MOTION: Paul made a motion to support the option of a wave barrier in the preferred alternative design. Glen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Yeas: Chris, Jim, Josy, Paul, Brenda, Glen Advisory: Samantha

Motion Carried Nay: None

Paul commented that everyone he talked to thinks that incorporating some kind of wave barrier would be a good idea. He added we want a good dock for the use of our residents.

Jim said there is \$54 million in funding, and the most expensive option is \$96 million. We need \$42 million in additional funding to get a breakwater. Administrator Bailey said that it is correct.

Mayor Osterback added that they have discussions with the State on issues like who will own the pipeline at the new dock. He thinks the Borough should own the pipeline to prevent what happened with the problem with Frosty Line. The estimated cost of it is \$3-5 million.

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Mayor Osterback said if the Assembly wants to put this motion forward, we can submit it to the State, but he is unsure how the State will come up with the extra money.

Chris said he agrees with Paul. But we have to make sure we are not tampering with the Tustumena that comes out there and the other freight boats.

Paul said the Borough and the City of Cold Bay will never be able to afford to pay for a dock with a wave barrier without this project. This is once in a lifetime project, so he thinks it is worth the effort.

Reports and Updates

- **Administrator's Report**

Cold Bay Dock: The State of Alaska, PND Engineering, continues to work on the environmental and design portion of the Cold Bay Dock Project. The State is tentatively holding a virtual public hearing for the Cold Bay AMHS Ferry Terminal Reconstruction Project on December 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. A Zoom link was included in the packet.

Sand Point Harbor Float: Western Marine Construction is still in the process of completing the project. We are still waiting for the substations to be delivered in Sand Point. There was a huge delay with the electrical company. The Borough will not be proceeding with installing the waterline. M&N is researching different fire pump options that would meet the project's needs. Project completion has been pushed back to March 2026.

Sand Point School DEED Grant: We are looking into executing a fourth change order soon. The list of changes is included in the packet. We are still within the budget. UIC Construction is behind schedule; we are now looking at February/March substantial completion.

School Items: False Pass Roof Repairs: Bering Sea Services has provided a quote to complete roof repairs at the False Pass School. The cost for the repairs is \$50,500, but it is anticipated to come up a little bit. DOWL is in the process of drafting a contract for this work. The repairs will be charged to the Deferred Maintenance Line-Item.

Sand Point Boiler Inspections: On October 9, 2025, a contract with Cool Air Mechanical in the amount of \$64,922.50 was executed. This includes additional repairs to the Sand Point School, Office and 4-plex. Cool Air Mechanical is tentatively scheduled to arrive in Sand Point on December 1, 2025, to conduct the repairs. This work will be paid for out of the Deferred Maintenance line item.

Cold Bay Terminal: Chinook is tentatively scheduled to arrive in Cold Bay on December 18, 2025, to conduct the annual fire alarm, extinguisher, and sprinkler inspections and conduct the deficiency work for the Cold Bay Terminal.

King Cove Road: During the week of October 20, 2025, the Secretary signed a land exchange for the King Cove Road, and it is through the conveyance process. A 2025 Izembek Land Exchange Decision of the Secretary has been made. The Decision constitutes the United State Department of Interior approval of a proposed land exchange between the Secretary of Interior and King Cove Corporation (KCC) involving lands within Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska (Proposed Land Exchange). The land exchange has also been executed between KCC and the United State of America.

Other Items: On November 21, 2025, I posted an in-house employment advertisement for an executive assistant position. It was due yesterday. We received one application. This position will

provide high-level administrative support to the Borough Administrator and will also provide clerical and general office support to personnel who work in the Anchorage office of the Aleutians East Borough.

The Borough will be hosting the Strategic Planning Meeting on March 11, 2025, in Anchorage.

On December 4, 2025, the Borough-owned office in King Cove was demolished.

Administrator Bailey thanked the Natural Resources Director and others for their work on the crab workshop.

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

North Pacific Fishery Management Council: The December 2-9 meeting is ongoing as of this writing at the Egan Center, with the main agenda item to decide final groundfish specifications for 2026. The screenshots for the Advisory Panel (AP) groundfish motions for the BSAI, GOA and a 2nd GOA groundfish specs AP motion that was responsive to public testimony, including a letter signed onto by the AEB are linked in the report. Council final action on groundfish harvest specifications will likely be based on specs for the GOA and BSAI as adopted in October. The agenda item garnering the most written comments was the BSAI specs item, mostly anti-trawl letters. Also on the December meeting agenda: final action on Crab Arbitration, Crab C-shares, Charter Halibut Management, specs for Norton Sound Red King Crab, and the Essential Fish Habitat 5-year review workplan. All AP and Council materials and motions from the December meeting will be posted on this eAgenda linked in the report.

At the Egan Center I was able to meet with NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator Eugenio Piñeiro Soler in an impromptu meeting along with Unalaska and Saint Paul representatives, discussing some of our common fishery issues. www.npfmc.org At the February 2-11, 2026, meeting, also at the Egan, the Council will take final action on the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery Chum Salmon Bycatch. The Draft EIS for the Chum salmon action will be the main document for this agenda item. The Council will also set harvest specs for federally managed salmon in the Cook Inlet EEZ at the February meeting.

Alaska Board of Fisheries: I attended the first 2 days of the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) finfish meeting last month in Fairbanks, and was able to speak with Board members, ADFG staff, and other attendees. I felt it was important to hear directly from AYK folks on the greatly diminished Yukon salmon runs. The Board passed 14 proposals at the AYK meeting, and under Miscellaneous Business, approved a Board Generated Proposal (BGP) to increase the quota for the Dutch Harbor Food & Bait herring fishery. The BGP will be heard at the Bristol Bay meeting and deliberated at the Area M/Chignik meeting. All proposals and Board meeting information can be found on the Board's main webpage. Link is in the report.

The AEB has an offshoot room reserved at the Egan Center for the February salmon meeting. Computers, printers, meeting audio, coffee, and AEB staff will be available.

Regulatory Reform: The Board of Fish also approved a new Call for Proposals, that would be in addition to the regular cycle call for Cook Inlet and Kodiak proposals, due April 10, 2026. The new call for proposals will request ideas on how the Board can conform to Governor Dunleavy's Administrative Order 360 (AO 360). AO 360 requests departments to consider ways to simplify the regulatory process and/or reduce regulations. The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) is also seeking public comment on AO 360, comments to CFEC are due December 19, 2025 at 5PM. Related, NOAA Fisheries is reopening public comment on Executive Order (EO) 14276 Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness, through December 15th. Our AEB comment letter on EO 14276, submitted in October, can be found in the link included in the report.

The list of upcoming meetings is included in the packet.

- **Fishery Analyst's Report**

AFSC Cod Tagging Project: Our team is working with collaborators to get a subsample of otoliths aged. This will allow us to look at the growth rate in our sampled cod and identify any difference in growth rate that may provide insight into stock structure. We are currently working on outlines for two papers we are writing simultaneously, one will focus on movement/connectivity, and the other will focus on behavior, temperature/depth occupancy, availability to fishing, and surveys. I am also working on routine reporting, including the quarterly grant report and finalizing the cruise report from the winter charter.

Salmon Tagging Pilot: The majority of my time is still spent analyzing tags and working on the manuscript for peer-review. I anticipate having a case report paper submitted to Animal Biotelemetry by the end of the year. This paper would simply characterize the movement and behavior of tagged fish. I will also be working on public comments for the upcoming meeting to provide an overview of the project and results that may be of interest to BOF members. One interesting result I have found is that chum are highly surface oriented, and spend a significant amount of time in the upper water column and specifically at the surface between 0-10 m.

Board of Fish: I am currently working on writing a comment letter that collates the Adaptive Management Program reports since the program started. I assist writing these at the end of each June, and will write a comprehensive review of the program performance relative to metrics outlined in the RC104. One of the most time-consuming tasks in each BOF cycle is organizing information and making it accessible to stakeholders. Information such as fishery and genetics data, historical BOF actions, past BOF RC's, and proposals are typically scattered and can be difficult to track down. I am in the process of collecting those data into a clearinghouse format that can be easily accessed by stakeholders for their own use.

Fishery Analyst Levy mentioned she is still helping with the Trawl EM Program.

Assembly/ Mayor's Comments

Chris commented that he enjoyed attending the Newly Elected Officials training at the AML Conference. They have provided a really helpful book for elected officials. Chris added that it will be a good resource for the Assembly.

Josy commented that she remembers King Cove got a K9, and she is interested in hearing the statistics, if there is a downward trend in drugs going into King Cove, and if that is something Sand Point can look into.

Mayor Osterback said Sand Point used to have a drug dog, but back then, there were a lot of restrictions on where the dog could go and do. Eventually, it did not pan out.

Chris said he can find out more regarding this. He mentioned that it was helpful in King Cove to have the presence of the drug dog.

Brenda thanked all the staff for their hard work.

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Public Comments

Candice Nielsen said she is excited to share her new position at the Aleut Corporation as Director of Regional Strategy and Policy and wanted to extend a handshake and let everyone know that they have a friend at Aleut Corporation. She is hopeful to keep a strong partnership and keep everyone updated on what the corporation is doing in favor of Aleutians East Borough.

Next Meeting Date

- January 8, 2026

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 3:54 PM.


Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST


Beverly Rosete, Clerk