

Aleutians East Borough  
Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback called the Aleutians East Borough Regular Assembly Meeting to order by videoconference in each community on February 12, 2026, 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	Present
Tom Hoblet	Present

A quorum was present.

**Staff Present**

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

**Others Present**

Christi Heun  
Isabel Grant  
Joseph Levesque  
Sean Solie

**Adoption of the Agenda**

MOTION Paul made a motion to adopt the Agenda, with some discussion regarding Assembly travel.  
SECOND Warren 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.

Christi Heun from Defenders of Wildlife, one of the plaintiffs in a case against the government, said the information she wanted to share with the Assembly is the resolutions from various tribal governments and one corporation that is coming to the Assembly digitally. Second is a couple of selected notices for the application of permits for the 404 wetland drilling for the Army Corps of Engineers comment period. Christi said she was requested to share these with the Assembly.

Mayor Osterback commented that all the documents were sent to the Assembly via email.

**Conflict of Interest**

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

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**Minutes**

- January 08, 2026, Regular Assembly Minutes

MOTION Josy made a motion to accept the January 08, 2026, Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes.

SECOND Brenda seconded the motion.

Hearing no objections, the minutes will stand as written.

**Financials**

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

- December 2025 Financials

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

SECOND Glen seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION**

Administrator Bailey said there are two items to point out: one is the Raw Fish Tax, which we received \$48,873.84 in December, which is 28.4% of the 5-year average and 29.6% of the 10-year average. It is low compared to the past. Another item to point out is the Interest Revenue, which we received \$83,931.21 this month, but that is a lot lower than in the past. So our interest revenue has decreased and we anticipate this decline to continue. We are about 50% in expenditure throughout the year.

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

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

**Investment Report**

- November 2025 Investment Report
- December 2025 Investment Report

**Consent Agenda**

**Public Hearings**

**Ordinances**

**Resolutions**

- **Resolution 26-29**, Relating to the disposal of surplus, obsolete, or unneeded supplies

MOTION Chris made a motion to approve Resolution 26-29.

SECOND Brenda seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION**

The Executive Assistant reviewed the resolution.

ROLL CALL Yeas: Resolution passed, no objection.

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

- **Resolution 26-30**, Authorizing the Mayor to amend the term of Helicopter Services Agreement with Maritime Helicopters, Inc. to June 30, 2026

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-30.

SECOND Glen seconded the motion.

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DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

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

- **Resolution 26-31**, Selecting and Promoting FY27 Capital Projects for the Health, Safety, and Welfare of Its Residents

MOTION      Warren made a motion to approve Resolution 26-31.

SECOND      Brenda seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Paul asked whether the administration was considering or rejecting any projects when she put this resolution together. Administrator Bailey responded that at this point, there were no other projects that we are going to ask for funding for; this will be through the State CAPSIS program. The only two projects we have are the King Cove Road and the False Pass Airport.

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

- **Resolution 26-32**, Requesting Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding for Construction of the King Cove Road

MOTION      Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-32.

SECOND      Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Paul asked when we are expecting the Judge's ruling in the 3 cases. Administrator Bailey said there is a timeline included in her Assembly Report. There is a case management agreement that was agreed on January 7, 2026. Plaintiffs' opening briefs are due on February 20<sup>th</sup>, oppositions briefs are due on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Plaintiffs' reply is due on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

- **Resolution 26-33**, Authorizing the Mayor to Convey and Quitclaim to the United States through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Realty Land Situated in the Aleutian Islands Recording District

MOTION      Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-33.

SECOND      Glen seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Paul asked if things would change in the future; is there a way we can get this land back? Administrator Bailey said she is not sure and would have to ask.

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Jim asked for clarification on the map that shows the quitclaim. The administrator responded that the one marked in red is the quitclaim land.

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

- **Resolution 26-34**, Authorizing the appropriation of \$150,000 in the Deferred Maintenance Line Item (21-502-8025) for the Sand Point School Project

MOTION      Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-34.

SECOND      Josy seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Glen asked, is there any stipulation on the original contract that mentions a timeframe. Administrator Bailey said there is a liquidated damages line item, but they are not charging us for additional time for UIC's purposes. Administrator Bailey added that some of the delays that are occurring are because, as they are working in the building, they found more issues. We also issued a couple of change orders that weren't in the original contract.

Glen mentioned that there are doors that don't lock, and some doors are mismatched. Administrator Bailey said she will have to ask. The locks are not final until they are ready to transfer the keys over. To the School District.

Jim asked if this project will go on until next summer. Mayor Osterback said he is not expecting it to go on until next summer, and Administrator Bailey agreed. He continued to ask if we have a lot of communication of who ever oversees that project? Administrator Bailey said yes.

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

- **Resolution 26-35**, Authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute Contract Amendment No. 1 with DOWL to provide additional services for the Sand Point School DEED Grant Project in an amount not to exceed \$194,147

MOTION      Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-35.

SECOND      Warren seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Paul commented that it seems like we have a timeline problem with the contractor, and DOWL has to take some responsibility because they are overseeing the project. Paul said it feels like they got us back in the corner, and we just keep throwing more money at them.

Josy agreed with Paul and Glen. She said that the project keeps getting delayed, and we have to pay for it.

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

- **Resolution 26-36**, Authorizing the Mayor to Negotiate and Execute Change Order No. 4 with Western Marine Construction, Inc in an amount not to exceed \$174,453 for Sand Point New Harbor A-Float Project

MOTION      Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-36.

SECOND      Josy seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Paul commented that with this amount of money, the better option would be to contract with the City of Sand Point. Perhaps the City could finish connecting the waterline. Sooner or later, we must have water there anyway.

Mayor Osterback commented that, based on the City of Sand Point staff, he was told there was no pipe in the ground. At that time, we only had about \$400,000 left for the project, and that money would not be enough to put in a waterline. We have to comply with the State of Alaska fire code, so we decided to get a water pump.

Further discussion was made.

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

- **Resolution 26-37**, In Support of Full Funding for 2026 and Future Years AMHS Operations and the Tustumena Replacement Project

MOTION      Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-37.

SECOND      Chris seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Natural Resources Director Weiss reviewed the resolution.

Paul commented that we should weigh in on the upcoming ferry bid this May. Paul also recognized Glen as a new board member on the Marine Highway Operations Support.

Chris asked Ernie for confirmation whether every part that will be used for the ferry has to be U.S. made. Natural Resources Director Weiss said yes, but there are waivers because they can't get everything in U.S. Company.

Tom asked if the False Pass Dock was big enough to accommodate the new ferry. Mayor Osterback said they are making sure the ferry will fit on all the docks we have.

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

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- **Resolution 26-38**, Supporting the full funding (\$18,186,535) for the State of Alaska Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2027 State Capitol Budget

MOTION Brenda made a motion to approve Resolution 26-38.

SECOND Jim seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Administrator Bailey reviewed the resolution.

Mayor Osterback said it is important to keep pushing this forward because sometimes they don't get funded all the way.

Administrator Bailey added that she believes that the Governor did not put any funding in for this program this fiscal year in the State budget.

ROLL CALL NO Objection, Resolution passed.

MOTION CARRIED Nays: None.

**Old Business**

- Sand Point Swimming Pool Update (Informational Only)  
Administrator Bailey reviewed the Sand Point Swimming Pool update.

Paul commented that he is glad that this is moving ahead for sure. He asked what the timeline is after the contract is signed. Administrator Bailey said that after the Borough signs the document, the company is free to do its job.

Mayor Osterback added that they will prefab the materials, load them in the container, and ship them here, and then start on the project. The completion date will be November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**New Business**

- Response to Assembly Member Babcock's Letter (Informational Only)  
Administrator Bailey reviewed the Response to Assembly Member Babcock's Letter.

Chris thanked Anne for taking the time to address each issue that was stated in the letter.

**Reports and Updates**

- **Administrator's Report**  
**Sand Point Harbor Float:** The substations have been installed, and WMC will arrive in March 2026 to complete the additional punch list items. And with the resolution passing, we are not going to purchase a fire pump, and hopefully, we can close out the grant.  
**Sand Point School DEED Grant:** There is a lot of information in this project, 2 resolutions have been passed. The substantial completion date will be pushed back slightly.  
**False Pass School Items:** Currently, Bearing Sea Services is on site in False Pass to do roof repair. They are working as quickly as they can. They also just found a big hole, so they are fixing that, and they are also doing exploratory work on the interior.  
**False Pass Boiler Inspections:** In mid-January 2026, Cool Air Mechanical travelled to False Pass to conduct additional repairs to the False Pass Boilers. Unfortunately, Cool Air Mechanical's tools did not arrive and the technician was able to get the heat running and conduct a few other items. The

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technician flew back to Anchorage and will make another trip to False Pass to conduct the remainder of the work. Due to these delays, the work will most likely exceed the original costs to conduct the work.

**False Pass Dry Valve Replacement and Fire Suppression Inspection:** On February 4, 2026, the Borough entered into a contract with Chinook Fire Protection in the amount of \$35,388 for the replacement of the dry valve and to conduct a comprehensive annual fire suppression system inspection.

**False Pass Condition Assessment:** The Borough hired DOWL to conduct a condition assessment of the False Pass School. The school is in pretty bad shape, and the costs for the work that needs to be completed over the next 5-10 years is about \$6,052,939. The Borough will meet with DOWL and the School District to determine the most immediate needs, but the Administration is interested in looking at building a new school facility. The next step is to conduct a Life Cycle Cost Analysis and Concept Design, for which I have asked DOWL to provide a proposal. Based on this, they will help determine if we do a renewal of the existing facility; partial renewal of the existing facility with addition (possibly keep the gym and redo the rest of the school), and/or replace the existing facility in its entirety. More information will be provided as we learn more.

**King Cove Road:** Case Management Agreement was agreed on January 7, 2026. Plaintiff's Opening Briefs are due on February 20, 2026, our Opposition Brief is due on March 23, 2026, and the Plaintiff's Reply Briefs are due on April 6, 2026. The Corps of Engineers is currently analyzing public comments on the Corps permit for the project, which is expected to be issued at the end of March. Quite a few of those comments were sent to the Assembly from Defenders of Wildlife. We do anticipate litigation on the Corps Permit, separate from the litigation on the Land Exchange Agreement. On February 4, 2026, the State of Alaska Department of Law released a press release stating that the State of Alaska has filed three new motions to intervene in support of the King Cove Road project.

Administrator Bailey said the Borough received a Public Records Request for the road in Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Three emails from the clerk were sent to the Assembly.

**Akutan-Akun Transportation Link:** At the July 10, 2025 Assembly meeting the Assembly approved Resolution 25-04 Authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute an MOA between the State and the Borough, and on January 26, 2026, the MOA was executed. A total of not more than \$1 million in state funds will be provided to reimburse the Borough for 50% of the Borough's share of Maritime Helicopters costs to provide helicopter services between the Airport on Akun Island and the City of Akutan. The Borough can begin submitting requests once the Co-Sponsorship Agreement Amendment No. 5 is fully executed.

**Co-Sponsorship Agreement Amendment:** We have to make an amendment. The State of Alaska and the Borough have signed the CSA Amendment. The City of Akutan still needs to sign.

**Cold Bay Dock:** The State has put in an additional \$14 million in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan. We have \$14million delta, so they were able to fill that, so we are back at option 4. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

The upcoming Assembly Meeting Schedule is as follows:

- o March 12, 2025 Regular Assembly Meeting
- o April 9, 2026 Regular Assembly Meeting

- **Executive Assistant's Report**

**APRA Training and Inspections:** All building inspections have been completed. On January 28, 2026, I met with our consultant to review the inspection results, and most of our properties had no improvement needs, and the few that did were minor. Funds from a APRA Safety Grant will be used to purchase equipment for the properties that have improvement needs. Staff safety training is ongoing.

**Deeptree, Inc:** IT Provider: On January 27, 2026, I had my first quarterly meeting with Deeptree. The only recommendation was to upgrade all computers to Windows 11, which was scheduled and completed. We are also looking at the possibility of switching the King Cove office from the current phone provider to Teams Phones.

**Essential Air Service:** I drafted a letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation outlining the need for Essential Air Service to the Aleutians. On January 22, 2026, I met with our D.C. lobbyist to review the letter and discuss next steps. Additionally, the letter has been sent to others in the region, asking for signatory support.

**Rasmuson Foundation Community Support Grant - Sand Point Swimming Pool:** On January 26, 2026, I applied to the Rasmuson Foundation's Community Support Grant, requesting \$250,000 to support the Sand Point Swimming Pool project. The Program Officer assigned to our application reached to schedule a March meeting to review the project. Grant award announcements are expected in late May or early June.

**Other Items:** Ordered jackets for staff and elected officials. Ordered catering for the Strategic Planning Session in March 2026. Met OperationsHERO to discuss that platform as a potential replacement for Maintenance Connection.

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

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council:** The February 2026 NPFMC meeting is ongoing at the Egan Center, as of this writing. I testified to the AP in support of Alternative 4 since our AEB communities are highly dependent on onshore pollock deliveries. I plan to also testify to the Council on C2. The council took action, and they took up the AP's recommendation, which is alternative 4, Regulatory Requirements for Incentive Plan Agreements, with amendments, rather than any hard cap on chum salmon bycatch. Yesterday Thursday February 5th, the Council reviewed the updated GOA Pacific cod data from the Groundfish Plan Team and SSC, and set revised OFLs, ABCs and TACs for the 2026 and 2027 GOA Pacific cod seasons. (Council Motion) Soon after, the ADFG published revised Pacific cod GHGs for Kodiak, Chignik and the South Peninsula. The Council will also set harvest specs for federally managed salmon in the Cook Inlet EEZ at this meeting. The Council will meet next in June, in Vancouver WA.

**Alaska Board of Fisheries:** I attended the Board of Fish Bristol Bay meeting and gave the Anchorage AC report for the meeting. I also gave personal testimony at the BB meeting in support of Proposal 188 that would increase the Dutch Harbor food and bait herring quota. Proposal 188 will be deliberated at the February meeting. The Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik Finfish meeting February 18-24 will be critical for the future of AEB salmon fisheries. The meeting page now includes ADFG Staff Comments on proposals, the Genetic Stock Composition of Chum Salmon Harvested in the South Alaska Peninsula, 2022-2024 report, and all proposals. The Natural Resources Department continues to coordinate with and support fishermen associations CAMF and

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Area M Seiners in advance of the February meeting. I am scheduled to provide the Anchorage AC report at the Statewide meeting as well.

**International Pacific Halibut Commission:** I traveled to Bellevue WA to attend the annual IPHC meeting January 19-22. Final adoption of halibut TCEYs kept quotas the same as last year for all US fishing areas, with reductions only impacting the Canadian Pacific halibut area 2B. Total Constant Exploitation yield is in the packet.

**Land Issues:** As noted in my November report we received final patent to our Sandy River municipal land selections totaling 2480 acres in October. In January, we just received final patent for our land selections near Bear River totaling 1217 acres. Surveys by McClintock Land Assoc. authorized by Assembly Resolution 19-05, set us on the path to formal ownership of these lands, chosen to be surveyed based on commercial activity on or near the land selections.

- **Fishery Analyst's Report**

**AFSC Cod Tagging Project:** I have finalized a subsampling design for otoliths that will be sent to the NOAA age and growth lab with corresponding metadata. Samples were randomly selected across tagging years 2021-2025 and will be used to analyze growth rate and any spatial differences. There was a slight discrepancy in calculating indirect during the last budget amendment. It shouldn't affect the financials, but I am working with the grant administrator to modify the remaining budget. Several WGOA cod fishermen testified at the SSC and Council meeting on agenda item C1 GOA Cod Harvest Specs in support of the expedited stock assessment, and specifically requesting the SSC/Council convey their concerns over current stock management and connectivity between the WG/BS.

**Unimak Acoustic Telemetry Project:** Dr. Nielsen submitted an interim progress report to the NPRB. The project team met to discuss the upcoming May field work and the potential to redeploy some of the moorings.

**Salmon Tagging Pilot:** I submitted the completion report to ADFG for the Aquatic Resource Permit used for this project. I also attached it to my BOF comments as a preliminary update on project results. Much of my time has been spent finalizing the manuscript, and I will send it out for review from collaborators this week.

**Board of Fish:** I assisted with writing the 3-year Performance Review of the Adaptive Management Program. I assist with writing these at the end of each June, and have completed a comprehensive review of the program performance relative to metrics outlined in the RC104. My current priority is finalizing the manuscript for the chum tagging program, and I submitted public comments describing some of the cooperative research the AEB supports, and attached the preliminary results from the tagging project that was submitted to ADFG. I am also preparing for the statewide BOF meeting in March, reviewing proposals and preparing potential written comments.

Mayor Osterback asked Charlotte if she would be limited to 3 minutes or if she would be a presenter at the BOF meeting. Fishery Analyst Levy said she does not think they would allow her additional time, but they will ask a lot of questions, so there will be a lot of time to talk about it.

Mayor Osterback said that with the amount of work our Fishery Analysis has been doing, he thinks she should be allowed to present because it shows how much work Area M has been doing to limit the amount of prohibited species.

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**Assembly/ Mayor's Comments**

Glen thanked the administration for all the hard work on the Sand Point Pool.

Tom thanked the staff for the work in False Pass School.

**Public Comments**

**Assembly**

**Next Meeting Date**

The assembly held discussions about which meetings they are going to attend in Anchorage.

- March 11, 2026 - Strategic Planning in Anchorage
- March 12, 2026 – Regular Assembly Meeting @ 2 pm

**Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 3:47 PM.



Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST

  
Beverly Rosete, Clerk