

# Municipality of Anchorage



P.O Box 390  
Girdwood, Alaska 99587  
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>

*David Bronson, Mayor*

**GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
*Briana Sullivan & Jennifer Wingard, Co-Chairs*  
*Mike Edgington, Amanda Sassi, Guy Wade*

## **September 18, 2023** **GBOS Regular Meeting** ***Minutes Final***

### **7:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams & Girdwood Community Room**

This hybrid meeting is taking place via Microsoft Teams & at the Girdwood Community Room, 250 Egloff Rd:

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors, its committees, and subcommittees are subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Act as found in Alaska Statute 44.62.310 and Anchorage Municipal Code 1.25 - Public Meetings.

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

Call to Order 7:00 p.m. Jennifer Wingard, Co-Chair

Roll Call: Attending are Mike Edgington (ME), Jennifer Wingard (JW), Briana Sullivan (BS), Amanda Sassi (AS)

Guy Wade is excused

Disclosures: none

#### **Agenda Revisions and Approval**

September 18, 2023 meeting agenda approval w/removal of item #13		Assent
September 13 2023 budget work session 3 minutes approval	ME/BS	Assent
August 21 2023 budget work session 2 minutes approval	ME/BS	Assent
August 21 2023 meeting minutes approval	ME/BS	Assent
July 24 2023 MOA GBOS Quarterly Meeting minutes approval	BS/ME	Assent

#### **Announcements:**

- GTC intends to apply for a Recreational Trails Program Grant to work on the Middle Iditarod National Historic Trail. Please see public notice on bulletin boards and posted on site. Full information included in the meeting packet (item #21)
- GVSA Non-Profit Grant presentation meeting is MON Oct 23 at 5PM
- MOA GBOS Quarterly meeting is MON Oct 23 at 4PM

#### **Introductions, Presentations and Reports:**

1. Resolution of gratitude for Linda Mankoff  
Resolution read into the record as motion by BS/ME.  
Resolution passes unanimously
2. Presentation RE: Electric Vehicle charging station proposal for HLB Land at the Park and Ride (Zac Whitney/Kyle Kelley)  
HLB and Tesla are reviewing what it will take to have an EV charging station at the park and ride. Power would come from town square near the clinic and would be bored underground to the charging location.  
HLB is the landowner, GVSA has a permit for snow removal and maintenance. License agreement required with Tesla for use of public land for this purpose. Tesla requests no-fee agreement with HLB. HLB requests to know community input on the project, and the priority level of this from the community.

GBOS Meeting Agendas and minutes are available on line: <http://www.muni.org/gbos>

3. Legislative Report – Sen. Cathy Giessel, Rep. Laddie Shaw  
 Cathy Giessel: Concern about natural gas supply.  
 Laddie Shaw: no representative attending.  
 Assembly members – R. Sulte, Z. Johnson: no representative attending.  
 Anchorage School Board Liaison – Margo Bellamy is the school board member assigned to Girdwood for the coming school year, Sept-June. She provided a report for the meeting packet. Public can sign up to testify at ASB meetings, see links in the report in her packet. Late start Mondays provide teachers with time to prepare. ASB anticipates a \$95M deficit and is making plans for building a balanced budget with that sort of deficit. New reading curriculum has been selected.
4. Supervisor Reports  
 Mike Edgington: Assembly effort to change zoning for residential housing. Current discussion with Assembly is only in Anchorage Bowl. Marijuana tax use toward child care: Assembly is working on a framework to set this up, which will create a process to spend the money in 2025. GBOS should continue to stay engaged in this.  
 Briana Sullivan: Attended GFR BOD meeting. Library card sign-up month in September.  
 Amanda Sassi: Cyber-bullying workshop Oct 6; Kids and cops at Ice Cream Shop Oct 14; Tsunami Mapping Oct 17. Check for times/locations for these events.  
 Jennifer Wingard: Land Use discussions about removing gravel for use locally; use of HLB parcel for RV parking. Land use position of Co-chair is currently open.

Housing/Homelessness Statement from CC District 6: Mike Edgington/Briana Sullivan. Information in packet from District 6. Some elements don't really apply to Girdwood. Some of the concerns expressed are more targeted to South Anchorage, not the rest of the Turnagain Arm communities. It's unclear when a position statement is needed from GVSA. Briana Sullivan offers to write a position statement if desired by community; it is possible that the deadline has passed. Assembly has upcoming meetings on homelessness/housing so the topic remains relevant.

**Motion:**

GBOS moves to move this item to new business, item #27.

ME/BS

Motion carries by Assent

**STIP comments:**

Comment period has ended.

5. Committee updates to GBOS: 3 min each; items not on the agenda but items of interest to the community  
 GTC; LUC; PSAC; Cemetery; Housing and Economic Committee  
 No updates from committee chairs.
6. Status of Proposed Girdwood Developments.  
 No formal response from DOT regarding airport lease.  
 Assembly moved Holtan Hills back on to the work plan; it's expected that a consultant will be hired via RFP to handle this project on behalf of HLB.
7. Service Provider Reports (5 mins each)  
 Fire – Chief Weston: New member recruitment thru Sept 30. Recommend inspection/service of gas heating systems.  
 Police – Chief Achee: Reminder to lock doors, increase in thefts. Increasing patrols for speeding, busy with some investigations as well.  
 Roads/Parks & Rec – Kyle Kelley – Rob Hammel Memorial Bench installed along bird/gird trail. Great projects on trails this summer. Moving up to Middle INHT and will focus attention there for the coming years. Summer crew wraps up later this month. Working on trails map for 5K parking lot with Corvus Designs. Girdwood Trails Plan goes before P&Z Nov 6. Campground hosts wrapping up soon. California Creek has overflowed its bank to beer garden and part of the campground. RTP grant for Middle INHT and LWCF grant for pavilion in Lions Club park. Roads projects are nearing completion. Receiving winter sand stockpile soon. Ruane Fish passage \$1.6M funding with 20% match from the service area is with the EPA. Budgets are in line. See written report.
8. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
 Amanda Sassi: Oct 11 Imagine Girdwood hosting in-person meeting to review and make comment on land use maps. Meeting at Girdwood School at 6PM.

Soren Wuerth: could DOT be invited to attend a public meeting/GBOS to receive comments and receive updates.  
Kyle responds that DOT was invited specifically to this meeting to discuss erosion on Glacier Creek; they are unable to attend but information has been received, which will be presented later in the meeting. We used to hear often from a member of DOT who has since retired.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

9. GBOS vote on GVSA 2024 Budgets (Kyle Kelley)

GBOS met 3 times in work sessions to review and discuss budgets.

Tax district 4 pays for 3 types of taxes: Areawide tax, ASD tax, GVSA tax

GVSA taxes pay for roads, police, fire, parks and rec and is the lowest tax district with all services, 5<sup>th</sup> lowest overall. Highest tax district is downtown Anchorage.

Girdwood Savings Account, Undesignated Fund, has been replenished after the flooding a few years ago and has a healthy balance. Parks and Rec Capital budgets projects include Glacier Creek Bridge, which is mainly funded; Lions Club Pavilion, dump trailer, grooming snow machine. Other projects await in prioritization. Road Capital projects include completion of neighborhood fish passages/culverts, paving part of Timberline, California Creek Fish culvert at Ruane. Fire Capital projects are all in process with vehicle replacements funded. Upcoming are more minor purchases of PPE and hose. Police: no capital purchase currently, anticipate update in spring with upgrades to the substation. As bonding is not successful for Girdwood, GVSA funds capital projects through savings accounts. GBOS adds to capital budgets annually as part of the budget process.

Fire Budget: It's observed that the amount funded for EMS is below the actual cost as EMS calls are greater than Fire calls. EMS is funded by MOA and Fire is funded by the Service Area.

Roads Budget: COLA increase for staff. Request \$100,000 for capital savings account to complete roads projects. Questions of IGC for Ombudsman, as it seems odd to charge the service area for individual questions of government.

Parks Budget: Increasing funds for summer staffing, however overall budget is flat. Request for increase of \$100,000 for capital saving account to work on Capital improvement projects.

Police Budget: Fixed as under 3 year contract with fixed rate. Rental of ACS building may increase cost to pay for improvements to the substation in the first quarter revision.

2024 estimated mill rate is 5.93, based on 2023 assessments.

Staff recommends that GBOS write a letter to explain the budget request to Office of Management and Budget once approved. Budget will go to OMB and then the Mayor; Assembly will review and approve budgets.

Motion:

GBOS moves to approve the budgets as presented for 2024:

Fire: \$1,382,123.00

Roads: \$1,419,747.00

Parks and Recreation: \$ 428,728.00

Police: \$811,044.00

Motion by BS/ME

Discussion:

Mike Edgington proposes amendment for Housing and Economic Development as a placeholder for potential allocation of funding for a future project. He proposes \$50,000 is set aside for Housing.

Amendment:

Add Housing and Economic Budget of \$50,000 to the budget as presented.

Motion by ME/BS

Vote by roll call:

Motion carries 3-1

Brett Wilbanks, GHEC Chair, states that the committee hasn't identified budget items at this time.

Jennifer Wingard states that without request of GHEC this falls outside of fiduciary responsibility of GBOS and is not good public process to add at this time, after 3 work sessions.

Briana Sullivan responds that the discussion has been initiated in work sessions but not votable.

Amanda Sassi states that GHEC would need to request access from GBOS for funds. No funding at this time would create delays for projects that may come up in 2024.

Amend motion to add that commentary on the budget will be sent, approved by Assent.

Revised Motion:

GBOS moves to approve the budgets as presented for 2024: Fire: \$1,382,123; Roads: \$1,419,747.00

Parks and Recreation: \$ 428,728.00; Police: \$811,044.00; Housing and Economic: \$50,000

Commentary to explain budgets and increases in them will be provided along with budget, signed by the co-chairs.

Motion by BS/ME

Roll call vote on the revised motion: 3-1

10. GTC and **Agenda Item LUC 2308-05**: Review of design proposed for the Winner Creek Trail suspension bridge crossing Glacier Creek. (Kyle Kelley). 35% design of bridge to replace the hand tram with a bridge to cross Glacier Creek on the Winner Creek Trail.  
206' cable suspension bridge, 6' wide of galvanized steel. 50+ year lifespan and hand tram interpretive display under one of the original tram buildings, relocated for this purpose. Year-round access; maintenance and ownership will be transferred to USFS, who are partners in this project build. GTC and LUC have both recommended support for the design as presented. Goal is to have out to bid mid-winter 2023/24. Hope is to build in 2024, however 2025 may be more realistic due to sourcing of materials. Draft resolution is included in the meeting packet.

Motion:

GBOS moves to approve resolution 2023-15: Resolution of Support for 35% proposed design for a hanging deck suspension bridge crossing of Glacier Creek to reconnect the Winner Creek Trail.

Motion by ME/BS

Motion carries unanimously by roll call vote.

11. GFR request for additional \$1495 (total \$3495) from the GFR 406 account to replace utility trailer damaged by plow in winter 2022/23 (Kyle Kelley)  
GBOS approved the original funding to replace the trailer, however now GFR wants to upgrade to an ATV trailer that will be more functional for the Fire Dept. Additional cost is \$1495.

Motion:

GBOS moves to approve \$3495 in the Girdwood Fire and Rescue 406 account to replace the utility trailer.

Motion by ME/BS

Motion carries unanimously by roll call vote.

12. Request for GBOS Resolution supporting no parking signs to be placed on one side of Donner Road per AMC9.30.080.A Parking on Narrow Streets (PSAC Supervisor)  
Strong request from residents on Donner Rd to place no parking signs as overflow parking from the brewery is impeding traffic.

Motion:

GBOS moves to approve resolution 2023-16: Resolution of Support for Installation of No Parking signs on Donner Rd.

Motion by BS/AS

Motion passes unanimously by roll call vote.

Mike Edgington observes that brewery has placed no parking of trailers/RVs at their entry which is pushing those vehicles on to residential roads; he asks if there has been conversation with the brewery about this.

13. GBOS Land Acknowledgement (Sullivan)  
Updated suggestions are in the meeting packet. GBOS will ask Melissa Shaginoff to review their preferred proposed language.

Motion:

Postpone action to October

ME/BS

Assent vote passes unanimously

14. Girdwood Fire and Rescue BOD recommendation for GBOS Resolution of Support for property tax exemptions for volunteer fire fighters (Edgington)  
Disclosure: BS discloses her partner is a career firefighter in Anchorage but could in the future become a conflict if he were to become a volunteer in the future.  
As this is not a current conflict requiring several hypotheticals, JW determines this is not a conflict requiring that Briana abstain.

Information in the packet explains the proposal. It is primarily a symbolic gesture with minimal cost to the service area overall that may encourage volunteerism and retention of volunteers of the Fire Dept. Girdwood has 50 paid on-call members, Chugiak has about 100. Not all are property owners; approximate cost to service area is .01%. Firefighters would have to qualify annually.

Motion:

GBOS moves to approve resolution 2023-17: Support for a property tax exemption in the GVSA for volunteers serving the Girdwood Fire Department.

Motion by ME/BS

Motion carries unanimously by roll call vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 15. Discuss Glacier Creek erosion concerns. Erosion on east abutment of the Glacier Creek bridge started to be observed in early July. It has eased some. AWWU has strong concerns about this location as they have infrastructure under the pedestrian bridge. DOT says they plan to do work on the bridge in 2024, once they have secured federal funds to assist with the repair. AWWU may pursue mitigation efforts sooner. Additional information is in the meeting packet.

Staff recommends that GBOS roads supervisor communicate community concerns for the pedestrian bridge and AWWU infrastructure to DOT immediately and for GBOS to write a resolution to be reviewed as old business in October. Risks are greater in fall and spring storm cycles. If issue becomes emergent, it will be the State of Alaska's responsibility. Other services potentially impacted by failure of the bank are other utilities, telephone phone, lighting for pedestrian pathway.

- 16. Discuss Foraker Proposal for training on Effective Board Meetings, NTE \$1825, to be paid from TBA fund (Jennifer Wingard) All community boards would be invited to attend this training, public also will be invited to attend. Goal is for the meeting to be hybrid.
- 17. GBOS discuss projects for MOA and SOA Capital Improvement Projects  
MOA capital improvement list is being developed. This will be used for MOA request to State of Alaska for potential funding. Throughout the rest of the MOA community members provide input via surveys. GVSA should come up with our show short list to present to MOA and SOA.
- 18. GBOS discuss Ruane Road replacement status  
\$1.6M is sitting with EPA and requires application to receive funds. 20% match will be required.
- 19. GBOS Review of GVSA Non-Profit Grant Applications and amounts of request for 2024.(Parks and Rec Supervisor)  
Requests for 2024 equal \$40,625 with \$35,000 budgeted. Evaluation packets will be provided at Grant Presentation meeting in October.
- 20. GTC recommendation for GBOS Resolution of Support for RTP grant to work on the Middle Iditarod National Historic Trail (Parks and Rec Supervisor). Plan is for funding work on the Middle INHT from the school to the USFS boundary up Crow Creek Road. Resolution will be presented at the October meeting, grant application is due end of October.
- 21. GTC recommendation for GBOS Resolution of Support for Bikewood RTP grant application to construct new trails TBA from the Bike Park Master Plan. Bikewood is planning to apply for RTP grant as well, for work on 2 trails. Bikewood will be noticing the projects later this week.
- 22. Girdwood/Turnagain Arm Lions Club and Staff request for updated Resolution of Support for LWCF grant for construction of a pathway and picnic pavilion in Lions Club Park. (Lions Club/Staff)  
Land and Water Conservation Foundation application due end of October. Pathway and picnic pavilion in Lions Club Park. Lions Club will raise \$25,000 in matching funds. Resolution draft will be provided at the Oct GBOS meeting. Change in code related to naming of public facilities for individuals.
- 23. **Agenda Item LUC 2309-05:** Liquor License renewals in 2024. Request for hearing of any of the proposed license renewals must be provided via resolution prior to October 15, 2023, if no request is made, LUC is requested to recommend GBOS Letter of Non-Objection for liquor licenses coming up for renewal in 2024;  
287 Crow Creek Mercantile            996 La Bodega            1632 Jack Sprat            3263 Chair 5  
3445 Alyeska Resort            3446 Seven Glaciers            3447 Sitzmark Bar & Grill            6025 Alpenglow Coffee House  
No issues reported on any licenses this year.
- 24. **Agenda Item LUC 2309-06:** Girdwood Housing and Economic Committee request for LUC to discuss infill/exfil possibilities in Girdwood, including feasibility study for gravel extrication from Glacier Creek. (Brett Wilbanks)  
GHEC is discussing ways to make development more affordable. LUC discussed as new business in September. LUC may recommend a study for options for infill exfill at their October meeting to bring to GBOS.
- 25. **Agenda Item LUC 2309-07:** Girdwood Housing and Economic Committee request for LUC to discuss use of HLB parcel 6-134 for RV camping. (Krystal Hoke)  
GHEC discussing ways to promote use of the area for RV camping, ranging from disposal of land to parks and rec, management of land by parks and rec, or change in code via land use maps in the Girdwood Area Plan. Disc Golf course would be impacted and proposal is that disc golf would be moved to find a permanent location that is better suited to their needs. Location is selected because of its views, floodplain, proximity to parks and rec assets. Proposal is intended to be cost-neutral and meet immediate housing crisis for those living in RVs long-term as well as meeting more typical visitor RV camping needs as no RV camping is available within GVSA.

Motion to extend meeting to 10:10PM            BS/ME    Assent

26. Discuss agenda topics for MOA GBOS Quarterly Meeting, scheduled for October 23 at 4PM in Girdwood and on Teams.  
Last meeting agenda are presented in the meeting packet.  
HLB Items: Overall structure. Update on the Industrial Park status.

Brett Wilbanks mentions that there is no Girdwood Representative currently serving on HLBAC, as this is required in code.

27. Housing/Homelessness Statement from CC District 6. Request of the Assembly to have community councils provide input on Housing and Homelessness. The presented District 6 statement represents South Anchorage but not the Turnagain Arm Communities. It is unclear if the draft presented has been approved by the body that created it. GBOS will draft a statement that addresses Girdwood concerns. ME and JW will collaborate on this project.

**REPORTS:**

28. Reports (see packet)
  - APL Gerrish Library Report
  - Girdwood Service Area Report
  - Imagine!Girdwood

**Action Item Updates as assigned:**

**Request for GBOS/LUC Joint meeting (5 held of 2 required in 2023): January 4, January 9, April 10, July 3, July 10**

**Request for GBOS/GFR Joint meeting (0 held of 2 required in 2023):**

**Request for Executive Session:**

**Other:**

Adjourn 10:10PM