

Municipality of Anchorage



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

Suzanne LaFrance, Mayor

GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Mike Edgington & Jennifer Wingard, Co-Chairs
Briana Sullivan, Brian Burnett, Kellie Okonek

October 27 2025 MOA GBOS Quarterly Meeting Minutes Final

4 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 Mike Edgington, Co-Chair

Land Acknowledgement: The Girdwood Board of Supervisors acknowledges the indigenous peoples of Alaska, whose land we reside on. The community of Girdwood, situated between the areas known to be Dena'ina and Alutiiq homeland, respects the people who were stewards of this land for generations. We commit to the continued stewardship of this land and are grateful to be part of a wider community that seeks to maintain a sustainable use of Girdwood Valley for present and future peoples.

Roll Call: Attending are Briana Sullivan, Brian Burnett, Jennifer Wingard, Mike Edgington.
Kellie Okonek is excused.
Disclosures: None

Agenda Revisions and Approval

October 27 2025 MOA GBOS Quarterly Meeting Agenda approved. Order is shifted from draft agenda.

Attendees: Becky Windt Pearson, Municipal Manager; Tiffany Briggs, Director of Real Estate; Quincy Arms, Managing Assistant Municipal Attorney; Zach Schwartz, Municipal Attorney; Ona Brause, Management and Budget Director; Marilyn Banzhaf, Public Finance Manager; Ross Risvold, Senior Finance Officer, Cynthia Weed, Bond Counsel to MOA.

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

1. Whittier Policing Contract:

2026-28 Contract: New Contract will be created as change regarding dispatch service costs isn't addressed in the original contract. This is on track for approval and signatures prior to current contract expiration Dec 31, 2025.

Discuss path to WPD enforcement of Municipal misdemeanors in future contracts:

Parking required special action as parking enforcement is addressed specifically in municipal code. Whittier now does enforce parking in Girdwood.

MOA has recently passed new laws about fires, etc, which are only enforceable as Municipal misdemeanors. Citing Title 8, Municipal Attorney believes that it is possible for the contract to include enforcement of these items. It is not yet known what enforcement of Municipal codes would require of WPD, ie different ticketing system, city prosecutors office instead of state, workload etc.

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

Next Steps:

- Complete the contract for the coming 2 years.
- Once that is complete, open dialog with WPD for future contract to determine capacity, infrastructure needs and cost of adding Municipal misdemeanor enforcement to the contract.

2. HLB (Wingard/Edgington):

Request extension of comment period for draft 2026 Work Program and 2027-2031 Five-Year Plan.

Extension will allow GBOS to receive input from Land Use and GHEC: Extension to FRI NOV 21 of formal incorporation of GBOS input.

Discuss HLBAC seat distribution: GBOS just signed and forwarded Resolution 2025-13 to add an additional seat at HLBAC for a Girdwood Resident. AO has been on hold awaiting this resolution and now will move forward to the Assembly.

Currently HLBAC is comprised of 2 Girdwood Residents, 1 Chugiak/Eagle River Resident, 3 Anchorage residents. One seat is vacant.

Next Steps:

- Additional seat will be filled by Mayor appointment. Applicants for the most recent vacancy will be included in the pool of applicants for this open seat.
- It is noted that GBOS is interested in a 3rd seat, to match more proportionally the distribution of HLB managed land. Evaluation of the 2 seats and then consideration of adding a 3rd.
- MOA legal will review the language of "Girdwood Area" in code related to HLB seats and provide clarity on if this is the Girdwood Valley Service Area or if this is more loosely intended to include Turnagain Arm/Crow Creek/Portage etc.

3. Discuss Intergovernmental Charges (IGCs) in GVSA budgets (specifically Fire and Roads)

IGC's are calculated based on the whole of the MOA and then divided among the MOA tax districts. A reason for recent increases in IGCs was the sale of Municipal Light and Power (ML&P), which was a contributor of funds that offset IGCs.

Next Steps:

- Ona Brause will provide presentation/training on IGCs that GBOS, GFD Chief and GFD Fire Board can attend to learn more about the IGC calculation. Specific questions about the calculations and recent increases of Girdwood Fire and Girdwood Roads Budget IGCs will be reviewed.

4. Discuss whether Areawide Police IT Special tax levy funds can be used for Whittier PD IT Equipment (Edgington)

MOA passed Dispatch Service tax levy and a separate IT tax levy. GBOS wants to know potential of using funds for Whittier service in Girdwood. One tricky element is that MOA owned items may not be used outside of the MOA.

Next Steps:

- Attorneys will get clarity on the purpose of the tax levies and their potential distribution in Girdwood.
- Compilation of a list of possible resources that Whittier PD could use in Girdwood. This may be influenced by topic #1 – Enforcement of Municipal misdemeanors. For instance, ticketing system that supports this enforcement. Previous requests from WPD have included breathalyzer.
- Research potential for funding of equipment to be shared proportionally with City of Whittier to avoid conflict of using MOA equipment outside of the service area without Mutual Aid declaration and repayment process.

5. Request clarification of AO2025-91 regarding Open Meetings Act, GBOS and Girdwood Committees

Committees of GBOS are not subject to Open Meetings Act nor the Ethics code as long as GBOS elected members are not participating on ad hoc committees. This applies to committees that are one-person, one-vote as well as those that are representative. An example of when GBOS would also not be subject to OMA is when community council topics are being discussed, such as the GBOS/LUC meeting last week with CY Investments.

6. Next steps on leaseback funding for Girdwood capital projects

Lease Leaseback funding uses value of municipal assets as collateral on loans. This would allow for assessment to be applied outside of the Service Area tax cap. Currently GBOS budgets for capital projects within the tax cap until enough is saved to complete capital projects. Areawide votes for Girdwood Bonds has not been successful, regardless of the fact that only GVSA would pay for them. Group discusses various methods:

Traditional tax method: GVSA Continue with funding under the tax cap.

Special Levy: Levy outside of the tax cap that is paid for by all in the service area

Special Assessment: outside of the tax cap that is paid for by only those in the service area whose properties are directly improved by the capital project

There may be other projects that are more suitable for Special Levy than the Timberline paving project. However moving them along through Lease Leaseback funding may open up funding under the tax cap for the paving project.

Next steps:

- MOA will research the options under Lease Leaseback and provide comprehensive information on them within the next month.
- GBOS review capital projects based on the method of funding. Item to be added to GBOS agenda in November.
- GBOS/MOA will determine what to pursue for inclusion in the spring election, for Girdwood Valley Service Area vote. This item will be added to GBOS Nov meeting agenda.

Public Comment:

Amanda Tuttle: HLB is responsible for waterways in Girdwood. Her property taxes increase but much of her property is flooded. She seeks HLB funding for capital projects, such as levies and culverts, to protect properties downstream.

Next steps:

- MOA Legal to check in to this.

Adjourn 5:13PM