

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669
Phone 907-714-2160
Fax 907-714-2388

Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Charlie Pierce, Vice President

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Gary Knopp, Assembly President *GK for H.K.*
David R. Carey, Mayor *DC for D.Carey*

DATE: April 5, 2011

RE: Resolution 2011-031; revising Borough Policies TR-01, Borough Travel and Per Diem, and TR-02, Reimbursement of Business Meals

On October 10, 2006, the assembly adopted resolution 2006-088, which updated and numbered borough policies concerning the payment of expenses for borough travel and per diem, and for reimbursement of business meals. These policies do not include any discretion to approve exceptions to the policies. In the ensuing four and one-half years circumstances have occasionally arisen where exceptions would have been appropriate.

For example, while travelling on borough business one official recently became too sick to leave the hotel room for the evening, and was charged extra for having a meal delivered to the room. Policy No. TR-02 does not allow for reimbursement of extra charges for room service. As the official would not have incurred that expense if not away on borough business for the benefit of the borough, and was not at fault for being ill, it did not seem appropriate to require the official to pay that additional expense.

On occasion borough officials and employees have taken officials and employees from other jurisdictions to dinner to discuss business, and the invited person has had a drink containing alcohol with their dinner. The meeting and dinner are for the benefit of the borough, and the expense would not have been incurred if the official or employee were not representing the interests of the borough. Where this expense for a drink with dinner is associated with the conduct of business and is moderate, it seems appropriate that the mayor or assembly president should have discretion to grant an exception to the policy prohibiting reimbursement for all alcoholic beverages.

It should be noted that the records for payments of such expenses are public records, which would provide a check on the exercise of such discretion as the official remains answerable to the public.