



Northwest Arctic Borough

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

Ambler Buckland Candle Deering Kivalina Kiana
Kobuk Kotzebue Noatak Noorvik Selawik Shungnak

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 5, 2014 at 1:00 P.M.
Assembly Room – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

President Walter Sampson called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M.

INVOCATION

Mr. Miles Cleveland provided the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Nathan Hadley Jr.	Miles Cleveland Sr.	Patrick Savok	Larry Westlake Sr.
Lucy Nelson	Frank Greene	Carl Weisner	Vern Cleveland Sr.
Clyde Ramoth	Mary Sue Hyatt	Hendy Ballot Sr.	Walter Sampson

INTRODUCTION OF STAFF AND GUESTS

Reggie Joule	Stella Atoruk	Noah Naylor	Kenny Gallahorn
Martha Henry	Matt Mead	Judy Hassinger	Fred Smith
Norman Eck	Margaret Hansen	Eunice Hadley	David Miller
Paula Mills	Brad Reich	Tillie Ticket	Angela Washington
Robert Wells	Cindy Lincoln	Pauline Harvey	Tom Okleasik
Wanda Baltazar	Jackie Nanouk	Cindy Lincoln	Hans Schaeffer
John Baker	Katherine Keith	Karen Goodwin	Cheryl Edenshaw
Marie Nelson-Gregg	Raymond Woods	Arnika Harris	Hannah Nelson
Sandra Shroyer	Sarah Ozena	Savanah Kramer	Kanasha Lie
Joe Garland	Mark Belue	John Wehde	Brett Slaatchang
David Smith	Steve	Linda Saito	<i>Willie Goodwin</i>
Taya Swanson (Telephonic)			

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Joule asked to add Resolution 14-14 to the agenda.

Mr. Clyde Ramoth motion to approve agenda as approved as amended seconded by Patrick Savok; passed unanimously by roll call.

Mayor Joule asked to amend the agenda approval to accommodate the guest and go through resolutions after.

Mr. Carl Weisner reconsiders the motion to approve the agenda so that we can change the agenda to have public comments before resolution and ordinance; Mr. Vern Cleveland seconded, passed unanimously by roll call.

Mayor Joule asked to move the ordinance before resolutions; public comment before these items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Willie Goodwin gave a brief summary of the request he had sent to the Mayor for Regional Elders Council. The request sent is requesting ten thousand dollars to help with the efforts to help our people; four goals that were made during the Regional Strategy session which happen in April. Goal one) strengthen the Regional Elders (short term). Goal two) Inupiat Iilitqusiak is taught to our youth by the Elders and promoted in our communities. Goal three) Local leaders and organizations have guidance from the elders. Goal four) Village Elders Councils and local communities are supported in their efforts to focus on language, culture, and healthy communities. Mr. Goodwin is requesting an additional ten thousand dollars for Regional Elders Council so that the Elders can travel to the villages.

Mr. Tom Okleasik, Native Village of Kotzebue Director provided a report of the contributions to Nikaitchuat. Mr. Okleasik mentioned they have submitted a request of one hundred fifty thousand, although we see it has been budgeted at one hundred thousand. Ms. Jackie Nanouk and Mrs. Wanda Baltazar gave a summary of school at Nikaitchuat. Mrs. Baltazar invited all members to the school to the potlucks or to see what they do. Member Ramoth asked about this going to the villages would like to have Immersion schools. Member Weisner would like to see a detailed budget report along with other funds that have been received. Member Sampson raised his concern regarding any data on how students to transferring to a public school. President Sampson asked if there has been any discussion on Nikaitchuat using a couple classrooms at School District so that the students can learn from each other. Dr. Norman Eck mentioned in the past; approximately five years ago they have offered Kotzebue IRA a couple classrooms although at the time Kotzebue IRA weren't able to at the time. Mrs. Baltazar mentioned that Nikaitchuat is following state standards.

Mr. Frank Greene had been excused due to medical at 2:04 P.M. Attended telephonic for remaining of the meeting.

Ms. Pauline Harvey, UAF Chukchi College Director provided a power point with stats. Stacey Glaser wasn't able to attend; here is her report to the Assembly. Chukchi College is requesting a contribution to one hundred twelve thousand, although last year was one hundred thousand. Goal is to bring literacy projects to the villages, Kiana just had started last summer; Selawik has been open as far as she know since she has been here, four years. Currently they have to cut eleven to fifteen million from State of Alaska for University of Alaska Fairbanks. Member Nelson raised her concern regarding additional funding for Chukchi from other entities. Member Ramoth mentioned that he really supports the libraries in Selawik and Kiana, possibly requesting additional monies.

Break taken at 2:16 P.M.
Reconvene at 2:25 P.M.

Arnika Harris, Boys and Girls Club Manager for Northwest Arctic Borough provided a summary of activities being held. Arnika recently started, her objective for this year is to get the kids involved without social media. Next is to get the parents involved in supporting her with getting kids involved. Would like to have more teen action, getting some of their friends in; where we supply snacks and meeting people. Also having power hour where the older child helps younger ones with homework or mentoring activities. Arnika brought up that the kids have been implementing life application skills; how to handle a buddy, help a friend in need, how to control anger, remove yourself from harmful situations, drug and alcohol awareness, respecting yourself and others and stranger danger. Also about healthy habits, ways you can stay active, reading and ways to stay healthy. She brought up the savings is expected to run out in September, looking for ways to keep the doors open. Member Ramoth brought up requesting more funding from other entities also.

Hans Schaeffer, Aqqaluk Trust Iñupiaq Media & Culture Coordinator gave a brief history of Sivuniigvik. He had the opportunity of run that program these past few years. We have received funding this past few years and we are thankful for that and thank you for your continued support; greatly appreciated.

Dr. Norman Eck of Northwest Arctic Borough School District Superintendent thanked the Assembly for continued support for the children. They provided a folder of handouts for each program the District is doing. Dr. Eck invites the Assembly to see the new Technical Center.

Cindy Lincoln, Health Occupations Instructor for Technical Center gave a summary of her background. Currently we have been working with High School students also. Hannah Nelson, Sarah Ozena, Savannah Kramer, Taya Swanson and Tanisha Lie have been attending Cindy's class, gave a brief history and what they would like to do. Cindy brought up that we are having local people in medical environment, our goal is started to be met. She mentioned that the Elders are really enjoying having local people working at inpatient and Elder's home, nurses are enjoying them also. Member Savok gave words of encouragement. President Sampson expressed his importance of education and employment; make sure your honest with yourself. Cheryl invites all the members to Tech Center graduation is set for May 14th and be sure and stops by and sees the new facility. Also Cindy teaches classes through the television studio, had students in Kivalina, Selawik and Noatak.

Karen Goodwin, NWABSD Director of Administrative Services provided a FY15 operating budget, she gave a summary of the presentation. Margaret Hansen also mentioned that this is depending on the three-year negotiation cycle. Member Ramoth raised his concern regarding shortage of school supplies, whether it's pencils and notepads. Member Nelson commends the balanced budget. Also she raised her concern regards the benefits are close cost to salaries, are there many long term employees? Member Weisner raised his concern regarding the PILT monies received, where in the budget is that? Member Weisner also brought up the e-rate for the School District. Member Savok also brought up the Federal Impact Aide, how much of that is coming back to the Borough? Member Ramoth brought up his concern regarding who does the negotiation program for the food program and activity fund, is it equally cut? Margaret Hansen brought up their recruiting process. Member Nelson requested

information regarding the teacher housing? Member Vern Cleveland raised his concern regarding the Migrant Education Fund, what is that used for, is it just for one school? Margaret Hansen mentioned that we need one more teacher in Selawik and one in Noatak due to increased number of students.

Dr. Norman Eck mentioned that the Legislature passed a law to students pass an exam which has been in effect the past eleven years, any student that completed his/her credits but didn't pass the exam just received a certificate of attendance. That is no longer the case; NWABSD will issue one hundred more diplomas. Dr. Norman Eck mentioned that this is the only School District that works with students from birth to death. We provide education to all ages, only one in the State to have an Early Learning Program and Technical Center.

Member Ballot brought up his concern regarding the size of the Selawik School with one of the smallest gym, being the second largest school in the District. Dr. Norman Eck mentioned that there was a draft presented to the community although it wasn't constructed the way it was presented. Dr. Eck mentioned if they do increase the size of the gym but it would come out of their own expense. Also he mentioned that he promised Member Ramoth the water fountain a while back and Craig McConnell says possibly Fall time.

Mark Belue is the IT instructor for School District, provided a list of the laptops for students. Brad Reich mentioned that he was able to hire interns through Maniilaq. Next step, after typing they are going to learn different programs. Brad gave a summary of the program. Member Savok raised his concern regarding the Rosetta Stone? Can that be used for students to learn the language through that? Member Ramoth raised his concern regarding the internet speed, is that throughout the Borough? Brad mentioned the APEX has been active the past two years; this is really helpful for the students to get ready for further education.

Craig McConnell presented a packet of projects that are going on throughout the Borough. The School District had received AHFC to have these housing projects; this is the first year District didn't have to rent any units. Member Savok raised his concern regarding having teachers moving in and out during the day. Craig mentioned the process, usually try to find a couple or have people room together. In Kivalina they are converting a housing unit to classrooms because there are so many students. This summer they will be building vehicle and equipment storages for Buckland, Deering, Kotzebue, Noatak and Shungnak. Craig also brought up the fuel storage for the District; bought fuel tanks for the ones that have been short in the past. They save over two dollars a gallon when buying off the barge rather than Crowley. AHFC is remodeling the apartments in Shungnak; Noatak is next year and will be going to each village. Also brought up the microphones in the class rooms, sometimes it would be hard for students to hear the teachers; Shell have contributed one hundred thousand for this project. Member Savok asked about the efficiency rating for the schools, Kiana would be the best place to start an energy audit; Sonny Adams of NANA is working with Craig on that. Member Ramoth brought up Selawik, some classrooms that are cold, some are too hot. Looking forward to the energy audit in Selawik; kids need adequate lighting, heat, supplies and hearing. Craig mentioned the two schools that need to have heating controls be replaced, Buckland and Selawik. Member Westlake brought up the importance of safe route on school grounds; the street lights won't turn on. Possibly work with Tribal Councils to have lighted cones in the morning or even an hour after school. We are fortunate to no accidents with all the

children around. President Sampson raised his concern regarding a model school for all the villages.

Raymond Woods provided a handout regarding the Iñupiaq Language and Culture Program. He expressed the importance of Iñupiaq teachers in the villages, although they don't stay long; because of that it is the rate of pay which is about fifteen an hour. Currently recruiting for Kobuk, also for Kotzebue we have hired Beulah Gomez for Kotzebue Middle High School. Raymond enjoys showing this chart connecting language with the activities. Some students from Kotzebue, Noorvik and Kiana were able to collect ice data for Borough for the ice road Kotzebue to Kiana. Raymond has been able to do cultural activities with all the schools. They also were involved with Kobuk 440, took Kotzebue, Kiana and Noorvik to Ambler to support the event. The students were able to interview the mushers; Noatak and Deering were able to watch the interviews live. Raymond also includes Special Ed students; this is equal to every student. Everyone that volunteers in the villages is a big help to the program. The more instructors the more kids to teach. Borough had helped a lot with fuel and projects, really good to see the students interested. Raymond provided a short video of activities done with students. Member Ramoth raised his concern about the other villages, how is your schedule coordinated? Raymond mentioned that he talked with principals on Iñupiaq Day, if they have questions they contact him and he tries to be there when requested. Brad Reich expressed the importance of volunteers; also City of Kiana had donated gas for the activities. Brad had done a survey a while back; thirty five percent of the students never went. Also Raymond focuses on if the kids are able to go out, sometimes no parents to take them out or no transportation.

Break taken at 4:35 P.M.
Reconvene at 4:48 P.M.

ORDINANCE

1. **Ordinance 14-01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line item budget for the fiscal year 2015.*

Mayor Joule mentioned to the Assembly that today was to hear from the public so that this doesn't have to be presented a day before voting. Judy Hassinger mentioned to the Assembly they are still looking at various other line items. Member Westlake raised his concern regarding this being passed today, discussion only. Member Nelson raised her concern regarding the public comment should be during the work session. She would like to know why bring a budget with a deficit, the past two years you have shown that the budget can be balanced. Member Nelson would like to strengthen the Borough; we don't know what is going to happen in FY15. With the savings we will be open possibly half a year. Member Savok raised his concern regarding travel arrangements in lieu of explanation of possibilities of international travel and staff coming on. There is clear concern regarding that, adding to the budget with no additional revenues coming on. Member Westlake mentioned that the deficit is too much; taking a chance of getting into the savings again. Also brought up the three percent raise on staff, some contracts need to be reviewed. Also Member Nelson mentioned that even if the Assembly doesn't approve the budget the school is still getting the amount requested. Member Savok verified all staff with the three percent raise, yes all staff to receive the COLA. Member Ramoth asked how we can balance this in a timely manner. Member Nelson offered to the administration helping reducing the deficit. Member Savok brought up that the School

District President mentioned in the past publically she stated she would like Borough shut down; we need to think about that while looking at the budgets. Mayor Joule mentioned to the Assembly about Borough not having a step increases for the employees that have been here.

Assembly discussed possibilities if ordinance don't pass, per charter if the ordinance fails to adopt by June 15th, then what the Mayor puts forward is considered adopted. Member Savok states that they will be over powered for the ones that vote against it. Member Ramoth mentioned that it may be amended. Member Weisner voted to continue this discussion, open to the fact of balanced budget and would like to know, can we make recommendations to what the Mayor or Administration presented? Member Ballot is concerned about the deficit. Member Weisner brought up a conversation with late Al Adams about a balanced budget; three percent increase across the board and reducing three percent across, is that too much or not enough. Assembly would like a work session with each department page for page on the budgets to get it balanced.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 14-13** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the local contribution to education for FY15 ending June 30, 2015.*

Judy Hassinger gave a summary of Resolution 14-13. Per code Borough has thirty days of receipt; resolution has been noticed during the special meeting notice.

Mr. Patrick Savok motion to approve Resolution 14-13, seconded by Mr. Clyde Ramoth; passed unanimously by roll call.

2. **Resolution 14-14** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a notice of intent to award and limited notice to proceed to STG Incorporated for construction of the Buckland Wind-Diesel Project and for related purposes.*

Fred Smith provided a summary of the resolution; this grant has been approved approximately seven years ago, we wouldn't want to short change Deering and Noorvik. For Noorvik they are looking at solar arrays; another option is to do a big wind project for Noorvik, Selawik and Kiana at Hotham Peak. The funding numbers are seven years old; reality is not enough right now with shipping cost and design work. Alaska Energy Authority had this project up, Borough is not willing to sacrifice Noorvik; looking for additional funds for projects to be completed.

Mr. Clyde Ramoth motion to approve Resolution 14-14, seconded by Mr. Patrick Savok; passed unanimously by roll call.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Clyde Ramoth moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.