



# Northwest Arctic Borough

## SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

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

### Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes - *DRAFT*

Tuesday, October 28, 2014 – 9:00 A.M.

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

## CALL TO ORDER

President Walter Sampson called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

## INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence held.

## ROLL CALL

### Members Present:

Nathan Hadley Jr.	Pete Schaeffer	Larry Westlake Sr.	Frank Greene
Vern Cleveland Sr.	Clyde Ramoth	Lucy Nelson	Carl Weisner
Walter Sampson (Telephonic)			

### Members Excused:

*Hendy Ballot Sr.*                      *Miles Cleveland Sr.*

### Introduction of Staff and Guests

Reggie Joule	Matt Mead	Judy Hassinger	Noah Naylor
Christine Hess	Winona Hawley	Martha Henry	Nina Lie
Fred Smith	Annabelle Alvite	Stella Atoruk	<i>Rebecca Norton</i>

**Quorum was present to conduct business.**

**Member Weisner moved to excuse Members Ballot and Miles Cleveland Sr., seconded by Member Nelson; motion carried unanimously.**

President Sampson mentioned that there was a tragedy in Kobuk, Member Miles Cleveland loss a family member; Member Ballot is with Member Cleveland today. Due of respect, whatever we can do help out the family; at times like this we need to strengthen our unity, relationships amongst our people to help one another; family on its own cannot do this but we as a large family can come together and help out.

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Agenda presented for approval for October 28, 2014. President Sampson delayed the reorganization until the next regular meeting. Member Ballot called in during this time, although President Sampson informed him that Miles and he are excused due to family emergency. Mayor Joule added under other business; AML, Alaska Mining Conference and dates for the Assembly Retreat in Anchorage. Member Westlake requested to add Planning and Zoning under other business.

**Member Ramoth moved, seconded by Member Weisner to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes have been presented for approval of September 23, 2014 regular meeting minutes and October 13, 2014 special meeting minutes. Member Schaeffer mentioned that in regards to the Special Meeting minutes that his comment was; this was not the first time on duty as an Assemblyperson, he was on the regular Assembly probably in 86, that is what said.

**Member Schaeffer moved to approve as a block, seconded by Member Westlake to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS & APPEARANCES**

None presented.

## **BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Budget, Audit & Finance Chair Nelson provided a summary of the meeting held the previous day; recommend do pass on Ordinance 14-01am01 and six resolutions presented.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES AND EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

None presented.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Joule provided a summary of his report ending in September. He encourage people to vote during the State Elections. Mayor request Judy to provide a summary of financial report; first quarter of the fiscal year which would be about twenty-five spent. Member Westlake raised his concern in regards to the snow machines for the villages for Search & Rescue, when will they be shipped; request a timeline on public service announcements. Vice President Weisner raised his concern in regards to the trail east of Selawik toward Ambler/Shungnak usually are staked last; although would like them staked earlier due to a lot of travelers. Also

commend Administration on Kivalina Evacuation Road, moving forward; Kobuk community repairs due to flood and Selawik Water & Sewer repairs that happen a while back.

President Sampson requested an update on Kivalina Evacuation Road; where is District is with the School, is that being constructed? He is concerned if State of Alaska is not looking at the school construction; the possibly of not even building the road, what is the chance; if one of the two is dropped, then what happens? In event if that the school isn't constructed and the evacuation road constructed on the other end; where are do people go? What is the next step?

**Member Weisner motion to approve Mayor's report, seconded by Member Ramoth. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. – Budget, Audit and Finance  
Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. – Work session  
Wednesday, November 26, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. – Regular meeting

Member Westlake raised his concern regarding Sunday is a day of rest; consider changing travel to Monday. President Sampson mentioned that the code can be changed to have the meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday. Member Ramoth supports Tuesday, Wednesday meeting. Vice President Weisner mentioned for November then we would be pushing it towards Thanksgiving; just keep that in mind. Member Nelson mentioned it would be fine to have committee meetings and work session in the afternoons would be fine; usually done with budget under two hours then work session cover what was just talked about.

Rebecca Norton called and commented on the Kivalina Evacuation Road; suggest that they should be invited when this is being discussed. Will discuss after meeting date has been set.

Member Hadley mentioned that this had been discussed before; we used to rush too much that is why it is scheduled the way it is. Member Nelson mentioned that it would be beneficial if we can figure out how to consolidate the items repeating. Member Westlake recommend travel Monday evening; committee meetings on Tuesday and regular meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> so they can have dinner with families. President Sampson request legal to have two options of meeting dates to have the code revised.

**Member Westlake moved to approve the next meeting schedule, seconded by Member Ramoth. Motion passed unanimously.**

Rebecca Norton raised her concern regarding the Kivalina Evacuation Road; if the school is not going to be constructed then they were going to build a shelter at end of the road; regardless of the school is build or not, if they have to evacuate they have someplace to go.

**Break taken at 9:55 A.M  
Reconvene at 10:06 A.M.**

## INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 14-01am01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line item budget amendment for the Fiscal Year 2015.*

Judy Hassinger provided a summary of the amendments to the budget ordinance; no changes to revenues, general fund expenditures; deficit remains the same.

**Member Hadley motion to approve Ordinance 14-01am01, seconded by Member Nelson; motion passed unanimously.**

## RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 14-46** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting the FY15 Village Public Safety Officer Grant and for related purposes.*

**Member Hadley motion to approve Resolution 14-46 as presented, seconded by Member Greene; motion passed unanimously.**

2. **Resolution 14-47** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to participate in the Alaska Municipal League – Joint Insurance Association (AML-JIA) Loss Control Incentive Program.*

**Member Ramoth motion to approve Resolution 14-47, seconded by Member Hadley; motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Resolution 14-48** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly establishing the FY15 Long-Term Investment Allocation, setting appropriate performance benchmarks, and for related purposes.*

**Member Hadley motion to approve Resolution 14-48 as presented, seconded by Member Ramoth; motion carried passed unanimously.**

4. **Resolution 14-49** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services contract with Legislative Consultants in Alaska for FY15 and for related purposes.*

President Sampson mentioned that because of the decreased revenue from State he believes this contract should be increased to fifty thousand; if she can help out the community, even with equipment purchases then we would get the money back. Member Nelson mentioned this was discussed at the BAF meeting; to add to budget would mean an amendment, we still stand at one point three million deficit. Member Weisner also raised his concern as to list of responsibilities and work performed. Member Schaeffer mentioned along with the adjustments with the amounts, we need to review the scope of services.

**Member Hadley motion to approve Resolution 14-49 as presented, seconded by Member**

**Ramoth; motion failed with the following no vote, Member Westlake, Greene, Vern Cleveland and President Sampson. In order to pass it would need six votes to pass.**

5. **Resolution 14-50** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve a professional services agreement with Alaska Permanent Capital Management for Investment Management Services and related purposes.*

**Member Hadley motion to approve Resolution 14-50 as presented, seconded by Member Nelson; motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Resolution 14-51** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with DOWL-HKM and for related purposes.*

Mayor Joule mentioned that a RFP had been sent out as a point of Evacuation road and coordination. President Sampson raised his concern in regards to local hire issue though out the region; when the issue in regards to liability came up, they did have insurance although no calls were made to verify; based on that he will vote against the resolution.

**Member Ramoth motion to approve Resolution 14-51, seconded by Member Hadley; motion passed with the following vote no, Member Westlake and President Sampson.**

7. **Resolution 14-52** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with Sharpe Associates LLC for financial advising services and for related purposes.*

**Member Hadley motion to approve Resolution 14-52 as presented, seconded by Member Schaeffer; motion passed unanimously.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Alaska Municipal League is currently scheduled for third week of November in Anchorage; Mayor Joule mentioned there are four members budgeted to attend; let the clerk's office know who would like to attend.

Alaska Mining Association is scheduled for November 5-7, 2014 in Anchorage; Mayor mentioned we have one of the world's largest operating mines in our own back yard. Member Westlake mentioned that he will be in Anchorage for a Minerals Commission; his fare is covered although plan to be there until the seventh. President Sampson mentioned that this is critically important; resources within this region are high, finding out what we may have in this region are important to all of us. Member Westlake requests a donation to be made to Alaska Mining Association; we are a mining family up here and should be involved in financing.

Assembly Retreat has been discussed possibly early December approximate during Legislative Summit in Anchorage; maybe eleventh and twelfth of December. Mayor mentioned that we have plans for the Assembly to review; also discussed Language & Culture. Recently had an Education Summit, Regional Strategy Plan which brought up some of the plans. Mayor mentioned we should spend some time on reviewing information that we have; positions that

Borough will take and formulating a position based on information that we are gathering with regards to PILT. Member Schaeffer mentioned he would like to a public safety component of the discussions around the retreat. President Sampson encourages all Assembly to attend the Retreat, if not to attend by teleconference. Mayor Joule remind during the outcomes of this does set the work agenda for Administration.

Planning and Zoning; Member Westlake mentioned that is has been raised during Nova Gold Subsistence Committee. Fred Smith summarized what have been happening in the region; Borough has planning and zoning powers as a home rule; three other potential developments that have been discussed. Potential for Ambler Mining District would need to be addressed for planning and zoning, Cape Blossom and local level, votes to have a few communities go damp/wet although one community was successful. Borough has local zoning powers; based around all that, we see this Assembly engage more in those dialogues in making decisions as to how you zone certain areas within the region. Member Westlake didn't realize that Borough wasn't involved around this, important issue and look at seriously; he feels that we have a problem with the development going forward. President Sampson expressed that Borough is the public in this region, they are the ones that give them direction to the Assembly as how things ought to work; we are elected officials, we're in a capacity to listen to the residents in this region in regards to issues that come before this body. Member Schaeffer raised his concern on the Ambler Mining District and all activity that would ensue it, matter of beyond talking stage of development; concerned we have room for the avenue in the discussion of the opposition to those kinds of projects. Expressed his importance of development, outcome, understanding the line industry, extraction and transportation; make sure that is part of the discussion as well. Member Westlake request this be an ongoing discussion; possibly during work session. President Sampson mentioned that we listen to the communities; they give their perspectives of their views, both sides of the picture; some against, some for, critically important for all to listen.

Member Greene excused at 10:50 A.M.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

No audience comments presented.

### **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Member Hadley mentioned with the Retreat coming up, also the Mining conference, it would be good if more Assembly members attend that. We can make a decision to help services of the Borough, create more jobs if we get more money for this Borough we'd create a lot of jobs in the villages, so they won't volunteering and get paid on the job. Also, requesting to attend AML and Mining Conference; important that we do pull together with these decision and servicing public safety and education. It's all out there, we always have to look for money; if we got it, and we'd do more. He mentioned looks forward to this year.

Member Ramoth

Member Vern Cleveland thanked everyone for a good meeting. Keep Brother Miles and family in prayer.

Member Schaeffer condolences to Miles and family, true tragedy. In terms of the Retreat also is if there is any available reports from meetings that has gone on, such as the Education Summit to be distributed amongst the Assembly members prior to the Retreat would be useful. So we'd get an idea to what we have in the Retreat for discussion of measures of outcome in the region. Other than that, glad to be back.

Member Nelson thanks Mr. President; remind our constituents we need to keep engaged about very strategies that were addressed at Regional Strategy, Education Summit or NWALT level. We need to continue to solve cost of living, cost of energy, transportation, suicide prevention, protecting our subsistence resources, improving public safety, improving work force development in the villages, supporting search and rescue and we need to keep moving forward. As the Borough continue to evaluate our funding sources, we know we get majority of our funding sources from the PILT agreement, we need to be prepared to re-evaluate those financial plans so were meeting the needs of the residents. Whether if we are going with the gross severance tax or the current PILT agreement, we need to plan for that. What's our financial plans to increase to move forward and increase those opportunities? Its' really important that you stay engaged. Remind residents to have safety first, lots of thin ice out there, be careful. Condolences to Cleveland Family, thank you.

Member Weisner thoughts and prayers to Cleveland Family and Kobuk, thinking about you guys. Thank you.

Member Westlake condolences to Miles, Family and everybody up there also. There is some concern for tribes and anybody with land; issue of getting land and trust. We should all know the issues they are pushing and the write up on it. Important issue that effects our children and grandchildren, putting our lands in trust if we do what is the process of getting it out of trust? If there is any kind of development or anything that is going to happen. With this 404 clean water act that is not an issue that is out, the tribes should and the communities should be concerned about that. Another thing, Election coming up, go out and vote. Have a safe fall. Thank you.

Elder Representative Hawley expressed her condolences to family. Remember that God leads his spirit children along.

President Sampson thank you for a good meeting session; good to have perspective for your view point. We need to respect each other's views, sure we have our differences sometimes; that's the purpose of being elected officials. We need to give the perspective of our viewpoints sometimes we have our disagreements and that's good and that should be the case. Just imagine if we agree to everything how life would be more complicated, through disagreements were able to discuss the very issues both good side, bad side and come up with something that we can live with, that's good and we need to continue that. What is the purpose of this us being here? It's the lands that we live in that were concerned about, the lives in this region, we need to keep these things in back of our minds the purpose of our existence as a governance of this region. Sometimes we take for granted on issues that come before this body we need to make sure we address those things; it may be the way of life we deal with, might be

language we deal with but reflects back to lands and how we utilize those things. Periodically remind myself, ask myself what is my purpose as President of this Assembly, sometimes give my perspective on issues, not trying to hurt feelings just that needs to come to the table that is the right he has. He respects the view point you have. Thank you for good meeting. Elections coming up, encourage all that can go to the polls to vote, if need help call the city offices, tribal offices, you need help to go to the polls. Safety is another issues, lots of ice went out in front of Kotzebue, very dangerous and sure Kobuk Lake has open water, and so open water may have snow on top. Some of the lakes and some of the delta, especially between the two lakes, be sure and talk to the children, grandchildren and community and let them know how dangerous it is to travel. Thank you for a good meeting.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Joule extend on behalf of staff to Family of Miles and people of Upper Kobuk, thoughts and prayers with you. Also, join on issue of safety and traveling; it's warm, becoming more unpredictable and got a blanket of snow on top of the existing ice that probably won't let it freeze as hard as it would have otherwise. Addition to next to adjoining lakes, mouth of the slews and some areas where there is currents generally keep those thinner. Appreciate the work that the staff does on a daily basis, day in and day out. Direction we get from assembly is valuable, look forward to the Retreat and items you have slated for discussion. There are challenges but also many opportunities and also remind folks of Election, Tuesday next electing a Governor, U. S. Senator, Congressmen and Representative. Would like to see a big turnout, encourage people to take advantage of that. Thank you and look forward to coming months, thank Borough Assembly for continued support.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Sampson thanked staff, Stella, Martha, Judy, Fred, Chris, Noah and Legal Counsel for good meeting.

**Member Weisner moved to adjourn. With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 A.M.**