



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 26, 2019 – 9:00 A.M.
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Larry Westlake Sr. called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Swan provided invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Carr mentioned she talked with Facilities Manager Dickie Moto this morning; someone will be checking the thickness of ice to ensure safety of ice fishing.

Member Cleveland mentioned Kobuk is requesting for travelers to use overland trail; the river between Shungnak and Kobuk is terrible. If traveling for NANA day be sure and use that.

Member Sampson would like to expand Dood's comments; possible check pike spit area, heard it was thin. Would like to have thickness be checked at Kobuk Lake and mouth of the river, also Kiana on down which have strong current. Checks in certain areas.

Vice President Westlake mentioned we've had different weather all winter long where it's hard to predict; when there is lot of snow which is dangerous around cliff banks. Also, through the years around Snyder's camp the lakes usually open, and connection of two lakes which are full winter. Be careful, take gear that you can survive with; rain pants, matches and wish you all the luck this Spring.

Member Sampson in Inupiaq. He translates; thank you for good information. Weather have been different, lots of storms. Ice thickness will be tested, it's time to tell our children and/or grandchildren the danger areas. Sometimes we think we will advise although not able to until too late, be alert and try to advise community members the danger areas of traveling.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

Elmer Armstrong Jr.	Kirk Oviok Jr.	Dood Carr	Austin Swan Sr.
Hannah Loon	Sandy Shroyer Beaver	Larry Westlake Sr.	Walter Sampson
Reggie Joule III	Miles Cleveland Sr.	<i>Nathan Hadley Jr.</i>	

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Lucy S. Nelson	Nelda Swan	Matt Mead	Ariana Nelson
Nate Kotch	Judith Stein	Martha Whiting	Damon Schaeffer
Chuck Greene	Helena Hildreth	Laura Orenga de Gaffory	<i>Joy Mariner</i>
Brad Reeve	Paula Octuck	Hiram Walker	Aucha Kameroff
Josephine Howarth	Jaime Schaffer	Angie Sturm	<i>Marlene Moto-Karl</i>
Stella Atoruk			

A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for March 26, 2019. Member Sampson request to update on Veterans Affairs and roles and responsibilities under other business. Mayor Nelson request to add Resolution 19-11 for amended employee handbook.

Member Carr motioned, Member Cleveland seconded to approve the agenda as amended with Mrs. Stein first on communications. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2019 regular meeting minutes presented for approval.

Member Sampson motioned, Member Swan seconded to approve the minutes as presented; motion passed unanimously by roll call.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Mrs. Stein thanked the Assembly for efforts of lower water and sewer; sure, Elders are thankful. This morning she read in Exodus, made her thought of Winnie the Pooh. She had a tour yesterday. First time she met Mrs. Nelson as Mayor, good to be introduced and see staff. Thank you.

Mrs. Joy Mariner, BDO provided a summary of the FY18 Audit for Northwest Arctic Borough. The deadline is this month which have been met; team provided all the information needed to complete. For the first time this year, required to report the obligation or liability to PERS system which includes both School District and Borough. One audit adjustment has been found, deposit have been double posted although all monies were accounted for.

Mrs. Mariner also summarized the single audit; a clean or unmodified opinion of the financials have been presented. Mrs. Sturm added with the new software it allows one to post an entry and another to review before posting. BDO is required to report findings also, have found three program reports were late although State reporting process may have caused the problem. Mrs. Sturm mentioned that the survey monkey emails weren't allowing the link to be sent to the VPSO Coordinator.

Mrs. Mariner provided highlights of the financial statements. Pleased to report expenditures came in under budget expenditures and revenues slightly ahead of what budgeted revenue. She commends everyone at Borough for a clean audit, encourage employees to be diligent about submitting signed timesheets and getting information to finance department.

Mayor Nelson asked Legal Mead if the Assembly would need to approve the audit.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Member Sampson mentioned he have been selected for the Alaska Municipal League; he will need to listen and ask questions. This organization represents over two hundred plus city governments across the State; water & sewer, PCE, allocation of funds and variety of

other responsibilities. Dividend was another big discussion, during the session they divided into groups to address critical issues.

Member Sampson provided an update for Veterans Affairs, 1906 Native Allotment Act that Rural Cap in the 70's had the opportunity to apply. Senate Bill 47 is open to apply; ten to fifteen years to get to this process. Need to work with Tribes to ensure all Veterans have applied, a lot of work ahead of us. Those that have passed on since came home the family members can apply. To Veterans, Welcome Home; job has been done, you can apply for a partial of land. Thank you.

Madam Chair Carr thank Member Sampson for his service and efforts; proud of Senate Bill 47. Madam Chair Carr provided a summary of the Budget, Audit and Finance section taken the previous day along with work session action items.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 19-01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to authorize the execution of a common investment agreement among political subdivisions of the State of Alaska and to authorize membership in the Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool, Inc.*

Mayor Nelson mentioned this ordinance allows better return on investments of interest income for the account with Wells Fargo checking and savings.

Member Loon motion to enact Ordinance 19-01, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Carr provided a brief report of a couple meeting she have attended; recently Energy Steering Committee last week and Sonny Adams of NANA mentioned they are pulling back due to possible inference with 8(a) government contracting. Village priorities have been presented. She encourages resident to talk with village representatives on how important this committee is with Mr. Adams at the helm overseeing the grants. Member Carr also attended the NACO conference in Washington DC along with Member Loon and Armstrong March 1-6th. She brought back information on Veterans, also mentioned to them possibly partnership with ANTHC and mental health programs to get to the villages. Met with Senator Murkowski with AML representatives and NACO members; one main issue was federal PILT which Borough just gets seven cents and Nation gets \$2.71 for theirs. Met with Senator Sullivan, Congressman Young and gave them same concerns. Thank Assembly for sending and respectfully submit this report.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Nelson summarized written reports; daily operations and various meetings. Mayor Nelson introduced Aucha to submit an oral report; hired recently as the Public Safety Director. Mrs. Kameroff provided history of herself, staff provided also in the written report. She mentioned if anyone available to take her grandsons out, she has snow machines and willing to provide gas. Her priority is to have each village have a presence during their two-

week rotation. Mrs. Kameroff just learned that the Selawik-Buckland shelter cabin haven't been tended to which will be done as soon as possible.

Member Carr welcome Mrs. Kameroff to Borough, thank you for work done and look forward to working with you. Vice President Westlake also welcome her; Assembly is here to help you with the code. Anytime you'd recommend changes, let them know.

Mayor Nelson provided a grant writer update; researching and applying for grants for Public Safety, Public Services and assist with VIF planning.

Ten-minute break at 10:43 A.M.
Reconvened at 10:55 A.M.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Nelson recommend April 22-23, 2019 which is 4th Tuesday. Member Sampson mentioned during that time he will be having a knee surgery.

Member Sampson motion to approve the date listed, seconded by Member Carr; passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 18-03AM-01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly establishing the amended FY19 Village Improvement Fund Budget.*

Mrs. Sturm summarized Ordinance 18-03AM-01; which had movement to increase travel for all commission members have a policy meeting in April. The net change was zero.

Member Sampson motion to approve Ordinance 18-03AM-01, seconded by Member Swan; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. **Ordinance 19-02** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line-item budget for Fiscal Year 2020.*

Mayor Nelson recommend do pass with the thought of mind of School District request although awaiting Governor's budget which is unknown of obligation to debt and liabilities. Once know the unknown then can move forward with additional requests and amend is what Mayor recommends.

Member Carr motion to approve Ordinance 19-02, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 19-06** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing the Northwest Arctic Borough to issue General Obligation School Bonds in the*

principal amount of not to exceed \$12,700,000 to provide funds for Educational Capital Improvements in the Borough, fixing certain details of such bonds, and authorizing their sale.

Mayor Nelson mentioned this is in relation to Kivalina School Project. Mrs. Sturm provided a summary of Resolution 19-06; Borough recently passed a credit check to participate. This is a local match requirement for Kivalina School construction grant which fulfills the Borough's obligation to get school constructed.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 19-06, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously.

Member Carr requested to be excused.

2. **Resolution 19-07** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough supporting Legislation by Senator Mike Shower to create an Alaska Rural Police Officer Program.*

Mayor Nelson mentioned to Governor Dunleavy about this model of law enforcement, which is cost efficient, carefully designed and implement to keep Alaskans safe. This allows the VPSO to be in par with Alaska State Troopers and Wildlife Troopers; pilot project to better serve the residents.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 19-07, seconded by Member Loon and Sampson; motion passed unanimously.

3. **Resolution 19-08** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving and adopting a written policy for Assembly member travel, and for related purposes.*

Member Swan motion to table Resolution 19-08 until further discussion when full Assembly is present, no second; motion dies.

Member Shroyer mentioned she is in favor of this resolution although she is concerned about why Elder/Youth representatives is separated; they are part of this body when appointed. She believes staff has rules they pertain to. Member Swan concur with Member Shroyer; we do have a code and shall be compared to. Legal Mead highlighted the guidelines; consistence with the approach of what happened across Alaska. Member Sampson reminds everyone they are elected officials; there are two that don't vote which is the youth and elder representatives.

President Hadley recommends passing of this resolution, believes it would benefit budget and specify importance of the Borough. Mayor Nelson informed the listening audience of

the vacant seat of the other youth representative position. Member Shroyer appreciates President brought to the plate, thank you.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 19-08, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed by majority with six yes and four no votes.

4. **Resolution 19-09** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with The McDowell Group for updating and revising the 2015 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson mentioned since on board they've looked at comprehensive plans which needs updating. Mr. Greene summarized Resolution 19-09 which have been discussed previous day; which is updated every five years. An RFP have been published, three responses were received and have selected McDowell Group.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 19-09, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously.

5. **Resolution 19-10** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly confirming and Mayor's appointments to the Northwest Arctic Borough Public Safety Commission.*

Mayor Nelson mentioned Public Safety is one of our highest priorities; composed of seven members although awaiting one confirmation.

Member Shroyer Beaver request to approve Resolution 19-10, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously.

6. **Resolution 19-11** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving the adoption of the amended Employee Handbook and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson mentioned when looking at handbook she believes there were gray areas that can open Borough to risks; with help of staff and legal to update as presented.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 19-11, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Nelson mentioned Borough has tentatively set up a charter to attend the NANA meeting in Kobuk this coming Saturday. Although there was death in family she is awaiting to hear on funeral arrangements. Mayor Nelson asks Assembly whom would attend to have presence.

Vice President asks if there is a section for public comment? Member Sampson mentioned they may discuss east/west road of the Ambler Mining District; believes we shall be part of discussion of future development in that area. Vice President Westlake suggests speaking on importance of wellness.

Mayor Nelson provided an update of the Alaska State Legislature; a hand out of the SB 38 the FY 19 disaster bill have been passed. Hearings are scheduled around the State; next week the committee will consider amendments. House hopes to have the budget to the Senate by April 3rd and differences by May 3rd; information provided by Christine Hess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None held.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Brad Reeve, CEO of Kotzebue Broadcasting Inc. thank Assembly for support Borough offers. The Board recently met and concerned of the loss of funding from State which is devastating for KOTZ. The past seven years they've lost fifty percent of the funding from two major funders; lost satellite systems which eliminate some emergency broadcast capabilities. He asks Borough to support, possibly included on the agenda of Borough's public government support which would be helpful when lobbying in Juneau. Thank you for your support.

Mayor Nelson mentioned to Mr. Reeve regarding the recent lobbying visit which KOTZ have been included. Message have been delayed to Juneau office.

Marlene Moto-Karl, Deering resident called regarding Search & Rescue trail staking; found out Buckland/Calahan aren't staked. What is the process of trail stakers? Do they apply? Heard someone traveling Shishmaref, still concerned about National Geographic coming and nothing for Deering. Happy Easter to everybody. On Facebook yesterday, they are talking of Meth in Kotzebue and Deering; got to get rid of it. Same people bring it to the area. National Park Service needs to update their maps, there is no shelter cabin in Kwelik area. Careful on creeks and lakes.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Sampson thank Mr. Vice President for a good meeting. With the recent comments of KOTZ, we shall continue to get the message to State of Alaska. He requests to work with Siikauraq to update the Veterans list updated; to get Senate bill message out to all the villages. Thank you for a good meeting.

Member Cleveland thank everyone for prayers for Son Lawrence Jones, doing good and regaining strength. At this time, he gave an Assembly report; he traveled for ICC gathering regarding food although only NANA Region participant because of weather. Global warming is happening now, this world is changing, and we need to help our people survive. Thank you.

Member Loon thank Assembly for passing FY20 Budget, good working relationship; thank Angie and Mayor Nelson to present ahead of time. Thank Aucha for being Public Safety

Director. Fish and Wildlife Advisory Council is scheduled April 15-16 here at Borough she believes. Member Loon expressed the importance of knowing Governor Dunleavy's road trips to ensure Assembly will be able to ask questions. Thank you, Vice President Westlake.

Member Armstrong mentioned good meeting, discussions and thank Assembly for working together with Administration. Thank audience for coming, School District and Aucha for hearing Noorvik's need on Public Safety. Thank you.

Member Oviok thank Vice President and Mayor. Sending condolences to the villages and Region; encouraged from Mrs. Stein's voice of daily reading. Thank you, Mrs. Stein. He checked with Mr. Greene on when residents can apply for subsistence nets and fishing supplies.

Member Swan mentioned DOT tentative scheduled a ceremony beginning of April.

Elder Representative Swan thank you for good meeting. Learn as we go, on next Elder Rep can you prepare the sitting role to ensure no bad feeling; also, on the Youth Rep. Thank you for understanding, bless each and everyone of you. Be safe.

Member Shroyer Beaver raised concern of funding donations requests; she believes they should include if they applied for grants. We are not obligated to all; everyone is seeking funds. As for School District, we all support kids and Elders; we've approved the bond for school. Really happy Kivalina is getting the school, we shall be proud of our accomplishments. When we hear of cuts, we shouldn't be surprised. Commend our Assembly when we didn't say yes to everything; we all have our opinion. Our public radio, when it's donation time, contribute to KOTZ. Need announcers for ball games, lots of fun. Welcome Aucha, glad you are here. With travel policy, probably long overdue. Today is Myrna Mendenhall's funeral, awesome lady. Prayers to her family. Thank you.

Vice President Westlake enjoyed leading today, fun part when Administration smile. Tried his best and proud to lead, thank you.

Youth Representative Nelson mentioned she attended the ICC gathering in Bethel although missed first day due to weather.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Nelson thank you for support, honored to serve as Mayor the past four months; fun and challenging. Thank Administration and staff for support. Thank Assembly for passing FY20 budget and ordinances/resolutions. Worked closely on strategic plan and a lot of objectives to meet before next Retreat. Still advertising Capital Projects Director. Thinking of those that lost loved ones. Be safe, continue to provide updates of traveling conditions.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Shroyer motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice President Westlake to adjourn at 12:03 P.M.

