



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 25, 2019 – 9:00 A.M.
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

President Nathan Hadley Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Loon provided invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Sampson in Inupiaq. Safety moment critically important to all of us; weather pattern can change quickly. In process of planning please let someone know. Thank you.

Member Carr reiterate the comments made yesterday; please make sure your children are accompanied on the rails on front street.

Vice President Westlake mentioned to be cautious of hungry bears; one came into town in Kiana and had to take care of it. Especially in the search area and walking in the woods; certainly, tell your children. Thank you.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

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

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Lucy S. Nelson	Nelda Swan	Matt Mead	Siikauraq Whiting
Ariana Nelson	Fred Smith	Thomas Baker	Charlie Gregg
Lt. Derek Czerwinski	Elia Nay	John Baker	Nate Kotch
Angie Sturm	Marlene Moto-Karl	Chuck Greene	Helena Hildreth
Noah Naylor	Ryan Anderson	Joe Evans	Ingemar Mathiasson
Eva O'Hara	Alvin Werneke	Tim Tate	Stella Atoruk

A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for June 25, 2019. Member Armstrong request to add Search & Rescue to other business. Mayor Nelson mentioned Resolution 19-37 have been revised, have Ryan Anderson, DOT and Coast Guard update under communication and appearances. President Hadley request to add recognition of Borough Clerk Atoruk under communication also.

Member Carr motioned, Member Loon seconded to approve the agenda as amended; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2019 regular meeting minutes presented for approval.

Vice President Westlake motioned, Member Carr seconded to approve the minutes as presented; motion passed unanimously by roll call.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Lt. Derek Czerwinski, U.S. Coast Guard Arctic liaison provided a timeline of Coast Guard. This past week a team from Los Angeles came to familiar themselves with the waters, brought in a twenty-three-foot vessel. Lt. Czerwinski mentioned fisherman are invited to volunteer their boats from July 8th through 12th; attending the fisherman's meeting on July 8th here at the Chambers. Official date of the hanger is July 1st; air crew operation until end of October, boat crew until August 10th and Lt. Czerwinski here until August 2nd.

Lt. Czerwinski stated stickers are good for two years. Personal locator beacons need to be registered every year; encourage those that have. Russ would be able to check online of each. He thanks everyone for warm welcome and plan to participate in any event.

Member Carr recommends for the fishermen to check with IRA or Maniilaq; possibly have direct employment to assist with a work permit or gear. Vice President Westlake asked when you say sticker; is that for the boat registration? He asked why residents need to have boats registered? How does that benefit the residents? Member Sampson preference presentation to Kotzebue although doesn't include rest of the villages; don't have DMV offices, don't know the requirements either. For a resident from Kobuk to get a permit then they would have to pay over five-hundred-dollar ticket to register.

Member Shroyer Beaver asked if Coast Guard will have the opportunity to meet with youth or community regarding recruiting; whom are you working with? She mentioned our children has odd hours summertime. Member Carr suggest coordinating with Camp Sivu possibly through Aqqaluk Trust.

Member Armstrong asked if it's impossible to request assistance from Coast Guard during off season for Search & Rescue. He mentioned with the climate change we've experiencing do you think Coast Guard is ready for activity in the Chukchi. Member Joule asked for phone contact information for the public. Member Sampson asked if it's funding source that is limiting your time here in Kotzebue; mentioned in southern Alaska they get 24/7 coverage while we get peace meal.

Mayor Nelson thank Lt. Czerwinski for presentation and Borough is willing to utilize our media outlets to provide information to public as well. Member Oviok appreciate your service, would be good to have residents view underwater with cameras. Thank you.

Ryan Anderson, DOT Region Director provided an update of the Cape Blossom Road which have been in progress possibly thirty-seven years which has come close to construction. Proposing construction, a road from Kotzebue along the air force road to white Alice site then to Cape Blossom. City of Kotzebue invested funds into material stockpile which has six-million-dollar value which is gravel stockpile sitting on the hill. Current project is approximately \$40-43M; new information from today STIP got approved yesterday and have \$25.5M for the road although shortfall of eleven million to secure.

Tri-lateral group have been discussing local available materials; gravel base is approximately 60,000 cubic yards per mile/barge at 100/yard along with additional equipment is roughly \$6.3M per mile and if longer then higher amount. If local source and approximately is fifty per cubic yard, then \$3.3M per mile cost.

Proposing phase one of the project to construct the completed road to Sadie Creek to stockpile this year and next. DOT would bid the project in March of 2020; believes can complete in 2023 with initial kick start. He expressed the importance of local contributions; working towards materials sales agreement to accelerate project, designated developed material source, available advanced construction contract would reduce the risk of unanticipated cost increases.

Mr. Anderson asking for advance funding when project funding come available, they would have available reimbursable through materials sales agreement; won't have available until the project funding was. Timing of money is a struggle. Member Carr stated it's interesting on today's pricing compared to Kivalina Road and when Red Dog was built. She raised concern of plans of training for the people for future of the jobs where Tech Center can find funding to training of all trades.

Member Loon asked Mr. Anderson if there had been an economic study of the road, with cost of heating fuel and gas; what percentage do think will go down when the road is built. Are there any plans for a storage facility at Cape Blossom for heating fuel and gas to lower prices? Member Shroyer Beaver asked if DOT contacted Tribe or landowners to see if they would like to go through the permit process to sell gravel which is competitive; some interested and some not. If interested, whom do they contact? Member Carr asked DOT and those involved in the planning have the landowners been contacted?

Mayor Nelson thank Mr. Anderson for his presentation; huge investment for residents, resolution 19-37 to address this presentation. She provided a brief history of project; collaborative effort to move forward. Consistent with comprehensive plans, DOT had requested Borough, NANA, City of Kotzebue and KIC provide advance funding in order to expeditiously.

Borough Clerk recognition, Assembly President Hadley presented to Clerk Atoruk for appreciation of individual step up award with International Institute of Municipal Clerk.

Break observed
Reconvened

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Mrs. Sturm provided a summary of financials ending May 31, 2019 for the listening audience. In June have received the Federal PILT which has been budgeted at \$1.1M although unsure of the amount until two weeks before year end. Teck payments have been received also; Village funds at \$8M and General Fund remainder of \$11M anticipated payment.

Member Armstrong asked how much is unexpended in Search & Rescue funds. Member Loon asked if there are any airlines available to outline communities that are willing to search. Member Carr had suggested to have Search & Rescue do a letter requesting space available to donate seats; have that been done? Member Loon believes that this can be discussed at Retreat to have Search & Rescue building here in Kotzebue; in the future to have a line item only for gas.

Madam Chair Carr stated Budget, Audit & Finance just met jointly with work session.

Resident Tim Tate, Buckland Search & Rescue President is requesting help to search for the two men in Noorvik; would like State or Borough to get involved. He stated they find evidence everyday that they are out there, not getting any help. We are the same people, not right that they don't have help and funding. Only Noorvik and Buckland are there, requesting a dive team.

Madam Chair Carr thank Mr. Tate for calling in; she continued report of Budget, Audit & Finance which was held the previous day.

Member Loon mentioned she had attended the Lands Committee/Planning Commission meeting recently; discussed Squirrel River and comment period ending in July.

Member Joule recently attended the Local Emergency Planning Commission; first one for him, informative meeting. Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

None presented.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

None presented.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Nelson summarized written report for June. Notice of General Election has been publicized; petitions accepted until August 19, 2019 for October 1st voting day.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting date scheduled for July 22-23, 2019.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 18-04-am-03** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly*

approving and adopting an amended line-item budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

Mayor Nelson stated we have two months in this fiscal year; we are requesting budget transfers that were in excess of \$25K to continue to have budget transparency.

Member Carr motion to approve Ordinance 18-04-am-03, seconded by Vice President Westlake; motion passed unanimously by roll call.

2. **Ordinance 19-02-am-01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving and adopting an amended line-item budget for Fiscal Year 2020.*

Mayor Nelson mentioned cost of living have been added, bond debt still appropriated and changes in personnel to increase efforts in public safety.

Member Carr motion to approve Ordinance 19-02-am-01, seconded by Vice President Westlake; motion passed unanimously by roll call.

3. **Ordinance 19-04** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a three-year participation agreement with Alaska Municipal League – Joint Insurance Association, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 19-04; five percent decrease recommend do pass.

Member Carr motion to approve Ordinance 19-04, seconded by Vice President Westlake; motion passed unanimously by roll call.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 19-25** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with Goldeneye Media Alaska.*

Mayor Nelson stated an RFP have been noticed for media services; received three proposals. Made a special note of hourly rate as services performed.

Member Carr motion to approve Resolution 19-25, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. **Resolution 19-26** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a contract for legal services and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized; have received two proposals, recommend do pass to renew.

Member Carr motion to approve Resolution 19-26, seconded by Member Shroyer

Beaver; motion passed by majority with Loon stepped away and Sampson voting no by roll call.

3. **Resolution 19-27** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a professional services agreement with Espelin & Associates LLC to provide accounting services, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-27, recommend do pass. Member Shroyer Beaver requested additional detail; has this been the practice of Borough for a long period of time. What our financial department and practice has been? She also asked Mayor about positions; with held positions the jobs shall be done. Member Shroyer Beaver expressed the importance of requesting clarity for public.

Member Carr motion to approve Resolution 19-27, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

4. **Resolution 19-28** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with McClintock Land Associates for consulting, mapping, and surveying services related to the Borough's municipal land entitlement, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson briefly summarized Resolution 19-28 recommend do pass. Member Carr recommends if Assembly can make available through agreement with McClintock to utilize surveying their properties with payment.

Member Carr motion to approve Resolution 19-28, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

President Hadley mentioned Resolution 19-29 through 19-35 are VIF; do we want individually for as a block. Member Carr would like listening audience to hear what is granted.

5. **Resolution 19-29** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving and adopting revised policies and procedures for the Village Improvement Commission, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-29 recommend do pass. Member Swan expressed slow process which isn't working well with communities; couple aren't utilizing. Member Sampson thank Member Swan for comments, believes lack of communications with local folks for further input of policies being written; planning is backwards.

President Hadley requested how much monies been distributed since started. Member Carr agree to a point, staff had reached out; disagree with Member Sampson's comment regarding change policy midstream. Commends VIF staff for continue working with communities; fastest any community get millions this past year.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 19-29, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

6. **Resolution 19-30** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from Ambler for Phase 2 of an Energy Efficiency Program, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-30 recommend do pass. *Mr. Tate apologize for not listening for remaining of the meeting; thank you for everything and hopefully get resources for what is needed to bring loved one's home.*

Member Carr motion to approve Resolution 19-30, seconded by Vice President Westlake; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

7. **Resolution 19-31** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from Deering for purchase of a water truck, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-31 recommend do pass.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 19-31, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

8. **Resolution 19-32** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from Deering for improvements to the East end Electric Distribution System and grid, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-32 recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 19-32, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

9. **Resolution 19-33** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from Kiana for construction of a Community Building, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-33 recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 19-33, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote with VP Westlake verified if he had conflict of interest which doesn't.

10. **Resolution 19-34** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from Noatak for a Community-wide Trash Clean-up Project, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-34 recommend do pass.

Member Armstrong motion to approve Resolution 19-34, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

11. **Resolution 19-35** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from Noatak to purchase a trash burn unit, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-35 recommend do pass.

Vice President Westlake motion to approve Resolution 19-35, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

12. **Resolution 19-36** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly adding Paula Octuck-Viveiros as an authorized signatory for Borough checks.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-36 recommend do pass.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 19-36, seconded by Vice President Westlake; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

13. **Resolution 19-37** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a memorandum of agreement to provide reimbursable advance funding for the Cape Blossom Road, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-37 recommend do pass.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 19-37, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed by majority with Shroyer Beaver abstaining by roll call vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Noorvik Search & Rescue Member Armstrong stated they are on forty-one days of searching of the two men; thank all the villages that support S&R. Thank volunteers, Borough, all organizations that have donated gas and food. Thank White Mountain and Golovin, please continue to support through prayer; tough times. Thank you.

Member Carr thank Member Armstrong and Mr. Tate for calling in; hearing Noorvik haven't turning in a VIF application yet and in dire need. Everyone is praying for the community and those involved.

Member Sampson thank Member Armstrong for efforts; initially search was State of Alaska's role to search on May 12th unsure of which direction. This issue to be addressed under this body; thank Ms. Jack for organizing Search & Rescue back in 80's. Fuel is used approximately two to four drums for searching; thank you for efforts although majority of food that came in are from communities that helped. Critical it be addressed now we are responsible to take over, once State is done then becomes a community which is hard. Thank you to Mayor Nelson for donations, thank you to Member Armstrong and Robert Nazuruk for leadership. We ought to put additional effort to seek resources and assistance.

Vice President Westlake provided additional background for Search & Rescue; concerned on this search with efforts although need more guidance. He suggests renewing guidelines and concentrate on coastline; there are three four rivers that goes out from Noorvik area. Member Sampson expressed the importance of having legal part of process; we shouldn't be begging and borrowing needs of Search & Rescue.

Member Shroyer Beaver suggest discussing further at Assembly Retreat; we are support for our communities. She also commends Mayor Nelson and Member Armstrong. We shall come together and provide. Member Armstrong mentioned really in need of fuel, starting to find items; getting close to suspending the search.

President Hadley requests donations for the search, commends Mayor Nelson, Member Armstrong and Mr. Nazuruk. Member Carr echoes Member Shroyer Beavers comments; discuss at Retreat to where we set monies aside. Thank you, Assembly, for addressing. Member Loon stated to call Noorvik Native Store if you'd like to donate, a little goes a long way. Member Oviok thank Member Armstrong, they encourage those available; Selawik is ready to go. Looking for food donations also.

Vice President Westlake asked Member Armstrong if there are any underwater cameras. President Hadley thank Member Armstrong, thank you to Son Tim Tate for calling in. Member Armstrong asked Mayor Nelson regarding Search & Rescue funds, and what are the plans for the drone? Also, couple days ago there was a distress call; Noorvik needs a bigger boat. As Mr. Tate stated earlier, would like a diver. Another note suggests Borough contact Tom Crossman whom done sonar work with White Mountain; had assist with a six-month search recently.

Member Carr reiterate the VIF funds; possibly for a Search & Rescue boat. Vice President Westlake mentioned there is a Regional Search & Rescue boat and should be available.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None held.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Joe Evans thank Borough for allowing to attend through teleconference.

Mr. Thomas Baker, City of Kotzebue Council thank Assembly on behalf of Council and Tri-lateral thank you for consideration of Resolution 19-37; look forward to working with stakeholders.

Siikauraq informed the listening audience that Planning Department have village planning grants available; seven thousand five hundred for each community. Also, Lemonade Day is this Saturday. Qanut is coming up June 30-July 2, 2019; NANA is taking lead this year.

Mr. Ryan Anderson, DOT thank Assembly for passing resolution on Cape Blossom; appreciate all that are in support of the road.

Member Carr asked Siikauraq for Qanut schedule, people have been asking; is it online?

Mrs. Marlene Moto-Karl called regarding dead baby seals beachside and walrus which are all along coastline. Also concerned about caribou, hardly anyone hunt any. She mentioned fire fighters couldn't land in Candle, if did then they must pay a fee which should be waived.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Sampson had no comment.

Member Loon thank Mayor, staff, presenters for good meeting; glad to be part of. Thank you, Assembly, for positiveness and working together. Congratulations to Stella on award.

Member Carr thank you for good meeting, good report from DOT; crucial to have on website for constituents to follow. Reminder possibly from Tri-lateral, talk of training and funding. Thank you, Mayor, for ongoing work.

Member Cleveland sends condolences that lost loved ones this past Spring, recently went home. Taikuu for prayers. Continue to pray for Susie in Shungnak and Robert in Kotzebue. Thank you, have a good day.

Member Shroyer Beaver thank you to Search & Rescue, appreciate those involved. Congratulations to Stella, awesome. Thank VIF for applications, possibly reach out to those communities that haven't applied. Condolences to Shungnak, Susie will be missed by many and Robert have been involved in searches too.

Member Swan had an opportunity to travel to Canada to foster or see how relationships were with other tribes or entities, to compare our relationship. He believes he benefited and have

same issues, need a lot of work to improve working relationship.

Member Oviok thank Mrs. Sturm for financial report; thankful to have VIF funds to clean. Thankful for DOT report, look forward to projects. Thank you to Coast Guard; little is much which gives us hope. Thank you, Member Armstrong, blessing over Noorvik. Thank you, Mayor and staff.

Member Joule thank you for good dialogue, happy to see projects move forward. Prayers and thoughts with Noorvik along with the whole Borough we reside in. Thank you.

Member Armstrong mentioned good meeting, discussion on many items. Thank you to Administration and Assembly. As for City of Noorvik they still need a loader and policing; although know it's under discussion. He invites VIF to Noorvik again to get wish list taken care of.

Vice President Westlake thank Mayor for moving forward on projects. Commends Member Armstrong for leadership; some know what your going through, be positive and work best as you can. Thank you.

Member Shroyer Beaver congratulates Mark retiring from Bering Air; best wishes from Assembly. Vice President Westlake added the previous day me pilot the plane, first and last passenger. Congratulations to him.

President Hadley thank Mayor and staff. Congratulations to Stella for award. Thank you to Mr. Anderson, Remote Solutions for presentation; Cape Blossom moving forward. Also, thank you to Tri-lateral group. Thank you, Member Armstrong and Son Tim Tate in Noorvik. Safe travels home.

Elder Representative Swan mentioned they haven't had a Regional Elders meeting, although the next meeting is in September. Thank you, Mayor and Assembly for hard work and decision making. Be safe, thank you. Also, keep Alice and Willard Adams and Winona Hawley just lose their grandson.

Youth Representative Nelson thank Mayor Nelson for this opportunity to learn and be part of this Assembly, you all have been kind supportive and welcoming. Good six months to see what is happening. Loved learning of the Kivalina Evacuation Road; heard of since sixth grade. Glad to be part of the meeting that made it happen, big milestone for Kivalina. Thank you.

President Hadley thank Youth Representative for service and being positive and coming to the meetings.

Member Loon thank Youth Representative for attending, she sees a silent leader to Kivalina and those near.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Nelson thank Assembly for leadership for moving Cape Blossom forward. Next have the project of the Port; future discussions with Senator Sullivan. Plan on lobbying in Washington D.C.

Reaching out to Search & Rescues to encourage you to continue to stay positive in this effort; if we work together, we can accomplish many things. Thank Administration on teamwork efforts, thank Mr. Anderson for presentation. Thank you, Mr. Baker for communicating, Tri-lateral group; exciting day for all constituency.

Mayor Nelson recognize Ariana Nelson as her last meeting as a youth representative, publicized two seats of this Assembly. Thank you for serving youth of the area. Condolences to Suns and Thompsons Family. Mayor Nelson stated they will continue to work with Search & Rescue teams. Really exciting times. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Sampson motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver to adjourn at 12:28 P.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stella Atamb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.