Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 23, 2019 – 9:00 A.M.
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER
President Nathan Hadley Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE
Member Cleveland provided invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT
Member Swan mentioned berry picking time and have had several encounters with bears in their area because of dead seals beached; be careful, bring firearm and travel in groups.

Member Shroyer Beaver made a friendly reminder of school starting soon, children on the road. Time to get children on day shift and lookout as they walk to school.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL
Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:
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
Charlie Gregg    Lt. Derek Czerwinski    Elia Nay    Nate Kotch
Angie Sturm    Chuck Greene    Eva O’Hara    Wendy Chamberlain
Corey Moulder    Kelly Marcus    Chris Rose    Zach Stevenson
Vernae Angnaboogok    Jim Stotts    Jimmy Brown    Aucha Kameron
Austin Norton    Sgt. Patrick Johnson    Brad Reeve    Wesley Early
Clyde Ramoth    Minnie Foster    Stella Atoruk

A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Sampson motioned, Member Carr seconded to approve the agenda as amended; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

June 25, 2019 regular meeting minutes presented for approval.

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Jim Stotts and Vernae Angnaboogok, ICC Alaska provided an update of activities. Currently have Alaskan Inuit Food Sovereignty Summit to be held on September 10-12, 2019 in Nome, Alaska. Member Sampson asked if ICC is still in relations with United Nations, political action is certainly relevant to our way of life today. Critically important that we strengthen our relationship with Arctic Council and Arctic Slope.

Member Loon thank and welcome you from Nome. She mentioned for the past few years some of the villages haven’t gotten caribou due to changes of migratory pattern. Member Loon raised concern of competition with transporters and guides harassing. She has been newly elected on Kotzebue Sound Committee; proposed wildlife from RACK if there is a low count then recommend moose be closed for non-federal recognize residents. Expressed the importance of having Elders involved in managing the Fish & Game in each tribal village.

Mayor Nelson asked ICC what kind of feedback or support you’ve been receiving regarding this political action. Mrs. Angnaboogok provided how the summit have started, grateful for support they have received from this area. After the summit there will be a 3rd Region meeting here in Kotzebue to view results, look forward to that. Member Carr thank ICC for work done, Greenland have gone a long way and fully support ICC. Commend for awesome ICC Conference in Utqiagvik, community did well.

Member Sampson in Inupiaq; he then translated thanking Mr. Stotts and Mrs. Angnaboogok for presentation. We’ve heard from Elders about resources to deplete which we see today, if continue to decline we will become law breakers to feed our people. Expressed the importance of having Alaskan Natives sit on the federal and state boards. Member Shroyer Beaver asked if there are any residents are non-shareholders that are on the steering committee although we adopt. She suggests input from other people who live here too.

Mr. Stotts state they have a long-term goal to prepare for strong management with our people along with Canada and Greenland.

Break observed at 9:50 A.M.
Reconvened at 10:03 A.M.

Zach Stevenson, Federal Subsistence Management called providing a report of a public hearing which was beginning of the month on Wildlife Temporary Special Action Request WSA 19-04 for cow moose in Unit 23.

Wendy Chamberlain thank Assembly, good to be out of Juneau. She summarized her handout of updates of Legislative Affairs as of the moment. State budget hasn’t passed yet,
called back in session today. Member Sampson asked if there are any entities in the State that are challenging the Governor’s budget; whom else besides Social Service and School?

Vice President Westlake raised concern if Chamberlain’s thoughts; is it getting better? Commends to Representative Lincoln supporting PCE; debt reimbursement also. Member Loon in Inupiaq; she translated that Mrs. Chamberlain provided an update of Senate and House Representatives. She has discussed PCE, Elders checks and dividend funds. Today is time to gather, hard times as our Elders have talked of. Always watch for others.

Member Carr appreciates Mrs. Chamberlain’s reports; hard to understand that Governor have lived in our area and know what is faced. Sends appreciation to Senator Olsen and Representative Lincoln for serving our people. Mayor Nelson asked Mrs. Chamberlain to discuss PCE endowment which affects our people. She reiterates the VPSO Program as stated to FY 19 eliminated approximately $200K as took number of positions held at June.

Member Sampson thank her for report, provided history of PCE program. He suggests the Assembly to hire additional lobbying in Juneau. Member Swan raised concern of capital tax credits for industries; is that a special program that the State does? Member Shroyer Beaver asked if Rural Alaska come forward with concerns of PCE cuts. She believes residents always come in second, especially when it comes to education, VPSO and Elders. Member Sampson asked Mrs. Chamberlain what we can do to reinforce what Senator Olson and Representative Lincoln besides calling in; would class action work from rural communities?

Ms. Kameroff raised concern of youth offenders transferred to another facility if Nome closes. Member Carr expressed the importance of PCE, would need a plan; thank you for bringing forward.

Lt. Derek Czerwinski, Coast Guard Liaison provided an update of the past five week; appreciate great support since arrived. He departs next Friday, have vessel team starting this week until August 10th. Air crew here for another two weeks until October 31st. He stated 30 examinations were completed on commercial fishing boats; 16 decals submitted. Member Sampson thank Lt. Czerwinski for presence, appreciate services that have been provided. In future reports he would like to see number of citations given.

Member Shroyer Beaver thank Lt. Czerwinski for service and glad some of the crew have joined the softball team. Member Carr thank Lt. Czerwinski for local involvement, appreciate presence in the area.

**BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Madam Chair Carr provided a summary of the BAF/work session held the previous day. Member Sampson added based on financial report and recommendation from Mayor’s office.

Member Loon out of meeting.
PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY 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 summarized Ordinance 18-04-am-03, recommend do pass.

Member Carr motion to enact 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 summarized Ordinance 19-02-am-01, recommend do pass.

Member Sampson motion to enact Ordinance 19-02-am-01, seconded by Member Carr; 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, recommend do pass.

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

Mrs. Sturm provided a summary of financials ending June 30, 2019 although year end will close out, finalize audit end of October. She learned from Mr. Mathiasson that Borough received a $1.5M USDA grant to help Shungnak and Kobuk with solar battery project.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Sampson mentioned he sit on Rural CAP Board and Executive Committee, based on State of Alaska budget there will be a cut of $5.5M from that program.

Member Carr thanked Mayor, Legal and full Assembly for coordinating BAF and work session together on behalf of the Budget, Audit & Finance. Thank you.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Nelson summarized her written report ending June 2019 for the listening audience. She suggests having a Budget work session once State of Alaska’s results are known that will affect our residents.
TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING
Next meeting date scheduled for August 26-27, 2019. Mayor Nelson request to discuss future meeting, particularly in October to accommodate Auditors. Member Carr mentioned AFN would be same dates of the monthly meeting of 4th Tuesday. Member Sampson suggest scheduling the month prior to October.

Member Sampson motion to hold August 26-27, 2019, seconded by Vice President Westlake; passed unanimously by roll call.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES
None presented.

RESOLUTIONS
1. Resolution 19-38 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving an Assembly donation under the FY20 budget for the City of Kotzebue Fire Department to provide Ambulance Services.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-38, recommend do pass. Member Carr reiterate that 90% plus the villages they provide services. Mr. Marcus, Fire Chief thank Assembly for support, goal to provide professional services of the area. Member Sampson thank you for service, believes half of the calls are from villages.

Member Carr thank the Fire Department; believes it’s time for an upgrade, support them. Pass on appreciation to whole department. Sends condolences to all on loss of Ash, hope dealt with and found. Thank you.

Member Shroyer mentioned she will abstain, although support hundred percent but she sits on City Council. She commends all that you do along with first responders.

Member Carr motion to approve Resolution 19-38, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote with Member Shroyer abstaining.

2. Resolution 19-39 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving engagement of BDO USA LLP to conduct the FY19 Audit.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-39; she recommends do pass.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 19-39, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

3. Resolution 19-40 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving
the purchase of a vehicle and for related purposes.

Member Carr recommend all vehicles labeled with logo. Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-40; recommend do pass.

**Member Carr motion to approve Resolution 19-40, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

4. **Resolution 19-41** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a construction service agreement with a joint venture between Drake Construction, Inc. and KIC Construction, LLC for the purchase and delivery of material for the Cape Blossom Road, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-41; recommend do pass.

**Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 19-41, seconded by Vice President Westlake; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

5. **Resolution 19-42** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with Fred Armstrong and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 19-42; recommend do pass.

**Member Carr motion to approve Resolution 19-42, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

Sgt. Rodney Johnson, Alaska State Troopers provided an update of the Kotzebue post. They have acquired DMV, set up to do Real ID’s although clerk is out of town attending a funeral. Full services available Monday-Friday 12:30-4:00 and road tests on Wednesday. Transferred in a Drug & Alcohol Investigator in, thankful from the Region.

Currently have all blue shirts filled, which is four Troopers. Down with VPSO’s right now although push recruiting. Kivalina has a VPO, still have wildlife trooper in the area although he was in another area for a bit. AST has application hire going for full time clerical position which is vacant.

Member Sampson thank Sgt. Johnson for report; raised concern of happenings in Juneau do you foresee any cuts on any programs with Search & Rescue or Trooper Program or Village officers. Member Carr thank Sgt. Johnson for presence; due to increase of heroin and meth is there a phone number to report whom is selling. Can they remain
anonymous for calling in? We all need to be part to clean out our villages.

Sgt. Johnson stated can call 442-3222 which is 24/7 service although he knows there is another number noticed although he will find out if it is answered 24 hours a day. Will provide with staff to distribute to the Assembly. Member Sampson thank Sgt. For report although concerned about the reverse sweep as Governor’s crime bill is questioned.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None presented.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None held.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Mr. Brad Reeve, General Manager of KOTZ Radio introduce Wesley Early as the News Director for KOTZ whom producer of is currently Alaska News Nightly. Looking at $80K cut from State budgets. Mr. Early mentioned he will start second week of September, interested in broadcast and highlight both struggles and celebrations of the Borough. He expresses his gratitude to Borough for grant allowed for this position through VIC.

Mr. Clyde Ramoth, Mayor of Selawik called regarding high unemployment rates, concerned about PCE. Thank Siikauraq for monies available to set priorities. Always appreciate two rotating Troopers, currently no funding for local VPO’s. With technology now, Kirk used to give a copy of the packet although if he can provide a short presentation of meetings it would be good.

Mrs. Minnie Foster of Buckland called thanking Borough for helping our people. She is grateful for grandparents showing young ones. She asked if Borough have been informing residents of what State is doing. Hope Borough can put aside for assistance. Thankful to listen to monthly meeting; thank you for leadership. Prayers for Assembly and families.

**ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Member Shroyer Beaver asked what the requirements are to be a resident of the Borough to vote. She ensures criteria is followed for the scholarships. Also, expressed her thoughts of Governor to lie during campaign; never given constituents an opportunity to attend a public meeting to make comments without being held hostage. So many people fell for full dividend; she attended his swear in and one of the comments that he supports VPSO, Elders and education. School starts around the corner, thankful done with getting children ready for school. Thank you to Mayor and staff.

Member Armstrong mentioned good meeting, condolences that lost loved ones; thank Administration for hard work. Welcome Austin as Fire Chief. Thank presenters and KOTZ Radio. Last week Noorvik held a VIF meeting, should be receiving paperwork to use those funds. Thank you.
Member Swan no comment, thank you.

Member Oviok thank Mr. President, good to get updates. We hear of State cuts although awaiting from State; glad PCE and public safety is discussed. Selawik needs help with cops, growing community with more kids then adults. He suggests upgrades for the Fire Department throughout the Borough. Thank Mayor and staff. Thank you to Jimmy for update on ICC. Sends condolences to Foxglove family and those that lost loved ones.

Member Cleveland mentioned good meeting, condolences to those that lost loved ones. Maniilaq recently had a board meeting; unsure if foster care had been discussed. His nephew lost a child that was in foster care. In Ambler, children were moved from one family to another although the community had to donate food to feed the children. PCE is important to our people, need to stay on top of that. Thank you.

Elder Representative Swan mentioned have been busy picking greens and berries; careful while picking. Carry a weapon or something. Thank you.

Member Sampson in Inupiaq; he translated thank those that had a vision regarding what is coming to this area. We certainly are feeling hardship as they have expected. He appreciates Member Shroyer Beavers comments regarding Governor’s comments. Thank you to Mayor and staff; welcome Austin to Borough. On behalf of residents of this Region he thanks City of Kotzebue for providing ambulatory services. Thank you to Troopers for service, thank you to Chamberlain for report. Thank you to KOTZ for introduction, welcome Wesley. We need to embrace and support ICC regarding addressing Arctic issues. PCE isn’t a subsidy it’s an equalization program, if taken then our villages will have freeze-ups. Thank you to those that searched this Spring, continue to support Noorvik. He raised concern to Mr. President where are we at relationship to Arctic Slope with what State of Alaska is addressing.

Member Carr thank Mayor and Administration. She provided the number for Alaska State Trooper number to provide reports of drugs and alcohol at 907-843-1936; encourage public to take responsibility. She suggests continuing with NWALT to be on same page, put priorities together. Thankful for VIF staff. Thank City of Kotzebue for Ambulatory service, she encourages the volunteers to learn village/house numbers to ensure a timely manner. On crime reports, if there is a way; a constituent asked if a Kotzebue can do crime reports like used to. Thank President for informative, thank Wendy for lobbying. Important villages keep up on topics, post on website; echoes Member Shroyer’s comments that constituents are residents of the Region. Thank you for meeting, safe trip home.

Vice President Westlake stated we are all survivors, if we work together then we will survive too. Encourage young with jobs to keep jobs, get involved on employment and moving forward with education. Good meeting Mayor and President.

President Hadley hopes for good news from Juneau. He asked Legal if an entity can take State to court over subsistence lifestyle of the communities. Reason he brought up he
recommends North Slope and Northwest Boroughs to join about caribou migration and seafood. Thankful for Wendy’s report, important to hear State’s issues.

MAYORS COMMENTS
Mayor Nelson stated she wrote number of letters to dignitaries and legislatures regarding her concerns. Mayor’s office received notice of Senator Sullivan visit August 12th through 15th to hear from leadership to weigh in on what he should focus on which is same time as AML. She provided the Election notice which is scheduled on October 1, 2019.

Mayor Nelson thank the presenters for presentations. There are two openings for Youth Representatives to sit on the Assembly. She hears the concerns of the State budget, disappointed to provide testimony with no feedback from Governor. Thank Assembly for support.

ADJOURNMENT
Member Carr motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver at 12:26 P.M.