



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly  
Regular Meeting Minutes Teleconference  
Monday, December 19, 2022 – 1:00 P.M.  
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

### CALL TO ORDER

Acting President Sampson called the meeting to order at 1:02 P.M. Member Carr asked if this is Budget, Audit & Finance, or regular meeting.

### INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Loon provided invocation.

### SAFETY MOMENT

Acting President Sampson reminded everyone to stay safe while traveling, trail stalking is continuing. Cautious people, in event storm is coming, alert family when traveling.

### ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

<i>Elmer Armstrong Jr.</i>	<i>Austin Swan Sr.</i>	<i>Dood Lincoln Carr</i>	<i>Walter Sampson</i>
<i>Miles Cleveland Sr.</i>	<i>Sandy Shroyer Beaver</i>	<i>Hannah Loon</i>	<i>Delores Barr</i>
<i>Reid Magdanz</i>	<i>Nathan Hadley Jr.</i>		

#### Excused

Tanya Ballot

#### Introduction of Staff and Guests

<i>Dickie Moto Sr.</i>	<i>Stella Atoruk</i>	<i>Carl Weisner</i>	<i>Fritz Westlake Sr.</i>
<i>Angie Sturm</i>	<i>Jaime Schaeffer</i>	<i>Shayne Schaeffer</i>	<i>Tessa Baldwin</i>
<i>Marlene Moto-Karl</i>	<i>Hiram Walker</i>	<i>Chloe Belflower</i>	<i>Brittney Sweeney</i>
<i>Alex Hanson</i>	<i>Elizabeth Ferguson</i>	<i>Gem Belamour</i>	<i>Saima Chase</i>
<i>Rick Warner</i>	<i>Richard Camilleri</i>	<i>Clay Nordlum</i>	

***Member Carr motion to excuse Member Ballot, seconded by Vice President Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. A quorum presents to conduct business.***

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for approval. Member Loon request to add Brittney and Alex, Fish and Wildlife to provide update on caribou population on communication and appearance.

**Member Loon motioned to approve as amended, Member Magdanz seconded; passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

October 10, 2022, Special meeting minutes, October 25, 2022, regular meeting minutes and November 22, 2022, regular teleconference minutes presented for approval.

***Vice President Shroyer Beaver motion to approve the minutes as a block, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed unanimously by roll call.***

### **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE**

Brittney Sweeny and Alex Hanson provided update on caribou herds, rapid decline. Possible restrictions coming due to low numbers. Acting President asked what residents can do to ensure future numbers. He asked what State and Federal systems is doing to inform the villages of the decline.

Member Carr mentioned in the past there was no adequate count, also what about non-residents or non-local. Member Armstrong asked if there was a recommendation to close hunting on State lands. Member Loon mentioned possibly Kotzebue isn't reporting too. President Hadley hopes a study is done; patterns change.

Member Cleveland suggests meetings be held in the villages, people want to blame the Ambler Road and it's not constructed yet. Acting President asked if State have any ideas of what type of proposals will be submitted. He suggests inviting Western Arctic and Fish and Wildlife to future meeting to provide an update to the Assembly.

### **BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

*Borough Treasurer Sturm provided a summary of financial report ending November 30, 2022. Member Magdanz asked what AMLIP account is used for. Member Loon raised concern of over budget items, what is the process of an amendment. Also, what year or percent is recommended to reduce funding on some project spending of VIF funds.*

### **PUBLIC HEARING, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

No ordinances presented.

### **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

*Member Cleveland mentioned that he attended an ICC that morning, discussed annual meeting scheduled June 16-23, 2023, in Greenland. Donation requests will be sent out soon, if any questions can call Marie Greene, ICC Chairperson.*

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

*Director Fritz Westlake summarized Community and Economic Development report, upcoming committee meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, scholarship committee on January 15<sup>th</sup> and energy department we have Noatak Solar engineering and design are at 100% complete. Selawik Project is estimated to four million although higher than the other villages. Had received a recognition for Shungnak/Kobuk solar project, couple representatives were invited to National Award ceremony; grand prize is \$10,000 for IPP.*

Member Magdanz commend putting six pack class this November, useful certifications for our residents to have. Glad to see Borough doing this opportunity, also good to see bulk fuel on radar.

*Director Tessa Baldwin summarized Public Safety report, recently met with commission; next meeting scheduled April 13-14, 2023. Had received an intent award from Alaska Housing Finance, one of three organizations that have been slated for full funded project;*



*which is for Buckland joint venture with NWABSD. Winter trail stakes are in progress, 11 of 17 trails fully stakes and inspected. Waiting for MOU from Shungnak and Buckland. VPSO program is moving forward, scheduling meeting with Director hopefully go to a village next month.*

Member Magdanz asked about Department of Public Safety is now telling us we are capped although thought had commitment on one for every village. Are they stepping back? What do we need to pay attention to in Juneau next year?

*Member Armstrong asked if Kobuk Lake was staked or not? Member Carr mentioned that we have different ice conditions this year; thankful for the guys to trail staking throughout the region.*

*Director Carl Weisner summarized Public Services report; community assistance program is available. Kivalina Road and garage project, had three attempts to get the technician to Kivalina. Thankful for State of Alaska monies for ice roads at \$300,000 which is more that we have gotten before. Just received two palets for the grave diggers and casket making, a palet will go to every community.*

*Member Armstrong asked what type of tools and equipment for grave digging? Member Carr asked if Kotzebue is included. Member Magdanz thank Director Weisner for report, does the left-over monies go to Assembly budget or additional equipment bought? Is this Borough property or gifting to a city or tribe?*

Mayor Moto mentioned we've been busy working on certain projects, trying to move forward. Will schedule a meeting for grant monies spend down, warm storages will be built. Busy meeting, our door is always open.

#### **TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

January 23, 2023, for Budget, Audit and Finance along with work session, regular meeting scheduled January 24, 2023. *Member Carr asked Mayor if Assembly will have finance meeting at that time?*

Break observed 2:30 P.M., reconvened at 2:42 P.M.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

No ordinances presented.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 22-74** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving an Assembly donation under the FY23 budget for the Kobuk 440 Racing Association, and for related purposes.*

*Member Carr asked if she could make an amendment to the resolution? Mayor Moto summarized; he recommended do pass.*

*Member Carr motion to make a friendly amendment to Resolution 22-74 to amount of*

*\$10,000; really appreciated budget submitted with request; seconded by Member Loon. Roll call held to change amount, motion denied with four yes and five no.*

**Member Magdanz motion to approve Resolution 22-74, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed by majority by roll call vote with four no and six yes.** *Member Carr expressed her concerns of donation requests and why she requested an amendment.*

2. **Resolution 22-75** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving an Assembly donation under the FY23 budget for the City of Kotzebue Fire Department, and for related purposes.*

*Vice President Shroyer Beaver asked Legal Camilleri if she should abstain because she sits on City of Kotzebue City Council. Member Armstrong wished a budget was included, also names of other contributors. President Hadley requested Mayor's recommendation.*

Mayor Moto summarized, recommend do pass. Acting President Sampson asked EMS Captain Chloe Belflower for stats, number of medivac and pick ups from airport with the ten villages.

*Member Carr appreciates the budget that show who else donations; mentioned City has the liquor store. They should seek other monies from different entities in the Region. Would like to see statistics verses ambulances calls, medivac to have an idea of how busy; appreciate that in future requests.*

*Member Armstrong mentioned when we did annual budget, the Fire Department did request for monies but this says for ambulance. Member Loon asked if they collect from insurance or something from the family? Also, have been generous with needs and asks although we have unfortunate incidents in small communities where there is no fire equipment. Appreciate your work and commitment.*

*Member Armstrong echo earlier comment about no language of ambulance; in June when did annual budget we already donated to ambulance service but this states for Fire Department. Know working on getting buildings in each villages; If this is going to be an annual request then we shouldn't leave out the other villages. Otherwise amend to give all.*

Member Magdanz mentioned in the resolution it states entire region and contribution requests, fire department operates the ambulance and not Maniilaq. *Member Carr requests for future requests to include who get funding from; time to talk to NWALT that these services are region-wide. Ask that City of Kotzebue provide detailed report.*

Mayor Moto asked Finance Treasurer to provide the past process of these donations. Member Loon ensure local equity, friendly amendment to the amount? Member Armstrong



mentioned that he supports although would like details, like the budget what is it used for?

*Member Shroyer Beaver asked Treasurer Sturm if this is the annual amount for the new fiscal year, correct? City has applied every year; they should know they need to provide documents. Without the organizations the City of Kotzebue wouldn't be able to provide these services.*

EMS Belflower provided stats ending November 2022 for the Assembly. *Member Carr echo comment about detailed information to justify the services; not only from City or anyone requesting funds from Borough.*

**Member Magdanz motion to approve Resolution 22-75, seconded by Vice President Shroyer Beaver; motion passed by majority with Vice President Shroyer Beaver abstaining by roll call vote.**

3. **Resolution 22-76** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting a donation from Teck Alaska for a Solar PV/Battery Project in the Community of Noatak, Alaska, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Moto summarized, recommend do pass.

**Member Armstrong motion to approve Resolution 22-76, seconded by Member Magdanz; motion passed by majority with Member Loon not participating.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business presented.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session held.

#### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

*Deering Resident Marlene Moto-Karl called regarding musk ox; wonder if should hunt, more than caribou. Also, in regard to ambulance, when medivac they bill insurance. Wish had a VPSO there in Deering, should just change to Sheriff.*

#### **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

*Member Cleveland mentioned he was glad he stayed home during AML, good short meeting. Merry Christmas.*

*Member Armstrong give condolences to families that lost loved ones. Good meeting, good discussions and better understanding on what funding. Merry Christmas and happy new year. Be safe.*

*Member Barr give condolences to those that lost loved ones. Hopeful for finance workshop which will make easier to decide on donation requests. Merry Christmas and*

*Happy new year, stay safe.*

*Member Swan appreciated discussions on these issues. Enjoy holidays, Merry Christmas from his home to your home.*

*Member Carr sends condolences. Mayor Moto and President Hadley, we need a better picture of our financial matters. On the few resolutions, it says Borough has budget of \$425,000 which is false leading; careful on what we fund. Our charges are education, health and safety and police coverage. Thank Assembly and Nathan for us to be part of lobbying, very informed. Thank Nathan and Dickie at AML, Borough was upfront going after funds available. Thank you for good meeting.*

Member Loon thank you for good discussion, good meeting to Mayor and staff. Condolences to those that lost loved ones. Sad time for most of us, seek out and don't be ashamed to reach out.

Member Magdanz thank you to Assembly and community members calling in. Echo Member Barr and Member Carr's comments on financial planning. We need to seek additional monies, come up a plan; possibly lower donation amounts. Wish everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Maybe happy or sad, find peace and what you need during this season.

*Vice President Shroyer Beaver also sends condolences to those that lost loved ones. Show compassion, pray for them. Stay warm. Those that travel, let someone know where you are going. Will be good to go back to regular routine of baf/work session. To the staff, thank you; Assembly enjoy family time. Happy holidays.*

Acting President Sampson mentioned good meeting, apologize for thinking work session. Thank Mayor and staff for work that is done, services provided throughout the region. He suggest inviting State of Alaska Federal System and working group, Northwest Caribou Working Group to provide a report. Critical we keep on top of this issue; people will be hurting if regulations are reduced. Democracy at work today, each one have view point; when we leave the chambers we leave as friends. Wish everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and may it be safe.

*President Hadley thank Sampson for running the meeting. Thank Mayor Moto and staff for work going forward. Solar paneling got an award, important we keep supporting renewable energy. Appreciate Public Services working on Kivalina. Also, thank you to Public Safety; Maniilaq recognized the VPSO Program and partnership with School District. Working with Mayor Moto on a date for finance retreat.*

#### **MAYORS COMMENTS**

Mayor Moto thankful for being on top of the finances, working with our people. Thank you, Assembly, for voting. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and have a safe holiday.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Loon motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Magdanz at 3:43 P.M.

