



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 25, 2020 – 9:00 A.M.  
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Lincoln Carr called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

**INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Member Cleveland provided invocation.

**SAFETY MOMENT**

Member Sampson asked for everyone to be cautious while traveling, quick snow machines although may get caught in weather conditions. Be aware.

Member Cleveland mentioned an Elder stated on VHF, when traveling you should bring couple trash bags which is helpful if

**ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL**

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

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

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Lucy S. Nelson	Coltrane Chase	Angie Sturm	Matt Mead
Nelda Swan	Siikauraq Whiting	Aucha Kameroff	Nate Kotch
Joy Williams	Megan Williams	Terri Walker	Susan Georgette
Alex Hansen	Margaret Hansen	Wesley Early	Anna Sturm
Noah Naylor	Charlie Gregg	Jamie Schaeffer	Fred Smith
Brittney Sweeny	Eugene Smith	Helena Hildreth	Stella Atoruk

Absent Kyleigha Wilson-Nay

**A quorum was present to conduct business. Member Swan request to be excused for ten minutes, going to NANA office.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda presented for February 25, 2020. Mayor Nelson recommend adding Resolution 20-09 and 20-10, although Governor Dunleavy is listed, he is unsure of calling in. Mayor Nelson also request to add Susan Georgette with Selawik Wildlife & Refuge and Alex Hansen with Fish & Wildlife for an update.

**Member Sampson motioned to approve as amended; Member Cleveland seconded; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**



### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Joint meeting minutes of Northwest Arctic Borough School District and Northwest Arctic Borough of December 16-18, 2019 and Regular minutes presented of December 19, 2019.

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

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

Ms. Susan Georgette, Selawik Wildlife Refuge and Mr. Alex Hansen, U.S. Fish & Game provided an update of recent activities. Ms. Georgette provided a brief summary of the Western Caribou Arctic Herd meeting held recently; mission is to ensure long term conservation of the herd and maintain the traditional and other uses for benefit for everyone.

Mrs. Georgette thank Mr. Nathan Hadley Sr. of Buckland, guest Elder at the meeting who spoke of reindeer herding and impact of caribou. Also, discussed climate change along with permafrost and vegetation. Mr. Hansen mentioned that there was a removal of bull closure, now year-round for bull season. Also, removal of closure of calf harvest.

Member Sampson remembered back in 2011 the caribou were rotten; what causes the numbers to go down. How much of a herd is State concerned has been taken; is Fish & Wildlife thinking of bounties of wolves? Vice President Lincoln Carr mentioned she don't see as much likin, what has the climate affected it?

Member Swan joined back in.

Mayor Nelson mentioned Governor Dunleavy can't join although she discussed their conversation of this past Sunday regarding of this Borough with crimes and concerns of drugs and alcohol. Have forwarded numerous resolutions that were forwarded addressing canine dogs and presence in the communities which take time, cost and training; will be addressed at commission level.

Mayor Nelson mentioned there was asked of having a VPSO in Noorvik or AST; in order to add another position Borough needs a grant supplement. Also, need applicants that can pass background checks and trying to address the concerns. There are ways residents that can help by calling and working with law enforcement; call narcotics 18007893222 after hours. Biggest message: if you see something say something; call 911 or local law enforcement.

Mrs. Aucha Kameroff stated while in Juneau she has received the email from Village of Noorvik requested a Trooper and or VPSO to be present. She informed the State representatives of the use of drugs in Noorvik, she asked for their help to get a Trooper stationed. Although Mrs. Kameroff heard one of the Troopers here were sent to Dillingham to cover while we have a dire need. She has reached out to different regions to see if they have any available VPSO's to fill in at Noorvik. Mrs. Kameroff encourage to report to Trooper of any activity; don't be afraid. Together as people we can make changes happen.

Member Sampson mentioned AML Board met with the Governor Dunleavy; his message if you have qualified VPSO's let him know and will hire them. Administration is doing what they



can do to hire, this has been discussed for years. Why not have a program that the Troopers have? How many Troopers are here in Kotzebue?

Mrs. Angie Sturm mentioned she works for Borough and live in Noorvik; she drafted the letter that gotten 77 signatures. When the village faces violence and no precautions; two individuals shooting in a home then arson in a home both where children are occupied. Threats of violence are heard daily on VHF; going to continue to place pressure on this body, State and regional organizations until they get someone in Noorvik.

Member Shroyer Beaver commend Mrs. Sturm for coming forward; we know there are problems with drugs & alcohol. She looks at the buyer which should have consequences too. Thankful Buckland came forward too. If we want changes, community members need to start assisting.

Member Armstrong mentioned he talked with Governor Dunleavy during AML about a VPSO in Noorvik; had a lockdown during a holiday. Mrs. Sturm stated Noorvik is looking for Borough to provide a public safety public officer because of the level of violence is not acceptable; she will continue to put pressure on this Assembly and Regional organizations until they have one. Selma Newlin Tournament is coming up, a lot of drunk driving; March 17-28<sup>th</sup> is the dates.

Member Sampson stated this have been discussed number of years; think to put Legal to work. What is legal and what is not legal to move forward to work through restrictions. Member Shroyer Beaver stated we need to be part of the solution; it's not only our Region that don't have Public Safety. Need to find the applicants, on this Assembly level we shall discuss how can we make changes and make this work.

Vice President Carr stated we need residents to call in what you have seen, please call 800 number. Thank Mayor and Aucha to continuously with Senator, State Rep and Governor.

Mayor Nelson recognize Mr. Chuck Greene thankful for leadership. He had served as Mayor, Economic Development and Village infrastructure. Vice President Carr thank him for work done.

Member Loon joined.

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

Madam Chair Shroyer Beaver provided a brief summary of the Budget, Audit & Finance meeting the previous day.

Mrs. Angie Sturm provided a summary of financials ending January 31, 2020.

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

1. **Ordinance 19-09** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Code to establish joint Budget, Audit, Finance Committee/Assembly work session meetings, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 19-09, recommend do pass.

**Member Sampson motion to enact Ordinance 19-09, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

### **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

Member Shroyer Beaver mentioned she attend AML; a lot of good discussion on Real ID, VPSO and promises from the Governor.

Member Loon mentioned she also attended Alaska Municipal League, learning experience working with Legislators about Finances. Learned there will be fifteen Troopers recruited for non-urbanized areas, good to hear. Discussed Marine Highway too. Legislatures say we are in deficit era although with current budget the school bond debt had been discussed. Thank you for allowing to attend.

### **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Nelson summarized reports ending February.

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

**Member Sampson recommend meeting March 16-17, 2020, he motion using calendar.** Mayor Nelson mentioned 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday is March 23-24, 2020, curious why the week before. Vice Chair recommend call of the Chair and inform Assembly. Member Loon recommend call of Chair also depending on how many items.

Member Armstrong mentioned March 23-24, 2020 sounds good. **Member Sampson rescind motion.** Mayor Nelson mentioned the FY20 amendment and FY21 budget will be presented. Member Shroyer echo Member Loon's comment; call of the chair.

### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

1. **Ordinance 20-01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Code for the Frank R. Ferguson Scholarship Program, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-01, recommend do pass.

President Hadley joined.

**Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Ordinance 20-01 as presented, seconded by Member Armstrong; motion passed by majority with one no voting by roll call.**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 20-01** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Native Village of Kivalina IRA Council for construction of an Electric Intertie, and for related purposes.*



Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-01, recommend do pass.

**Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 20-01, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

2. **Resolution 20-02** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Native Village of Shungnak for purchase of a dump truck, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-02, recommend do pass.

**Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 20-02, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

3. **Resolution 20-03** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the City of Kobuk for wastewater drain field improvements, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-03, recommend do pass.

**Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 20-03, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

4. **Resolution 20-04** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the City of Kobuk for water source improvements, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-04, recommend do pass.

**Member Cleveland motion to approve Resolution 20-04, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

5. **Resolution 20-05** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Northwest Arctic Borough School District for its Food Service Program, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-05, recommend do pass. Member Shroyer Beaver glad the school offers breakfast. President Hadley mentioned he may have questions although pressed for time; understanding the Federal Lunch Rate Program and raise concern of attendance or students eating at school or not.

Member Shroyer Beaver suggest further discussion along with clarity of VIF actions and

the school has a problem with not knowing what their budgets are. Member Sampson echo comment to discuss at Retreat.

Member Joule asked Legal of conflict of interest of his family member having a contract with School District, can you clarify. Vice President Carr mentioned she didn't support yesterday because it's not Borough's monies, it's VIF; believe School District can seek grants and other funding. Remember VIF is for village wishes for the past twenty plus years in infrastructure.

President Hadley mentioned with Federal Program the School can't go for other grants, once received they can't get grants. Vice President suggest using reserves.

**Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 20-05, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed by majority with six yes and five no by roll call vote.**

6. **Resolution 20-06** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Northwest Arctic Borough School District for its Inupiaq Language Program, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-06, recommend do pass.

**Member Armstrong motion to approve Resolution 20-06, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed by majority with six yes and five no by roll call vote.**

7. **Resolution 20-07** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Northwest Arctic Borough School District for its Pre-Kindergarten Program, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-07, recommend do pass.

**Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 20-07, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed by majority with one no vote by roll call.**

8. **Resolution 20-08** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly supporting Chukchi Campus and recognizing the longstanding partnership between Chukchi College and the Northwest Arctic Borough.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-08, recommend do pass.

**Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 20-08, seconded by Member Armstrong; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**



9. **Resolution 20-09** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly supporting the 2020 Census.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-09, recommend do pass.

**Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 20-09, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

10. **Resolution 20-10** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract with Gustavo Hernandez/General Contractor for building maintenance, repair, and construction services, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-10, recommend do pass. Mr. Eugene Smith, Vice President of KIC asked whom the bidders were, along with rankings, license and bond to winner. Raised concern of process to protest this; KIC had submitted a bid, although when asked questions they didn't get the response until night before bid closing.

Vice President Carr asked Legal what timeframe to file? From today? Mr. Smith asked if local bidders were used as noted on the procurement policy. Member Sampson asked for definition of local bidder. Mr. Smith mentioned they weren't notified they can protest; it wasn't on yesterday's agenda that is why he left. Now exceeded protest period, under the table he believes.

Member Joule asked if there is a checklist for the RFP process. Member Shroyer Beaver mentioned the process needs to be clear along with protest period; isn't there a process to notify the parties that weren't selected. Member Loon is concerned of the process; KIC is a native corporation which we shall be supportive of. Legal Mead stated Borough cannot have this preference.

Member Sampson asked in event we move forward, and KIC protest; legally where do we stand?

**Member Cleveland motion to approve Resolution 20-10, seconded by Member Loon; motion failed with eight no and two yes by roll call vote, Member Barr on the plane.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None presented.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None held.



### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Mrs. Margaret Hansen, Northwest Arctic Borough School Board President thank those that voted yes funding their programs. She mentioned Vice President Carr has a good question, they do have monies set aside which half are set aside for certain programs. Another duplex will be built in Kivalina, getting ready for the new school. They appreciate the funds, have been asking to increase the local contribution to education. Mrs. Hansen mentioned they will continue to make cuts. Currently going through teacher negotiations, trying to keep salaries competitive.

Mrs. Megan Williams mentioned State of Alaska reimburse small amount for breakfast and lunch although not for seconds. With the monies they will be able to serve seconds. Mrs. Hansen gladly announced they have been granted a community attendance specialist to help students and families to get higher rates.

President Hadley thank them for the clarification; Alaska gets the highest amount because of cost of living. He raised concern of school asking whom all will eat there or not for lunch. Member Shroyer mentioned in the past we'd meet jointly; possibly have someone from School District attend our Retreat during this School District conversation. Regarding the language program, she doesn't know much of the program and don't know what your asking. What are the Regional Elders doing? What Language Commission is doing? And School District is doing?

Member Loon mentioned working the curriculum and is happy to say she can design her own lessons, in real life; like Joe Sun say the language is from fifty years ago is in same status today.

Mrs. Hansen really appreciate Borough's savings for general fund; plan and keep money just like them. Think when you work on your budgets, what is your role for the future leaders of our Region to help the kids in the classroom. School District keep coming for contribution to education, think when vote and plan future for our kids. Thank you.

### **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Member Shroyer Beaver mentioned in Juneau today they are presenting to the committee about having an Ashley Johnson Barr day, falls back on domestic violence. Apologize saying save because she wants the buyers and sellers to be punished. We need to continue to be after, we deserve it; we should not fear in our own communities.

Member Armstrong enjoyed this good meeting and discussions. He recommends Administration help villages look for grants to improve fire department in the villages; had a house fire which wasn't good. Possibly seek funding city governments to increase policing. Have NWALT work together to get DMV to the villages for Real ID. Thank you.

Member Joule stated interesting couple days to grasp gray areas that have unanswered questions; that is why he voted the way he did. Once we get full language and grasp, point of view. Our leaders start at home with parents, to stand up against drugs and alcohol. Enough is enough, we know who they are; you've got the number to call. Look forward to next few days of the Retreat in Anchorage to get a better understanding. Thank you.



Member Cleveland in Inupiaq. Thank you, our Native tongue is not the way we talk when we grow up. Elders dying off with the language, we need to do our best keeping it up best we can. Thank you for good meeting. About the drugs and alcohol, need to keep tabs in post office; coming through the mail heard through mistaken phone calls. Sometimes his wife and him are the safety place for families that need, gladly provide. Glad the VPSO program will elevate one day. Thank you.

Member Oviok no weapons form against our Region will prosper, shed light to our villages; we need help with meth. Thank you for good discussions. Friends Church will have conference in Selawik, invite you all 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Mayor and Assembly, for working together, integrity.

Youth Representative Chase mentioned it's important that children are number one, they are our future leaders.

Member Sampson in Inupiaq. Thank Assembly for good meeting; decisions to be made, sometimes we have our differences which is good. Thank Mayor and staff for good meeting, thank you to audience. Lot of issues, some will be discussed at the Retreat. Remember we are talking of future of our children and communities. We as people have a responsibility to make sure our Inupiaq Language is alive, tough decision as leaders.

Member Loon thank audience for attending. She had been reminded from AML that something we get and don't get. Thank you to Mayor Nelson, staff and youth representatives. Yes, children are practically raising sibling which we see. Be safe, also recommend for someone from VIF attend our Retreat as it will be discussed.

Vice President Carr thank Arctic Circle Racing Association, volunteers did an awesome job with Iron Dog. Thank Teck for presentation yesterday. During the session yesterday she recommends Mayor to work with NWALT to get a bus for the children walking to school in this -25 below weather. Constituent contact her regarding snow removal, how to get their snow removed. Recommend to Mayor to investigate. Real ID had been discussed, who will pay for it? Possibly deduct from PFD. Public Safety, ultimate priority of this Assembly and Administration; we need to find a way for the kids to feel safe. We have our charge and School District have their charge. When the Assembly is voting, please be respectful; again, the monies is not Borough's, it's VIC's. Thank you for being here.

President Hadley wish all high school teams for upcoming Regionals; sportsmanship is important and to parents rally your kids. Good luck. For future of Borough, we are trying to sustain Borough; monies are put aside to work on regardless of future. This Borough provides a lot of help to the villages and would like to see continue happening. Thank you.

### **MAYORS COMMENTS**

Mayor Nelson thank the audience for attending, difficult to make hard decisions. Thank residents that correspond to her regarding any important matters. Remind elected officials APOC is due March 15<sup>th</sup>. Regionals coming up, March will be busy month. Good luck to basketball teams, granddaughter in Middle School tournament in Noatak. Wish I can be there.



Mayor Nelson mentioned when you look at budget as Mrs. Hansen said, there is this spreadsheet although there is debt and bills. Considerations will be made, what our positions and charge is. Good meeting appreciates everyone's involvement. Look forward to the Retreat.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Sampson motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Loon at 11:31 A.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stille Aarut". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

