



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 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 mentioned with weather conditions periodically going into storms and high winds; lots of high water, sure Kobuk Lake has water underneath light snow. Cautious if your traveling, in the event then someone will check on you. We've got this Coronavirus that has been an issue; need to work together as one. Look after each other, there is always a need especially Elders. Thank Tanya Ballot of Selawik gave a good message, Elders in place that are in need, if you're not doing anything come over to IRA and hunt for Elders. Thank you.

Member Armstrong mentioned to be precautious during these times, wash hands and abide by State and CDC. People that are going out, use precautious when hunting for communities.

Member Sampson spoke in Inupiaq, let the listening audience know about the Coronavirus.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

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

Introduction of Staff and Guests

<i>Lucy S. Nelson</i>	<i>Coltrane Chase</i>	<i>Matt Mead</i>	<i>Kyleigha Wilson-Nay</i>
<i>Nelda Swan</i>	<i>Angie Sturm</i>	<i>Jed Dixon</i>	<i>Siikauraq Whiting</i>
<i>Aucha Kameroff</i>	<i>Nate Kotch</i>	<i>Elia Nay</i>	<i>Jonathan Hutchinson</i>
<i>Fred Smith</i>	<i>Jamie Schaeffer</i>	<i>Scotty Barr</i>	<i>Helena Hildreth</i>
<i>Marlene Moto-Karl</i>	<i>Stella Atoruk</i>		

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 March 25, 2020. Mayor Nelson recommend adding Resolution 20-12 regarding Covid-19. *President Hadley request to add Executive Session regarding H and I.* Mayor Nelson asked what the purpose of the Executive Session.

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Special of January 17, 2020 and regular minutes of February 25, 2020 for approval.

Member Sampson motion to approve minutes as a block, *Member Cleveland* seconded; motion passed unanimously by roll call.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Crowley Dock Update, Jed Dixon summarized his power point presentation. Member Sampson asked if Crowley is looking at pipe replacement within the area of the facility; is there plans to replace at other facilities that you deliver fuel to in Kotzebue? How do you plan on addressing local hire of the job?

Vice President Lincoln Carr appreciates what Crowley is doing with putting snow on the berm, concerned for people that aren't familiar with area. She suggests marking the ramp area although unsure of whom is responsible. Mr. Smith asked if it impacts the contaminated fuel on front street? Member Shroyer asked what the revetment mats, what will that do? She was hoping it would be blocked off due to the current.

Member Sampson asked if there are any plans to have a public meeting regarding the upgrades of the facility? This is critical information for residents to know. Vice President Lincoln Carr appreciates the two lights which are landmarks. *Member Armstrong* asked if Crowley will be communicating with the villages during the project that purchase from them.

Member Joule asked if the start date will affect the fuel delivery operations. Mr. Smith asked if the sheet pile will be any higher than the current, concerned about snow build up that could impact the snow machine trail in front of the dock. *Mrs. Nay* asked when the project work will begin.

Member Swan joined.

Vice President Lincoln Carr asked about where the road closure will be. Member Sampson said with what is happening today although suggests Crowley plan on how to hold a public meeting to provide information locally and to the villages. Vice President Lincoln Carr expressed her gratitude on Drake Construction getting the contract.

Mrs. Whiting appreciated the presentation, glad Mr. Dixon reached out asking how to share the information. She lives next door to Crowley, concerned about jagged ice wintertime. *Mrs. Whiting* asked him if Crowley supports any youth projects or what does an entity should do. Also, this summer will be loud; for a parameter that live in the homes near by she asked for reduction in cost of fuel or stove oil as they deal with the noise.

Mayor Nelson thank Mr. Dixon for allowing questions and providing updates. President Hadley thank you for presentation. Vice President Lincoln Carr looks forward to information in April, possibly someone locally can present.

Member Loon joined.

Cape Blossom Update, Jonathan Hutchinson summarized his power point presentation. He added that there are four construction projects in the area. Selawik foot bridge being constructed, Kivalina Road Project & School, Kotzebue repave and Cape Blossom. Member Loon asked about where the local match will come from? Borough or somewhere else? What about the subsurface; organic matter or ice matter, how do we keep the ice to remain frozen?

Mrs. Nay asked about material needed to construct, what type and estimated amount. President Hadley asked about different type of material, does that have to do with percentage of silk?

Member Sampson mentioned we've been seeking good base material for the road; as noted there are other sources in our area, possibly meet with NANA and owner of the Red Dog Road. Is there any thought into going into State sources, within Noatak, Kivalina or Wulik River?

Mayor Nelson asked Mr. Hutchinson to clarify not certain if will receive fair bid. Vice President Lincoln Carr asked if it will be open for bid. Also, asked when will Borough be able to get reimbursed for the material now that the schedule is later than sooner. Which may need to adjust our budget.

Member Sampson mentioned potential source is private landowners which it's up to them if they have it depending on how BLM gave title to individual owners. *Legal Mead asked Mr. Hutchinson if there are any changes on the cost estimates as projecting.*

Resident Marlene Moto-Karl called regarding gravel extraction around the beaches along the river; shouldn't get from there because boats can't come in the river. She suggests talking to Elders from there, they know what type of gravel to use. Also, concerned about erosion along the bluffs and other places throughout Alaska.

Mr. Hutchinson provided a link to the preliminary design plans which will be updated insulation board by end of the week. Contact him if any questions or comments. He has been on the project the past few years; thank you to local stake holders especially Borough that invested time, energy and money to keep project moving forward. Appreciate efforts until done.

Mayor Nelson thank Mr. Hutchinson for calling in, look forward to moving forward. Thank you.

Break observed at 10:54 A.M.

Reconvened at 11:11 A.M.

Member Armstrong asked if leaving Scotty Barr on agenda although haven't heard from him.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Madam VP Carr provided a brief summary of the Budget, Audit & Finance meeting the previous day. Mayor Nelson added recommend do pass for Resolution 20-12.

Mayor Nelson summarized the Budget work session which was held on Monday and Tuesday. Happy to discuss every line item in detail of the FY21 budget.

Member Shroyer Beaver mentioned she called in the AML session regarding Covid19, importance of health safety.

Member Sampson mentioned he couldn't attend the AML Board; he had attended Rural CAP Executive conference call.

Mayor Nelson mentioned a Covid19 task force which includes every community and organization, meeting started March 16th. Also, a multi-agency group to cover certain areas of incident command; we have our own within the Borough consisting of Mayor Nelson, Carl Weisner, Saima Chase and Paula Octuck. A declaration has been issued along with two proclamations provided sent to every village. Next meeting tomorrow.

Mrs. Angie Sturm provided a summary of financials ending February 29, 2020. *Member Cleveland asked about the PILT revenue? Is that the VIF fund?*

Mr. Scotty Barr of Kotzebue called on behalf of family of Ashley Johnson-Barr, thank you for help and effort during September 2018. He has a copy of Memoriam he would like to provide to Borough. Vice President Lincoln Carr let Mr. Barr that we continue to pray for you and family, thank you for speaking up to get the bill signed. Thank you to Member Joule for attending the bill signing.

Member Sampson appreciate presentation. It's a matter of this governance now to on annual basis on what State has enforced to protect children. Appreciate time and effort. Member Loon thank Mr. Barr for all post, when wear purple and admire ribbons; makes us aware to watch our children closely. Thank you. Member Shroyer Beaver echo comments; we need police force in all villages and continue to go forward. We can't settle with what we are receiving, continue what you are doing. Thank you. *Elder Representative share Proverb 3-6.*

President Hadley mentioned during the lobbying trip had an opportunity to see Representative Lincoln present bill to representatives; thank you for courage coming forward and speaking out. Mayor Nelson stated that March 12th is in remembrance of Ashley Johnson-Barr, very moving. Member Swan thank you Mr. Barr, praying for your family.

Mr. Barr continue to thank the communities, Borough and our Region. Appreciate the time, God bless you too. Have a great day. Vice President Lincoln Carr let him know they have our prayers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Hadley motion to go into Executive Session at 11:42 AM to discuss potential matters that may affect the Borough financially, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Reconvene at 1:15 P.M.

Legal Mead mentioned Assembly had no action taken although recommendation to Administration on how to present certain budget items.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY 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. Member Shroyer asked about proof of actual residency or be a resident. Member Sampson raised concern of the resident moving and having to change it under State law. Vice President Lincoln Carr mentioned too much of grey area; so much money and this is where we serve the constituent of the Borough.

Member Loon believes this is like the burial assistance, its her understanding it would be only residents applying for further education. She would like to clarify the residence.

Member Sampson motion to enact Ordinance 20-01 as presented, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; Vice President Carr asked the motion maker to concur, both concur. motion passed by majority with one no voting by roll call on amended language.

Member Sampson is concerned about constituents moving to school and if they decide to take a break that it is used against them.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Sampson mentioned his wasn't able attend AML Board, he had an Executive Meeting with Rural CAP and another one this week as well.

Vice President Lincoln Carr mentioned she went to Juneau for the lobbying trip; our Mayor and Administration are still fighting for monies for VPSO's and too fix up housing in villages. Got a meeting with Governor Dunleavy while there, we were promised Public Safety and we are still where we were.

Mayor Nelson mentioned the priority list have submitted to the lobbyist of the capital projects that we'd like to ensure are extended into different phases like Cape Blossom, also housing for VPSO, fire safety equipment, emergency equipment, various heavy equipment and housing repairs for VPSO. Also, witness Representative Lincoln presentation to the House Bill 101 for March 12th as Ashley Johnson-Barr.

Member Joule also attended the Bill Signing when Governor Dunleavy signed along with Senator Olsen and Staff Member Seth Beaver who spear headed the day. Hats off to all.

Member Armstrong mentioned he called in a teleconference Joint Construction Maintenance Committee; an evaluation teleconference, another committee meeting on the 30th.

Member Swan mentioned had a positive lobbying trip, good feedback from Senator and Representatives.

Member Oviok good to hear good committee reports plus the Retreat, good meeting.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Nelson summarized reports ending February, have been busy with the Covid19 task force. *Member Armstrong asked if there were two departures in the VPSO's Program?* Mayor Nelson mentioned a former VPSO have been rehired although discussing relocation expenses.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Member Sampson recommends next Assembly meeting April 27-28, 2020 telephonically. Member Loon recommends a whole day for budget process for April 20-21 and regular meeting on 23rd Wednesday if she may, at call of the chair. Vice President Lincoln Carr appreciates calling in and limiting in person in the Assembly Room. *Member Cleveland recommend call of the chair, unsure if able to travel or not.*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Vice President Lincoln Carr asked if the rewording in the budget or as is? Mayor Nelson mentioned Mrs. Sturm will make necessary changes on decrease and cost of living, also make adjustments that were recommended.

1. **Ordinance 19-02am02** *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 summarized Ordinance 19-02am02, recommend do pass.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Ordinance 19-02am02 as presented, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. **Ordinance 20-02** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Code to remove the selection process for appointment of an Assembly Elder Representative, and for related purposes.*

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

Member Sampson motion to approve Ordinance 20-02, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

3. **Ordinance 20-03** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Personnel Code.*

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

Member Sampson motion to approve Ordinance 20-03, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

4. **Ordinance 20-04** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line-item budget for Fiscal Year 2021.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-04; Assembly recommend removing cost of living of 3%; recommend do pass.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Ordinance 20-04, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 20-11** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a contract with Northern Energy Technology, LLC to conduct a Heat Pump Pilot Study in Kotzebue, Alaska, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-11; she noted Mr. Mathiasson stated due to Covid 19 it may be delayed, recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 20-11, seconded by Member Joule; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. **Resolution 20-12** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly ratifying and extending the Mayor's declaration of disaster emergency proclamation for Covid-19, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-12, recommend do pass.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 20-12, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. Member Sampson in Inupiaq for the listening audience.

OTHER BUSINESS

None presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None held.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mrs. Nay mentioned she have been attending meeting regarding Covid 19, pay attention to notices and on personal note take a break from news now and then.

Marlene Moto-Karl, Deering Resident called regarding Elders/Disabled; do they help disabled people too? There are couple disabled, they should get help year-round. Also, Kotzebue liquor store should shut down wintertime; save the villages from all the heartache. Thank you for keeping up on virus.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Cleveland mentioned good meeting. God is our refuge and strength, in every presence and health and in trouble; thank to that shared on VHF this morning. Back in the day, not technology and still prepared; our people were prepared. Had remedies from outside of our houses, free remedy; Our Elders can tell us what we need to do. Taikuu good meeting, have a good day. Thank Bering Air and Ravn for ability to fly to villages if needed to for medical.

Member Oviok thank Member Sampson for Inupiaq for listening audience regarding Covid 19. In Selawik they have City, Tribe and Maniilaq to inform the residents. Last few days have been talking budget, good presentations the past couple days. Thank you for updates, good meeting and thank you for verse Member Cleveland. Thank you.

Member Shroyer Beaver mentioned good meeting. Appreciate Member Sampson for talking Inupiaq for the listening audience talking about the virus. Regarding Senate Bill 101 which had been presented, Rural Alaska isn't protected. Hope and pray that the bill reminds them that we are not protected by Public Safety. Juneau staffers are going home, which they lack; those that are interested in politics and how they create bills. Take interest, we aren't going to be here. Be involved. Thank you.

Member Swan in Inupiaq. With self-quarantine and isolation going on, those that are able shall get out of the house occasionally. So do some exercises, go fishing, should be best points of this. Happy communities are working with government, think in good shape considering.

Member Barr good few days of meeting appreciate Mayor and Administration, productive days despite circumstances. To the residents, encourage to abide by the mandates and protocols which are best for our people; can't stress that enough. Thank you.

Member Armstrong mentioned good few days, glad to move forward and work together. Thank the communities that are putting out mandates to help each community. Thank you.

Member Joule mentioned good couple days, good dialogue and believe on same page. Please understand the material from CDC, Governor's office and Mayors regarding concerns of isolation. Do get fresh air, stay safe. Thank you.

Member Loon thank Member Sampson for Inupiaq speaking for listening audience; understand better than the English. Thank Mayor and staff for putting budget together and convey thank you to staff for working out of homes or office. Thank you to Vice President Lincoln Carr for stepping up for BAF and this meeting. Encourage residents to wash hands and no socializing; be aware of Covid. She encourages you all to stock up on food, good time to go fishing. Thank you, have a good day.

Member Sampson thank Mayor and staff for setting up good session, more than we used when by teleconference. To those that didn't understand what he said he talked of the virus. Reminder of all us to work together to address the issue amongst ourselves in the villages, where help is needed; help those that are in need. Thank you.

Vice President Lincoln Carr sends condolences to those that lost loved ones, please don't hesitate to call someone; don't encourage visiting which is most vulnerable by visiting Elders. Suggestion, if someone is coming home; ask them to wear masks and gloves. Stay home. As noted, had a good Retreat; met with many entities that presented to Borough. For the lobbying trip, when they do; they tell our needs and been beneficial when Assembly goes in with a plan. Continually fighting for funding for Public Safety, know we are dealing with needs. Vice President Lincoln Carr asks for school bus for the kids walking, with the present buses there should be something can be done; it's not a dead issue, still trying. Appreciate all Assembly participating help move forward.

President Hadley thank Mayor for putting the budget meeting together and staff for reporting. Thank you to Assembly for working together. To the kids, do your part on keeping clean; respect your Elders and parents. Some day you'll remember this pandemic, important to take care of yourselves. Elders are VIP, very important people; stability to our households, we need them. We need to do our part, do your homeschooling. Thank you.

Youth Representative Wilson-Nay thank Assembly for good meeting, that was a lot. Remind all to be safe as we deal the virus, remind students to work hard on homework. Once again, be isolated not only for your self but for others. Thank you.

Elder Representative Swan thank Borough for information. Thank you, Member Sampson for Inupiaq speaking. Regional Elder's Council had reorganization; Larry Westlake is President; Virginia Commack is Vice President and Nellie from Noorvik is Secretary. Taikuu, only way we can go through; two deaths in Pt. Hope unable to attend due to no passengers on plane unless sick. Be safe, weather is different. Be careful when traveling.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Nelson thank you for all the comments, thank Administration and Assembly for working together; have gone through a lot of information this past few days. Know there was concern of budget transparency; assure you Mrs. Sturm and her work in Finance many years and held to that high standard is their practice to ensure transparency. Thank everyone for working together showing have the right work ethic, strong leadership; thank you for that.

Thank the Incident Command Staff; Carl Weisner, Saima Chase and Paula Octuck for up to date information from Covid force from Emergency Response compiled from each village and all organizations. Thank the multi-agency group; NANA, NWAB, School District and Maniilaq ensure our people are safe. To the residents, help each other when in need. We can provide gas for those that want to go hunting for the Elders in need.

We are seeking ways to deliver ways to deliver packets, find a permanent solution. Be safe. Thank you for the past few days.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to adjourn, seconded by *Member Cleveland* at 2:49 P.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Arant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.