



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 23, 2020 – 9:00 A.M.
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Lincoln Carr called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Loon provided invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Armstrong mentioned it is boating season, wear personal floatation devices and when kids are swimming have an adult supervising. Thank you.

Member Loon mentioned a lot of people have been water skipping while hot out, although please be respectful to the Elders when they are trying to sleep night-time. You can do that during the day; please use a life preserver. Talk to your children, life matters. Be mindful to Elders that rest night-time.

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>Marlene Moto-Karl</i>
<i>Angie Sturm</i>	<i>Siikauraq Whiting</i>	<i>Aucha Kameroff</i>	<i>Jonathan Hutchinson</i>
<i>Helena Hildreth</i>	<i>Fritz Westlake</i>	<i>Carl Weisner</i>	<i>Kyleigha Wilson-Nay</i>
<i>Nate Kotch</i>	<i>Michael Kramer</i>	<i>Molly Hayes</i>	<i>Eric Reuta</i>
<i>Ingemar Mathiasson</i>	<i>John Chase</i>	<i>Elizabeth Ferguson</i>	<i>Corey Mulder</i>
<i>Stella Atoruk</i>			

A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for June 23, 2020. Mayor Nelson request to add Coast Guard to provide an update. *President Hadley request to add Elizabeth Ferguson for introduction to communication.*

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting minutes of May 27, 2020 presented for approval.

Member Sampson motion to approve minutes, Member Loon seconded; passed unanimously by roll call.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Commander Hayes and Erin Reuta, U.S. Coast Guard Commander Hayes mentioned Coast Guard for search and rescue and will be in Kotzebue from July 1st through October 31st. Had the C17 flight and will schedule approximately fifteen people which will complete the Covid19 test before arriving. Marine Safety Task Force will be here July 6th through the 20th along with testing departing Anchorage. She provided her number if there are any questions or for any reach out; 907-463-2208.

Member Cleveland asked if there is a boating accident or search up that far? Vice President Lincoln Carr thank them for attending through teleconference. Commander Hayes thank everyone for hospitality when on the ground, positive experience; thank you.

Subsistence Regional Advisory Update, Michael Kramer Mr. Kramer came to represent himself with this special action request he submitted to Federal Subsistence Board back in April was not during the meeting cycle. Due to that, he had submitted on behalf of himself to shut down all hunting in Game Management Unit 23 because of the Coronavirus and possible spread to all the communities.

Mr. Kramer provided support letters from NANA, Kotzebue IRA and Representative Lincoln; still waiting for Senator Olsen's response. Also attached a letter from Chairman Christensen declining special action request because no validity; a lot of times difficult to get things pass through the Federal Subsistence Board. Mr. Kramer serve with Walter on Advisory Council many years, he taught him to be tough this past twelve to fifteen years.

Member Sampson mentioned Mr. Kramer has good concerns regarding special action petition that he submitted to the Federal Board; Unit 23 gets about 300-400 people coming in to hunt. He is concerned about the drop off hunters because State of Alaska deal with guides although it is the others coming in freely to compete for hunts and this is a temporary special action request. First, Federal Board shall be concerned of the pandemic, if not then they have a problem. This is our Region, why should someone tell us.

Member Sampson suggest inviting Mr. Christensen to explain to this body on what his issues and concerns are. Only protection we have is ANILCA yet State of Alaska is looking at how to tear it up; life may become harder trying to provide for their families. Let us take a different approach if needed; access because they deal with that too.

President Hadley thank Mr. Kramer for presentation, brought a good point of protecting our people where we are not on the road system. Glad that Kotzebue have the mandates to protect everyone. He suggests Mr. Kramer set-up a meeting to plan of action to present to this Assembly.

Member Shroyer Beaver thank Mr. Kramer for presentation although justification is cut and dry, it is justified. Really appreciate villages have strict rules and believe we need that too, a lot of the shelves are empty here too, high prices of meat and chicken. Hope the airlines are

involved in the meeting regarding Covid19. She owns a small business and see that people are cautious of spreading of virus.

Member Sampson suggests a combine resolution along with NANA, Maniilaq and major organization to get a message to the Federal Board. He also suggests inviting Mr. Christensen to discuss with this Assembly on issues he has, thank Mr. Kramer for efforts.

Mr. Kramer mentioned Borough can also put in a special action request through OSM, possibly combined effort with Kotzebue IRA, Borough, NANA and Maniilaq. We are protecting our people, food security and public safety. *Member Swan thank Mr. Kramer for presentation, glad you are doing something for our people. Member Loon suggests protocol of essential people come in and thank you Mr. Kramer for presenting to this Assembly.*

Member Sampson stated as a governance we have a mission, our vision and time to move on to ensure additional support with major organizations. Vice President Lincoln Carr stated that Mr. Christensen's concerns contradict what is going on throughout the State because anyone coming from out of state need a test in Anchorage. Also, suggests the four major entities request AFN's support, possibly just hunting time.

Mr. Kramer had concerns of predator control, this is our legal way of predator control and put monies in the locals which also takes care of the population. We need to be more powerful than the Federal Government. Mayor Nelson suggest Subsistence Committee meeting soon.

Break at 10:00 A.M.
Reconvene at 10:15 A.M.

Cape Blossom and Kivalina Evacuation Road, Jonathan Hutchinson, DOT Mr. Hutchinson provided a power point of projects along with other projects in the Region. He mentioned that DOT has been concerned of the pandemic; first DOT developed a Covid19 management plan and will require a local specific plan in coordination with local stakeholders. Also, another highlight of general funding partnership; Borough leadership approved a local construction match of \$5M which allowed to move forward. In general, we are under budget and maybe able to return some monies back, will provide updates as come closer to complete.

Siikaquraq asked Mr. Hutchinson about a ribbon cutting ceremony and what are the plans there? Aucha asked if local hire will continue the Kivalina project. Member Swan mentioned they had local hire; his daughter went back to work this morning although scaled back a bit due to low fuel.

Mr. Hutchinson summarized the stage one of the Cape Blossom Project. Scope is constructing a 11.2-mile road from Kotzebue to Cape Blossom for purpose of deep-water port or barge landing. First stage has funding although working on 2nds stage funding is in process. He expressed his gratitude for letters of support which allowed the funding to stay.

Mayor Nelson mentioned additional funding source have been discussed at the Tri-lateral group; also, City of Kotzebue and Borough has applied for Infra grant and Bell Grant which will not hear back until November.

Mayor Nelson suggest regular updates to the Assembly, crucial during construction. She asked if DOT got permission from Air Force easement. *Mr. Hutchinson mentioned environmental process for initial scoping. Right now, current schedule is beginning in 2022. He summarized other projects in the area.*

Elizabeth Ferguson introduced herself, thank you for invitation and opportunity to speak. She provided an update of her campaign of State of Alaska House Representative District 40. Mrs. Ferguson mentioned she had prioritized to talk to local leaders in each village. She is cautious with the Covid19 pandemic and will be sending campaign items.

Mayor Nelson thank Mrs. Ferguson for calling in and thank President Hadley for adding.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Budget, Audit and Finance Chair Shroyer Beaver summarized meeting held previous day.

Financial Report Mrs. Sturm provided a summary of financials ending May 31, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 19-03am01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishing and adoption of the line-item budget for FY20 Village Improvement Fund.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 19-03am01, recommend approval. *Legal Mead provided additional highlights of the VIF monies.*

Member Cleveland joined approximately 11:12 A.M.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to enact Ordinance 19-03am01, seconded by Member Joule; motion passed unanimously by roll call.

2. **Ordinance 20-06** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly establishing the FY21 Village Improvement Fund Budget.*

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

Member Loon motion to enact Ordinance 20-06, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Sampson mentioned he missed a couple meetings; one with ICC Food Security and other with Rural CAP due to death of two family members funeral in Noorvik.

Vice President Lincoln Carr sends condolences. She attended Task Force meeting held weekly along with President Hadley and Mayor Nelson which they may report.

Member Armstrong mentioned he attended the Joint Maintenance Construction Meeting on 1st of the month; acted on six-year capital improvement plan, allocation for funding for Selawik School and update from Kivalina School Project from Kathy Cristy.

Vice President Lincoln Carr mentioned she also attended the Planning Commission meeting that was held June 2-3rd. Very informative meeting, grateful to have in place.

President Hadley mentioned he have been attending the weekly meeting regarding the Covid19 task force, still having about forty people calling in. Every village have mandates including Kotzebue. He also attended the Public Safety meeting, Aucha and staff are doing great moving forward. Important information at the Lands Committee meeting with all the permits going forward. Capital Projects are getting done and great information with the Ambler Road.

Member Cleveland read on Facebook about an oil spill in Shungnak by Crowley to the school; about the drinking source of the Community and do not know if Borough is involved. Emergency action may be needed.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Nelson summarized written report, currently finalizing Borough annual report of highlights. Some staff have flex schedule if requested. Continue to have weekly Covid19 meetings; She also provided an update of cases in the Borough and State of Alaska. A proclamation has been announced which is E05 until June 30, 2020; order extended and orders for those at camp.

Mr. Weisner reminded that the critical infrastructure workers can go to the Borough website to see local rules regarding travel or contact Covid19@nwabor.org for questions or comments, phone number 907-442-8230.

Mayor Nelson mentioned CARES Act funding from Federal Government have been received of \$3.6M; worked a fiscal plan with Borough Treasurer and AML Director to spend down on Borough related expenditures from March 1 through December 30th as well as supporting medical and public health.

Mayor Nelson reminded the public of the General Election; petitions accepted until August 24, 2020. Please contact the Borough Clerks office.

Vice President Lincoln Carr asked about a background check needed for the Elections.

Member Loon mentioned she had been in Selawik since May 16th for subsistence activities; as courteously to public unsure of moving back to Kotzebue. She appreciates Mayors report along with the villages that follow the guidelines to protect our people. Some people have slow internet although appreciate the posts from IRA.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor mentioned 4th Tuesday is June 27-28, 2020 which will be call of Chair and Mayor.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None presented.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 20-28** *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 20-28; recommend do pass.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 20-28, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. **Resolution 20-29** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving engagement of Altman, Rogers & Co. to conduct the FY20 Audit.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-29; recommend do pass.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 20-29, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

3. **Resolution 20-30** *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 summarized Resolution 20-30; recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 20-30, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

4. **Resolution 20-31** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly ratifying the Mayor's appointment of Denny McConnell to the Community and Economic Development Commission.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-31; recommend do pass. Vice President Lincoln Carr welcome Mr. McConnell, thank you for interest.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 20-31, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

5. **Resolution 20-32** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a grant application and conditionally accepting a grant from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-32; recommend do pass.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 20-32, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

6. **Resolution 20-33** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a grant application from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Social and Economic Development Strategies for Alaska (SEDS), and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-33; recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 20-33, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

7. **Resolution 20-34** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a services agreement with Alaska Janitorial S.F., to provide janitorial services for the Borough building, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-34; recommend do pass.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 20-34, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

8. **Resolution 20-35** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly reaffirming appropriation and use of advance funding for the Cape Blossom Road, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-35; recommend do pass.

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 20-35, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

9. **Resolution 20-36** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract with Jenson & Sons Construction, Inc. for construction of a warm storage building in Noatak.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-36; recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 20-36, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

10. **Resolution 20-37** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a contract for legal services and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-37; recommend do pass.

Member Cleveland motion to approve Resolution 20-37, seconded by **Member Armstrong**; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

11. **Resolution 20-14am01** a resolution amending Resolution 20-14 to authorize the Northwest Arctic Borough to issue General Obligation Refunding Bonds maturing in 2020.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 20-14am01; recommend do pass. *Mrs. Sturm mentioned she heard from Mr. Klinker, Bond Council estimate savings of approximately \$230,000.00 although sale will not close until July 7, 2020.* Vice President Lincoln Carr asked if the amount need to reflect on the resolution.

Member Sampson mentioned to legalize we need to put resolution on floor for discussion then all pertinent information will be legal after.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 20-14am01, seconded by **Member Swan**; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None held.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Marlene Moto-Karl of Deering called regarding report of ashes spreading, do we report?

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Armstrong sends condolences to families that lost loved ones this month. Good meeting; glad moving forward with ordinances and resolutions. Thank you.

Member Swan thank staff and Assembly for all work, good meeting. Keep safe, still under pandemic season. Take care, thank you.

Member Barr mentioned good meeting, apologize for missing BAF yesterday; was trying to travel due to medical although was not able to. Appreciative to attend today's meeting;

enjoyed presentations and updates. Thank you.

Member Joule mentioned good couple days, lots of discussion, lots of updates. Good to see everything progress. Hope everyone has a good day and summer months. Thank you.

Member Cleveland thank Madam Chair, good meeting; thank staff for quick response to Shungnak when they called. To Coast Guard, the distance between Kiana and Ambler is along ways; that is why he asked about responding up-river.

Member Oviok echo Member Armstrong's comment; sends condolences to those that lost loved ones. Thank you to Jon regarding updates, glad assisting with clean-up. Good to hear Mr. Kramer's presentation, thank you to President Hadley for brining up the Subsistence Planning to support our Region. Good to hear Assembly reports and BAF meeting yesterday.

Member Loon thank staff and Mayor for reports, grateful on keeping on top of this pandemic. Believe being patient and able to do outdoor activities especially those that live in apartments although affects everyone in the villages too. Thank Assembly for reports, be safe and see you in July.

Member Sampson in Inupiaq. He thanks everyone for their prayers and support during the loss of his brother Gene Sampson and brother-in-law Charlie Mulluk in Noorvik. Phone calls, food that were given; also, to those that worked on the coffin and dig the graves thank each and everyone of you. God will bless you. To staff, thank you for information; thank Mayor. He thanks the Covid19 task force, City of Kotzebue, and Coast Guard; appreciate your service. If you have any issues, call the Mayors office. Thank Mr. Kramer for presentation, critical we work together to address those issues. Thank you for good meeting, also to Vice President Lincoln Carr and Member Shroyer Beaver for taking leadership.

Member Shroyer Beaver suggests having the savings listed on Jon Nichols presentation yesterday; for those that went to the training. Awesome job, you are important to our communities. She stated when there is a death in the region whether suicide or accidental it affects all; appreciate Member Sampson's comments in Inupiaq, lets show compassion. Some major projects coming; Kivalina Road and Cape Blossom, know Mayor will keep public informed. Member Shroyer Beaver thank Mr. Kramer for coming forward; with cost of living its already high. She suggests inviting air carriers, whom do as a living and our residents that do not want the virus too to come up with a plan. This pandemic changed everything. Good meeting, thank Mayor and staff for excellent job. Saw H2Oasis is now open, remind parents get your kids a life vest. Maniilaq has Kids Float, not sure who to contact. As a community member she looks at all four major organizations and see Borough takes lead, commend you for keeping everyone informed. Have a nice summer, thank you.

Youth Representative Chase thank Mayor and Assembly for a good meeting, great information. Good luck to commercial fishermen out there.

Youth Representative Wilson-Nay mentioned good meeting and great presentations and look forward to Cape Blossom opening. Be safe and look forward to seeing fishing this season. Thank you.

Vice President Lincoln Carr thank the Covid19 task force for steer heading, grateful taking seriously. Thank Siikaraq and Planning Commission and staff doing a great job to get projects done, grateful to sit in the meetings. Thank City of Kotzebue for requiring or wanting testing in Anchorage to keep safe, fortunate with the numbers. Hunkering down helps, teach your children. Thank City of Kotzebue for dog poop stations, she brought up the past few years. Curb your dogs. Send condolences to Mulluk and Sampson families. Echo Member Shroyer Beaver's comments remember tough times, condolences to Norma and John Rae. Hard when cannot hug, she suggests whether Borough/Maniilaq/NANA that we have an ongoing constituent notification of deaths that are recognized. Like Member Sampson said its just a few people doing coffins and crosses, think it is time an organization take a lead on. Possibly have a funeral home. Please remember to wear a mask when in public places; thank you to Maniilaq for providing the tests.

President Hadley sends condolences to those that lost loved ones throughout the Borough, the recent accident in Buckland remind him of his sister. Reach out to someone you trust. Thank Mayor for leadership, attending these meetings its good to see organizations involved. Happy with Water & Sewer program, good with high scores to assist with grants. With Coast Guard, glad they are back with working relationships. Also, thank the Clerks with any information going through these changes. Thank City of Kotzebue about mandating testing for Covid19. Thank Mr. Kramer for coming forward with concerns of subsistence activities; suggest contact Clerk to schedule a meeting so a recommendation can be made to the Assembly. Thank you to Mrs. Ferguson, with this pandemic he asked her to respect the village mandates. To be mindful on what others are doing, it is open to other people running.

Legal Mead mentioned this had been requested, reviewed, and approved for candidate's opportunity to introduce themselves; not to stump speech or ask for campaign donations and just so available to candidates on same basis.

President Hadley thank the Assembly for working together, going through this Covid19 and meet telephonically. Hopefully will be able to upgrade to good internet services so can utilize for meeting to prevent Covid19. Thank Mayor and staff for work doing.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Nelson thank Administration for support. Thank Assembly for allowing the grant position, will submit a list showing what leverage projects; grant position paid off significantly. Thank Bering Air for passengers having to show a negative test to fly. Thank Jonathan, DOT, Michael Kramer, and Coast Guard for presentations.

Notice of Election had been noticed earlier. Condolences to families that lost loved ones. Be safe boating, use your life preserver. Thank you for leadership and support.

Vice President Lincoln Carr suggests purchasing life jackets if any of the Covid or CARES available. Thank you all for calling in, Assembly and Staff give feedback on how can-do better job on meeting. Please feel free to let us know on how to improve.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Shroyer Beaver motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Sampson at 12:49 P.M.

