



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 – 9:00 A.M.
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

President Hadley called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Loon provided invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Loon mentioned Covid affected us all one way or another. Reminder you all it's okay to reach out and ask for help. Encourage to visit and ask for help. Thankful can go ice fishing, especially with your children.

Member Magdanz acknowledge those that keep us safe during the storms, linemen and utility folks out there to keep the systems running. Thank you and keep up the good work.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

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

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Dickie Moto Sr.	Stella Atoruk	Carl Weisner	Fritz Westlake Sr.
<i>Angie Sturm</i>	Saima Chase	Colt Ticket	<i>Elizabeth Ferguson</i>
Rick Warner	Hiram Walker	Matt Mead	<i>Ingemar Mathiasson</i>
Lenora Ward	Elizabeth Cravahlo	Lance Miller	Andrew Willman
Craig Jones	Rebecca Hagar	Ruth Iten	Greta Schuerch
Jim Dau	<i>Kelly Williams</i>	<i>Richard Camilleri</i>	Desiree Hagen
Clay Nordlum	<i>Jim Borquin</i>	Karen Keck	

A quorum presents to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for approval. President Hadley request to add Jim Dau under communication and appearances regarding Ambler Road Projection.

Member Carr motioned to approve as amended, Member Ballot seconded; passed unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2022, minutes presented for approval.

Member Loon motion to approve the minutes of December 19, 2022, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed ten yes votes with Cleveland not participating.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE

Employee appreciation, Mayor Moto presented a certificate of appreciation to Hiram Walker whom been with Borough for five years. Mr. Walker mentioned he enjoys working with the Village Improvement Commission and Assembly. Had eighty-one projects, think the working relationship has grown. Appreciate Finance and Matt, thankful for their work. Had worked along with different coordinators and directors.

Village Connect Project, Kelly Williams OTZ Telephone provided update of recent activities. Currently under way with project to bring high speed internet to all the communities they services; funded by RUS for \$30 M to build the network. Coming up an aggressive schedule to finish in one year, will work with Villages to provide timeline.

Member Magdanz thank him for update, last mile; what is this project last mile? Internet to house or provide internet speed over OTZ cell phone network? Not be running fibre in the villages, internet by microwave then anyone can get a modem and like wireless to your house?

Public Services Director Weisner asked Mr. Williams for clarification on cellar antenna and switches on microwave towers. Also, where on winter trails OTZ plan to build out and if any more is needed.

Mayor Moto thank Mr. Williams for update, that will help our subsistence hunters.

Natural Resources Update, Elizabeth Cravalho and Lance Miller, NANA provided a power point presentation. Red Dog life mine extension, which used to be ANA, AAEP not to confuse with AAP; its LME, if successful could extend for decades. Much of focus on State of Alaska lands, along with other deposits on NANA lands.

Mrs. Cravalho mentioned NANA does have economic interest related to Ambler Access Project. If AAP move forward then NANA wants to ensure they hear from villages and communities protect subsistence and environment. Doing village travel, have done upper Kobuk already. They know it's approximately two hundred eleven-mile road, about 21.5 miles across NANA lands a portion of Doyon lands. This road is not funded for construction, not permitted for construction, only studies at this time. Not a right of way for public access, EIS specifically look at this for private road for industrial use only and application include ability to permit other commercial activities to other communities.

What is NANA position and what does it mean? They haven't taken a position on whether they support the road. If they go forward they would like to ensure that it is a private road; ensure that there is protection for subsistence and environment. They would like to make sure shareholders can cross safely, know there will be jobs and lastly the community benefits of how can transport goods.

Mrs. Cravalho mentioned she often hear concerns about risks, know potential physical risks or chemical. Subsistence Advisory Committee recently met in Anchorage; they will look at the permitting system. BLM is doing an outreach to Tribes and consulting parties including Borough to complete a draft EIS between now and June, then available for public comment. She encourages shareholders to reach out to subsistence advisory committee which is on Ambler Access website. Can contact her at the office if any questions.

Member Sampson request same information during the Retreat to where can have dialogue; what is NANA doing with land loss issue?

Member Magdanz echo Member Sampson's comments regarding continued dialogue. What is the actual mine plan is in Upper Kobuk in particular the arctic deposit? What are you looking at engineering and risks perspective in terms of that for Arctic. Does NANA track the formal positions of different tribes and cities on this; can you share what are they?

Member Loon thank you for presentation, at one time Village of Kobuk was in a lawsuit along with interior villages; they changed their mind. Are you being mindful to small communities that something happening in their backyard? We need to protect the salmon spawning areas.

Break observed 10:16 A.M. and reconvened at 10:28 A.M.

End of Year Report, Teck by Rebecca Hager whom provided a power point presentation; they report any and all spills. Member Loon asked when will Teck start the process of reclamation; will you be doing those activities before 2031?

Protect the Kobuk, Ruth Iten resident of Borough since 1985; lived out in the country, Kotzebue, Noorvik, Deering, outside of Ambler and above Kobuk. And had been a teacher too. She had learned a lot today and took notes; here to introduce 'Protect the Kobuk', growing group of Northwest Arctic Residents who oppose the Ambler Road. Dedicated to create a forum in which conversation of topic of Ambler Road can take place, to promote opportunities for actions and advocacy against the project. Website have been created www.protectthekobuk.org – although need to be updated with pre-research of caribou migration.

Member Carr requested the website again for the listening audience.

Member Loon thank Mrs. Iten for your presentation, very familiar about protecting sensitivity of plants and animals upriver. Your asking Borough to do independent study about upriver, you have been heard. Thank you for the letter from this child.

President Hadley mentioned the PILT agreement with Red Dog, we also have a resolution in support of responsible development; it doesn't Assemblymen voicing out their concerns. We don't decide on the road or any mining although facilitate information going through. Thank you for coming, we are all entitled to speak our voice.

Mr. Jim Borquin called regarding caribou herds shrink, if the road is built then it won't be private. Will be accessed by everyone, believe worst thing that will happen to this area.

Member Cleveland raised concern about how many of the group currently live in Ambler or in the region? He lived there seventy-one years in the area; in and out. His great-grandchildren will need that road, that is where he is coming from. River is drying up, barges hardly come up; fuel is high and nobody hardly help them purchase fuel in area. Caribou migration has changed since started collaring back in late 60's; however, hardly here.

Proposed Ambler Road, Jim Dau provided a brief introduction of self, retired in 2016 from Fish and Wildlife. Here to comment on proposed Ambler Road; not here to either support or oppose this road. For some years the Fall caribou movements have been affected by Red Dog Road; not an opportunity by him to bash Red Dog. Convinced they did everything they can to minimize impact.

Member Carr thank him for presentation, welcome and good to see again. Wish you and family a good season.

President Hadley thanked him for coming, met when herding with his dad. From his experience working with reindeer they know when to turn will his presence. Back in the day the fawn were killed from ravens and eagles too. Thank you for sharing.

Member Magdanz thank you for presentation, he was to join collaring back in high school. Appreciate you sharing your knowledge.

Member Loon thank you for report, appreciate and knowledge and service to this area. Thank you very much.

President Hadley and Member Ballot excused to check in at Alaska Airlines approximately 11:25 A.M.

Member Carr reconvened.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Member Carr provided a summary of Budget, Audit and Finance meeting held previous day.

Member Armstrong mentioned they had Joint Construction Maintenance Meeting on January 30, 2023 regarding maintenance and funding.

Member Loon mentioned planning commission January 11-12, 2023.

Financial Report provided by Angie Sturm, Finance Treasurer provided a summary ending on January 31, 2023. If any questions about finances, she suggested call in for work session meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

No ordinances presented.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

None presented.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Ingemar Mathiasson, Energy Coordinator provided a summary of report for February. Recently had two awards, will have an Energy Steering Committee next week. Bringing funding and winning National and International recognition.

Carl Weisner, Public Services Director provided summary of recent activities. Highlight four projects; community assistance program, grave digger equipment, Kivalina road maintenance and public safety warm storages for every village.

Member Carr left approximately 11:41 A.M., Member Armstrong reconvened meeting.

Clay Norldum, Planning Director provided summary of department activities, scheduled meeting with McClintock entitlements. Plan for village house number maps, hope to be out this summer. Alaska DOT and RPO is here to sign if passed through the Assembly. Working on overall plans with Kivalina, working group that meets bi-weekly.

Fritz Westlake mentioned that Chris Hatch has been recently rehired as Public Safety Director, although prior commitments he wasn't able to be here today; he had been serving as interim. Mrs. Saima Chase, Public Safety Administrator provided a summary of fire, search and rescue, winter trails and ask Rick to do VPSO.

In January, had a couple incidents in fire. Hans Nelson, Fire Safety Coordinator had went to Selawik for a week of training with Dave Maddox, University of Alaska from Fairbanks.

Unfortunately, search and rescue incident last month; Saima, Shauntai and Tiny worked in shifts. Winter trails had resources go out from Noatak, Noorvik and Buckland. There are 17 out of 18 trails out of Kotzebue complete.

Rick Warner, VPSO Coordinator mentioned January was slow month; one on vacation and the rest were up for normal rotations. No training, although one coming up.

Member Loon mentioned she is pleased to read how many VPSO's are working, rotating schedules. Thank you. Member Magdanz raised concern of space available to hire more, is this the maximum with the given budget?

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

March 27-28, 2023 for next meeting date. Member Loon expressed the importance of meeting monthly.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 22-04am01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving and adopting an amended line-item budget for fiscal year 2023.*

Mr. Westlake summarize, recommend Assembly adopt in first reading.

Member Sampson motion to approve Ordinance 22-04am01, seconded by Member Magdanz; motion passed with seven yes votes.

2. **Ordinance 23-01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Title Two of the Borough Code to set the salary of the Mayor.*

Mr. Westlake mentioned detailed discussion happened previous day; recommend passage of first reading.

Member Sampson motion to approve Ordinance 23-01, seconded by Member Magdanz; motion passed with seven yes votes.

3. **Ordinance 23-02** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Code for the Frank R. Ferguson Scholarship Program, and for related purposes.*

Mr. Westlake provided brief summary, recommend passage of first reading. Member Magdanz raised concern of awarding per credit instead of per course.

Member Swan motion to approve Ordinance 23-02, seconded by Member Magdanz; motion passed with seven yes votes.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 23-01** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly confirming the appointment of Colt Ticket as Youth Advisory Representative to the Assembly.*

Mr. Westlake summarized, recommend do pass.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 23-01, seconded by Vice President Shroyer Beaver; motion passed with eight yes votes.

2. **Resolution 23-02** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve a Regional Planning Organization agreement with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and for related purposes.*

Mr. Westlake summarized Resolution 23-02, recommend do pass. Member Magdanz reiterated that this establishment of this regional planning organization effect duties of existing planning commission?

Member Sampson asked if this is an amendment?

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 23-02, seconded by Member Magdanz; motion passed with eight yes votes.

3. **Resolution 23-03** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving an Assembly donation under the FY23 Budget for Kotzebue Broadcasting, Inc., and for related purposes.*

Mr. Westlake summarized Resolution 23-03, recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 23-03, seconded by Vice President Shroyer Beaver; motion passed with eight yes votes.

4. **Resolution 23-04** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly confirming the Mayor's appointments to the Northwest Arctic Borough Planning Commission.*

Mr. Westlake summarized, recommend do pass.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 23-04, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed with eight yes votes.

5. **Resolution 23-05** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting a donation from Teck Alaska to support Economic Development Projects within the Northwest Arctic Borough, and for related purposes.*

Mr. Westlake summarized Resolution 23-05, recommend do pass.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 23-05, seconded by Member Swan;

motion passed with eight yes votes.

6. **Resolution 23-06** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting funds from the State of Alaska Safe Ice Roads for Alaska (SIRA) Program to construct ice roads and for related purposes.*

Mr. Westlake summarized Resolution 23-06, recommend do pass.

Member Swan motion to approve Resolution 23-06, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed with eight yes votes.

7. **Resolution 23-07** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting State operating funds through a transfer of responsibilities agreement (TORA) to construct ice roads and for related purposes.*

Mr. Westlake summarized Resolution 23-07, recommend do pass.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 23-07, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed with eight yes votes.

8. **Resolution 23-08** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly adding Jaime Schaeffer and Chris Hatch as an authorized signatories for Borough Checks.*

Mr. Westlake summarized Resolution 23-08, recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 23-08, seconded by Member Barr; motion passed with eight yes votes.

9. **Resolution 23-09** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting an FY22-26 Village Public Safety Officer Capital Improvement Project Grant and for related purposes.*

Mr. Westlake summarized Resolution 23-09, recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 23-09, seconded by Member Magdanz; motion passed with eight yes votes.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session held.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Craig Jones, Deputy Program Manager for Ambler Access Project nice to get out to villages and meet everyone. Important to give updates, listen to concerns from Assembly and surrounding villages as well. Hopefully solidify communication moving forward, couldn't do any better than Liz did. Happy to participate and thank you.

Desiree Hagen, KOTZ reporter mentioned humbled and honored to be here. News director, resident as of four days ago. Thank you for continued support to KOTZ. Hold herself to ethical standards, encourage you to reach out to her with any concerns to any person in this room or listening audience to news@kotz.org look forward to serving this community; meeting and speaking to each one of you.

Member Magdanz welcome you to the region, love KOTZ; great when we have a new director telling our stories. Member Loon welcome her, look forward to hearing local news.

Lenora Ward, KOTZ thank you for donation for the station. Really appreciate doing Borough updates, makes a difference for everyone. The auction was fun, thank you for your cooperation and help.

Elizabeth Cravahlo, NANA mentioned that Dr. Zaz Staheli and Richard Camilleri were recognized Alaska Journal of Commerce announced top 40 under 40. Hope you all have a safe week.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Cleveland thank you, good meeting. Think weather is deteriorating, windy up in Ambler. Good to listen and attend over thru phone or zoom, important to all.

Member Sampson thank you for good meeting, lot of discussion to have down the road; Red Dog, Ambler, NANA, Transportation and issues that Dau and Ruth Iten raised. Thank you for good meeting.

Vice President Shroyer Beaver happy to able to call in, thank Mayor and staff for work. Welcome Jaime and Chris back to Borough. Congratulate Hiram for longest employee at Borough, good meeting; thank you.

Member Barr appreciated all presentations, agree with a lot of work ahead of us. Well wishes for outgoing Public Safety Director Tess. Welcome Colt as Youth, welcome back Jaime, and Chris as well. Thank administration for all work that is done.

Member Loon thank you for good meeting last couple days, informational. Congratulations to Shungnak and Kobuk for IPP on energy and cooperation with NANA, and Ingemar for all work. Along with Directors and VPSO funding. Congratulations to Colt for interest on Youth. Also, note from Tanya; she mentioned on behalf of Ballot, Pungalik, Brown, Coffin and Cleveland families; special thank you to Borough and staff, NANA and Maniilaq, especially regional search and rescue – can't thank you enough to all volunteers that donated, kept people fed and prayers. Please continue to pray for Melinda and Cora and families, and her son Josiah for his recovery and healing. Appreciate every one of you from Daniel Crumbly and Tanya Ballot.

Member Swan welcome to Assembly Colt, thank you for the audience and people for participating in this meeting; we hear your concerns, helps us with decision making. Thank staff for doing good job, Assembly for your voting. Thank you.

Member Magdanz echo Member Swan's comments. Thank you for the community members whom jointed, we should be a forum where community members be heard. Appreciate residents coming to be heard. Welcome to Colt, hope you learn a lot; ask questions, we have two seats on the Assembly. Appreciate reports, this month permits and detailed reports, kudos to staff for good reports. Good luck to basketball teams, have a great time; play hard, play fair and good luck.

Member Armstrong thank the presenters for participating. Condolences that lost loved ones. Also, thank administration, search and rescue volunteers for your time. Thank you to communities that helped with donations, whether food or items from store. Really appreciate your help. Thank State Troopers for helping with search, big thank you to CAP, North Slope Borough whom braved cold weather; thank the coordinators, know its tough. Keep your heads up, follow policy; you'll get through it and move along. Thank you.

Youth Representative Colt Ticket thank you for accepting him. Hi to older sister Courtney.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Moto apologized for stepping away. Thank you for good meeting, lot of good questions; always working together to improve services. Good presentations, our door is always open. Thank you for staff moving forward and willingness to work with the Assembly. Appreciate it.

Mr. Westlake remind those that need to turn in the APOC listing to the Assembly, School Board members and Planning Commission, deadline is March 15, 2023; ten dollars a day if not filed by then.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Loon motion to adjourn, seconded by *Vice President Shroyer Beaver* at 12:40 P.M.

