



Northwest Arctic Borough

163 Lagoon Street
P.O. Box 1110 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-2500 Fax (907) 442-2930
www.nwabor.org

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Telephonic Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 26, 2021 – 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 Sampson provided the invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Loon encouraged the young people and young parents to be safe and for the young people to care for your elders. She also encouraged the older relatives to provide discipline to the younger people, if needed.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

Elmer Armstrong Jr.	Tanya Ballot	Delores Barr	Austin Swan
Miles Cleveland (late)	Sandy Shroyer Beaver	Hannah Loon	Walter Sampson
Dood Carr	Nathan Hadley Jr.	Elia Nay	
Tahayla Baker, Youth Representative		Kayden Ticket, Youth Representative	

Member Carr motioned, Member Shroyer Beaver seconded to excuse Member Cleveland. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Lucy S. Nelson	Matt Mead	Angie Sturm	Eva Harvey
Tony Giardini, Trilogy	Helena Hildreth	Nate Kotch Jr.	Aucha Kameroff
Martha Hensley	Wendy Chamberlain	Verna Westlake, Teck	Chris Cox, ANTHC
Paul Hansen	Ingemar Mathiasson	Erica Johns	

A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Nelson requested to add Wendy Chamberlain, Lobbyist Update as Item O. Other Business. Mayor also requested to add Representative John Lincoln, Certificate of Appreciation to Item G. (3) Communication and Appearances and Mr. Larry Westlake,



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Regional Elder Update to Item G (4) Communication and Appearances. Member Loon requested to add Noatak Road update to Item O. Other Business.

Member Sampson motioned to approve the agenda as amended; Member Carr seconded. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting minutes of December 22, 2020 as presented.

Member Sampson motioned to approve the December 22, 2020 Regular minutes as presented, Member Cleveland seconded; a roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Tony Giardini – Ambler Trilogy Metals

Mr. Tony Giardini provided an update on Trilogy Metals Press Release concerning Alaska Industrial Development Export Authority (AIDEA) receiving the final federal authorizations for the Ambler Road Project on January 11, 2021 from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS) right of way agreements. He also reported that in terms of detailed engineering they will have an agreement to announce in early February that will co-fund the road between Ambler Metals and AIDEA. Mr. Giardini they are still targeting field season starting in May on COVID readiness.

2. Chris Cox – Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)

Mr. Chris Cox, provided an update on the Community Utility Assistance Program (CUAP) Program Goals.

3. Representative John Lincoln – Certificate of Appreciation

Mayor Nelson reported that Representative Lincoln was not able to call in to the Assembly meeting to accept the Borough's Certificate of recognition for his service for District 40 and sent a message to the assembly that he is glad to continue working with the Assembly and administration in his new role as Vice President of External Affairs with NANA Regional Corporation.

Member Carr thanked Mayor Nelson for presenting this certificate of appreciation to Representative Lincoln and she thanked him for the great work he has done for District 40 representing us; and, as his colleagues in Juneau have alluded to also.

President Hadley also congratulated Mr. Lincoln for his new role with NANA Regional Corporation and his representation for the District in the legislature.



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4. Larry Westlake Sr. – Regional Elder's Council President

Mr. Larry Westlake Sr. provided an update and discussion on Northwest Arctic Borough Resolution 20-02 regarding the Regional Council Elder Representative. Mr. Westlake alluded to past elders who have taught us how to work together and that we had a lot of respect for them in regards to looking to them for their advice and leadership in the community. He commented that he was disappointed that the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly had discontinued the Elder Representative seat on the Assembly. He recommended that the reconsider reinstating the Elder Representative seat on the assembly and that four elders who currently sit on the Assembly goes through a different process than what the Elder Representative does.

Member Carr commented that the elders on the Assembly have been involved in the business of the Borough and she supported this because she wanted the Elders in the villages to have the opportunity to serve as the Elder Representative. She added that she is not doing it out of disrespect to the Elders.

Member Shroyer Beaver commented that she does not have a problem with the Elder Representative Seat but would like to recommend that all residents over the age of the sixty and older can apply for a one year term.

Member Sampson thanked Mr. Westlake for his comments and alluded to the Borough Code 1.20.010 and 1.20.020 in recognition and perpetuation of the Inupiaq Language. We have to encourage and address the purpose clearly so that we can fulfill the language and culture of our people.

Member Loon thanked Mr. Westlake for addressing the Elder Representative Seat and she commented the NANA Elder's Seat does not include the elders in the villages and she believes it should be equal for all elder's. Member Loon asked what is the Elders' roles and responsibilities and added that we should let the residents of the region decide that for us.

**A fifteen minute break was taken at 10:55 am.
The meeting reconvened from break at 11:10 am.**

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

1. Budget, Audit and Finance Committee Member Shroyer Beaver reported the committee met and they reviewed the resolutions, ordinances and recommended them for approval by the full assembly. Madam Chair Shroyer Beaver also reported the committee heard the 2020 Audit report from Maxim Mamontov of the Altman Rogers and Company.



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2. Financial Report

Ms. Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer, provided a summary of Expenditure and Revenue Financials for the month ending December 31, 2020. Ms. Sturm offered her condolences to the Ron Moto's family in memory of the late Mr. Ron Moto. Ms. Sturm thanked her staff Ms. Jade Hill and Ms. Phyllis Short for their outstanding work in the finance office, especially during the audit.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 20-12 - *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Section 6.12.060 of the Borough Code.*

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 20-12 for first enactment, seconded by Member Carr. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Loon reported that she has been attending the weekly unified command taskforce meetings as Member Carr has stepped down. They have gone over the COVID19 and vaccine numbers in the borough and she thanked the villages that have been calling in and participating.

Member Swan provided an update on the Kivalina School Site.

President Hadley encouraged everyone to continue to practice safety measures and to be positive going forward for your family's'.

Member Carr thanked everyone who is participating in the unified command taskforce and she thanked President Hadley for allowing her to be a part of this taskforce.

Member Ballot commented about the snow machine travel between villages and to Kotzebue and she expressed her concern about preventing the spread of COVID19 through this type of activity.

Member Cleveland reported that the Native Village of Ambler elected a new tribal council in December and he reminded everyone that the COVID19 virus is real and to continue to protect yourselves.



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MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Nelson reported that her administration continue to have Staff and Director's meeting via Microsoft Teams. She reported that the Annual Report is complete and has been mailed out to every household. We continue to update the Borough website and Facebook page to keep the communities informed and added that she was on personal leave on December 16, 23, 28-30. She continues to attend the Incident Command System team every Thursday at 1 pm and that we are still in the "hunker down" phase until January 31, 2021 and she reminded everyone that we have to be vigilant in our practices to keep everyone safe. She continues to attend the Unified Incident Command Team meetings with the Maniilaq Health center and the City of Kotzebue on Mondays at 1:30 pm to hear and provide updates from each entity.

The roll out of the vaccination has been taking place at the Lion's Club and that the second vaccinations will take place there also. She attended the Planning Commission and Lands Committee meeting to appoint commission members, Reorganization, permits, Resolution & Ordinance review, Planning Updates, Comprehensive Plan Update, Ambler Road Lawsuit, AIDEA, D.O.T. & Senate Bill 204 Update. Mayor Nelson attended a virtual conference meeting with the CDC department members to discuss Joint Action Agencies or Independent Power Plants and the recommendation from Legal Counsel is to move forward with Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NANA Regional Corporation to continue with existing strategy to support energy projects.

Mayor Nelson also attended a teleconference call on January 5, 2021 with Mr. Matt Mead, NWAB Attorney, Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer and Ms. Jade Hill, Controller to discuss Call out Pay, Overtime Pay on 40 day work weeks and Holiday Pay.

Mayor Nelson also attended a teleconference with Governor Dunleavy and his administration on January 7, 2021 to provide input on COVID-19, the State Budget and Alaska's Economy. Mayor Nelson provided a lengthy report regarding each topic of discussion to the Governor and his team and he was appreciative of what the Borough, Unified Command and Task Force has been doing related to COVID-19.

Lastly, she expressed her appreciation to the Finance Department for their good work in preparation for a successful 2020 audit as there was no findings. That is always good news and shows we have strong internal controls.

An anonymous caller thanked Member Ballot's comments about intervillage travel via snow



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machines during the COVID19 pandemic. He expressed his appreciation to Member Ballot for her mentioning the inter village snow machine travel. He believes that these travelers are bootleggers and they are hurting our village residents and elders.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Nelson recommended February 22-23, 2021 as the 4th Monday and Tuesday of the month for the next Regular meeting of the Assembly.

Member Sampson motioned to approve the next meeting date of February 22-23, 2021, seconded by Member Carr. By unanimous consent motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 21-01 an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Section 3.20.130 of the borough code.

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-01 recommending approval.

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Ordinance 21-01 for first reading, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Ordinance 21-02 an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to amend Section 8.08.030 of the Northwest Arctic Borough Code, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-02 recommending approval.

Member Cleveland motioned to approve Ordinance 21-02 for first reading, seconded by Member Nay. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed by a majority with Member's Sampson, Carr and Armstrong voting NO.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution 21-01 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to pursue a U.S. Department of Energy Grant with the Native Village of Noatak Tribal Council for a Solar/battery project, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-01, recommending approval.

Member Swan motioned to approve Resolution 21-01, seconded by Member Cleveland. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.



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2. **Resolution 21-02** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving an Assembly donation under the FY21 Budget for the Kobuk 440-Racing Association.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-02, recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-02, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed by a majority with Members Cleveland, Loon and Carr voting NO.

3. **Resolution 21-03** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting the audited General Purpose Financial Statements for year ending June 30, 2020 and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-03, recommending approval.

Member Armstrong motioned to approve Resolution 21-03, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Resolution 21-04** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting State Operating Funds to construct Ice Roads and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-04, recommending approval.

Member Carr motioned to approve Resolution 21-04, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Ms. Wendy Chamberlain, Lobbyist, gave a brief legislative consultant report update.
2. Member Loon requested an update from Ms. Maija Lukin, National Park Service, on the proposed Noatak Road for the next Regular Meeting of the Assembly.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Ms. Margaret McCaslin, Selawik resident, commented about the impeachment of President Trump and the importance of transparency, accountability in government.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Armstrong thanked the assembly and administration for working together on issues. He expressed his condolences to the familys' who have lost their loved ones.

Member Barr thanked everyone for a good meeting and she enjoyed the presentations



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that were given. She reminded everyone that we are still in hunker down mode and the importance of understanding the safety mandates. Member Barr extended her condolences to those who have lost their loved ones due to the complications from the COVID19 virus. She hopes to see brighter days ahead.

Member Cleveland gave his condolences to the families of Merci Cleveland of Ambler, Ron Moto of Deering and Delbert Thomas of Buckland. He also thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for their work in preparation for this meeting.

Member Ballot sent her condolences to all the communities who have lost their loved ones. She reminded everyone to continue to practice social distancing and get vaccinated. Also she requested limited snow machine travel between villages and encouraged the villages to utilize the Village Improvement Fund funding and the NANA Village Economic Investment Fund for needed projects in their villages.

Member Loon thanked Elder Larry Westlake and Consultant Wendy Chamberlain for their presentations. She also thanked Mr. Paul Hansen for the information he gave on the Kobuk 440 as it was helpful to her. She encouraged everyone to practice safety measures in regards to the COVID19 pandemic. Lastly, she thanked Mayor, staff and Assembly for a good meeting.

Member Shroyer Beaver also sent her condolences to those who have recently lost their loved ones. She thanked Mayor Nelson and staff for the successful audit and thanked Ms. Wendy Chamberlain for the Lobbyist Update. She thanked Maniilaq Association and the CHAPS for their work in vaccinating our people in the villages. Lastly, she congratulated those who have retired from their jobs recently.

Member Carr thanking the presenters for the updates they gave, Ambler Metals and ANTHC. She thanked Mayor Nelson and the Finance Department for the awesome audit report. She commented that when something is not clear to her on resolutions or ordinances, she will not support it. She thanked Mayor Nelson and those that serve on the COVID19 taskforce and the Unified Command Team for their good work and participation in regards to the mandates that are put in place. Member Carr also expressed her condolences to those who have lost their loved ones.

Member Nay thanked the residents who have called in to voice their concerns. She thanked Mayor Nelson's comment to the Governor stating the responsibility that the State of Alaska's has, as stated in the constitution, for Public Safety and Education. She thanked President Hadley for his leadership and the rest of the assembly for their knowledge serving on the assembly and that she has great respect for their input and



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opinions.

Member Sampson thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for a good meeting. He also thanked the COVID19 taskforce members for keeping up with the COVID issue and he thanked Elder Larry Westlake for calling in with the elder issue.

President Hadley expressed his condolences to those who have lost loved ones. He thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff with the reports given and to the Finance Office for the good audit report.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Nelson sent her condolences to Ron Moto and family as he served on the Local Emergency Planning commission and his years of service on the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly. And also to Delbert Thomas for his years of service on the Search and Rescue team in Buckland, AK. She also gave her condolences to the Hunnicutt family in Point Hope, AK as they have just lost their Aunt Irma Hunnicutt and recognizing that she served in the Maniilaq CHAP program for many years. And also to the families who have lost their loved ones and going through hardship. Mayor Nelson also thanked Elder Larry Westlake for inviting her to the Regional Elders meeting and thanked all the presenters for calling in today. She thanked the person who called in regarding bootleggers and if you see something, say something and to be serious about addressing it as it is the only way the problem will be solved. Ms. Aucha Kameroff gave a brief overview about communicating tips to the Alaska State Troopers or the VPSO's. Lastly, she commented about the Northwest Arctic Borough Comprehensive Plan that the residents can participate in to get involved and provide input.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned, Member Armstrong seconded to adjourn. With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 1:51 P.M.

Patricia Nida
Borough Clerk

