



**Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Monday, January 24, 2017 – 9:00 A.M.  
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION**

A moment of silence was observed for recent loss of loved ones.

**SAFETY MOMENT**

Mayor Richards introduced Mr. Rodney Snyder as the incoming Fire Chief/Search and Rescue Coordinator. Mr. Snyder commented that he is the son of John and Harriet Snyder and wished everyone greetings for the New Year.

Member Armstrong encouraged everyone to plan their trip during this cold weather.

Member Hannah Loon reminded everyone to check their Toyostove exhaust to make sure it is clear of snow when the weather is stormy or windy.

Member Austin Swan encouraged everyone to watch out for overflow when traveling with snow machine.

**ROLL CALL**

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

Elmer Armstrong Jr.	Lucy Nelson	Hannah Loon	Tanya Ballot
Hannah Loon	Walter Sampson	Carl Weisner	Austin Swan
Larry Westlake	Nathan Hadley Jr.	Miles Cleveland	Dood Carr

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Clement Richards	Matt Mead	Winona Hawley	Rodney Snyder
Patrick Savok	Noah Naylor	Zach Stevenson	Angie Sturm
Brad Reich	Millie Stalker	Janine Bedford	Shawn Gilman
Susan Georgette	Ingemar Mathiasson (telephonic)		Stella Atoruk
Helena Hildreth	Rick Whitbeck		

**A quorum was present to conduct business.**

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Member Armstrong requested to add an update on Alternative Energy and Noatak Road. President Weisner suggested to place it under Item G. Communication and Appearances.

Member Westlake requested to add the Joint Construction and Maintenance Committee report to Item H. Member Nelson requested to add a BAF report followed by a Financial Report to Item H. Member Loon requested an update on the Teck Litigation and an update on the National Park Service grant monies that were given for trail staking pertaining to Resolution 16-53.

President Weisner suggested the Teck Litigation to be discussed under Item O. Executive Session and the update on Trail staking to Item G. Mayor Sampson requested an update on the Regional Advisory Council's recommendation on moose hunting. President Weisner replied that when Mr. Zach Stevenson shows up we can add him to the agenda.

**Member Carr motioned, Member Cleveland seconded to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

1. October 10, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes
2. October 25, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes
3. November 18, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes
4. November 22, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes
5. December 16, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes

Member Westlake requested to withhold Item 5. December 16, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes to be voted separately as he will have some comment

Member Loon commented on the BAF Committee minutes regarding attendance. President Weisner replied that it would have to be dealt at the appropriate committee meeting.

**Member Armstrong motioned, Member Ballot seconded to approve the October 10, 2016 Special Meeting, October 25, 2016 Regular Meeting, November 18, 2016 Special Meeting, and November 22, 2016 Special Meeting minutes as presented. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

1. December 16, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes

Member Westlake asked how our minutes are documented and filed. Borough Clerk Ms. Stella Atoruk replied that we copy them to DVD's and are kept indefinitely.

**Member Austin motioned, Member Sampson seconded to approve the December 16, 2016 minutes as presented. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed a majority with Assembly members Austin Swan, Walter Sampson and Larry Westlake voting NO.**

### **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES**

Member Armstrong commented that if funds are available he would like to see wind turbines installed in Noorvik, Kiana, Noatak and Kivalina. He commented a lot of consumers are going through hard times in terms of keeping up with energy needs. Mr. Ingemar Mathiasson gave a brief update on various wind turbine projects currently in Selawik, Buckland and Deering. He also gave a solar array update in several communities. Mr. Mathiasson also commented on the LED street lights during severe cold weather.

Mr. Patrick Savok gave an update on the Kivalina Road project.

Member Nelson reminded administration that it is critical to get current updates from federal or state lobbyists who work for the Borough.

Member Carr requested that the alternative energy update be posted on the borough website.

Member Loon also expressed the need for reports when we receive funding for certain projects.

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

Joint Construction and Maintenance Committee Co-Chair member Larry Westlake provided a brief review of the recent activities of this committee. The committee met on January 12, 2017 and selected Co-chairs which are Northwest Arctic Borough School Board Member Ms. Margaret Hansen and Assembly Member Larry Westlake Sr. The committee discussed correspondence with DEED in regards to the change in the match for the school funding which was decreased to 10 million from 43 million. They also discussed NANA lands and added they invited Mr. John Lincoln to the next meeting in March. The issue of square footage of the school, school design, and local hire were discussed.

Member Swan commented that the situation in the current school is taking a toll of the children, which include space, curriculum and at this point we do not have a high school basketball team. The quicker we put this on the fast track, the better it is for the children.

Member Nelson reported that she would like to see NWALT come back together so we can maximize resources and minimize duplication.

BAF Madam Chair Nelson gave a brief report on the BAF Committee meeting that was held on January 23, 2016 at the Assembly chambers. The committee reviewed all agenda items

and approved Resolutions 17-01, 17-02, and 17-04 that were all recommended for due passage by the full assembly. She added that Resolution 17-03 was reviewed and deferred to the Work session meeting for further discussion.

Ms. Angie Sturm, Finance Director, briefly provided an overview of the General Fund Revenue and Expenditures Account for period ending November 2016.

Member Nelson commented that some of us are very cognizant of the litigation we are currently in and without Teck's partial payment of 8.8 million, we wouldn't have much to operate with. She added we have to be very conservative how we do business.

Member Loon asked if a Grant writer position will be available in the future. Mayor Richards commented that he would have one or two grant writer positions which he is debating on.

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

1. **Ordinance 16-06** an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Title 3 to provide for independent hearing officer review of certain employment actions and for related purposes.

Mayor Richards reported that it is a third party outside entity to address any HR personnel issues and he recommends due pass for enactment.

**Member Armstrong motioned, Member Carr seconded to approve Ordinance 16-06 for enactment. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

**A ten minute recess was taken at 10:07 AM**

**The meeting reconvened from recess at 10:22 AM**

### **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

President Weisner provided an update on the Teck litigation and added that the Negotiation Team recently met with Teck regarding the potential payment in lieu of tax. They are at an advanced stage of this negotiating process.

### **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Richards began his report by commenting he has been working with Lobbyist Ms. Wendy Chamberlain scheduling meetings in Juneau, AK with the upcoming legislative session. He thanked ACS for televising the boy's basketball championship tournament and was good to see people from our region supporting our basketball team although they didn't come out on top. Mayor Richards reported they met with Teck and at some point will be discussing the proposal with the assembly in Executive Session and will then be ready to move forward. He added they are reaching to the NWALT team as we prepare to go Juneau to lobby for projects in our borough.

Member Nelson commented that in regards to the vacant government affairs position, we can do more with less and that the existing employees can do more with our current financial situation. She added that our borough have local people who have experience managing grants and other organizations also have employees that also have the same expertise.

Member Hadley requested that the Mayor work with Mr. Mathiasson in regards to improving our residents' heating systems in the villages.

Member Armstrong also supports a Grant Writer also as they are essential for our borough residents.

Member Loon reminded that this Grant Writer position be impartial and work for the good of our economically depressed villages.

President Weisner thanked the effort of the members of the Sisaulik community who assisted in cleaning up the Sisaulik camp area.

Member Sampson commented on local hire and added there is a lack of support and we have to make sure we stand up for what we plan for.

Member Carr reported thanked the Mayor for the changes he's made and to make sure we watch the bottom line. She also welcomed Mr. Patrick Savok as the new Chief of Staff and Mr. Rodney Snyder as the Fire Chief/Search and Rescue Coordinator.

### **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of February 27-28, 2017 was discussed for the next Assembly Meeting.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 17-01** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting State operating funds to construct Ice Roads and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards recommended due pass as this is the road between Kotzebue, Noorvik and Kiana.

Member Loon reminded those involved in this project that there is no conflict of interest with Assembly members.

Member Cleveland requested for funding to clear a road to haul fuel in his community of Ambler.

**Member Carr motioned, Member Cleveland seconded to approve Resolution 17-01. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously with Member Armstrong and Member Westlake abstaining.**

2. **Resolution 17-02** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting a \$286,896 Department of Justice COPS Grant and for related purposes.

Mayor Richards recommend due pass as it is funding coming in to support our law enforcement.

**Member Armstrong motioned, Member Sampson seconded to approve Resolution 17-02. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Resolution 17-03** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with Andy Baker DBA Baker Professional Services for lobbying services and for related purposes.

Mayor Richards recommend due pass and Mr. Mead elaborated on the concern of the severance tax and Mr. Baker has been working on diligently with the legislature.

Member Nelson requested monthly reports from Mr. Baker as this would assist her in supporting contracts such as this.

President Weisner pointed out a possible typo on the salary in the contract, should be \$80,000, not \$80.00.

Member Carr also requested to see reports from all of our lobbyists. She will be supporting one of the lobbyists' due to our budget and if we gain funds in the future we can consider at it again.

Member Sampson commented about the current State budget crisis, it is critical we have a spokesman to find dollars we need for our borough.

Member Loon reported that she is looking at the bottom line of our budget.

**Member Sampson motioned, Member Swan seconded to approve Resolution 17-03. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed by a majority with Assembly members Loon, Ballot, Carr and Nelson voting NO.**

4. **Resolution 17-04** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with Wendy Chamberlain DBA Legislative Consultants in Alaska for lobbying and media services and for related purposes.

Mayor Richards recommend due pass.

Member Swan reported that he's had the opportunity to work with Ms. Chamberlain when we first started on the relocation effort and she works quite well with Mr. Baker.

Member Carr commented that Ms. Chamberlain does an excellent job and also on the media effort.

**Member Swan motioned, Member Sampson seconded to approve Resolution 17-04. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Member Armstrong motioned, Member Nelson seconded to enter into Executive Session for a Teck/Borough update. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

The assembly has been updated on the current status and the negotiations.

**The assembly entered into Executive Session at 10:56 AM.  
The meeting reconvened from Executive Session at 12:25 PM.**

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Mr. Zach Stevenson, US.Fish & Service, gave an update on the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Committee and announced a public meeting to be held at 6:00 pm today at the Heritage Center in Kotzebue, AK.

### **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Member Ballot thanked the mayor and staff for their work. She congratulated Mr. Patrick Savok in his new position as chief of staff so we can begin to move forward on working on important issues and decisions that affect our borough. She thanked Remote Solutions and for the work they have done thus far for the borough, especially for the village of Selawik. Member Ballot reported she is all for economics and added that we need to be proactive in our safety issues in our region and seek funding for smoke alarms, detectors, and fire extinguishers for our residents. She also expressed the need for a Youth Representative because the youth need to have a voice as they will be replacing us soon. Member Ballot would like to see culturally based curriculums in our schools so that our youth can learn our lifestyle and can survive during hard times.

Member Armstrong commented he looks forward to seeing progress reports with the Kivalina road and school, alternative energy needs, and the Noatak road. He congratulated Mr. Patrick Savok as the new Chief of Staff and looks forward to working with him.

Member Loon thanked Mayor Richards for his hard work with the negotiating team and thanked the Legal and administration for their good work.

Member Swan thanked the Assembly and administration for their hard work. He mentioned that he never understood what was wrong with the procedures going forward with Remote Solutions but will at some point in time.

Member Cleveland thanked the residents who gathered wood for the Elders and any issues that arise to make sure the members understand them before voting. He commented on the importance of local hire and to stay on track.

Member Hadley thanked the Mayor and his staff for their hard work and reports they received at the meeting today. He also expressed his condolences to those that lost love ones recently.

Member Westlake commented on the Noatak Road for hauling fuel.

Member Carr thanked the audience for their participation and thanked the Mayor for the changes in administration and the negotiating team and the efforts they put in it. She also thanked Mr. Mathiasson for his hard work and raising the issue of cost savings for the energy needs of our region. She encouraged the assembly to respect each other and to remember we work together as a team.

Member Nelson commented that the school district for travel policy during cold weather to protect our safety. She encouraged the residents to participate in the assembly meetings and it's important to hear from our constituents on any issue so that we can stay focused and keep on task as we work together being unified working together on the assembly. She also welcomed Mr. Rodney Snyder to the Borough.

Elder Winona Hawley expressed her comments in the Inupiaq language.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stella Atorub".