



Northwest Arctic Borough

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

Ambler Buckland Candle Deering Kivalina Kiana
Kobuk Kotzebue Noatak Noorvik Selawik Shungnak

Northwest Arctic Borough Special Meeting Minutes Monday, October 12, 2015 – 9:00 A.M. Northwest Arctic Borough – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Miles Cleveland provided the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

<i>Vern Cleveland Sr.</i>	Frank Greene	Lucy Nelson	Carl Weisner
Clyde Ramoth	Pete Schaeffer	Nathan Hadley Jr.	Miles Cleveland Sr.
Larry Westlake Sr. (Telephonic)	Walter Sampson		

Excused:

Henry Ballot	Winona Hawley
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Introduction of Staff and Guests

Reggie Joule	Stella Atoruk	Matt Mead	Alex Whiting
Martha Whiting	Annabelle Alvite	Judith Stein	Wendie Schaeffer
Linda Joule	Elmer Armstrong Jr.	Austin Swan Sr.	Charlie Gregg
Fred Smith	Brenden Ryan	Jade Hill	Stephen Schaeffer
Zach Stevenson			

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for October 12, 2015 meeting.

Member Schaeffer request to add executive session somewhere in the process in the event that we need legal counsel, between item E and F.

**Member Ramoth motioned to approve as amended, seconded by Member Schaeffer
Passed 8 yes - 2 no - 1 no voting by roll call vote.**

Member Schaeffer mentioned he understands that the voting process and the certification is what we're dealing with, I was wondering if there was any need for executive session to discuss some of the issues surrounding the election or was there I understand a formal contesting of the election and is there a place for that in the agenda.

1. **Resolution 15-43** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly certifying the October 6, 2015 General Election Results and setting a Runoff Election for the Office of the Mayor.*

**Member Sampson motion to approve as presented, seconded by Member Schaeffer.
Passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

Judith Stein Canvas Committee Chair, gave election results.

Member Sampson thank you for your report on canvassing committee, requested the process from legal. Also raised concern regards to the balloting that was printed, the new ballot and the old ballot that was used for early voting.

Member Nelson mentioned she hasn't received a copy of the contest of elections by Martha Whiting so I don't know what the specific acts she's claiming, or the practices, how I read the code, where does this play into the Borough Assembly ordering an investigation? Does that effect Resolution 15-43? Is she claiming a recount or can we hear the, because we done have a copy and I can't.

Member Westlake requested a copy.

Break at 9:27 A.M.; back at 9:32 A.M.

Martha Whiting summarized contest of election which she has submitted due to Mayor Joule's withdrawal from the Election within thirty days. He had announced publically on radio September 25 which is twelve days before Election. She then decided to run as a write-in candidate. Martha mentioned she tried to do an absentee ballot and wasn't able to because the ballots were being reprinted, she is concerned as to how many voters were turned away. Martha thanked all those that have voted for her.

Member Sampson thank you Siikauraq for the explanation and giving us clarity in regards to your contest and it clearly spells out under 4.24.020F where it states a candidate's name will appear on the ballot unless, I think that's the key not unless I'm wrong legal you might want to get clarity on that unless written notice of the candidates withdrawal is received, so that's the code that's in place, the question is did the withdrawal came in with a notice with a letter.

Member Westlake verified with Clerk if she knew of any written statements; whom haven't received one.

Mayor Joule thank you. It is correct, he did not provide a written statement I did provide an email statement to the clerk but not a written statement.

Member Sampson if there is an email statement, verified the difference between a email statement and a written statement Legal?

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Member Sampson motion to go into executive session, seconded by Member Schaeffer. Passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Member Westlake called the meeting back to order, no action taken on the executive session.

Member Schaeffer during the interim we had the former mayor still here and whether or not with the runoff election with expanded time would require us to appoint a Mayor pro-tem or what's the deal?

Member Schaeffer what are we looking at in timeframe?

Member Sampson if the present Mayor has some other plans with family or what not then I think we ought to ask then work on finding a pro-tem to fill in that position until Election occurs.

Mayor Joule thank you Mr. President and members of the assembly, I plan to be gone this week and on some business the first two days would be back after that, so I would be on personal leave this week, at which time I would appoint an acting as normally I would if I took any leave and I would be able to do that until such time if that's the wish of the assembly until the new mayor has been selected I could serve in that capacity if that's the wish of the assembly.

Member Sampson for legal in the event that there should be some challenges where would that put the mayor in that position if there should be questions or challenges?

Member Sampson the reason I raise that question is I don't want the run-off election to be impacted by any challenges in the event that that should occur.

Christine Hess mentioned the Mayor forgot, he does have a work related commitment, people are kind of relying on him the 8th, 19th and 20th of October.

Member Weisner I have no objection with Mayor Joule serving out the remainder of the 30 days, if we as the assembly decide that it's going to be in 30 days for the run-off election and if we decide that does it require a motion.

Member Weisner moved to set a run-off date within 30 days from today for the Mayor's election, seconded by Member Vern Cleveland. Passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Member Weisner under discussion I would add to include that we allow for Mayor Joule to continue during this time frame as the Mayor.

Mayor Joule for clarification, associated with the Resolution that you just passed 15-43 and this is a question for Legal does that include the swearing in of the new members of the Assembly?

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Martha Whiting thank you for addressing this contest election, I would like to say Taikuu to everybody that supported my fast and furious very, very, very short write-in campaign, I had so much fun, I enjoyed visiting our communities, I enjoyed talking to a lot of people, in hindsight if you every want to run for Public Office get your name on the ballot, a lot of people asked why I didn't do that, I was at siisaulik, last thing I was thinking of at that time was doing so, I would like to give kudos and good luck to Wendie Schaeffer and Clement Richards for their run-off election and I know the clerks work really hard and I want to say thanks to the clerks for all your work with the election and good luck to Mayor Joule, It was very difficult for me to pursue this contest of election but I know it was the right thing to do for the code and because our people deserve a fair election so I had to bring it forward, I would like to remind our people to continue to stay positive, work together and remind all of us here for the commitment to improve the quality of life for our residents. Adiga Taikuu, I want to say thank you more to the many different supporters in our communities that participated not only in my write-in campaign but all the others and good luck to all the other folks that are running for Public Office. Arriga, Taikuu, thank you.

Member Weisner mentioned should the assembly decide to swear in the newly certified assembly members we can do so today, and if the assembly decides that we do that I would suggest that we would because they flew here, Elmer and Austin so I would ask that we consider doing that today if the clerk is ready and the assembly is open to that.

Member Westlake really think that we should do that at the regular meeting session but it's up to you.

Member Weisner just thought it would be courteous since they took the time to come to Kotzebue from the villages but I'm ok either way.

Member Sampson what does the code say?

Member Westlake ok we can go on with it.

Austin Swan, Elmer Armstrong and Carl Weisner got sworn in by Borough Clerk.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Ramoth congratulations to the new members and good luck on their run-off and thank you Mayor Joule, I know you've got another 30 days and you work hard. During the election

we had such a different hunting and gathering season so that was partly why we have such low numbers but it's been a busy day and adiga Taikuu.

Member Armstrong I would like to thank all the people in the region for their support and I look forward to working with the Borough Assembly. Thank you.

Member Swan spoke in Inupiaq. I want to thank the voters who voted the new members in and who voted for the mayors, we did have low numbers 66% didn't count and that's a really horrible number to see so I would say that we need to work on getting our people to vote. Thank you.

Member Nelson thank you Mr. President, I want to congratulate Elmer and Austin, I also want to say thank you to Hendy Ballot and Vern Cleveland for their service I really appreciate working with you and hope you all the best for your future, I also want to say best wishes to Wendie Schaeffer and Clement Richards and I hope there's democracy in place and people get out to vote and we need to encourage our constituents to vote we need better turn out and also Carl congratulations glad to keep you on the assembly. Thank you very much.

Member Sampson spoke in Inupiaq. Reggie, tough decision you had to make your decision to step down from the position Taikuu on behalf of the residents of this region thank you for your work, thank you for your commitment, thank you for your time, we saw democracy at work, that freedom of choice for all the residents of this region, sure we have our differences as assembly, as people of this Region it's always good to bring to the table your difference, some of the issue that we agree on, some of the issues that we don't agree on, we talk about those very things, we make decision based on compromises sometimes and that's what freedom is all about and I want to thank the clerk for the hard work this year especially during this election Sister Belle thank you and thanks to cousin Martha, to the canvas committee thank you for your work, to those that had an interest in running for the Public Office or for the Public position thank you for your efforts, Martha, Wendie and to those others who made an effort to run for public office, this election showed to us that we do have weakness' that we do need to address which means that we have to refine those Ordinances, those Codes that affect what occurred this election. To Hendy Ballot, to Vern thank you very much for your service hopefully within the next 30 days we will have a new Mayor, to both Wendie and Mr. Richards one of the two will become Mayor of this governance and its critically important for the residents of this Region to participate in the election your voice is important to all of us. Obbie Greene thank you very much for your service, I thank you for the time that you spent and I want to thank Carl, congratulations Carl, Austin and Elmer as a new member remember were public officials now representing the region, sure were going to have our differences which is good it's always good to have difference, that is a time that we deliberate to get our differences on the table, to come out with what we can agree for the better of the residents of this region. I want to thank everyone the rest of the assembly members for the good work, Larry thank you very much for taking the lead as president of the assembly. Looking forward to a new meeting here coming up end of the month where we will deliberate and I want to thank all of you for coming here. Taikuu.

Member Hadley I would like to thank Stella for her hard work, the canvas committee and I would like to congratulate Elmer, Austin and Carl and thank Vern, Hendy and Obbie I enjoyed

working with you guys and in the future we will work again and I look forward to working with Elmer and Austin and I would like to thank the Mayor also.

Member Weisner thank you Mr. President and assembly members and thank you for your congratulations, I would like to thank the voters and their support I appreciate it very much, I would also like to thank Gia Hannah for putting her name in the hat and congratulations Austin, Elmer and Hanna I will look forward to seeing you at the next meeting Hannah and also thank you to Vern Cleveland and Hendy Ballot for their work with the assembly and a special thank you to Frank Obbie Greene he's been a man of few words but very large positive impact for many years as a public servant he's done a lot for me and my learning process and my education and I would really like to thank especially Frank Obbie Greene cause he's had such a distinguished career and also thank you very much Mayor Joule and your administrative staff and all of your staff for being there and doing good work on behalf of the people of the Borough and also a big thank you to the canvas committee, the judges and the clerks having to do all of their work manually making sure its accurate and I thank them very much and thanks very much Mr. President.

Member Schaeffer spoke in Inupiaq. Thank you very much, I would also like to thank Obbie, Vern and Hendy for their service and welcome Elmer and Austin to this body and I thank all of those that participated in the election process. Thank you.

Member Miles Cleveland Taikuu, thank you Reggie, it's always good to say that name after my late brother Reggie I enjoy that, thank you for your hard work and even though you leave office there's still work to do as long as you reside in this Region we work together no matter what comes up we still have to work together and make the right decisions, helping each other's out, forget the past and start over, if we start to divide ourselves up as humans then this Borough is not going to function well and we know that. I want to thank Vern, Hendy and Obbie also for their hard work in the past, congratulations to Austin, Elmer and Carl for the assembly seats and those that run Michael Sherman, Gia Hanna and Eugene Smith thank you for making an attempt to become the assembly but never give up and Martha never give up in running for office, Taikuu, thank you very much.

President Westlake I would like to thank the Judges out in the villages for working hard at the election. Also Hendy, Vern and Frank for their service all these years and Reggie of course, I've worked with Reggie the last eight months or so, we did go through some important issues and their still ongoing so I can't wait for the reorganizations so we could have a new president on the assembly. And I thank Siikauruk for her interest that opened our eyes, we know we had some problems in the election code and will move forward to make that better. Thank you very much.

Member Vern Cleveland thank you, it's been very difficult to try and represent a village where you're not from, I represent Kivalina, Noatak it was difficult and I'm glad Austin got into my seat to represent his village his people and in fact in Noorvik we had two guys Hendy and I and Hendy was the rep for Noorvik so that was a big mix up on that one but I'm glad you guys are in there and I've been there 12-13 years and it's been a lot of fun, a lot of work and mixed feelings and I enjoyed it but I'm still going forward I ain't giving up but I will tell you one thing don't call me I'll call you.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Joule I want to thank the outgoing members Hendy, Vern and Obbie for your service as members of the assembly. Congratulations to Elmer, Austin, Hannah and Carl on your election or reelection. To Wendie and Clement Richards good luck on your campaigns and I would guess that the clerk along with the attorney would set the actual election dates so that we could have this in a timely way. I also want to mention that even though it didn't get much by a way of mention here cause were focusing on our body congratulations also to the School Board members who got elected or reelected and that's Paula Mills, Nellie Ballot, Lawrence Jones, Eunice Hadley. To all of the election judges counting all of those ballots manually took a lot of time and I know here they didn't get much sleep and so I thank all of the election judges and the canvas committee but in particular the one who I know shouldered the most responsibility that's Stella, your worth your weight in gold and so with that we will have a full assembly meeting at the end of the month as I mentioned before I will be gone on personal leave this week and I will name an acting mayor in my absence, I will be on business on Monday and Tuesday and back in the office on Wednesday the next week and with that I thank everybody and we will work with legal on the code and make some adjustments to that section on the code as outlined to the assembly. Thank you all for everything, it's been an honor.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Ramoth move to adjourn at 11:28 A.M.