



# Northwest Arctic Borough

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## Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 – 9:00 A.M.  
Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

### CALL TO ORDER

President Carl Weisner called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

### INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Cleveland provided invocation.

### SAFETY MOMENT

Brad Reich, Public Services Director advised residents of storm preparedness; never know about power. Prepared to have food, water and heating. Kivalina is on the beach; be careful. Be prepared for the storm.

Member Westlake expressed concern of freeze up of high water; as soon as it goes it's dangerous along the edges of the river. Urge the search and rescue to report to the village the status of the ice.

Member Sampson request Public Safety to put out PSA's on the radio.

Member Armstrong expressed the importance of being on the ice, check the thickness.

Member Carr advises everyone to be aware of what is around you, especially in a new hotel.

Vice President Nelson expressed the importance of boilers and furnaces; check your chimneys for fire safety.

### ROLL CALL

#### Members Present:

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

Ambler [Visaappaat](#), Buckland [Nunatchiaq](#), Deering [Ipnatchiaq](#), Kiana [Katyaak](#), Kivalina [Kivaliñiq](#), Kobuk [Laugviik](#), Kotzebue [Qikiqtaġruk](#), Noatak [Nautaaq](#), Noorvik [Nuurvik](#), Selawik [Akuliġaq](#), Shungnak [Isiñnaq](#)

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Clement Richards Sr.	Winona Hawley	<i>Matt Mead</i>	Ingemar Mathiasson
Angie Strum	Eugene Smith	Brad Reich	Jade Hill
Patrick Savok	Wayne Hall	Ryan Hixson	John Baker
Katherine Keith	Ann Marie O'Brien	Helena Hildreth	

**Quorum established to conduct business.**

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Agenda presented for October 25, 2016 regular meeting. Member Carr request to remove Resolution 16-52.

**Member Carr moved, Member Hadley seconded to adopt the agenda as amended. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

August 23, 2016 Regular meeting minutes and September 15, 2016 Special meeting minutes, presented for approval.

**Member Carr moved, Member Westlake to approve the meeting minutes. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

**REORGANIZATION OF OFFICERS**

Member Carr nominate Member Nelson for President. Member Hadley nominate Member Weisner.

**Member Carr nominate to close nominations, seconded by Member Sampson. Deputy Clerk Hildreth tallied votes. Carl Weisner with seven votes and Lucy Nelson with four votes.**

Member Carr nominate Member Nelson for Vice President. Member Cleveland nominate Member Sampson.

**Member Westlake nominate to close nominations. Deputy Clerk tallied votes; Lucy Nelson with nine votes and Walter Sampson with two votes.**

**COMMUNICATIONS & APPEARANCES**

Lt. Ryan Hixson provided a brief update of the Homeland Security's activities from the summer and fall season. October 31<sup>st</sup> is the first day of helicopters to return; may have planes here in the future. Expressed their thanks and gratitude for your cooperation. Member Loon thank Coast Guard for assisting with search and rescue. Member Carr

expressed her gratitude; look forward to you coming back next spring. Member Armstrong thank you for your presence in the time of need.

## **BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Madam Chair Nelson summarized the Budget, Audit and Finance meeting which was held the previous day.

Chairperson Armstrong summarized the Personnel Committee meeting which held the previous day also. They have discussed Ordinance 16-06, recommend do pass.

Ms. Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer, provided a brief report on the contingency Reserve Memo, Community Revenue Sharing Report, Caselle – new software update and the NWAB Annual Audit Reminder. Member Carr raised concern to the revenue sharing; why isn't Kotzebue listed, do they receive their own? Member Sampson mentioned that Kotzebue has their own Planning Commission.

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

None presented.

## **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

Member Sampson mentioned the Rural CAP Board which was held a meeting recently. They have hired a new Executive Director; really a non-profit organization which is a pass through for Borough to ask for funding sources. They have an Early Childhood Program also, if any of the villages would like to start, just send a letter of interest. If any of our people that live in Anchorage that have trailers that need renovation they can apply; some of the funding is targeted to Bush Alaska. Mentioned they are also discussing homelessness and Veterans. They are trying to change the regulations and policies by working with AFN; it will take some time.

Member Swan attended an AML Board meeting recently also, getting ready for the conference next month.

Member Loon thank the Selawik Davis Ramoth School for hosting the Subsistence Fish and Wildlife RACK meeting in Selawik beginning of the month. Thank the wrestling team for providing meals for the visitors. RACK Member Enoch Mitchell happily reported they didn't have to compete with airplanes this year. Moose population is low at this time, have closed to non-federal residents on federal lands.

Member Sampson added to Member Loon's comments; as you remember we had low numbers for caribou. Just recently the Department of Fish & Game they reported last year it went up a little more than half from 2011. We need to make sure we voice our concern to the Federal Board; State of Alaska has a seat on the federal board even though it's not a voting seat they have a lot of impact to all. There is always a change on those positions. Maija

Lukin is the new Park Manager here in Kotzebue; good spokesperson for Bush Alaska and to support her on what she has to do. There will be a challenge sometime down the road under ANILCA; we need to encourage and support an organization to manage resources.

Member Loon added that on the Squirrel River; they had airplanes that landed there. They have talked about putting cams three miles apart so that they caribou can pass.

Member Sampson also added that those folks flew onto State lands; they use the sandbars because they are State controlled.

Member Westlake mentioned that the Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee have discussed the mileage on the Squirrel River; had advised them for five miles.

Vice President Nelson mentioned a meeting with Teck on October 18<sup>th</sup> regarding the lawsuit on severance tax. An offer was made although both teams decided to go back to respected Assembly and management team; there is a future meeting in December to continue negotiations.

President Weisner added that those discussions were positive and healthy; both entities appreciate each other's positions.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Richards summarized his written report. We have Representative Don Young here on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank President Weisner for the update on the Teck lawsuit. Also, had a meeting with Department of Labor; would like to open an office for job services. Excited about Sulianich; moving forward to them being on their own. Congratulations to the two new members whom will be attending the newly elected.

Vice President Nelson raised concern to the Assembly members reporting to the villages; are we going to have a newsletter? If the villages would like that then we should move forward. She suggests one of the members to the radio show.

Member Westlake raised concern to districts which they serve; we don't have the resources to get the news out or travel to the villages. We represent four villages, difficult issue; we need to get information to all the villages. In Kiana, all the voted representatives that come out of Kiana are on the City and IRA Agenda; good way reporting to them.

Member Carr would like a summary provided in the packet; can share with the villages. Although concerned about confidential information.

### **TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Special meeting will be announced at the call of the Chair as discussed previously.

**Break observed; reconvene at 10:20 A.M.**

## INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

**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 recommend do pass; gives third party for the Borough. Vice President Nelson raised concern to changing the charter has to go to the vote of the people? Once the ordinance gets approved does it go to the public?

**Member Sampson moved, seconded by Member Cleveland to approve Ordinance 16-06 for first reading. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

## RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 16-50** *a resolution authorizing the Northwest Arctic Borough directing the Borough Administration to work expeditiously towards construction of the Kivalina School and for related purposes.*

Vice President Nelson mentioned that there is concern regarding her employment with School District; would she abstain from this or able to vote? Member Carr raised concern to the School District not present, then she got clarification and she supports this. Dr. O'Brien announced they are in support of supporting the Borough moving forward on the road. Mayor Richards recommend do pass.

**Member Armstrong motioned, Member Hadley seconded to approve Resolution 16-50. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

2. **Resolution 16-51** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving amendment of a professional services agreement with the University of Alaska Fairbanks.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass.

**Member Loon motioned, Vice President Nelson seconded to approve Resolution 16-51. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Resolution 16-53** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing participation in the Community Development Block Grant Program, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards recommend do passage; grant coming into the Borough. Public Services Director Reich mentioned to help with water and sewer issues region-wide. Would like to work with them to sustain water and sewer and bring cost down. Member Armstrong raised concern to a reach out to the communities to what is needed. Member Carr raised concern to the amount per village? Does it count Kotzebue? Member Loon is thankful for this grant for all communities, thank you to Remote Solutions for working on this. Member Hadley raised concern to residential hookup if there was an incident due to a fire.

**Member Ballot motioned, Member Cleveland seconded to approve Resolution 16-53. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Resolution 16-54** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving an Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Recreational Trails Grant application in the amount of \$100,000 for Northwest Arctic Borough inter-village Trails maintenance.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass. Vice President Nelson raised concern regarding the distance on the resolution; Public Services Director Reich mentioned that it can happen in house at the administration level. Member Westlake mentioned that it would be stated on the contract; with the distance required. Also, have an issue with Kobuk Lake; would like to see a deadline as to when to stake the trails. Member Westlake mentioned that Kiana Search and Rescue they have a plan to have the person to have them paid eighty percent until inspected by someone else then get paid the rest. Member Sampson raised concern to the federal land owners, majority are on those lands and should also take the responsibility in helping with monies to maintain trails and cabins.

**Member Hadley motioned, Member Carr seconded to adopt Resolution 16-54. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously with one not voting.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None presented.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None presented.

#### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Siikauraq Martha Whiting, Selawik Wildlife Refuge thank you for your support with the Selawik Science Culture Camp. Taikuu to Tanya at Native Village of Selawik; works extremely hard for the community. Passionate for the health of our people. Taikuu to Panivaluk for your volunteering for this program too. Acknowledge our staff at the Refuge; thank you to the ones in Selawik also. Taikuu to the Selawik School too, thank you to Northwest Arctic Borough and look forward to continuing this camp which just held our 14<sup>th</sup> gathering.

Dr. Ann Marie O'Brien appreciates the constant attention and support for the Kivalina Road. On behalf of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District she thanks your input.

Katherine Keith, Remote Solutions presented to the Assembly an update on the CIAP Projects. In December she will be presenting the final presentation. The Subsistence Mapping Project is available on portal; fundamentally important and valuable. There is a draft comprehensive plan for almost five of the communities; Buckland, Noatak, Noorvik, Kiana and soon Ambler. As you may know there have been youth going door to door asking

what are your priorities are. Planning to have resolutions to the Cities and IRA's to have top priorities by Christmas.

Wayne Hall, Environment and Community Superintendent for Red Dog Operations congratulates Member Ballot and Carr. Congratulate to President Weisner and Vice President Nelson for your re-election. He expressed the importance of the Kivalina Road. Lastly express our appreciation for the negotiations that have been ongoing; this collaborative process where working together and having conversations. Appreciative to Mayor, Staff and Assembly members that are on the negotiation team.

Mayor thank Wayne for keeping an open mind; also to Henry, thank you for open dialogue and open mind.

Member Carr thank Wayne and fellow group; please send greetings to your people, we are grateful for what is being done in the region.

### **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Member Ballot thank Borough, Staff, Remote Solutions and Kivalina for getting the evacuation road in place and moving forward. Going to be a pilot project that other villages will follow because of global warming. Everybody need to be ready and prepared for what is coming. Selawik has endured much loss; we need to do better with Public Safety. Need to have VPO's trained and need to work harder to have VPSO's in Selawik. Not only Selawik but all communities; need to reach out and have better representation from the State Troopers. She would like to see a Youth Representative; have them more involved and have a voice. Thank you.

Member Carr thank administration; appreciative of the packet and online services from the Borough. Would like the trails on the website. She would like to have financials presented at a readable document. She would like to have each members expenditures listed in the packet. Thank you to Pete Schaeffer for your service while on the Assembly. Thank you for all the work you do.

Member Loon mentioned when on business trips; we need to be social able and not under the influence of alcohol at our dinner tables. She asks the Ethics committee to work on having this reviewed.

Vice President Nelson thanks the Coast Guard, Teck, Remote Solutions and Ann Marie O'Brien and any others haven't addressed for your presentations, thoughts, concerns and updates. Thank you Tanya for raising concern to the youth representatives. Safety, be safe out there, let people know when traveling. Thank you administration for the finance manual and also updating the software; important to be updated. Congratulations to Carl; we have huge responsibility. Thank you for your confidence and support, will continue to support Carl in his role. Thank you.

Elder Representative Hawley thank you to Assembly and Remote Solutions for moving forward on the Kivalina Road. Congratulations to the newly elected and to the reelected.

Member Sampson thank each and every one for a good meeting; some discussions that occurred had been discussed for some time. Thank you to Panivaluk and Dood for raising your issues. Another note, approximately thirty-six years that we had others manage the monuments/parks/preserves within this region. It's good to see a local person manage; others that work their way up like Martha. Hopefully become the manager; now it's our role to reinforce when they ask for help it's our turn to help out. Thank you to John and Kat; we finally started taking action. To take and keep rolling; we've studied and starting to take action. Thank you to Pete, his role and service to Northwest Arctic Borough; when issued came up he would speak. Welcome to Dood and Tanya to the Assembly. As Senator Sullivan said, it's time for action, studied too long and time for action. Matter of reinforcing. Thank you to those that are here; thank you to Maija for your role. We as the Assembly need to voice out our concerns without any fear from anyone. Thank you. Congratulations to Carl and Lucy; Lucy, I'm glad you're well.

Member Cleveland thank you for all those that prayed for me; also, for those that voted for me. Thank you to those that showed interest in the seats, congratulations to those that were reelected and to newly appointed. Congratulations to Carl and Lucy, thank you for your leadership.

Thank you to the Assembly for putting Kivalina on the fast track; we can help other communities that need it. Welcome Dood and Tanya; good to see young people stepping up. We may be getting old but young at heart. The other communities in the region; we hear them and we will get to them as soon as we can.

Member Westlake, thank you Austin, although the only thing that don't get old is your mouth. Thank you for those that voted for me again; wasn't sure if was going to run again. Thank you that ran against me; don't give up. Raised concern to AFN; each year there is NANA Caucus, Calvin Schaeffer will be representing the villages for one year. Also, for co-chair is Will Mayo. One of the youth mentioned NWALT is needed; created during Chuck Greene administration. Whatever issues may have they move forward; we all have personal issues and need to put aside and work together. We have to work together in what we do. Thank you.

Member Hadley thank Mayor and staff, thank you to Remote Solutions; impressed with your hard work on the Kivalina Project. We recognize local hire. There are families that are in need of help, those that loose loved ones and those that lost those homes. Encourage all entities to pull together on donations weather its material. It's hard for families to build back up. Congratulations to Carl and Lucy; look forward to another year and your hard work.

Member Armstrong sends condolences to those that lost those loved ones. Thank you to those that presented. Thank Remote Solutions for working with Kivalina and going forward with the project. Congratulations to Dood; thank Pete for many years of services with the Borough. Congratulate Tanya, look forward working with you. I'd like administration to work with the schools for a youth representative. Congratulate to those that got reelected. Look forward to working with the Assembly as we move forward; making improvements in each community that we serve. Thank the administration for all the hard work.

President Weisner would like to see NWALT revitalized; possibly see KIC as an observing entity. As for committee appointments, Vice President and President will review the



committees that you are interested in. Thank you for your participation. Please work with the clerk to see regarding flight arrangements due to weather.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Richards mentioned that Finance Director/Treasurer provided an update of the youth representatives. She stated that the youth representative position has been cut when the administration eliminated one million from the budget. If added back then she recommends a budget revision; enlighten that it comes after Teck negotiations. Also, regarding the expenditures mentioned by Member Carr; whether by just to Assembly or by packet.

Vice President Nelson recommends an in-house transfer to have a youth representative present.

Member Westlake raised concern to representation that was requested because of our budget; suggest wait and see what is going to happen and then reinstate the positions.

Member Sampson suggests that would be an ideal thing to do.

Vice President Nelson mentioned that they were not recommending a budget amendment; Mayor will be finding monies to accommodate the youth representative.

Mayor thanks all those that presented. Congratulations to Dood and those that were re-elected. Also, congratulations to Carl and Lucy.

Member Armstrong thanks those that presented today, thank you to Ingemar on the projects to reduce energy. To those that are fishing, be careful.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Member moved to adjourn; with no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:34 A.M.**