



Northwest Arctic Borough

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

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

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes - *DRAFT*

Tuesday, December 22, 2015 – 9:00 A.M.

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Cleveland provided invocation.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Elmer Armstrong Jr.	Walter Sampson	Hannah Loon	Austin Swan Sr.
Pete Schaeffer	Nathan Hadley Jr.	Miles Cleveland Sr.	Larry Westlake Sr.
Lucy Nelson	Carl Weisner	Clyde Ramoth	

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Clement Richards Sr.	Winona Hawley	Stella Atoruk	Martha Henry
Eugene Smith	Patrick Savok	Kathleen Lansdale	Christine Hess
Willie Goodwin (telephonic)	<i>Pauline Cleveland</i>		

Quorum established to conduct business.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Agenda for December 22, 2015 presented for approval. Mayor Richards added Kaam Sahely and Willie Goodwin to agenda. President Weisner added Resolution 15-45 and Ordinances 15-09 and 15-10.

Member Ramoth moved, seconded by Member Hadley to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Meeting Minutes for September 22, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, October 12, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes, November 6, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes, November 24, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes presented as a block.

Member Loon moved, seconded by Member Westlake to approve the meeting minutes as a block. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS & APPEARANCES

Willie Goodwin gave a report on Arctic Water Ways in Inupiaq and English.

Member Schaeffer raised concern regarding food security and global warming.

Member Sampson commented in Inupiaq. Thanked Willie for providing good information; expressed his gratitude for Willie's involvement; what can this governance do to strengthen what your trying to do to address those things that you bring forth to us, how can we help to address those things? Also encouraged the assembly to identify an individual to support the administration through the process.

Member Westlake commented in Inupiaq. Expressed gratitude for Willie's involvement; if people start coming off the ships and docking is there going to be any insurance on medical issues?

Member Loon commented in Inupiaq.

Member Ramoth commented in Inupiaq; raised concern regarding monitoring of vessels.

Member Swan thanked Willie for the information; expressed concerns regarding migratory habits.

President Weisner expressed his gratitude for his service on the committee and speaking the Inupiaq language.

Member Sampson expressed importance presence of Legal Counsel during these kinds of discussion, it will have an impact of this body.

Break held at 9:53 A.M.
Reconvene at 10:10 A.M.

Member Nelson motion to enter executive session to discuss financial matters of the Borough, seconded by Member Loon. Passed unanimously.

President Weisner out of executive session, no decisions have been made in relation to the financial matters of the Borough.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Member Nelson provided a summary of the Budget, Audit and Finance meeting of which was held the previous day.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, INACTMENT OF ORDINANCES AND EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 15-05am01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line item budget for the Fiscal Year 2016.*

Member Sampson moved to table Ordinance 15-05am01, seconded by Member Hadley. Passed unanimously.

Member Sampson based on the discussions that we had with uncertainties down the road I think it would be wise to look at tabling this Ordinance for its second and final reading and deal with the issue down the road.

Member Cleveland so this would mean the meeting schedule would also be canceled for the retreat?

Member Nelson I spoke with legal yesterday and the original budget was approved and will stand as is until the second reading of this amendment, during the discussion it was my recommendation to table because of the uncertainty, we have to look very carefully at our finances moving forward because of not knowing where the PILT's going to go, we just had discussions on that and everybody is clear as far as not knowing.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Ramoth gave a brief report on LEPC meeting.

Member Sampson gave a brief report on RURAL Cap.

Member Nelson gave a brief report on meeting with Negotiating team.

Member Swan gave a brief report on AML Conference.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Richards gave a summary of written report, attended AML Conference; also attended BIA Conference; also met with Village of Noatak regarding their fuel project; also met with DOWL on behalf of Kivalina and the evacuation road; also received a grant for VPSO Housing duplex in Ambler; also met with TECK and negotiation team, no decisions were made.

Member Sampson for the evacuation road, as long as there is support for that evacuation road is there any though of an infrastructure at the end of the evacuation road? What I'm thinking is that in the event that the road is built and evacuation needs to occur do we have an infrastructure that the community can go to during that evacuation? For the EIS process do we have any timeframe how long that will take?

Member Loon expressed importance of planning on an infrastructure and start working on moving people to a new site.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Assembly Retreat – week of January 11, 2016 in Anchorage
Budget, Audit and Finance – Monday, January 25, 2016 @ 1:30 P.M.
Work session – Monday, January 25, 2016 @ 3:30 P.M.
Regular Meeting – Tuesday, January 26, 2016 @ 9:00 A.M.

Member Ramoth motion to approve the dates of January 2016, seconded by Member Westlake. Passed unanimously.

Member Cleveland raised concern regarding location and parking cost.

President Weisner asked mayor to consider different location.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 15-09** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract for copier/printing services with KONICA/MINOLTA, and for related purposes.*

Member Ramoth moved to approve Ordinance 15-09, seconded by Member Sampson. Passed unanimously.

2. **Ordinance 15-10** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Chapter 2.12 of the Borough Code to include a Chief of Staff Position.*

Member Hadley moved to approve Ordinance 15-10, seconded by Member Cleveland. Passed unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 15-45** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a professional services agreement with Glenn Gray and Associates.*

Member Loon moved to approve Resolution 15-45, seconded by Member Sampson. Passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution 15-55** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting a grant from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation for Public Safety Housing in Ambler and for related purposes.

Member Cleveland moved to approve Resolution 15-45, seconded by Member Westlake. Passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

None presented.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Wayne Westlake, President of NANA Regional Corporation; thank you for the opportunity for being here, appreciate hearing the issues affecting our Region and getting up to speed on some of the things you are discussing; I do want to thank Mayor Richards for meeting with me on a couple of occasions and meeting with our staff; Raised concern regarding not being involved in PILT discussions; also expressed importance of coming together and the future of our Region; would like to work together.

Pauline Cleveland I have a question on the Police/VPSO, do we have funding from the Borough in our communities, I just wanted an update on that; also raised concern regarding light on Kobuk Lake on Sivu side.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Elder Representative Hawley Taikuu Mr. President, Assembly and Mayor; commented in Inupiaq. Merry Christmas.

Member Hadley happy holidays to the people of the Borough, I wish you good health and a happy holiday, Merry Christmas; in the future I would like to request that the four board of directors from each organization like Maniilaq, the School District, NANA and this assembly, that we have a joint meeting where we discuss our unity on our leadership, its real important that we stay together especially through the tough times on the Municipal and Federal Government side and it's important that we stay together especially in the direction of NWALT, I believe that we need to meet and strengthen our relationships.

Member Westlake thank you, I think that Nathan brought up a good issue, we used to have tri-board meetings but I think we had NWALT take over on that, I think that's a good meeting we should create again and I wish the assembly, the staff and the Mayor a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and be safe out there. Thank you.

Member Schaeffer no comment other than wishing people, the folks around the region a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you.

Member Ramoth arigaa, raised concern regarding light. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, be safe, thanks to the staff, arigaa and I'm definitely going to enjoy the ham. Thank you.

Member Armstrong I would like to wish the staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, also the people within our Borough Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and safe travels, be safe and I look forward to meeting with the Borough Assembly again to design a plan where we can move forward together and also if possible I would like to move forward with the Borough, NWALT and all the other Organizations, I would like to see them come together cause it's always good when we work together and we know were working together trying to move forward, thank you.

Member Loon commented in Inupiaq.

Member Swan Merry Christmas

Member Cleveland Taikuu, good meeting, my condolence to the Douglas and Barr family in Kiana, sorry for the loss we will be thinking of you; Marine Mammal that Willie brought out as a report was very interesting, we all subsist even in the inland we use the marine mammal, our fish come from the ocean and we point fingers at maybe those developers that are not causing the problem of our fish, maybe it's the folks that are traveling out there in the ocean and we need to be more concerned about; I want to thank the funding for the Ambler Housing for the police, thank you borough for working hard to get it where it's going to be hopefully this summer and right now Ambler is selling gas for cheaper, the City has dropped their gas prices to \$8 something a gallon and that's been a blessing to the community and it's going to be a more blessing to the upper two villages that may come down to purchase gas for subsistence or for their winter use; our communities today are suffering and this Borough was designed to help our communities and today we have one cash cow to help us help our communities let's not forget that, although other organizations are out there that's willing to help our communities they are totally different from what we are doing, NANA is a corporation that is supposed to be making money for us but a lot of times our people use those organizations for social concerns and that's not what NANA is all about, NANA is a profit organization, as a Borough we need to get money from somewhere to help our people we need to look at the bigger pictures in the future to make those decisions. Thank you.

Member Sampson commented in Inupiaq. Condolences to Barr family in Kiana, our thoughts are with you; we heard from Willie Goodwin this morning in regards to the Arctic, he also included the relationships that we have amongst ourselves as the four major organizations that we need to reinforce, we heard from the elders what was coming, they told us there was going to be some changes in our way of life and we see what's happening today which means for us we need to reinforce the relationship and thank you to member Hadley for encouraging, maybe how we ought to look at is get some of the board members from each organization to come together to reinforce to address those very critical issues that are separating us so we can reinforce that relationship for the future of our children and our grandchildren, things are not going to become easier things are going to become tougher, people are going to find that their needs are going to be short which means to us we need to find a way to try to help these folks that are in need, our four fathers were parents lived that lifestyle, they reinforced each other's in the community when somebody needs help they look after each other's and that's what we need to reinforce today; I want to thank you for a good meeting, Taikuu.

Vice President Nelson thank you Mr. President, I would like to say thank you to all the people that called in, thank you to Willie Goodwin for coming in and discussing the Arctic Waterways group and their plans and also to Wayne Westlake for coming to us and talking about unity and working together, I appreciate that, I also want to encourage our constituents to come to our work sessions and our committee meetings so that we can have a dialogue and discuss some of the important issues that we put on the table, its always good to have feedback so that we could move forward, im also looking forward to the retreat so we could have a strong financial plan moving forward and talk about all the critical issues that are before us for the new year; I would like to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone here on the assembly, the staff thank you for your hard work and to all our constituents have a very Happy New Year. Thank you.

President Weisner I would like to say that I very much appreciate all of you the assembly, the mayor and your staff for coming prepared, doing your homework, asking questions, participating and discussing these matters that are very important to the Borough, education, Public Safety, Zoning and Planning, community utilities, preparing for disasters, Economic Development and the basic needs and quality of life of our residents; also I would like to very much thank all of you for your prayers and support we have a new born son his name is Casen and Susie, Casen and Savik are at home and they are happy and healthy, thank you for your prayers and support and I really much appreciate it.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Richards I would like to wish everybody happy holidays, have a safe trip wherever you're going, plan around trip, take extra gas, let people know where you're going, it is the holidays the coldest, thank god were getting daylight now we got 12 seconds today, hopefully it will be that way for the future too, just keeps getting brighter and brighter, happy holidays to everybody. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Cleveland moved to adjourn; with no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:32 A.M.