



**\*DRAFT Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 28, 2017 – 9:00 A.M.  
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Carl Weisner called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

**INVOCATION**

Moment of silence held for challenges we face in the Arctic; for the families, search crews and volunteers we offer support.

**SAFETY MOMENT**

Member Sampson in Inupiaq. He translates first of all; thank you for addressing the safety issue. He commented that we need to go a step further and do a PSA at the Radio Station on safety.

**ROLL CALL**

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

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

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Clement Richards Sr.	Matt Mead	Helena Hildreth	Angie Sturm
Patrick Savok	Dickie Moto	Maija Lukin	Millie Stalker
Janine Bedford	Grant Hildreth	Susan Georgette	Stella Atoruk

Excused

Dood Carr	Tanya Ballot
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**Member Loon motioned to excuse Member Carr and Member Ballot, seconded by Vice President Nelson; motion passed unanimously. A quorum was present to conduct business.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

February 28, 2017 Regular meeting agenda

Member Armstrong requested an update on Noatak Road while Park Service is here. Vice President Nelson requested to add a Teck Borough update under Executive Session. President Weisner requested to add confidentially of Borough proceedings under the Teck negotiations. Member Loon requested to add RAC meeting being held tomorrow.

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

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

Minutes presented for January 24, 2017 for approval.

**Member Swan motion to approve, seconded by Member Cleveland to approve minutes as presented. Passed unanimously.**

### **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES**

Maija Lukin, National Park Service Superintendent, provided an update on the Noatak Right of Way Project and the Road. Ms. Lukin reported the application deadline was in March, and they are awaiting signature from the Native Village of Noatak.

Member Sampson congratulated Ms. Lukin in her new position and the efforts she is making for a better life for our residents. Member Armstrong congratulated her and he is confident that she will be a strong advocate for making the lives better for all of us in the region.

President Weisner commented that the National Park Service is always welcome to the Assembly meetings and he also congratulated Ms. Lukin in her new position.

Member Sampson also commented that he submitted his application for the Northwest RAC position.

Member Loon announced that the Northwest Subsistence Regional Advisory council meeting will be held at the Visitors Center on March 1-2, 2017

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

BAF Chair Nelson commented the BAF committee met on February 27, 2017 with a late start due to no quorum. The January 23, 2017 BAF Committee minutes were approved, a financial report was given by Ms. Angie Sturm. Ordinances 17-01 and 17-02 were reviewed and recommended for due passage by the full assembly. She also reported that Resolution 17-05 and 17-07, were not recommended for due passage by the full assembly. Resolution 17-06 was also reviewed and recommended for due passage by the full assembly.

### **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

Member Austin Swan reported that he attended the AML Winter Legislative Conference held on February 22-23, 2017 in Juneau, AK. Representation was good from the North Slope and he mentioned a gentleman he met from the Interior who was related to the Suns. The topic of Heroin was discussed at length by the group, they also heard a report from Governor Bill Walker and Senator Lisa Murkowski. He commented the 30<sup>th</sup> Legislature information packet

and the 2017 priorities, resolutions and position statements can be found on the AML website.

President Weisner reported that he also traveled to Juneau at the same time and lobbied for progress on the evacuation and access road for the new Kivalina site. This process is sequential and is encouraged to know that the Governor's administration is a strong supporter of the school.

Member Nelson attended the Sulainich Board Meeting on February 13, 2017 via teleconference and they discussed the lease agreement, reviewed the financial report and heard concerns by members. She added that the chair Mr. Will Anderson can possibly provide a report to the Assembly in the near future. Lastly, she announced that the next meeting date is set for March 20, 2017.

### **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Richards reported that the Joint Construction and Maintenance Committee met and Member Larry Westlake and Ms. Sandy Shroyer-Beaver are the new co-chairs of the committee. The committee reviewed the letter from the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) regarding the design process that should be followed by the committee. Mayor Richards reported he attended the Regional Elders Council meeting to provide a borough update and he added the new Regional Elders Council Chairman is Ms. Mary Schaeffer and the Vice-Chair is Ms. Virginia Commack. He also reported that he also met with the Governor and discussed the Kivalina Access road.

Mayor Richards also reported that he met with Northwest Arctic Borough School District Superintendent Ann Marie-O'Brien on the processes of the Joint Construction and Maintenance committee. He met with Mr. Ryan Anderson, Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) on the EIA and he should be hearing back this week regarding the progress. He reported that he also is establishing monthly meetings with staff regarding the meeting packet deadlines and will also include it in the Arctic Sounder newspaper.

Member Nelson wanted clarification on the government contract accountant position that was advertised and if it was for the Borough Treasurer? Mayor Richards commented that it was a title issue. She also inquired on the 2016 audit and stage two deficiencies and one weakness and if there are internal controls in place to address those for future audits. Ms. Sturm replied there are internal controls in place and provided an update and progress on the deficiencies. Member Nelson also requested to include the capital or grant list back in the report.

Member Westlake commented on the Elder Inupiaq Values and the importance of them and reported that he declined the chairmanship of the Regional Elders Council.

Member Loon discussed her concern about revenue sharing for our city governments and what kind of assistance the borough can provide for those municipalities who are barely operating. Mayor Richards reported it is a concern and they have met in Juneau regarding

Revenue Sharing and the Governor's plan is to issue a revenue sharing of 60% for this year and 30% for next year.

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

The date of March 27-28, 2017 was discussed. No vote was taken on the Next Meeting Date.

**A ten minute break was taken at 10:04 AM.  
The meeting reconvened from break at 10:14 AM.**

### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**Ordinance 17-01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending chapter 6.16 to provide for additional guidelines for borough credit cards usage and for related purposes.*

BAF Chair Nelson reported the BAF Committee reviewed Ordinance 17-01 and recommended due pass by the full assembly.

***Member Swan motioned, Member Cleveland seconded to approve Ordinance 17-01 for first reading. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.***

**Ordinance 17-02** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Chapter 6.12 of the borough code to provide for additional oversight for contract approval and execution and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards reported he opposes this ordinance and does understand the concerns with the budget and Tek litigation. He respects everyone point of view and position on this ordinance; however he opposes passage of Ordinance 17-02.

BAF Chair Nelson reported the BAF Committee reviewed Ordinance 17-02 and recommended due pass by the full assembly.

***Member Loon motioned, Member Nelson seconded to approve Ordinance 17-02 for first reading. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed by a majority with Members Cleveland Sampson voting NO.***

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 17-05** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional Services Agreement with Qairrun, LLC for Human Resource Services and for related purposes.*



Mayor Richards recommends due passage and he referred to the job description he handed out for this position. This position requires high level of job skills and is needed at the borough.

Mr. Mead elaborated on the local hire preference via contract and added this will be a short term fix until the next fiscal year.

BAF Chair Nelson reported the BAF Committee reviewed Resolution 17-05 and recommended it not to be passed by the full assembly. The reason is because we have a mission statement and it is to improve the economic conditions for all residents and the committee felt that we can find someone from the borough to fill this position.

**Member Loon motioned, Member Sampson seconded to approve Resolution 17-05. A roll call was conducted and the motion FAILED with Members Cleveland, Sampson, Armstrong, Swan and Nelson voting NO.**

***Resolution 17-06*** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Professional Services Agreement with Goldeneye Media Alaska.

Mayor Richards recommends due passage to continue to follow up with the budget for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

BAF Chair Nelson reported the BAF Committee reviewed Resolution 17-06 and recommended due pass by the full assembly.

**Member Sampson motioned, Member Cleveland seconded to approve Resolution 17-06. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed by a majority with Members Westlake, Loon and Nelson voting NO.**

***Resolution 17-07*** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Professional Services Agreement with Qairrun, LLC for Economic Development Services and for related purposes.

Mayor Richards recommend due passage and Qairrun LLC continues to do work on Economic scheduling within the communities.

BAF Chair Nelson reported the BAF Committee reviewed Resolution 17-07 and recommended that it not to be approved by the full assembly because we feel we can hire someone within the region.

**Member Armstrong motioned, Member Loon seconded to approve Resolution 17-07. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed by a majority with Members Cleveland and Nelson voting NO.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**The assembly entered into Executive Session at 10:40 AM.  
The meeting reconvened from Executive Session at 11:45 AM.**

President Weisner reported direction has been given to administration to proceed further.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Mr. Lance Kramer, Kotzebue resident, commented about the absence of our Inupiaq language in our schools, especially the high school. He expressed the importance of passing along our Inupiaq language as it is part of our culture and who we are as Inupiaq people.

Member Loon encourage residents to attend the upcoming bilingual committee meeting and commented those positions are difficult to fill. Some of the teachers do not speak the language and are brand new and stepping up.

Ms. Marlene Moto-Karl telephonically commented about the local village priorities to be submitted to our representatives in Juneau, AK for lobbying purposes. She encouraged everyone safe travels during the upcoming basketball season. She also thanked everyone for their support during the recent loss of a family member.

Vice President Larry Westlake took over the helm for the rest of the meeting as President Weisner who requested to be excused a few minutes early.

Ms. Cindy Fields telephonically thanked the Assembly for approving Ordinances 17-01 and 17-02 for first reading.

## **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Member Armstrong expressed his condolences to those who have lost their loved ones and best wishes for the teams who will be participating in the upcoming high school basketball tournament. He thanked Mr. Lance Kramer and Ms. Maja Lukin for their comments.

Member Loon thanked Mayor Richards and his administration for their hard work in preparation for this meeting. She also thanked Ms. Cindy Fields and Ms. Marlene Mot-Karl for their concerns.

Member Cleveland thanked Mr. Kramer for bringing up the importance of our Inupiaq language. He also commented on a Safety Moment and reported that his niece went through the ice and without panicking got herself out of that situation. He encouraged everyone not

to panic when in an emergency situation. Lastly, he encouraged everyone to be safe because there is a lot of overflow right now.

Member Swan thanked the Mayor and administration for their hard work. He commented that he would like to give advanced notice to the trail staking committee in Kivalina to get ready for the upcoming quarterly church conference and added the coastal trail needs to be updated. He also added that he called a Special Meeting for March 2, 2017 to address the water treatment and staffing.

Member Sampson thanked Mr. Kramer for his concern for our Inupiaq language which is critical for the upbringing of our children and furthering it. He added we can look at other means of supporting ways of teaching our Inupiaq language and is something we need to seriously look at.

Member Hadley thanked the Deering IRA for their assistance when they landed there and got briefly weathered in. He encouraged everyone to be safe during the 1A basketball tournament and to remember sportsmanship during this time.

Member Westlake encouraged everyone safety during bad weather and he supports the interest of preserving our Inupiaq language and we should do everything to promote it.

#### **MAYORS COMMENTS**

Mayor Richards commented that his thoughts go out to those who recently lost their loved ones and to those who are active with the Search and Rescue organization and the tireless work that goes along with it. He encouraged everyone to travel safely and he announced that the Borough has the Spot equipment available for residents to borrow anytime.

Lastly, he commented about the budget constraints we are all feeling and that we can all agree to disagree on various issues; and at the same time, have respect for each other's serving on the assembly.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:13 P.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stella Atouk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.