

**Northwest Arctic Borough
Economic Development Meeting Minutes**
January 30, 2014 at 9:00 A.M.
Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers, Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Deloris Barr called the meeting to order

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Daniel Foster gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present During Roll Call:

Fred Smith	Matt Burgan	Joseph Bias Jr.	Millie Hawley
Deloris Barr			

Commissioners Absent During Roll Call:

Kelsen Phillips	Gladys Jones
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Mayor Reggie Joule explains to commission members Economic Development is focusing on energy and bulk fuel. Also would like grant opportunities similar to ASRC for small business grants for residents. Reggie also mentioned the upcoming PILT agreement for June 2015. Another grant The Northwest Arctic Borough has received is from Shell for research for the Borough and putting together an advisory board. Reggie also mentioned the CIAP grant for Subsistence Mapping. Reggie expressed his thoughts on gas exploration.

Kenny Gallahorn welcomes Economic Development Commission. Kenny also introduces his staff and their duties.

Annabelle Alvite explains her duties and what projects she is working on.

Fred Smith introduces current staff and their duties to Commission members.

Chair Nomination

Millie Hawley moves to nominate Deloris Barr as chair, Matt Bergan seconds motion

Matt Bergan moves to table the vice chair

Millie Hawley agrees with Matt as long as we have someone to hold the next couple of meetings.

Matt Bergan recommends having the Borough Seat filled by an Assembly Member.

Fred Smith – we have had that discussion, the name that has come up was Nathan Hadley, he covers Buckland-Deering.

Millie Hawley agrees.

Fred Smith – I thought that it would be good for each one of you to talk about what you guys do in life and where your from and what some of your interest are and what you would like the commission to focus on or what you would like the staff to focus on.

Introduction of commission members

Deloris Barr introduces self and interests, I sit on the Kiana wellness committee.

Millie Hawley introduces self and interests and work, focus on environmental issues, evacuation off the island, i sit on the regional tribal operations committee in Seattle, they have quarterly meetings there. I do a lot of talk on traditional ecological knowledge, I try to explain it as much as I can, it is not recognized nationally or locally in western science and that is a concern. Pertaining to economic Development I work with the Native Store because it belongs to the Native Village and we have regular meetings there aside to the IRA meetings, we deal with Fuel for the Village. Mentions AVEC barge and inviting them to the meeting.

Fred Smith I sat in on my first meeting that your office, Teck and nana have been engaged in and it was related to looking at some Economic opportunities for Kivalina, related to the Red Dog Mine and that was one of the things that was interesting to me. I haven't attended in person but have attended on a conference call and when I heard that I was interested and wanted to hear a little bit more about it and making sure that the other commission members might get familiar with that.

Millie Hawley – I forgot about that Red Dog part, Discussed the agreement the with the Borough, NANA, Native Village of Kivalina and Teck. Also mentioned concern of education and training. I also asked them to develop a workforce.

Matt Bergan – introduced self and gave a background of self. Discussed KEA wind power and KEA's mission, also bulk fuel and natural gas. Also mentioned he is the only engineer in the region and there should be more, I see engineers flying in and if we can get more engineers that would be more money in the region. Also mentioned having a visiting center in Kotzebue and tourism in the villages.

Joseph Bias – gave brief background of himself. Joseph also mentioned Grants available for nonprofit organizations with Wells Fargo.

Fred Smith – mentioned VITA program that was in the region about 10 years ago, it is something that would be valuable to follow up on. Also mentioned that the commercial banker is based in Nome and it is not as convenient as if it was based here in Region, I have sat in some of the tribal offices with their finance and were trying to reconcile things and we don't seem to have easy access to who that individual might be in that grant and that would be another note that there may be some value in Wells Fargo look at a commercial bank representative here because the cities and tribes they all have to deal with that individual. Also suggested that he or some of the others taking him out on a snow machine to the other villages and let him see what others have to go 60 miles, it is not a 20 minute airplane ride it

may be a couple hours on a snow machine ride. Also mentioned people development and other Economic Development opportunities.

**Matt Bergan moves to table remaining election of officers.
Seconded by Millie Hawley.**

MINUTES APPROVAL

Minutes of previous meeting dated October 16, 2013 were presented for approval. Member Barbara MacManus went through the minutes and noted the following correction: on the 2nd paragraph it was talking about Cape Blossom I believe it's meant to say "effected not "effective".

**Millie Hawley moves to approve the agenda
Matt Bergan Seconds; agenda approved.**

New Business – Resolution EDC to support the reauthorization

**Fred Moves to adopt Resolution 2014-01 A resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission, Supporting the reauthorization of the Alaska Regional Development Organization program by the State of Alaska.
Seconded by Millie Hawley**

Fred Smith reads Resolution 2014-01.
Delores Barr Corrects year to 2014

Fred Smith reads response from EDA.

Matt Bergan excuses self from the meeting, need to catch a flight to Buckland.

Fred Smith the borough did budget for funds for the communities to update comprehensive plans, Charlie Gregg and Glenn Skin, it is going on in the Planning Department.

Millie Hawley I don't see one for Kivalina, we are awfully busy to even think about starting to develop a comprehensive plan, I know that in the 1990's or late 90's I remember attending meetings when they did develop those comprehensive plans I don't know where you can find it but I know one was done.

Fred Smith I've seen some of those plans in the borough, Clara Jones was involved in the village travel and development of those plans, she seemed to be excited to get involved in that, if she can come back and get electronic copies of those then you're not having to do everything over, you can work with the electronic copy and update it based on to where things are at now and what the needs are moving forward without having to rebuild.

Millie Hawley asks if the Borough would have funding for a temporary hire to compile all of that, I assume your awfully busy and your staff is busy, if the borough can hire temporarily to have someone put that together without having to start from day one or a whole new comprehensive plan for each of the villages, whatever is out there just put it together like it is

over here but what's missing, maybe research what's missing and what needs to be added, I just looked at it and can see what is missing for the Native Village of Kivalina.

Fred Smith I will ask the question and get back with you on email or everyone on the same email, Noah and Glenn Skin are involved with that for the Borough right now and I don't know all of the answers to the question.

Millie Hawley new staff, new director and a lot of new commissioners, I wonder if we are going to build on the old development plans or are we going to focus prioritizing on what direction this commission is going to take and should we look at possibly having a 2-3 day session where we prioritize our focus so we can accomplish more and not be so sparse in our plans?

Fred Smith I would be in favor of doing that, there are something's that are valuable from the prior goals that the EDC has stated, there are some things were doing that I think are valuable, we would still support the Alaska native arts and art center, but do it in a way where were supporting them to be self-sustaining, that was one of the goals of that Sulanich Art Center, those goals are still valuable but in terms of helping them develop a business model that will work for them and at the same time providing us the ability to free up some money to also focus on what you think our other goals that we should be focusing as well, I see that we can support that, we can get them to cover some of their cost, that frees up some additional dollars that are currently going there and I think that there's a lot of things that are going on related to energy, related to the relocation project, all these things that are important, just from my prospective, there's tourism, commercial fisheries, other opportunities and should we be putting time and energy in those types of activities. In terms of the energy conservation and energy projects, the borough is right in the middle of energy projects and when we go back to the finance report you can see what those projects are. We are going to have to focus on those commitments.

Commissioners discuss time and place of next meeting, will get the email out.

Fred Smith explains monthly Assembly report process, different small business grant programs. Also mentioned Teck and Anika fuel prices.

Millie Hawley mentioned the gas prices are higher at the port than at Kivalina.

Fred Smith mentioned the Arctic Economic Development Summit.

Millie Hawley shouldn't they have provided the plan prior to their visit? I would appreciate copies to the village so we could look it over and when they do show up we can comment on it.

Fred Smith there is regional priorities and different options for Kivalina, Also mentioned state grant for Noatak fuel project; Wind turbine projects.

Mille Hawley mentioned the wind data at the new school site, we haven't seen the results of the data but it is close to the proposed new village site.

Fred Smith gave an update of the budget for Economic Development, Sulanich and the energy related projects.

Millie Hawley suggest to do more advertising for Sulanich Art Center, if not state wide maybe nation wide.

Joseph Bias mentions Small Business opportunities with Wells Fargo.

Fred Smith continued update on budget. Also mentioned Sales tax, Alcohol tax, Cigarette tax and property tax.

STAFF REPORTS

Schedule of commission meetings, regular meetings and special meetings

AUDIENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Millie Hawley thanked Fred for his work, im surprised that you only have one assistant, I appreciate to understand where were at. Thanks Joe, welcome to the region. thanks Stella and congratulations Deloris.

Joseph Bias thanks fred for inviting me. Will communicate with the commissioners from the villages, will work more with Fred, would like to build my awareness of the activities in the communities. Were the only bank in the region and we have a responsibility to give back to the community.

Deloris thank you for putting this meeting together, looking forward to working with each of you and good meeting.

Fred Smith no comments, thank you for your time today. Tula is waiting on w9's that is one thing that you need to do to make sure you are in the system.

ADJOURNMENT

Millie move to adjourn @ 12:50 PM