



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*

Wednesday, May 28, 2014 – 9:00 A.M.

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

President Walter Sampson called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

INVOCATION

Mrs. Winona Hawley gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Nathan Hadley Jr.	Miles Cleveland Sr.	<i>Patrick Savok</i>	Hendy Ballot Sr.
Walter Sampson	Larry Westlake Sr.	Lucy Nelson	<i>Frank Greene</i>
Carl Weisner (telephonic)	Vern Cleveland Sr.	Clyde Ramoth (<i>late</i>)	

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Reggie Joule	Matt Mead	Judy Hassinger	Stella Atoruk
Martha Henry	Nina Lie	Christine Hess	Noah Naylor
Fred Smith	Winona Hawley	John Baker	<i>Benjamin Arnold</i>
<i>Ingemar Mathiasson</i>			

AGENDA APPROVAL

Agenda presented for approval for May 28, 2014. Mayor requested to add Resolution 14-19 and 14-20 to the agenda.

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The April 22, 2014 Minutes has been presented for approval. Member Weisner requested his comment on page five, regarding heavy equipment for Shungnak; he had requested an amount Shungnak would have to give up if Remote Solutions were to get the heavy equipment. Member Nelson raised her concern regarding the Special meeting minutes not

listed on the agenda; President Sampson requested that they be approved at the next regular meeting.

Member Hadley moved, seconded by Member Ballot to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS & APPEARANCES

None presented.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Madam Chair Nelson had provided a brief summary of the BAF meeting held that morning; agenda, minutes, heard from City of Kotzebue regarding funds for Ambulatory Services and recommend do pass on all resolutions and ordinances.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES AND EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 13-08 am 03** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line item budget amendment for the fiscal year 2014.*

Member Ballot requested a clarification on the revolving loan program. President Sampson raised his concern regarding the amount loaned out to the artist.

Member Weisner moved to approve, Member Westlake seconded Ordinance 13-08 am 03 Passed unanimously.

2. **Ordinance 14-01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line item budget for the fiscal year 2015.*

Member Weisner raised his concern regarding changes to this ordinance, this is at second reading. This had a reduction from the first reading by eight hundred sixty nine thousand; Mayor expressed to the Assembly that they can recommend any amendments at this time. Member Nelson mentioned that there had been some cuts although the past two years there has been balanced budgets. Member Ramoth mentioned that there can be adjustments to the budget presented; think more discussions can be made on this. Member Weisner raised his concern about the process if failed then we would have a special meeting; by code the budget needs to be approved by 15th of June. Member Weisner mentioned that he would like funds back for winter trails, search & rescue and firefighting. President Sampson discussed the letter from City of Kotzebue requesting funds for Ambulatory Services presented; suggests further adjustments to accommodate that request. Member Ramoth recommend the full assembly have discussion on this ordinance. Member Savok raised his concern regarding the changes and recommendations made by administration; would like to know when the Assembly will make those changes although they had a meeting on May 5th. Member Greene requested BAF committee have recommendations and be presented to the full assembly. Member Nelson

recommended a vote now; if needed then have a meeting prior to June 15th. Member Weisner requested Public Services adjust funds as discussed prior.

Member Hadley moved to approve Ordinance 14-01, seconded by Member Nelson. Ordinance 14-01 failed with 9 no, Member Nelson and Hadley had yes votes.

**10 minute break taken at 9:57 A.M.
Meeting reconvened at 10:11 A.M.**

Discussion continued among the Assembly regarding next step since the budget didn't pass. President Sampson raised his concern regarding the resolutions presented at this meeting which are in effect of the next budget year. Also had requested more information from Derek Martin, City of Kotzebue Manager regarding the funding request; had they worked with other organizations contributing. Member Westlake expressed the importance of the full Assembly being involved. Member Nelson suggests that the Assembly reconsider the budget with addition in consideration of City, recommend to the Administration remove three percent raise and closely scrutinize the each budget to the last fiscal years that had actual expenditures instead of actual budget. Member Savok raised his concern regarding the International travel, fire department, public safety issues and to incorporate Ambulatory services also.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Joule provided a brief summary of the written report provided. Personnel Committee will meet regarding the Employee Handbook. Mentioned someone from Fairbanks came to meet on earthquakes that have been occurring; installed an earthquake sensor device here and Noatak to measure activity for two months. Letter has been sent to AIDEA regarding a DMTS offer. Regional Strategy has been postponed until further notice due to one of the organizations not being able to attend. AIDEA is coming to town regarding the EIS in Kobuk on June 2nd. Mayor also mentioned June 5th meeting in Kivalina regarding the evacuation road project. Subsistence Mapping will be presenting to the Assembly their project during the next regular meeting. Administration is looking at sub-award grants for the communities. Soon there will be eight VPSO's for the communities. Mayor had mentioned Zach had lost his father recently. Brenden Ryan had a new addition to his family, wife had a baby boy. Kenny Gallahorn had resigned his position, job description will be posted. Also Mayor mentioned Economic Development Director also open since Fred will be transferring to Assistant to Mayor. There has been some travel throughout the office, fortunate to have no flooding for the communities. LEPC meeting had been held recently, also Public Safety Commission met. He is looking forward to working with the Assembly to close out the budget and a process that can be used.

Member Ballot raised his concern regarding the Public Safety Buildings that have been discussed in the past. Member Ramoth brought up his concern regarding strategy plans. Member Westlake mentioned the Kiana Sewage Lagoon, which is over working since the pump goes uphill; would like to know if there is a meeting scheduled soon. Member Savok verified an overall scope of the Subsistence Mapping Project for the Remote Solutions request; would like a written report for the presentation. Member Hadley mentioned that there is a meeting in Kiana on June 3rd regarding the water & sewer issues.

Member Weisner moved, seconded by Member Vern Cleveland to approve Mayor's report. Motion carried unanimously.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 10, 2014	9:00 A.M.	Work session
Wednesday, June 11, 2014	9:00 A.M.	Special Meeting

Member Weisner moved, seconded by Member Ramoth seconded to approve; motion carried unanimously.

Monday, June 23, 2014	9:00 A.M.	BAF
Monday, June 23, 2014	1:00 P.M.	Work Session
Tuesday, June 24, 2014	9:00 A.M.	Regular Meeting

Member Ramoth mentioned that a Personnel Committee Meeting will be scheduled also.

Member Westlake moved, seconded by Member Miles Cleveland to approve the schedule as listed. Motion carried unanimously by roll call.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 14-02** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve a professional services agreement with Zender Environmental for a CIAP-Funded Composting Toilet Project, and for related purposes.*

Fred Smith gave a brief summary of the ordinance which would cover two fiscal years. This will be available for Kivalina for composting. Member Weisner raised his concern regarding other villages that need the toilet. Member Miles Cleveland verified the amount of homes for this project; which is two for now. Member Weisner raised his concern regarding the maintenance of this project once installed. Member Hadley asked about the flush and haul, similar to what Buckland had one time. Member Ramoth mentioned that second community listed on the resolution, although just starting with Kivalina for now.

Member Savok moved, seconded by Member Westlake to approve Ordinance 14-02; motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 14-15** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a contract for legal services and for related purpose.*

2. **Resolution 14-16** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a contract for services with Judith A. Hassinger as the Borough Treasurer and for related purposes.*

3. **Resolution 14-18** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a professional services agreement with McClintock Land Associates for consulting, mapping, and surveying services related to the Borough's Municipal Land Entitlement, and for related purposes.*

Member Weisner moved to table Resolution 14-15, 14-16 and 14-18 for the next regular meeting, seconded by Member Miles Cleveland. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. **Resolution 14-17** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving the unincorporated community of Noatak for participation in the FY15 Community Revenue Sharing Program.*

Member Ramoth moved to approve Resolution 14-17, seconded by Member Vern Cleveland. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Resolution 14-19** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve the purchase of equipment for the VPSO Program and for related purposes.*

Mayor Joule provided a brief description of the resolution; Public Safety provided funds for a mini truck for Kiana. Remainder of the resolution is for other communities so they can get snow machines; this grant has been obtained by Department of Justice. This had been by bid and warranty and other work can be done locally.

Member Ramoth moved to approve Resolution 14-19, seconded by Member Greene. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Resolution 14-20** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting additional AEA Grant funds and approving construction and electric integration contracts for the Buckland Wind-Diesel Project and for related purposes.*

Ingemar Mathiasson provided a brief description of the resolution. President Sampson requested information for the red lines listed on scope of work; mentioned that there are different numbers. Fred Smith mentioned the history of this AEA grant process; Borough had purchased the wind-turbines separately to meet construction season. WH Pacific as the ANE contractor for this project; part of is the EPS communication link between wind farm and power plant in Buckland.

Member Ramoth moved to approve Resolution 14-20, seconded by Member Hadley. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business presented.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Benjamin Arnold of Noatak had called regarding Revenue Sharing for Noatak, why a small out. He would like a verbal proposal to Member Ballot to see what he can do to increase that amount.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Ballot thanked you all for the participation of this meeting; lot of work to do. There are thing that we have to do here; thinking ahead not only today but tomorrow. There is always a time when we don't agree; in spite of the budget being voted down to make progress in our Borough. Express to all the hunters out there, remember safety first.

Member Nelson thanked the Search & Rescue Retirees; thank you very much Tim Gavin and Dan Douglas. Search & Rescue is a vital service to our region for safety and recovery of our people; thank you very much. Also regarding voting down the budget, every Assembly has every opportunity to attend the committee meetings, the committee is important to this organization. You can discuss in detail all the things you feel is necessary that you think is right or wrong toward the revenue or expenses. Everyone had an opportunity to speak; but now we need another meeting to spend another ten thousand dollars to discuss the same item that had they have been talking about. She had confidence for the Administration that they can bring a balanced budget; realize its majority vote, we have fiduciary responsibility but we also have to show our support for Administration and confidence that they see where we are coming from.

Member Vern Cleveland thanked the staff for a good meeting.

Member Ramoth mentioned that they had great discussion regarding budget, meaningful discussion on other issues. Also did hear a reminder for all the Assembly be present for the meetings and hopefully can resolve issues to move forward. We have needs and priorities in every community, hopefully resolve some of those issues.

Member Westlake commented on budget; believe we can move forward if we work together this next week and suggest member take your packet with you and make adjustments and present at the special meeting.

Member Savok echo the fact of Special Meeting on the 5th regarding this budget also. Mayor had called out to the Assembly numerous times stating our discretion to make changes, we have talked about. Bottom line; adding numbers to those recommendations will definitely help out Mayor and Administration stating this much more for public safety, fire department, ambulatory care; this much away from certain aspects of each department based on their strategic plans initiatives that they are putting forth for them to do their jobs. Member Nelson hits the nail on the head, talking about budgetary short fall we are spending another ten thousand dollars. We find ourselves putting ourselves in that position. Everyone take a look at the budget, BAF Chairperson says everyone is welcome to attend the committee meetings. Encourage everyone to attend if we have big issues in front of us; budget issue, land issues or personnel. Theses committees are just as informative to give guidance to the full Assembly and make recommendations. When the full Assembly is present it gives us the opportunity to talk amongst each other's behind

closed doors and not going against the open meeting act. Legal is there for guidance and keep us in line also. Wish everybody happy bird and oogruk hunting out there. Thank you.

Member Miles Cleveland thanks you for good meeting; welcomes Winona. Plan to be in Kobuk for EIS on the 2nd. Welcome all that would like to be there, think there are available seats on the plane.

Member Hadley added to Member Nelson and Member Savok; can always make any amendments to the ordinances as we go along. We get our packets early, we can go over the numbers and as presented we can make our amendments or suggestions and save time and money. Thanks to City of Kotzebue for their concern; one thing to think about is the PILT agreement. For the residents bring your concerns out, we can go with PILT and/or excise tax. We have a lot of business to take care of; our concern is Borough, the people who live in it. Share your concerns to the Assemblymen.

Member Greene mentioned good meeting; thank you.

Member Weisner remind and encourage everyone to attend the June 2nd meeting in Kobuk regarding the road. Stay informed and ask questions, call in to the Assembly meeting either for or against the project. Now is the time, it's at the EIS level, one of several levels. Important to know where it is at and stay involved.

Elder Representative Hawley taikuu; enjoyed this meeting. She had been involved in smaller meetings and this is huge; thank you for accepting me.

President Sampson welcomed Winona to the Assembly, her role as an Elder advisor if she thinks we are out of line then she should voice her issues and concerns she may have. Thanks to Mayor for presentation in regards to the budget, report you gave. President respect each and every one of you as the Assembly to give your perspective of your viewpoints you have. This is the only way we are only able to come to an agreement to compromise on things that we don't agree on and that is why you are elected. We respect that. Thank you to City of Kotzebue, we will consider the request you have made. The process is what we go through is something we take into consideration; how we feel, think, if we have a disagreement that is our right. In regards to the budget, each one of us go through the process of the budget color it may be; go through before next meeting and we can have a good discussion on what your thoughts may be that we all can agree on. Democracy at work that is why we are public officials; that is what we need to do when we come to the disagreements. Thank you for your thoughts.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Joule mentioned that we will get there; we have work to do in regards of the budget. Change of season, diet, activity and encourage people to be safe in travel activities, let people know where you are going.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Clyde Ramoth moved to adjourn. With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.