



# Northwest Arctic Borough

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## 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, March 24, 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

Miles Cleveland provided the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

#### Members Present:

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

#### Introduction of Staff and Guests

Winona Hawley	Chloe Naylor	Judy Hassinger	Matt Mead
Wendie Schaeffer	Annabelle Alvite	Christine Hess	Noah Naylor
Martha Henry	Stella Atoruk	Bish Gallahorn	
Kathleen Lansdale	<i>Marlene Moto-Karl</i>		

**A quorum was established to conduct business.**

### AGENDA ADOPTION

Agenda for March 24, 2015 presented for approval. Acting Madam Mayor Wendie Schaeffer requested to add Resolution 15-15 regarding the Ring Seals Species. Member Sampson request an Executive Session regarding Ethics issue on Assembly side under other business; so that direction is given for possible code violations.

**Member Vern Cleveland moved, seconded by Member Nelson to adopt the agenda as amended.**

President Weisner request to add Military and Veterans Affairs under Committee.

**Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The meeting minutes of February 24, 2015 were presented for review and consideration for approval.

**Member Sampson moved to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Member Ramoth. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

### **COMMUNICATIONS & APPEARANCES**

President Weisner mentioned that Acting Mayor Schaeffer has an update regarding the ice road. She mentioned the contracts with City of Noorvik, City of Kiana and Polar Auto have been signed for construction of the road, there has been ice thickness testing on Kobuk Lake and there was an overflow by Uugruk Point coming in from Kiana. Alternative testing will be done in that area; goal is to look at the thickness testing report tomorrow, if safe then construction will start then.

Update on Search and Rescue which included a summary of written report. This last Friday Borough have heard from NANA Development and NANA Regional have contributed the remaining final forty nine thousand for the building packages from SBS that will be constructed on a lot contributed by City of Kotzebue on 4<sup>th</sup> and Lake Street. Forty additional handheld VHF's have been purchased for Search & Rescue. Continue to purchase parts for those requested so that the machines are search ready. Last month had eleven search efforts and were successful; very proud of the efforts of the Search & Rescue in the Region.

Member Sampson raised his concern regarding the trail staking; be sure and work with the land owners, utilizing the 17 (b) easements that were identified. Brought to your attention because there are a lot of native allotments in those areas; you cannot put access easements on private lands. NANA should have all those records. Member Westlake requested the date of the next Search and Rescue meeting? Mentioned that the guidelines should be reviewed trail staking should be updated. Member Vern Cleveland mentioned that his son and he have stalked the short cut from Snyder's camp to Noorvik before the courtly meeting. Would like to know if they would like to get paid for that? In the past he have been paid gas and request to get paid. Member Ramoth mentioned that communication is key; can call Borough and shouldn't have to be during a meeting. Member Sampson raised his concern regarding the flexibility to rerouting portion of the road; if they feel and think that ice is too thin then they should reroute.

## **BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Member Nelson gave a brief summary of Budget, Audit and Finance meeting which was held the previous day. Two ordinances and two resolutions that were recommended do pass. No committee comments were brought forward.

Member Nelson excused for remaining of the meeting due to travel.

Member Ballot mentioned a gathering with Veteran Affairs, Chester Ballot have escorted them to Noorvik Community Building. They have a list of the deceased and living veterans that they need information on. They have had help retaining their DD214 records, good turnout although a lot of the veterans were seeking help with medical issues.

Member Sampson thank Borough for recognizing Veterans that needs assistance. Talking with Veteran Administration recently in Anchorage there is one staff in each village supposedly to help veterans and found out there are two people in this region; Chester Ballot and another member either Kiana or Noorvik. Thanks to Chester to efforts made to address the needs for the Veterans. Critical for VA to have DD214 for the members; once they have been registered to the office, education for the process then VA should be able to handle transportation cost to get services for medical needs. VA don't have a listing of all the veterans; once veterans like Wilson Tickett or Bobby Smith in the meantime we ought to provide education to them on what need to do. Member Sampson encourages VA's office to go to all the villages to find the veterans so they can get registered into the system; it will take some time although through education it can work.

Member Ramoth thank Veteran Sampson for mentioning Veteran Bobby Smith; if there is any help if you're ready and able to help and support at the village level if there is any educational support; PSAs are very helpful. President Weisner thank Member Sampson for his services to the veterans.

Member Sampson translates in Inupiaq.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS, INACTMENT OF ORDINANCES AND EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

1. **Ordinance 14-01am02** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line item budget amendment for the Fiscal Year 2015.*

Summarized by Judy Hassinger for second reading. Only change before first and second change were minor adjustments in the Economic Development. President Weisner requested an update on GO Bond debt refinancing; nine point one million of the two thousand five a bonds. Closed last week and signed documents and saved about a million.

Member Miles Cleveland mentioned that Budget, Audit and Finance recommend do pass.

**Member Westlake motioned, seconded by Member Ramoth; motion passed with ten yes and one no voting.**

2. **Ordinance 15-04** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract for Legal Services with Vinson & Elkins and for related purposes.*

Summarized by Madam Mayor Schaeffer for second reading.

**Member Ramoth motioned, seconded by Member Schaeffer; motion passed with ten yes and one no voting.**

**Break taken at 9:35 A.M.  
Reconvene at 9:53 A.M.**

### **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

None reported.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Madam Mayor Schaeffer summarized the written report for Assembly.

Member Ramoth thanks hard working staff for all the work; congratulations to VPSO Gagliano for passing the first initial training for fire arms. President Weisner also thanked the staff for working with the VPSO and Villages.

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

Joint North Slope/Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly - April 8, 2015 in Barrow, Alaska at 1:00 P.M.

Budget, Audit & Finance – April 27, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

Work Session – April 27, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.

Regular Meeting – April 28, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

None presented.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 15-14** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with WHPacific to continue developing a Regional Energy Plan and for related purposes.*

Kathleen Lansdale summarized the resolution; amendment to the ARDOR grant to provide WHPacific the ability to develop community and energy profiles and update the regional energy plan and prepare for distribution for final draft once approved.

BAF recommend do pass.

**Member Ballot motion to approve Resolution 15-14, seconded by Member Ramoth. Motion carried with ten yes and one no voting.**

**2. Resolution 15-15** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving joining a lawsuit against The National Marine Fisheries Services regarding its decision to list the Arctic, Okhotsk, Baltic, and Lagoda Subspecies of the Ringed Seal under the Endangered Species Act in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.*

Christine Hess summarized Resolution 15-15; similar to the lawsuit which you have joined recently which included bearded seals.

Member Sampson thanked Chris; critically important that we participate on joining that lawsuit against National Marine Fisheries as to putting resources into endangered species list. They are placing restriction on our people in taking and utilizing that resource for food. Eventually beluga and uugruk will be listed down the road; exactly what federal government wants to do. Twenty thousand is not very much although we can get to a point to where we get recognized say no and agree with you federal government you putting these resources on the endangered species list. We can't let our people be restricted from taking these type of resources; critically important its way of live our people have to live.

Member Sampson translates in Inupiaq.

**Member Ramoth motion to approve Resolution 15-15; seconded by Member Vern Cleveland. Motion carried with ten yes and one no voting.**

President Weisner provide time for the Elder and Youth Representatives time for comments.

Youth Representative Naylor mentioned it's interesting for the budget process and amendments process like what happen with Ordinance 14-02am02. Also, placed on your desk is an invitation for graduation this year.

Elder Representative Hawley this morning I would like to thank everybody that is here; people that work for us Inupiaqs.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None presented.

## **Executive Session**

Member Sampson motion to enter into executive session regarding address code of ethics and PILT negotiation at 10:19 A.M., seconded by Member Ramoth. Motion unanimous with ten votes yes and one no voting. Present were Assembly, Matt Mead, Christine Hess and Acting Madam Mayor Schaeffer.

Vice President Westlake called the meeting back to order. Attorney Mead reported the Assembly went into executive to discuss two potential violations under code of ethics under public officials. The Ethics committee will need to review and investigate these allegations and follow the process that is outlined in the code. During pendency of Ethics need to review Vice President Westlake will continue the duties as presiding officer.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Madam Acting Mayor Schaeffer mentioned that during the work session yesterday at midsession report from Wendy Chamberlain. There is a lot of information provided; there is a lot of work occurring in Juneau right now, relating to the Kivalina School and Kivalina Evacuation Road in the Department of Education funding. Received from Helena Jacobs, Arctic Economic Partnership overview with North Slope Borough; planning community meeting will be held April 8<sup>th</sup> in Barrow. Also, Arctic Waterways Safety Committee has been trying to be formed since 2009; actually had their first meeting in Juneau on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Officers elected is Chairman Willie Goodwin of Kotzebue, James Boyer with Alaska Marine Pilot Association is Vice Chair, Jack Omelak with Alaska Nanuuk Commission as Treasurer and Wendie Schaeffer as Secretary of Arctic Waters of the Safety Committee. As general information this committee was established as a self-governing multi-stakeholder group focused group to create best practices to enter into safe, efficient and predictable operating environment for all user of the arctic waterways. If people are traveling with sno-go, please do a trip plan with Search & Rescue presidents or family members and check out a SPOT unit, very helpful.

## **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Member Hadley had no comment presented.

Member Miles Cleveland thank the Region for prayers and support during our loss; thank you very much. Assemblymen as we leave this room will be smiling and having hearts again, for friends, relatives and working for our region. Have a good spring. Thank you.

Member Ramoth remind the District wide school testing coming up; reminder to parents and kids, get a lot of sleep, drink a lot of water, parents please volunteer. Safe travels.

Member Ballot remind parents and kids that there are a couple more months of school, stay in school and do your best. Take care.

Member Sampson thank you for a good meeting. We are running out of time; we got lil more to go but we are making it. Have a safe trip home. Thank you very much.

President Weisner congratulate NANA and KIC for successful annual meetings. Also, congratulations to Hendy for joining the NANA Board. Congratulations to Buckland and Selawik girls for playing well at State; also to Noatak and Noorvik boys for playing very well at state, thanks for representing the region. Thanks very much.

Member Vern Cleveland mentioned he have been out of town traveling with NMS; in Anchorage for a couple days then off to Houston for training. Thank you for a good meeting and have safe travels home.

Member Schaeffer mentioned in regards previous discussion to the endangered species act and all that stuff; think that it's important to point out that the information gathered by Zach and the Subsistence Mapping project becomes more and more important. For quite a few years we have been trying to document the information that give you the feel of scientific information because the only problem we have with traditional knowledge there is the notion that there is no scientific basis then there is no more than same ole gossip. Really appreciate the work you're putting into it; look forward to reports and what will be doing. Important piece for future efforts to regulate subsistence resources in the ocean or seas. If that happens we have the back up to counter the legislation. Much appreciation to the recordings, thank you.

Member Greene had no comment.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Bish Gallahorn of Kotzebue raised his concern regarding some disturbing situation recently heard about on a trip of some of the Assembly members were on last week. Heard there was an Assembly member was beating his spouse/girlfriend or whatever it is. Wondering if the Ethics Committee or Borough Assembly is going to do something about it? As we all know that that it is a prevalent thing in Kotzebue that we have to deal with; until we face it and hold people accountable we'll continue to see it as being as it is for a long time. And the people sitting up there he believe are ones should set the example; and if not able to set the example and he believes and hopes the region believes than there should be some changes. Thank you.

Mr. Gallahorn wondering if someone like himself that have a strong concern; are they going to hear anything about it as the investigation continues.

Marlene Moto-Karl called concerned about the Post Office closed in Deering; heard over the weekend there was a postal inspector there that took the key. People expect mail or send mail. Her dividend application didn't go out yet, not finished yet. There should send someone there to open it; once some lady from Noorvik went there to work and they missed money orders when she worked there. Social Security a big problem there, if something don't be solved soon than she will call the troopers on City and IRA; they are not functioning either. She think there are the wrong people in the Federal Building in

Washington DC, they will say they never hear about it. Once she complained and she got rocks thrown at her house and got beaten up at washeteria. Another concern is the marijuana issue; how do you deal with, try to seriously take it for our people and go by state side and say no spice allowed or anything, especially in Deering. No crack or anything, seen it here before, it's not right. People in Deering like the real thing. Concern about the City Council, they didn't make much through meetings, he even run out of excuses to have meetings every month. Her IRS income tax said she made over thousand dollars, she didn't think so. That is why I want you guys to help. Once she brought up and was told to call the troopers. She wishes that it would be given to one another; close pull tabs and keep bingo open. Social issues statewide; go bingo myself. Bad influence on her recent trip to Anchorage; should close pull tabs. Like Hawaii, they have marijuana approved and close gambling. What goes on in Alaska stays in Alaska.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Member Ramoth moved to adjourn; with no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M.**