



# Northwest Arctic Borough

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**Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly  
Regular Meeting Minutes - *DRAFT***  
Tuesday March 22, 2016 – 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.
Nathan Hadley Jr.	Clyde Ramoth	Larry Westlake Sr.	Miles Cleveland Sr.
Lucy Nelson	Carl Weisner		

### Introduction of Staff and Guests

Clement Richards Sr.	Winona Hawley	Christine Hess	Matt Mead
Rosny Rizk	Angie Strum	Eugene Smith	Brad Reich
Patrick Savok	Andy Baker	Kathleen Lansdale	Mildred Stalker
Christine Hess	Verna Westlake	Henry Letient	Joseph Bia
Ruth Moto	Charlie Gregg	Silvano Viverios	Billy Lee
Elizabeth Moore	Lance Kramer	Willie Towksjhea	<i>Annabelle Alvite</i>
<i>Eileen Booth-Goodro</i>	<i>Carolyn Ballot</i>	<i>Vern Cleveland</i>	Helena Hildreth

### Excused

Pete Schaeffer  
(telephonic)

**Quorum established to conduct business.**

**Member Sampson motion to excuse Member Schaeffer, seconded by Member Cleveland; passed with ten yes by roll call vote.**

## **AGENDA ADOPTION**

Agenda for March 22, 2016 presented. Vice President Nelson request to add Finance update; Member Loon request to add Resolution 16-17. President Weisner mentioned that Henry Letient with Teck will be under communications and appearances.

**Member Ramoth moved, seconded by Member Armstrong to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried with ten yes votes.**

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Meeting Minutes presented for February 23, 2016.

**Member Ramoth moved, seconded by Vice President Nelson to approve the meeting minutes. Motion carried with ten votes.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS & APPEARANCES**

Henry Letient, General Manager of Red Dog Operations mentioned that he rarely visit Borough enough; he states that NANA owns the deposits. Provided a summary of the agreement that began in 1982. Have been a good cooperative relationship; would like focused interest of everybody involved. Best way is to sit and see what is in it for everybody; decision doesn't impact the operation and ensure the mine is there as long as the deposits can be economic dividable.

Member Sampson mentioned that he wished that came more often; requested numbers of employees in Red Dog. Vice President Nelson thanked Henry for coming; as any business owner she mentioned that we have the best interest of what is important to us; improving the quality of life for our residents and economic conditions. Need to protect all involved. Member Ramoth raised concern to percentage of shareholder hire under the agreement. Member Westlake mentioned that when you speak about Teck you bring up NANA; NANA is the shareholder. We are the shareholder; the leaders before us created the Borough; that is what we work hard for. We are in elected positions; we work together, when don't then we don't accomplish anything. Thankful you are here and hopeful the start of working together. Member Swan raised concern to the life of the mine has and whether other prospects of further mining. Member Sampson summarized what Henry talked about; he indicated that NANA own the rock, shareholder own the rock. This very body is a public, a government which is home rule. We have the State Government and Federal Government above us that look at how and what we have regards to ordinances and resolutions that can be overwritten by the two. Expressed the importance of meeting earlier; at some point things will come. Member Cleveland raised concern to having a member from this Assembly or staff on Red Dog Management committee? Member Ramoth verified if that is State Law or an agreement between Teck and NANA? President Weisner expressed his gratitude for Henry being here, always welcome. Communication and cooperation are a shared goal; Borough had responded to Teck's complaints in court as required to do. He summarized the charts of the homework Borough has done. Member Sampson raised concern to detailed information if Henry has to ask. President Weisner mentioned that he was glad to see him at NANA and tournament.

## **BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Rosny Rizk summarized the financial report ending February 29, 2016. President Weisner verified the Teck receivable is a plug number; calculation of budgeted eight point eight revenue divided by twelve. Member Sampson raised concern to Teck number; is there a reason to keep that in the book? It's deceiving to see a number that is not in reality; keeping it public, what can we do to avoid that? President Weisner mentioned he had similar concerns. Member Sampson verified the usage fee, if we receive a check from School District or is it paper track we continue to see? Vice President Nelson informed the listening audience a summary of the Budget, Audit and Finance Committee. She encourages everyone to the work sessions during the first day. Member Sampson raised concern to plan B; which was brought up during the last meeting, would like an update. Vice President Nelson verified if a resolution need to be done to allocate the monies. Member Loon raised concern on Revenue Sharing and Grant writer position.

Marijuana and Tobacco meeting that was scheduled yesterday didn't happen, the whole Assembly met on the matter during the work session. Christine Hess mentioned the Assembly heard the proposed changes to the code; clarifications to the code, definitions added and start date changed to July 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, to clarify a pack of cigarettes; didn't matter how many in the pack. President Weisner summarized the ordinance; personally favorable.

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

None presented.

## **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

Vice President Nelson had attended an All Council meeting in Anchorage recently; comprised of Federal Subsistence Board and State Administration and Regional Councils joint meeting held. Also provided break-out sessions; ANILCA, Bureau Management, Federal and Indian Law, Roles and Responsibility of Council Members and Roberts Rules of Order. She encourages everyone to attend. Also, met with North Slope; have similar issues with migration of whales, caribou and birds. With climate change too. Big discussion federal land, hunting on federal lands; proposing to hold on federal subsistence for non-residents so hopefully the migration can change. Recognized committee members; Vern Cleveland, Raymond Stoney and Hannah Loon, congratulations. There is a one year closure at this time for non-residents.

President Weisner verified if the Federal Board met on that item; thought the Board was going to decide?

Member Sampson mentioned that Regional Council is like a State Committee; Regional Council make recommendations to State. The problem with that the Federal Board is made of all Federal Directors which are transients; rotate every so often that don't have the slightest ideas of our livelihood. State has a lot of influence of the Federal Board; that is why we have problems with rural hunting. We need to make sure we voice out at the Federal level; need to find a way to go to the Board meetings. We all know State argues the navigational issues; certainly need to be involved.

President Weisner summarized the meeting in Fairbanks which he had attended regarding the Caribou migration which was held recently also.

Member Cleveland mentioned he attended Fairbanks the Senior Arctic Officials Meeting recently through ICC, concerned about climate change.

Member Armstrong had attended the Caribou Workshop along with President Weisner. A lot of discussion on how the caribou are affected by predators and hunters.

Member Loon thanked Vice President Nelson for covering the meeting held in Anchorage. She was grateful that there was presence from the Assembly. She is a member of the RACK committee; she summarized the caribou migration. They passed a resolution to close hunting for one year to non-federally recognized residents. She thanks Vice President Nelson for taking care of the financials and guiding them. Next RACK meeting will be in Selawik on October 5-6, 2016; federal agents will attend. Since Barbara Armstrong left Fish and Wildlife she don't see any Native People recording; concerned about Inupiaq speaking during those meetings.

**Break taken at 10:05 A.M.  
Reconvene at 10:15 A.M.**

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Richards mentioned that Otis Rolls recently retired, many years of dedicated service for our people. Met with CIAP, planning to close out September. Mayor summarized written report; had attended Kivalina Evacuation meeting in Anchorage. Some Assembly members attended AML; successful permits through BLM lands and Park Services for Noatak for CAT to go through trail to haul fuel.

Vice President Nelson verified if a youth representative have been appointed? President Weisner commends the administration for the ice road, had traveled to Noorvik with family. He raised concern to the amount of work on the project; balance between villages and combination of the work. President Weisner mentioned that is a state grant which comes in annually; would be helpful to know if organizations are using the road to know there is cost savings. He commends administration for using other grant funds; like the heavy equipment fund to offset the costs. Brad Reich mentioned that NIHA will donate one hundred gallons for the ice road projects. Member Ramoth raised concern to the ice thickness, is there regulation to follow? Also, is there projected monies to maintain the road and how wide is the road? Member Ramoth verified if the Archie Ferguson/Willie Goodwin race will have to cross the road or is it different route?

*Vern Cleveland of Noorvik raised concern regarding Father/Son in Law working on the road; conflict of interest. Would like to have Ethics or Personnel Committee look into; this is not good. City of Noorvik is struggling; would be good if the monies were split half and half.*

Member Westlake thanked the staff; as Mr. Reich stated City of Kiana had hired him. He summarized the process of making of the road.

Member Ramoth verified if the Mayor's report should be approved or not. President Weisner mentioned that it's not required.

Mayor Richards mentioned that they are looking at 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> for lobbying in Washington DC for lobbying; if there is any Assembly that would like to attend. Currently Kivalina had budgeted two City, two IRA and two from the Assembly to attend.

Member Sampson mentioned to check with the lobbying group to see who can go.

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

Work session – Monday, April 25, 2016 @ 1:30 P.M.  
Regular Meeting – Tuesday, April 26, 2016 @ 9:00 A.M.

**Member Westlake motion to approve the dates of April 2016, seconded by Member Armstrong. Passed with ten yes and one excused.**

### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

1. **Ordinance 16-02** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending chapter 7.10 of the Borough Code and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards summarized Ordinance 16-02; amends the severance tax code due to direct result of Teck at the State level. There will be a special meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> for second reading.

**Member Ramoth motion to approve Ordinance 16-02, seconded by Member Armstrong; motion passed with ten yes and one excused.**

2. **Ordinance 16-03** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Title Seven of the Borough Code to revise the Tobacco Excise Tax and for related purposes.*

Christine Hess summarized Ordinance 16-03; clarified in the definition of a pack of cigarettes and what a retailer is. Also, changed the implantation date to July 1<sup>st</sup>. Added language tax applies to distributors, credit language to ensure a pack.

**Member Ramoth motion to approve Ordinance 16-03, seconded by member Armstrong; motion passed with ten yes and one excused.**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Resolution 16-14** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving the purchase of a dozer, accessory parts, and shipment to the Community of Kivalina in*

*an amount not to exceed \$117,500.00.*

Brad Reich summarized Resolution 16-14, fund 11; have back hoe and dozer for Kivalina. This is to help with erosion; airstrip has been threaten more so then the past.

**Member Hadley motion to approve Resolution 16-14, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed with ten yes and one excused.**

2. **Resolution 16-15** *a resolution to approve a professional services agreement with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in an amount not to exceed \$59,000.00 and for related purposes.*

Brad Reich summarized Resolution 16-15; met with them in Anchorage regarding the feasibility study which Borough haven't accepted. Four important things missing from this study; more efficient washer/dryers and showers for washetria, waste heat, leach line for ongoing freezing problems and put in as built.

**Member Ramoth motion to approve Resolution 16-15, seconded by Member Westlake; motion passed with ten yes and one excused.**

3. **Resolution 16-16** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving the purchase of a twenty foot Aluminum Boat, engine, and freight to Kotzebue for the Village Public Safety Officer's Program in an amount not to exceed \$38,750.00.*

Brad Reich mentioned that the VPSO's will be able to patrols and searches for Village of Noatak. President Weisner mentioned that his is grant funded. Member Sampson said that it's Department of Justice pass through monies not general fund.

**Member Hadley motion to approve Resolution 16-16, seconded by Member Ramoth; motion passed with ten yes and one excused.**

4. **Resolution 16-17** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly recommending approval of an easement across Borough property in Noorvik to the City of Noorvik for public utilities, and for related purposes.*

Charlie Gregg presented Resolution 16-17; ANTHC is putting in two pipes from power plant to water plant. Planning Commission had reviewed and held a public hearing.

**Member Westlake motion to approve Resolution 16-17, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed with then yes and one excused.**

## OTHER BUSINESS

None presented.

## AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Verna Westlake, Kiana Resident, Economic Development Committee Member and Red Dog Commination employee; sitting and listening to the work sessions and regular meeting have heard similar goals. Believe if Red Dog and Borough work together to serve our communities. We all serve the same people; everyone talks of the challenges.

Willie Towksjhea mentioned he had worked with the alcohol treatment center in Kotzebue, worked with homeless shelter and senior center. He noticed that in Kotzebue, our people are hurting because of alcohol. He had travelled to the villages and he is approached by residents, what is going to happen to our people that are hurting the most. We need to let City know that we need to stop drinking. This past two weeks people die due to alcoholism; this isn't our culture. You all know we have a problem, but no one talks about it. It hurts to see that people roaming around Kotzebue basketball season because of high cost of living. Why is it that some teenager want to sleep; he opens his door for him, no drinking or smoking. High problem is alcohol right now; who do we talk to? Our people are hurting. We need to open a treatment center; important for our people.

Member Sampson request Mayor to work with Maniilaq Social Service Programs to see what the plans are.

Lance Kramer, NANA appreciates what Borough has been doing with the projects in the region. He would like encourage Assembly and Administration to do an audit of the School District in terms of Inupiaq education. Important for our kids to learn our lifestyle and language; a few years ago the kids were getting thirty minutes a week per class. An hour a month and eight hours a year of Inupiaq education, they have two thousand dollars a year. Might as well do an academic audits, it's failing our children. He works in the Land department; there is no reason to have subsistence class in each school.

*Annabelle Alvite appreciates Willie and Lances' comments; subsistence and culture education are important in the region. CIAP grant had monies available for this type of activities that have been mentioned. She raised concern of the status of monies left.*

*Eileen Booth-Goodro of Noatak raised her concerns regarding the Alcohol treatment center. If you think of all the accidents, suicides due to alcohol; people are homeless. Also, most important thing people need help. She had moved from Kotzebue because of that, she don't want to blame only Kotzebue. Both husband and she have no jobs but not bringing family, she don't want to move to Kotzebue. It's all over, not only of Kotzebue, think of everybody. Go to bed and think about this, we will have to bury another young man because of alcohol.*

*Carolyn Ballot of Ambler has been having trouble with funding, her daughter has been schooling Galena for this past two years. Most of the students from this region goes to Galena, we need help education wise.*

## ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Westlake mentioned that the Regional Elder's Council have requested a meeting with School District. Once it has been set up, he said everyone is invited.

Member Hadley no comment.

Member Loon thank Lance for raising your concerns regarding hours of Inupiaq education. Also, thank you for calling in during the RACK meeting. She supports any issues and concerns for the Inupiaq conservations. Thank you to Willie, true to work; when we come to Assembly meeting we have to have a clear mind. Alcohol and drug free, we can't go to meetings feeling high. Would be good to hear from villages, Elders that can call in during the comments. We need an alcohol treatment center. Denise Koutchak has been working on a homeless shelter; Hannah isn't sure if she had approached the Assembly. People that come to Kotzebue and are inebriated, sometimes no place to stay. When you go hospital you see it every day, these are our people. Thank you audience, Mayor, Staff and Helena for filling in for Sister Belle; good job, good reports.

Member Armstrong sends condolences that lost loved ones. Thank Mayor and Administration for working with the communities trying to make improvements. Thank the Assembly for amending the ordinances and passing the resolutions. Thank the audiences for comments.

Member Ramoth in Inupiaq. Mentioned that School District has a mission and vision to follow. We all know it starts at home; we all have generation gaps where we lose a lot of language and practices. Always thank Lance, his brother and others, whether you enjoy the country or hunt, it goes way back. Good meeting this morning; money is very important to discuss. Safe travels.

Member Sampson likes the discussion; good dialogue. Thank Teck for being here today; wish and hope this could have happened earlier on to have a good dialogue amongst ourselves before getting to reacting to things. Thank you to Towksjhea has a good message to all of us; we need to think of us as leaders, are we a good example to the public? Something that we should think serious about as public officials; message should be taken to heart. Don't want to be critical but think about, if we say we are going to address those things and use it. Thanks for comments on issues pertaining to education; we demand to education on how to set their curriculum. Thank Joe Bia, have been working locally trying to get local folks to work at his store but sometimes having problems finding employees.

Member Cleveland mentioned good meeting. Thank you staff; condolences to those that lost loved ones. Thank you to Towksjhea, at one point he had worked at Spud Farm which had dissolved. If the program come up again he would like to see Selawik IRA handle that; cheaper to bring fuel and operate from there. Although it goes through federal grants, but if it's a cultural program type we need to re-write the program.

Member Swan thank those that raised concerns that were brought to him either in person or phone. Thank the Assembly for working together. Thank the staff for work and praying for them.

Elder Representative in Inupiaq. Thank you, I'm thankful to be here. We have reached this point with our Lord and Savior. I speak Eskimo, so I'm going to speak in Eskimo. Thank you to everyone when you think of something, let it out. When you can't hear it or see it, it shows. And our Lord sees everything we do even if we can't see it or hear it. Eskimo Language in



school for thirty minutes is like five minutes we need to talk to our children more in our homes. Thank for the opportunity to speak. Thank you.

Vice President Nelson introduced herself, appreciate all the sharing and stories. Thank you Lance for the Inupiaq Language concerns; would like to build a strong healthy Inupiaq lifestyle. Some of us are fortunate to be raised by grandparents, parents should teach their children to live the subsistence lifestyle. Congratulates the 1A and 3A basketball teams that went to State. Thank the PR group of that videos of student activities to see, good to see on Facebook. Thank the Administration for the 2015 audit, clean opinion and think really important to stay within the fiscal responsible with budgeting. Thanks for the trail staking to Nelson's Camp and Fish Creek; some days are really white out and GPS rarely works at times. Thank you for sharing what you believe in; we got emails about Red Dog and NANA. We have to hear from you. There is a race next week, Arctic Spring festival activities coming up; lots of things happening.

President Weisner thank Assembly and Administration for moving forward. Thank you for all those that have called in.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Richards thank Willie Towksjhea for coming in; heard your message. We have homeless people in our community; my hope to fulfill that need. He did work at the homeless center while at Maniilaq. Thank the people that called in, Assembly for working with the Administration as we move forward. Lots of sun, daylight and plan roundtrip, bring extra gas; make sure you tell someone where you are going. For those that lost loved ones, really hits home. As a parent that lost my daughter, touches a way you don't expect. He feels for each of the family members. Like Lucy said, exciting week next week snow machine race and activities. Special meeting will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, ordinances to pass.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Member Ramoth moved to adjourn; with no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:39 A.M.**