



**Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 28, 2017 – 9:00 A.M.  
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.

**SAFETY MOMENT**

Member Loon expressed the importance of using hand rails; she thanks AC Manager Rob for cleaning the rails that had snow. When you see a safety hazard, please be careful especially when overloading outlets.

Member Armstrong mentioned with the recent weather to keep in mind that the slews are not as thick as the river. Always plan your trip, let someone know your plans and when to return.

**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.	Dood Carr
Tanya Ballot	Lucy Nelson	Carl Weisner	

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Clement Richards Sr.	Matt Mead	Angie Sturm	Clara Jones
Patrick Savok	Dickie Moto	Nick Case	Blake Phillips
Janine Bedford	Stella Atoruk		

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda presented for March 28, 2017. Member Loon request to add VPSO funding status and Department of Motor Vehicles verses Legislative Office's needs. President Weisner request to add ice road updates under communications and appearances. Under Assembly

report he also request to add Borough Teck relationship and NWALT. Member Loon also request to add Elder/Youth Representatives Update. Vice President Nelson request to add executive session for the Teck discussion.

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

## **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes presented for February 28, 2017 for approval.

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

## **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES**

Nick Case and Black Phillips, Alaska Permanent Capital Management presented the investment review ending January 31, 2017. With the current uncertainty surrounds the annual budgeting process here; right now we are in the right position. Vice President Nelson raised concern regarding how the funds would be allocated if we were to receive a severance tax or a PILT; is there a plan or is that based on the strategic benchmark? President Weisner expressed his gratitude for the presence, focus and communication. Vice President Nelson requested a refresher on how the AMLIP works. Member Carr requested a work session with ACPM should we have a big change in our finances so we understand our portfolio and how we'd want to move forward. President Weisner mentioned at the previous meeting Borough was in litigation with Teck; Borough had staying in litigation and granted by the Judge. Possibly have a review on risk tolerance and aim for a higher yield in the future.

Ice Road Update. Mayor informed the Assembly that they Ice Road is open to Noorvik at this time which is a one lane road. Cautious for blind spots, plan roundtrip, take radio and extra gas. President Weisner raised concern regarding snow machine tail crossing. He also verified which communities are working on the project. Deputy Director Dickie Moto mentioned that all the crossings have been flatten out for safety. Noorvik will be coming down to widen the river, currently Borough's plow truck is down. KIC has a MOA to widen this side. President Weisner verified how much of the monies were spent. Member Loon mentioned that yesterday the City of Kiana hadn't signed the contract, now you stated they are working on it; why wasn't it approved? Moto stated they will do a PSA on safety and trash on the road. Member Loon expressed the importance of local employment; have assembly members declare their conflict of interest.

VSP0 Funding. Member Loon summarized the report from Wendy Chamberlain regarding this funding. She would like the communities to be aware; support your VPSO's in the community. President Weisner thank the administration for the outreach for the program.

President Weisner thanked the administration for the update on the Kivalina Road Project which will shorten the timeline by two years. Member Carr commends the VPSO's and Program; we need to be supportive of it. Really appreciate what they do for our Region and safety.

Department of Motor Vehicles were open for one week here in Kotzebue. Member Loon expressed the importance of having a DMV office. She raised concern of having a Legislative Office or DMV office. Member Sampson stated that the State requires all these registration and don't have an office here; then our people get fined. We need to pursue hard on this issue. Vice President Nelson mentioned that the State is trying to find a local agency to manage DMV; possibly have administration contact State for a response of the issues we have. Member Carr recommends that DMV should have a traveling DMV person come here often; possibly send out notices for when it is open.

Member Loon raised concern of when we can have an Elder Representative and how is that person chosen? Member Westlake mentioned that the Elder's Council may have selected an Elder although working on terms; would like to set a policy. President Weisner congratulates Elder of the Year to Member Westlake.

## **BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Madam Chair Nelson summarized the Budget, Audit and Finance meeting which was held the previous day. All members were present, minutes were passed, one resolutions and two ordinances recommend do pass. She stated that Kotzebue IRA were present to support their letter of donation request. Member Carr also stated a letter from Chukchi Library, although she had gotten disconnected.

## **PUBLIC HEARING, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES AND EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

1. **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.*

President Weisner summarize the ordinance.

**Member Sampson motion to approve Ordinance 17-01 as second reading, seconded by Member Cleveland. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. **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.*

President Weisner summarize the ordinance; may review in the future because of a timely

manner. Mayor recommend do pass.

**Member Carr motion to approve Ordinance 17-02, seconded by Member Loon. Motion passed by majority with Member Sampson and Swan voting NO with a roll call vote.**

**Break taken at 10:03 A.M.  
Reconvene at 10:14 A.M.**

President Weisner raised concern regarding Ordinance 17-02; regarding any contracts between the first and second reading, what is the legally of those contracts? President Weisner verified with Mayor Richards if there were any additional contract between the readings.

### **ASSEMBLY REPORTS**

President Weisner mentioned that he had went through the Deputy Clerk to schedule a NWALT meeting possibly in Kotzebue due to funds. Currently awaiting schedules to see when can meet.

### **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Richards summarized his monthly report. Congratulations Buckland, Noatak and Selawik for going to State. Games were on our Facebook stream. Vice President Nelson recommend any employee changes reported on the monthly report. She also raised concern to the Grants Administrator, is there any progress on that? She would like to know who is moving on and appreciate the work that gets done. Member Sampson summarized the role that Remote Solutions had with the Borough although they don't provide that role any more.

Member Loon mentioned that Member Sampson and she attended a RACK Meeting on March 1-2, 2017. Member Sampson summarized the two day meeting. Currently have two proposals in place; bear and moose. Our presence is important during the Federal Board meetings. State of Alaska sits on that board although at a non-voting member. He had completed the application to be a Regional Advisory Board Member; awaiting action.

Mayor Richards reaches out to City of Shungnak for Revenue Sharing; please complete the application so a check can be issued.

Member Westlake expressed the importance of grants, which needs to be monitored. The Assembly needs reports of the grants. We had a grant for repairing trails; there are projects that need to be done. Also, wouldn't take much for a report of the Noatak Road; affecting people that we represent. He expressed he was disappointed with the agenda, although there was disruption in staff but we have to move forward. We needs these reports.

## TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

President Weisner mentioned that the dates for next month are April 24-25, 2017, unless there is a need for a special meeting.

## INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None presented.

## RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 17-08** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a professional services agreement with Espelin & Associates LLC to provide accounting services and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards summarized Resolution 17-08, to support Finance as they upgrade the software. Member Carr mentioned on the previous day she expressed the importance of having local hire. In the future she asks the Mayor and Assembly to look for people in our Region, she feels there are locals that can do this service.

**Member Swan motion to approve Resolution 17-08, seconded by Member Hadley. Motion passed by majority with Member Carr voting NO.**

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Vice President Nelson motion to go into executive session to discuss Borough Teck relationship and/or litigation at 10:38 A.M.; seconded by Member Armstrong. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Reconvene at 11:22 A.M. Assembly provided direction for the Administration which will be mentioned momentarily.**

## AUDIENCE COMMENTS

No audience comments presented.

## ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

President Weisner mentioned that during the work session yesterday and after a two year negotiation; Assembly determined in the best interest to avoid uncertainty of litigation. Borough directed the Administration to introduce an ordinance for a PILT agreement between Borough and Teck for a ten year period effective January 1, 2016. During the two reading

then residents would be able to weigh in on public hearing. This would be based on the value of the Red Dog, property plant and equipment so Borough can provide for municipal responsibilities that the residents need. The deal is not final yet; should it be then it will be a substantial amount to provide to the communities. Thank you to Teck, NANA and the negotiation team.

Vice President Nelson mentioned she had been contacted regarding the communication between Assembly members; before we comment regarding another organization to get the facts straight. This has been an on-going discussion regarding the decisions that come before them. Thank you to the negotiation team, to Matt for legal counsel. Enjoy the Spring,

Member Westlake expressed his gratitude of working together; local hire always have been an issue. Thank you to Austin for the emails sent; we need to get information. Borough needs to keep us informed. Would like work session on conflict of interest.

Member Carr thank the negotiation team for the work; Assembly had great faith in you. The work will begin now, thank the Assembly. Move forward for better of our constituents.

Member Hadley thank the negotiation team, job well done; there is still work ahead with the ordinance and public testimony. He looks forward working with everyone. Thank you.

Member Ballot commends the staff and negotiation team, also to Assembly members for the decisions made are for the residents of this Borough. Would like to let the Youth know, when you're in a situation that you can't deal with alone there are others out there to help you. We don't want to lose any more of our members. Would like a youth representative on this Assembly; they are our future. Lastly, congratulate basketball teams that went to state.

Member Armstrong thank staff and negotiation team. Look forward to move forward on the next ordinance.

Member Loon thanks staff and negotiation team. Congratulations to Elder of Year; from your wisdom and knowledge, thank you. Apologize as a member of Assembly. Thank you to President and Vice President as we monitor expenses. To the communities, hope to continue to work with you on Revenue Sharing.

Member Swan accepts Hannah's apology. Thank Elder of Year. Thank you to staff, negotiation team and the Assembly for all the work that have been done; trying to move forward with our issues in the Region. Feels like walking out with Dr. Sholls shoes.

Member Cleveland in Inupiaq. He translates thank you for listening out there. He raised concern to some residents are unclear of what is being discussed. Togetherness is important, make decisions together; not leaving out one community. We work for everyone.

Member Sampson in Inupiaq.

## MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Richards congratulates Elder of Year, Member Westlake. To the public, this Assembly have worked hard and amazed to where we are at today. We will be able to provide needs for our residents. Commends to the Assembly and working with the Administration. Thank you President.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Member Loon motion adjourn at 11:43 A.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stella Aoud". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stella" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Aoud".

