



Northwest Arctic Borough

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Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 24, 2016 – 9:00 A.M.
Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

President Carl Weisner called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Cleveland provided invocation.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Elmer Armstrong Jr. (arr 9:09)	Walter Sampson	Hannah Loon	Austin Swan Sr.
Nathan Hadley Jr.	Larry Westlake Sr.	Miles Cleveland Sr.	Lucy Nelson
Pete Schaeffer	Carl Weisner		

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Clement Richards Sr.	Winona Hawley	Matt Mead	Noah Naylor
Rosny Rizk	Angie Strum	Eugene Smith	Brad Reich
Patrick Savok	Willie Towksjhea	Reggie Joule	Liz Cravalho
Chris Hatch	John Baker	Katherine Keith	Helena Hildreth
Wayne Hall	Stella Atoruk	<i>Ingemar Mathiasson</i>	

Excused

Clyde Ramoth

(telephonic)

Quorum established to conduct business.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Agenda for May 24, 2016 presented. Mayor request to add Resolution 16-24, loose leaf hand out. Member Schaeffer request to add executive session regarding personnel, under other business; Vice President Nelson also discuss finance during the executive session.

Ambler [Visaappaat](#), Buckland [Nunatchiaq](#), Deering [Ipnatchiaq](#), Kiana [Katyaak](#), Kivalina [Kivaliñiq](#), Kobuk [Laugviik](#), Kotzebue [Qikiqtaġruk](#), Noatak [Nautaaq](#), Noorvik [Nuurvik](#), Selawik [Akuliġaq](#), Shungnak [Isiñnaq](#)

Member Loon moved, seconded by Member Hadley to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried with nine yes votes.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Regular meeting minutes for March 22, 2016 and Special meeting minutes for April 15, 2016.

Member Schaeffer moved, seconded by Member Sampson to approve the meeting minutes. Motion carried with nine yes votes.

COMMUNICATIONS & APPEARANCES

Wayne Hall, Superintendent of Environment Relations and Public Relations with Teck Cominco summarized the power point presented. Vice President Nelson mentioned that we can't ignore the fact the code has been in existence; we've allowed to have an agreement and we've had prior meetings. We are open to negotiations; we feel with contributions to organizations the Borough supports that. We have to look out for our constituents; we have two sides to a story. Member Hadley verified with Wayne regarding a letter to their employees about this severance that their employment would be at stake. Member Schaeffer mentioned a big difference between the size of mines; in terms of their production. He is interested in how that presentation came about. Raised concern to gas lines during the legislative session; expressed importance of budget cuts. President Weisner appreciate Teck's work at Red Dog; he summarized the graphs that Borough has. He expressed the importance of responsibility to the residents of this Borough. President mentioned that Borough have supported AIEDA with the EIS of the Ambler Mining District; supports development in this Region but not at the expense of the residence. Mr. Hall mentioned that they think it's unfair of this organization depending ninety-nine percent on Teck.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Madam Chair Nelson mentioned that Budget, Audit & Finance met this previous day. All members were present, additional members and guest. BAF had one ordinance (16-04) that have been discussed FY17, tabled for farther discussion. Also, had five resolutions which passed unanimously. There was one individual that requested continued donation to Nikaitchuat.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, INACTMENT OF ORDINANCES AND EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

None presented.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Hadley summarized his written report from attending the Alaska Rural Energy Conference in Fairbanks.

Vice President Nelson mentioned she had attended Federal Subsistence Board Meeting and Rural Advisory Committee in Anchorage; which was first attendance learning about those two. She also traveled to Washington DC, part of the lobbyist trip; there was another group for Noatak Fuel Road.

President Weisner mentioned he attended the working group with North Slope Borough meeting in Fairbanks. Have discussed what can be done with the decline in caribou population. He also traveled to Washington DC, addition to Vice President's comments that Noatak Fuel Road would really help Noatak; appreciate Teck's participation in that project. The Kivalina Road which is being proposed would be about forty million; like Senator Murkowski mentioned, look in all area's for funding. President also participated in Economic Development meetings in all the villages, discussed small business grants. Should Borough can increase that in the future. Also, discussed six pack license; be able to bring people out on tours, there are opportunities. Heard feedback on trial stalking, the involvement in the communities were positive and hope to see that continue.

Member Sampson raised concern during the Federal Board meeting; did they discuss what the Feds plan to do with Title 8 which provides for rural residents to have first priority in this region. He would like to know what the State is going to do to enforce this. This is critically important, for subsistence purposes there was "rural preference"; now everyone is a subsistence user. The State of Alaska is managing resources under Federal Lands; when enforcement is being done, it's being done on residents. We need to make sure when there is discussion on caribou committee or federal side; we need to stay on top of things.

Member Loon added during the working group in Kotzebue, there was a presentation from a guide. There is a difference between the transporters and guiders. She sat on the working group and she noticed that it consist of Kotzebue people and mostly speak English. She would like the transporters and guides to be on our level and understand.

Member Sampson mentioned during the Washington DC, went lobbying for the school which is critically important. He would like to know what the Kivalina is thinking of where they would like to relocate verses where the school is being constructed.

Member Swan discussed the meeting between Public Services and Remote Solutions. Also, discussed relocation efforts. He would like to see them stay on the evacuation project without mention of relocation; the timeline for the road would get dragged in. We need to have the evacuation road put in, we need a new school too.

Member Loon mentioned she also went lobbying for Noatak. It was also good to see the Kivalina delegation; good to see Austin changed his hat to be under City. Very appreciative of the representation. Good learning experience. She also attended the Chukchi College graduation, keep on going. Attended the Federal Subsistence meeting in Anchorage, attended RACK in support of the non-federal recognized hunting; closing hunting for one year. She encourages all city and IRA to call in during the work sessions, during day before assembly meetings. We need to hear from the villages on issues.

Member Westlake raised concern to decline of the caribou herd; he sits on the Federal Subsistence Board. He supports this, we should education our people of the restrictions exist. It's very important when we have restrictions, need to education our people.

Member Cleveland mentioned he travel to Washington DC also, good representation from Kivalina. As far as Assembly and Staff, you did good and thank you for the invite. As for the caribou, this Spring as soon as females were closed. There was this hunter went out and shot a Bull although was pregnant.

Member Swan thanked the group that went lobbying, already seeing results from that trip. We are going somewhere, took a major step. We will go somewhere.

Member Hadley request a committee for wildlife, or caribou. Real important for the committee to attend these meetings in the future.

President Weisner mentioned they have discussed having a Trooper educate the residents.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Richards mentioned he attended the Federal Subsistence Meeting in Anchorage and Fairbanks. He summarized his written report presented; RACK committee was interesting. Went to Washington DC with the seven assembly members; good relationship, very positive interaction with the Congressmen and Senators. Thank you to Don Young. Mayor mentioned that they met with ACPM to have portfolio to 75/25 from 50/50. Also, Administration met with tax attorneys to discuss the severance.

Patrick Savok mentioned he also attended the Federal Subsistence Board Meeting. Met with North Slope/Northwest Arctic Borough. Mayor and he were called to the White House regarding Arctic Transport; Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor of Anchorage presented infrastructure if accidents occur. Berkowitz expressed the importance of a Port. As Kathleen transition out Pat has been helping out in Economic Development. Met with NANA to discuss collaborative efforts that can work together on projects. We also need a tax assessor, need forms created. Met with GCI regarding a new phone system. Attended the Denali Commission regarding the Evacuation Road; ranked number three under the Relocation efforts. Patrick mentioned the Washington DC, found out that the land swap would be brought to Congress; however brought to our attention won't be needed. The FY17 revenue sharing program, the applications were submitted and restrictions may be in place. Denise with Senator Olsen's office provided Borough with the asks; she 'in terms of funding leadership has repeatedly there will be no discretionary funding. Optimistic that there will be an opportunity; however Senator Olsen is ever aware of looking for an opportunity should one appear. He very much understand how important it is important in his communities.'

Member Sampson verified the land exchange. He verified if Noatak is planning to go away from the existing road that IRA had chosen? Through the northern part? It has no NANA land, it has State, Borough and NANA land.

Member Westlake verified the deadline of the revenue sharing program application, looking at the spreadsheet there are some villages that didn't apply.

Member Armstrong mentioned he also attended the delegation at Washington DC; there was big group from Kivalina, also went lobbying for Noatak Fuel Road.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Budget, Audit & Finance work session – Thursday, June 2, 2016 @ 9:00 A.M.
Budget, Audit & Finance work session – Friday, June 3, 2016 @ 9:00 A.M.
Special Meeting – Wednesday, June 15, 2016 @ 9:00 A.M.

Break taken 10:15 A.M.
Reconvene 10:29 A.M.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 16-04** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line item budget for the Fiscal Year 2017.*

Vice President Nelson mentioned during the Budget, Audit & Finance had tabled the ordinance so can have further discussion on the three scenarios presented. BAF agreed to have a BAF work session to focus on realistic revenues and expenses; need to make sure we protect the fund balance and cash reserves.

President Weisner added that Borough is considering one of three scenarios.

Mayor Richards informed the public that there will be a lot of items taken from this budget, those in the public that would like to comment, please do. Look forward working with the BAF committee.

Member Sampson mentioned that he raised his concern to Teck's receivable; which is misleading which would change the contingency reserve. He would like to zero out the receivable.

Member Armstrong mentioned that if there is anyone from Staff or Assembly if they are affiliated with the School District to excuse themselves in any discussions within this.

Vice President Nelson plans to abstain from voting that pertains to the School District; although as the BAF Chair she believe she can vote on.

Member Sampson verified if it would be pertained to the staff also?

Member Schaeffer motion to approve Ordinance 16-04, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed with ten yes and one excused.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 16-20** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve a design build contract with Ridge Contracting for VPSO Housing in Ambler.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass. Brad summarized the resolution, Ridge got the bid for \$978,000. They had actually extended the bid and received two bids; Tikigaq had submitted.

Member Hadley motion to approve Resolution 16-20, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed by majority with ten yes votes and one excused.

2. **Resolution 16-21** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a CIAP-Grant funded Heat Pump Project and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass. Ingemar summarized the resolution; he mentioned they would like twenty-two pumps in those that would like to participate and save money in a six to eight months out of a year. Should be able to save between a thousand or two.

Member Loon verified if there will be any training on how to assemble the pumps. Will they be local people or contractors?

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 16-21, seconded by Member Hadley; motion passed by majority with ten yes votes and one excused by roll call vote.

3. **Resolution 16-22** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a CIAP-Grant funded Solar Array Project and for related purposes.*

Mayor recommend do pass. Ingemar summarize the resolution, he mentioned that we have solar arrays on the water plants. This resolution is for Noorvik, have been working with AVEC. Can save over two thousand gallons per year, this will be a good study for Kotzebue, Buckland and Deering.

Member Hadley motion to approve Resolution 16-22, seconded by Member Armstrong; motion passed by majority with ten yes votes and one excused.

4. **Resolution 16-23** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving the unincorporated Community of Noatak for participation in the FY17 Community Revenue Sharing Program.*

Mayor Richards mentioned this is a supported resolution to receive revenue sharing for Noatak; recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 16-23, seconded by Member Westlake; motion passed by majority with ten yes votes and one excused.

5. Resolution 16-24 a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the FY17 local contribution to education.

Mayor Richards recommend do pass; contribution to School District.

President Weisner verified if we have received a letter from District; usually takes place before the resolution is considered.

Member Armstrong motion to approve Resolution 16-24, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed by majority with nine yes votes, one excused and one abstain.

OTHER BUSINESS

Member Armstrong motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Member Loon to discuss personnel and finance.

Reconvene at 11:46 A.M.; concluded with no decisions made regarding the finances.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Wayne Hall, Teck thank you for the opportunity to tell our side of the story. Appreciate hearing the budget proposals the Assembly is considering. Would like to express my disappointment in the bridge funding that Teck offered to help get through this time period where the Assembly is waiting for the first severance tax payment. It would help through, want to make sure residents are supported by the services Borough provides. Just to express disappointment it was rejected. Thank you.

President Weisner clarified that it wasn't rejected and will be in contact with you; ask you not to point the stick and proceed forward.

Willie Towksjhea of Kotzebue, he had brought comments before and would like to know if what he says here stays here are will it be announced to other people. Kotzebue is hard to live in; we need a grocery store. High cost of living is going up; we need a Native Store. Gas and stove oil is doubling; need clothing also, one stop shopping. Why is Kotzebue so separated right now? So we can be proud of who we are, we are Natives. Kotzebue needs a place to be recognized.

Reggie Joule raised two items; he understand that employees work at the will of the Mayor which are partially exempt. He also recognize the challenges that you have; one employee in particular work hard at the Borough. In his time here both as legislator and former Mayor, of the employees were Christine Hess. He brings before the Assembly she had twenty years of services and he recognize that it's the decision for the Mayor to make. Although she lacked any recognition from this Borough. Another note, he have taken a role of Quintillion Liaison who will be laying fiber optic by early 2017. OTZ Telephone will be the carrier of the last mile. Residents would be able receive more broadband. Thank you for the time and services you provide for this Borough. Thank you.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Sampson in Inupiaq.

Member Cleveland mentioned good meeting; still have a lot of work ahead of us. The togetherness that we have is more critical today than when we started.

Member Swan mentioned that is glad he read the bible this morning, good meeting, good discussions. Thank you for all your input, enjoyed listening to you.

Member Loon mentioned good meeting, learning experience. Thank you to Mayor for listening to the Assembly. Thank you Matt, for being here; appreciated. Thank you Winona, thank you for being here, when present we are comfortable. She publically apologize to Pete; thank you for your work in the working group. She noticed she is ignorant of State's position, she stated not having village representation. Pete and Walter are very knowledgeable; there are years of local experience. She apologize for complaining, thank you Walter for keeping us on track with lands and federal subsistence regulations. Lucky to have you here on Assembly.

Member Armstrong sends condolences to those that lost loved ones. Thank Mayor and employees and Assembly as we work together, moving forward we are making improvements for the Borough. Thank you.

Member Hadley raised concern of the future caribou hunting; we don't change the direction of the migration. We respect them, and take what we need. He would like to see a committee formed from this Assembly. We also help with subsistence lifestyle.

Member Westlake raised concern to safety of the people; lots of hunting and fishing going on. Wear your life preservers and children; gun safety, always be careful, make sure the rifle is not loaded. Good meeting.

Member Schaeffer first of all with numbers crunching in the old days; appreciate the scenarios that finance had presented, a lot of work. In relation to the caribou issues, people forgot the history with Fish & Game management practices; back in the 70's the herd declined. This is the way of life, not to only take what we need but to share. In terms of the presentation from Cominco, appreciate it, still think there are two sides of the story and we got to see one. Thank you.

Vice President Nelson thank the guests that voiced their concern and the listening audience. Thank you to Teck for telling his side of the story, biggest thing to make decisions you need to listen, pay attention. We've received a lot of comments from Teck employees and constituents; we have a huge Assembly and have individual votes. We take our concern whole heartedly; care about our people. Thank you to Willie for voicing his concerns; store pricing, we hear you. Thank you to Reggie for voicing your concerns. We hear a lot of concerns; upset people, we listen. We don't just put under the rug, as a public service organization, everyone is welcome to voice your concerns. As the BAF Chair, we need to do what is in the best interest of the Borough; can't just approve resolutions and ordinances before you. She is the type to listen, factual. There are two sides to the story. Good meeting and appreciate the guest the past two days.

President Weisner expressed his experience with Christine Hess; she has been very helpful for the entire Region. Regarding Teck, look forward to working with Wayne Hall one way or another. Open to all options. Look forward working together best interest of our residents. We've done a lot of homework, taken a lot of years to get the unity we have now. Look forward to the months to come.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Matt Mead thank Wayne Hall for coming advocating for Teck; they have done a tremendous job there. They are showing improved signs, a good thing for the Region, benefits everyone. Teck has fiduciary, legal responsibility to their shareholders; NANA has a fiduciary responsibility to their shareholders. Borough continues to look for revenue; there is only one mine in the Borough which is unique. Look forward to a continued dialogue with Teck.

Mayor Richards thank everyone for a good meeting; two sides to a story. Remind everyone for the Elections coming up, first day to apply is June 6, 2016. Look forward to work with the BAF Committee/Chair. Thank the audience for coming in, thank Willie and Reggie. Thank Christine Hess for all the years served. Remind everyone if you're going out boating, plan round trip, take extra gas. First time used SPOT check, recommend you to check one out. Good tool. To those that lost loved ones, it's always hard, thinking of you each and every time in each community

ADJOURNMENT

Member Schaeffer moved to adjourn; with no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 12:18 P.M.