



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, July 29, 2015 – 1:30 P.M.

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

President Larry Westlake Sr. called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Excused

Winona Hawley

Absent

Hendy Ballot Sr.

Introduction of Staff and Guests

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Reggie Joule | Noah Naylor | Fred Smith | Rosny Rizk |
| Wendie Schaeffer | <i>Matt Mead</i> | Tiffany Scott | <i>Marlene Moto-Karl</i> |
| Chloe Naylor | Christine Hess | Annabelle Alvite | <i>Hannah Loon</i> |
| Martha Henry | Laura Eichelberger | Nina Lie | Brenden Ryan |
| Don Fancher | Stella Atoruk | | |

Quorum established to conduct business.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Miles Cleveland provided invocation.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Agenda for July 29, 2015 presented for approval; Member Weisner request to add CIAP Grant Green Initiatives under Communications and Appearances.

Member Ramoth moved, seconded by Member Vern Cleveland to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote with ten yes votes

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting minutes of June 23, 2015 were presented for approval.

Member Schaeffer moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 23, 2015. Seconded by Member Vern Cleveland. Member Ramoth request to have the reorganization section reworded; Member Ramoth motion to close nominations. Member Nelson mentioned that she had attended the meeting and not listed on members present. **Motion carried unanimously by roll call with ten yes votes.**

COMMUNICATIONS & APPEARANCES

Member Weisner mentioned the CIAP Grant Green Initiatives Program which brought in a multi-million dollars; provided solar panels for water plants in the villages, restoration of North Tent City, burn waste units and Subsistence Mapping Project. He would like that Mapping Program done Upper Kobuk; think that program is really good He raised his concern regarding Green Initiatives; has there been discussion of the composting toilets and odorless honey buckets; is there a plan to expand to use this grant funding in the region? Member Weisner verified the amount of monies left over; know that growing gardens can produce for food security which can help residents can become less reliant on foods imported.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Madam Chair Nelson mentioned Budget, Audit and Finance met that morning; all members present along with other assembly members and staff. Madam Chair Nelson summarized meeting; Ordinance 15-08 had been presented, recommend do pass with changes to include tax credits to those that apply. Also, had five resolutions that recommend do pass.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, INACTMENT OF ORDINANCES AND EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

None presented.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Sampson reported that Veterans Administration Guests that have arrived yesterday; training for tribal representatives, there is a Stand Down this coming Saturday. All Veterans will be issued some military gear. Upcoming talking circle for Veterans; they freely opened up without public scrutiny to talk about any type of problems. Veterans that have passed on are eligible for headstones. For those of you in the villages, your gear will be sent out with Bering Air; thanks to Bering Air for shipping at no cost. This Saturday is Veterans Stand Down from nine to four; first of many, critical to make sure the Veterans at the Village know what help is available. Veterans that need to register; hope down the road they will issue the homeless issue for Veterans. Member Sampson mentioned if you would like to know if your registered can contact Chester Ballot or Johnson Greene.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Joule mentioned due to weather had to settle for teleconference; also, with hotel restriction. They have considered having in Ambler or Kiana although couldn't work out. Mayor summarized his written report. Mayor mentioned he received a call from The White House; Director of Advance Coordination, the Advance Team because Kotzebue is going to have a possible visit from the highest level. They have visited Kivalina for a bit; flew over Red Dog and Noatak so they can see the river and erosion. Finalizing the paperwork The White House is requesting, don't quite know when Borough will find out. Mayor Joule mentioned they have been coordinating with other entities regarding caribou hunting; limited to five a day, because of decline in herd. Make sure you have your hunting license and boat is registered. He provided the upcoming events. He had been asked to speak at the Glazier conference; he asked Larry and Christine to join. If there is a Presidential Visit in Kotzebue it will be first or second of September; if does then a lot of visitors. The Advance Team had visited Seward, Dillingham, Kotzebue and recently Barrow; when they decide they will let us know. Mayor mentioned that Elder Representative asked to be excused. Thanks to the clerks for working on logistics; had considered possibly in village, look forward to that. Also, thanks to staff for tremendous work.

Member Ramoth requested the website address announced; Mayor Joule mentioned that a newsletter will be in everyone's soon.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Member Ramoth recommend travel Monday morning, to have BAF and work session on Monday and regular meeting on Tuesday. Mayor Joule mentioned in upcoming events there is an Arctic Shipping Conference hosted by Arctic Circle which is held on August 24 and 25th. Member Vern Cleveland mentioned that due to fog should they travel Sunday night instead of travel Monday morning because they will be struggling again. Member Miles Cleveland motion to travel Monday morning.

Budget, Audit and Finance – Monday, August 24, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.

Work session – Monday, August 24, 2015 at 3:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

Member Miles Cleveland motion to approve the next meeting dates; seconded by Member Nelson. Member Sampson mentioned that he has commitments that week and won't be able to attend. Motion carried unanimously by roll call with one no voting.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 15-08** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Title Seven of the Borough Code to adopt a tobacco excise tax and for related purposes.*

Member Miles Cleveland raised his concern regarding the vendors sending Borough monies; will that be monthly or quarterly? Member Miles Cleveland raised his concern regarding the monies being given to each community after; if given to Maniilaq then they may not get help in

the community. Member Ramoth mentioned that the monies do different activities or be used in different ways; really important for each village, reading in the paper we got the one of the highest rate in the state or nation. Member Weisner expressed this is the first reading and a lot can occur until next reading; thank you to Maniilaq Tobacco Prevention to provide the information given.

Member Ramoth motion to approve Ordinance 15-08, seconded by Member Weisner. Motion carried unanimously by roll call with one no voting.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 15-33** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving engagement of BDO USA LLP to conduct the FY15 Audit, and for related purposes.*

Member Vern Cleveland motion to approve Resolution 15-33, seconded by Member Hadley. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote with two no voting.

2. **Resolution 15-34** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving transfer of an Eocycle Wind Turbine to KEA and for related purposes.*

Member Ramoth motion to approve Resolution 15-34, seconded by Member Vern Cleveland; motion carried unanimously with one no voting by roll call.

3. **Resolution 15-35** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a ground lease with the City of Ambler for VPSO Housing and related purposes.*

Member Hadley motion to approve Resolution 15-35, seconded by Member Vern Cleveland; motion passed unanimously by roll call with one no voting.

4. **Resolution 15-36** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Shell-funded research project to study near shore waters of Kotzebue Sound, and for related purposes.*

Member Ramoth motion to approve Resolution 15-36, seconded by Member Greene; motion passed unanimously with one no voting by roll call.

5. **Resolution 15-37** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting an FY16 Village Public Safety Officer grant and for related purposes.*

Member Hadley motion to adopt Resolution 15-37, seconded by Member Vern Cleveland; motion carried unanimously with one no voting by roll call vote.

6. **Resolution 15-38** a resolution to approve a Professional Services Agreement with ANTHC to perform water and sewer improvement services and upgrades, and for related purposes.

Member Ramoth motion to approve Resolution 15-38, seconded by Member Hadley; motion carried unanimously by roll call vote with one no voting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None presented.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Annabelle Alvite mentioned that supports Member Weisner's comment regarding growing more food in the region; as Wendie Schaeffer confirmed there is monies in the CIAP Green Initiative Program. Food security isn't just caribou, moose and berry picking; it's vegetables also which can be produced in the region; many generations for being done in the villages. She mentioned Michelle Obama had started a garden at the White House. Also, in Tok they have a greenhouse project; they feed the schools. She raised her concern about high cost of food for Borough residents. Possibly can hire a coordinator with the monies; as residents how can we work with the Borough to help feed ourselves in a sustainable manner; think a lot of people would be supportive of that.

Hannah Loon of Kotzebue had called regarding the gardening Annabelle is talking about. She understand the composting project. She supports gardening; IRA used to have starters and trimmers. At this time freight cost is expensive; people are hungry right now, they are used of having ready to cook or order rather than subsistence foods. When the salmon is running, it's good to preserve in jars and smoking. As a community, work together to feed the hungry. Really support what Annabelle has, soon when planes stop to villages and high cost of food; there are few people that subsist. Thank you for allowing time for her to speak.

Marlene Moto-Karl called to remind people not to break into people camps around Deering. Has been happening more and more frequently; she had a brand new four wheeler and parts are missing from it. It's not right to break into people's houses back there; young hunters needs to take what you get, no wonton waste. National Geographic had been coming around, Deering never benefit from it; more hunters will come around. Is the Northwest Arctic Borough aware of what is going in North Slope Borough; our City and IRA need to be investigated too, they sound like her. There should be a site maybe on Facebook for stolen equipment.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Vern Cleveland thanks for good meeting; very good information.

Vice President Miles Cleveland thank you for good meeting. Right around the bend at Shungnak the river is really low. Henry Downey, Ambler resident also went down to Washington D.C.; he took a picture with President Obama. Thank you for the VSPO Housing in Ambler. Also, have heard that fish are really dying in the Kobuk River. Have a good evening.

Member Ramoth thank the administration; communication is key. Friendly reminder of school starts on August 19th; get a lot of sleep and lot of water. For those of you camping; have a safe camping, hunting and gathering season. When out there we are on our own schedule; for everyone please be involved in your child's education. It's an investment for you and your child. Would like to hear more PSA's or any announcements about outsiders flying too low; note to the trespass officers to report those. Request Member Sampson translate the resolutions or what might be beneficial to residents; certainly 15-36.

Member Hadley mentioned good meeting today; look forward to the week in August, Wind Diesel. Hopefully Assemblymen will make that travel, hope it's a clear day to travel to Buckland. Hi to campers, people down Buckland River at the Culture Camp; hi to parents. Have a good weekend.

Member Nelson commend the administration for another balanced budget so can be sustainable in long term. Thank Lance Miller for the presentation on Mineral and Energy activity. Thank you to Alaska Permanent Capital and Rosny on her first meeting. Lucy encourage constituents and residents that the Election coming; important to have participation from residents. Have a good summer.

Member Sampson thank President Westlake. He mentioned we should hire a translator just like Yupik Area. Expressed the importance of understanding the language. There are translators in the Region that can attend and translate.

Member Schaeffer mentioned that seventeen years ago Agnik along with others started Nikaitchuat Ilisagvait; which is still going strong. When first started there were a couple things; encouraged parents to bring children. First, know who you are and be proud of who you are. A lot of the students that attended when we started are now going through college. Important for those to come back and be who you want to be and run for School Board, Assembly or City Council. Seriously think about the education part. Now in the paper they are concerned about budget/expenses occurring next few years because we can't sustain from borrowing from the budget reserves very long. Happy for an opportunity for the young children learn our language.

Member Greene thank Mayor and Staff for putting up a meeting; would like the Mayor to know that he supports his efforts and getting a PILT agreement Thank you.

Member Weisner express his condolences to the Hawley Family; and to those that lost loved ones recently. Thanks to Annabelle and Hannah Loon for their efforts to do more with less with sustainable foods; thanks to Administration for working with them to look at alternatives. Quintillion is here with contractors in Kotzebue; directional drilling between OTZ and Nullagvik until August 10th. The effort is to connect Kotzebue and villages superfast internet; excited about that. Hopeful to have more discussion on CIAP Program; possibly have Upper Kobuk included on Subsistence Mapping. Really impressed, lots of work; really good to read history of villages. Hi to those at camp; enjoy the sunny weather out there.

President Westlake apologize for mix up of the agenda; realize you're smiling, that's reality. Glad to keep you happy. Echo some of Pete's concerns regarding funding for the next few years and won't get any better. May have to tighten our belt on spending and make good decisions with what we have. Otherwise, everything going well up in Kiana.

Youth Representative Naylor thank Mr. President, members Assembly and staff. She will be leaving college next month; thank you to Mayor Joule for accepting her application for youth assembly seat. Have learned a lot about local governments; she will use as study Political Science in University of Alaska Southeast Juneau. Hope to see you guys when you go Juneau. Thanks to Pete and Polly for starting Nikaitchuat; lucky enough that she had schooled there. In terms of the Stand Down; thank you for your service.

Member Weisner move to adjourn.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Joule thank Annabelle for your comments; think that is something we need to do, self-sufficient is a good thing. Need to expand the conversation; in part, fortunate to have an USDA certified person. In addition to growing our own food how can we use those resources; in addition to gardening he believe there is other resources that can be incorporated. Mayor Joule summarized the Election notice; petitions should be turned in by Saturday, August 22nd at 4:30 P.M. There will be efforts of voter registration and to participate in local elections. Thank you to Mr. President and staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Weisner moved to adjourn; with no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 3:48 P.M.

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