



**Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes**
Tuesday, September 26, 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

Member Cleveland provided the invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Loon expressed the importance of boating; bring along all supplies and dress well.

Member Sampson mentioned it's Fall time; water will get cold. People will be traveling and we should watch after each other's.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

Elmer Armstrong Jr.	Hannah Loon	Tanya Ballot	Dood Carr
Hannah Loon	Walter Sampson	Carl Weisner	Austin Swan
Larry Westlake	Nathan Hadley Jr.	Miles Cleveland	

Assembly Members absent at the time of roll call:

Lucy Nelson

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Clement Richards Sr.	Stella Atoruk	Angie Sturm	Matt Mead
Patrick Savok	Chuck Greene	Fritz Westlake	Nate Kotch
Mildred Stalker	Noah Naylor	Clara Jones	Helena Hildreth
Silvano Viveiros	<i>Benjamin Arnold</i>	<i>Marlene Moto-Karl</i>	<i>Pauline Cleveland</i>
Shield Downey Jr.			

Member Westlake thank administration; he supports all three issues although would like to see action taken. All these projects keep getting delays, possibly make it a priority.

Member Loon mentioned that there is a lobbying/funding committee and NWALT Committee and Carl is listed on both; encourage the Assembly to have policies in place to have committee members' ready and available.

Member Carr motion to approve the priorities, seconded by Member Westlake; Member Swan mentioned that Kivalina have been asking about the road. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Member Carr summarized the BAF meeting which was held the previous day.

President Weisner mentioned that a Joint Maintenance Construction Meeting held with School District although a couple of our members weren't available. Soon they will discuss paying for the match through bonding for Kivalina School; although trying to get 2% instead of 20%. This will be August 2018 to have a solid plan.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 17-12** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Chapter 6.16 of the Borough Code to increase the administrative approval threshold for contracts.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass, reestablish the contract level to what it was originally at.

Member Swan motion to approve Ordinance 17-12, seconded by Member Loon. Motion passed by majority with six yes votes, Cleveland, Sampson, Ballot and Carr voting no.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Sampson provided an update from Nelson N. Angapak, Sr. with Veterans Affairs; those ones that were overseas during enrollment for Native Allotment are now able to apply for land. Congress had passed a bill from 1969 to 1970; although they weren't happy with the dates. Currently trying to expand the date 1964 to 1975; Department of Interior is supporting the bill; hopefully will pass and give the Veterans' an opportunity to apply.

Member Carr thank Member Sampson for all the work you're doing.

Member Carr mentioned she didn't understand some of the information yesterday; although during the BAF it was referred to the work session. With the entities in town, she believes it's seasonal and not get taxed over a million. She feel she don't fully understand the restricted deed or unrestricted.

Member Westlake raised concern to if an allot tee sells to a contractor? That would be different right?

Member Sampson raised concern to how many cubic yards would a million dollars be? Trying to get a picture of gravel when we say million dollars.

Elder Representative raised concern regarding in the past that native allotments only have surface rights? Is that right Member Sampson?

President Weisner encourage Administration to reach out to any mining company that are subject to the severance tax; if they may provide some insight or questions at the second reading.

Member Cleveland motion to approve Ordinance 17-13, seconded by Member Loon for first reading. Motion passed by majority with Cleveland, Sampson and Carr voting no.

2. **Ordinance 17-14** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Code for administration of the Ferguson Memorial Scholarship Program, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards mentioned that cost of education went up, this is to help students; long overdue.

President Weisner thank Administration for working on this; doubling the amount and reducing one recommendation.

Member Carr motion approve Ordinance 17-12, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 17-35** *a resolution to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Stephanie Joannides and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass, work already completed.

Member Sampson request clarification, old work or new work?

Member Carr motion to approve Resolution 17-35, seconded by Member Armstrong. Motion passed unanimously.

President Weisner takes responsibility for doing it after the fact; Mr. Kotch had made a clear budget that it's coming out of the budget. He mentioned that he should have said that it should be out of the General Fund, learning curve here.

Member Swan motion to approve Resolution 17-37, seconded by Member Westlake. Motion passed by majority with seven yes, Cleveland and Sampson voting no and Ballot abstaining.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Member Carr motion to go into executive session regarding an ethics inquiry, seconded by Member Sampson. Motion passed unanimously with Member Loon absent during voting.

Reconvene at 10:32 A.M., executive session has been complete and the matter is being referred to Ethics Committee.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Benjamin Arnold of Noatak called, good to hear Kivalina is well represented although Noatak priorities. Can we express our priorities to the representative? Can the representative come to our meetings and listen to our priorities? Always from another community. Another note; the Administrative position for Noatak; he understands that funds have been cut or is that being worked on. The Noatak old school; what is the intention of the Borough, people are taking apart. Seems like VIF fund is already being dipped into; don't think that the VIF should only be allotted for that village. No money should be taken out to pay for the positions; if the Assembly can take the money out of the General Fund it would retain the funding that they have. He also raised concern to high priced fuel; when are we going to get solid action to reduce fuel prices in the community? Benjamin also raised concern to the Ordinance on the gravel; don't think anyone would reach million dollars. What is the status of the Noatak Airport?

Marlene Moto-Karl of Deering called; she mentioned she wasn't there when Paulette was there for the gathering. She would like to see fish caches since the sixties; would like to see logs along the coast to protect from flooding. Another thing; concerned regarding the upcoming Elections, we have new people and she have observed that that electioneering happen every year. Good luck at the polls next month. She called back regarding back grounds; recently had a VPO hired from Chicago and didn't last long. Although still getting paid while staying in hotel in Kotzebue. Now we are currently having this issue, need background checks.

Pauline Cleveland of Noorvik called regarding the Native Allotments for the Veterans; she is concerned regarding the students that had to attend boarding school long ago whom weren't able to apply for allotment. She also mentioned that protecting our allotments, long ago her Dad mentioned that he was stated twenty-five acres short then should have.

Elder Representative Downey mentioned good meeting; he is glad of the commissioners established. Concerned about the staffing of the three positions and that discussion; we need to screen new people and get fresh blood once in a while. Take a look at history before putting on payroll. Thank you.

President Weisner thank Member Ballot for her leadership; very positive and outspoken. Thank you for your service.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Richards thank the communities working with the Administration for working on the VIF Commission; look forward to working with them. He stands corrected by Gia for NANA that they still help with burial assistance although don't know to what level. Thank the Assembly working with the Administration and staff. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 A.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stella Akom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and 'A'.