



**Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly  
Special Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 – 1:30 P.M.  
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Carl Weisner called the meeting to order at 1:31 P.M.

**INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Member Cleveland provided invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

<i>Elmer Armstrong Jr.</i>	<i>Austin Swan Sr.</i>	Miles Cleveland Sr.	Hannah Loon
Walter Sampson	<i>Larry Westlake Sr.</i>	Nathan Hadley Jr.	Dood Carr
Tanya Ballot	Lucy Nelson	Carl Weisner	

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Clement Richards Sr.	Shield Downey Jr.	Matt Mead	Angie Sturm
Patrick Savok	Verna Westlake	Mildred Stalker	Silvano Vivieros
Chris Hatch	Noah Naylor	Jade Hill	Stella Atoruk

*(telephonic)*

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda presented for June 13, 2017 Special Meeting.

**Member Carr motioned to approve as presented, Member Sampson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES**

1. **Ordinance 16-04am01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line item budget amendment for the Fiscal Year 2017.*

Member Sampson raised concern regarding this ordinance failed first reading; although that was FY18 Budget.

Mayor Richards recommend do pass. Mrs. Sturm summarize Ordinance 16-04am01. Vice President raised concern to \$25,000 which she thought was lessen to \$10,000 on section 3. She also raised concern to all the numbers the same from the first reading. Member Loon asked for clarification on the title of the ordinance; does it relate to putting monies into sustainability or reserve?

Mrs. Sturm mentioned they had added monies for the freight of the loader which was sixteen thousand; there was a slight change also to cover dues and subscriptions in Public Services. Vice President Nelson noted for future reference please note it.

President Weisner raised concern to the loader, is that out to bid and would that be shipped through barge? Chris mentioned that Dickie had solicited bids, have gotten a government rate and three bids.

Member Carr raised concern to page 2 of 3; as far as what was actually spent, we don't see what was spent on the line items. President Weisner raised concern to the Kivalina Evacuation and access; is that from a grant or is that what School District and City were talking about? Will it be used? Member Carr also raised concern to the CIAP grants, request an update on the grants. President Weisner mentioned he is anxious to receive more grants and believe when the Economic Development Director get hired they will request grants. Member Loon raised concern to the grants closing, isn't that Ingemar Mathiasson's position? President Weisner verified if Mr. Mathiasson's pay is from the general fund.

Member Sampson raised concern to the North Tent City, what is that? He understands that City of Kotzebue denied use of this area; what are their plans? Do you have an idea of what they plan on doing? Member Loon mentioned that historically the FAA were traditionally used by people from the villages; those areas should have been claimed by the village people and now just Kotzebue people living there. Member Sampson raised concern to City of Kotzebue getting the title through KIC 14C3? He believes they should have been grandfathered in by those by 14C1 and 2. President Weisner request to invite City Manager Gilman to the meeting, although she may be new to the position she can provide highlights. Member Carr mentioned when she sat on KIC Board there were people that would get titles given to others, she believe that should be on our website. We need to do a better job of letting constituents know of what is available, not just for Kotzebue people. Member Sampson echoes President's Weisner request to invite City of Kotzebue Manager Gilman. President Weisner mentioned possibly the City Planner also.

**Member Hadley motion to approve Ordinance 16-04am01; seconded by Member Carr, motion passed unanimously.**

2. **Ordinance 17-05** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Chapter 3.16 of the Northwest Arctic Borough Code pertaining to the travel and per diem allowance for Borough Staff, and for related purposes.*

Legal Mead summarize Ordinance 17-05; Mrs. Sturm provided input regarding budget process. Vice President Nelson raised concern to having the rate on this ordinance and if there were any tax consequences. President Weisner raised concern to this rate for staff although that is what the Assembly get also.

**Member Sampson motion to approve Ordinance 17-05; seconded by Member Cleveland, motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Ordinance 17-06** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Code to establish a sustainability fund, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass; Legal Mead summarize Ordinance 17-06 at this time it's a code ordinance although you may want to make a Charter change later. President Weisner suggests to Mayor Richards to education the residents regarding this fund.

**Member Carr motion to approve Ordinance 17-06; seconded by Member Loon, motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Ordinance 17-07** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough Code to establish a Village Improvement Commission, and for related purposes.*

Member Sampson raised concern to the exact language on the MOC with Teck, what was the exact language, did it say Village improvement or Village fund? Mayor Richards recommend do pass; good step forward get communities involved and outreach in the region. President Weisner request to also have a one page of questions and answers regarding this commission. Member Loon raised concern about the commission including members of the communities? She also verified if Legal will be there or the Assembly because we shouldn't be leading them on what they want. President Weisner raised concern to if the Administration will be traveling to each village to let them know the ins and outs of this. President Weisner informed the Assembly if they are available they may attend. Member Carr raised concern to page three of five; please clarify that the Assembly and Mayor will make the designation. Vice President Nelson request clarification from Legal; responsibilities under E, says no less than 70% of the VIF revenue then says 30%, confused

why that language is in there. President Weisner mentioned that it would take two readings to change that or can discuss now or when the amount is realized. Member Cleveland raised concern; is the eleven million available to the communities equally even though going to the sustainability fund? President Weisner mentioned seventy will be invested and gain interest which will fund over long term; the commission will be able to decide how they want to allocate it. Member Cleveland raised concern to each community get the equal amount; he also mentioned that he wouldn't want the Assembly to micromanage the fund. Member Sampson mentioned as far as the 30% is concerned; if some of the villages list their needs, how do we balance that? Balance the interest as to the allocation?

Member Carr mentioned that we can't go back to million per village, they need to meet the requirements to be granted this money; some of the villages are ahead of other ones. Expressed it's crucial that the villages do their due diligence of selecting whom for their village and give them the charge they are responsible for. Member Hadley mentioned it won't be easy picking for this commission; according to City of Buckland they want the money now although he explained the process to them. He expressed the importance of educating the residents of this commission; he recommends someone that isn't in the City or Tribe. Otherwise, going into hot water. President Weisner mentioned that Teck was in Buckland, if they go to your village then please attend and communicate to him and he will request a meeting fee. Member Sampson verified if Noorvik have a million coming then if Borough invested 70% then they would get \$300,000.00; although it's up to the Commission for that. President Weisner suggest to do something similar to the Community Revenue Share Program although that is up to the commission to decide? Member Sampson verified if that is how it will be? Based on population? Member Loon raised concern to the village think they are getting million a year, how will the commission know what their balance is? Member Carr mentioned that she believe it's the Assembly responsibility of the Assembly state that the money is set aside for investment and be clear that it never have been committed to million a year; we need to have a process.

Member Westlake stated hard when you can't raise your hand to speak; putting this monies in a pot then it would be the commission to make recommendations to the Assembly. Suggest to do by code, to help out a village that is still having hard time; need some way to monitor and help out. Member Cleveland mentioned that he knows there will disappointment in the communities, expressed the importance of relaying the information to the communities. Member Swan would like to inquire a budget from each village so we can see how they are doing and after speaking to members in Kivalina he supports this ordinance. President Weisner raised concern to the ordinance not stating requiring a budget from each village; can that be requested which is public information. President Weisner also requested to have all the Cities budget on the shelf for Assembly to review. Member Ballot mentioned that some of the villages the municipality are better than the tribe and vice versa. Member Hadley mentioned that the Revenue sharing is being cut and the workers want to continue employment.

**Member Loon motion to approve Ordinance 17-07; seconded by Member Ballot, motion passed unanimously.**

## **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Verna Westlake, Teck Communication Specialist mentioned that she had gotten weathered in; supposedly go to Kiana for an Energy meeting. She clarified that Teck had been going to the villages about this agreement; as the community relations coordinator, she owns the task of going to the villages once a year based on the mandatory agreement between Teck and NANA. The meetings are not specific to this agreement, they give villages updates; jobs, community investments (donations and investments) and environmental and also any hot topics happening. Have been to Noorvik, Selawik and Buckland; have eight more to go. If there are any changes in this agreement then we let the communities know, meet with dual councils. Teck gets a lot of questions, it's not on Teck, it's on Borough; good questions, obviously a great need and one of the questions is the timeframe. She raised concern to the timeline, when do you plan on having this end of this year or next year. Verna mentioned some of the villages are ready and some are not; she would like to know what Borough plans to do for the ones that are not ready to access the funds.

Member Sampson thanked Ms. Westlake for her presentation; when you say "I" do you represent Teck or yourself? So Teck would like to know the allocation process look like? Once that is determined, she would share what she know.

Mayor Richards informed that himself and Pat, silicate Nate Kotch and Chuck Greene to do outreach to the villages; although not on board, he would like to build a strong team that's able to carry the right message. For the timeframe, he would like to before freeze up; he will go to all communities and begin process.

## **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Member Hadley provided no comment.

Member Westlake provided no comment.

Member Swan provided no comment.

Member Armstrong mentioned glad to get process started with these ordinances, working together and moving forward. Good meeting.

Member Carr thanked Verna for presentation and Teck for meeting with the villages; for future meetings to the Mayor or President at least touch base with them so there is familiarity and what is being done in regards to the commission. Really a great thing we have for our region; good to put into the sustainability fund and whatever needs the village come up with. We as an Assembly need to be clear for the Mayor and administration to move forward; our

Attorney to keep us in line to fulfill this commitment. She remember Member Westlake's comment regarding this is not a bail out. There is a lot we can do in our Region. Another comment; Mayor after our last meeting we had a constituent raised concern regarding have an Inupiaq translator because everyone can't understand. Another thing; who takes care of the website? She brought up bedbugs, wanted a fact sheet on Borough's site. This is an excited time for the Borough and look forward to the next meeting.

President Weisner mentioned he will do a better job of ensuring that those that speak Inupiaq that it will be translated to English. The Assembly had recently gotten an email regarding the last meeting and the letter is in the works.

Member Sampson mentioned good meeting. The issue on translator; don't know why this body can't hire an interpreter.

Member Cleveland mentioned good meeting, exciting moment and ironing things out and there is room to fix down the road. As for the translation that is why the Elder Representative here to translate what transpires during the meeting.

Member Loon mentioned good meeting, everyone positive. Thank you Ms. Westlake for attending. Thank you for Teck for making the village investment fund available to the communities; we will do our best to ensure everyone is served well.

Member Ballot mentioned good meeting. Would like to know when they will know when they will know about the 2017 PILT payment and are we going to revisit 2018 budget?

President Weisner mentioned that since Assembly didn't pass the first reading of the ordinance than the Mayor gets it by default; don't see foresee them discussing unless an amendment have been made.

Elder Representative Downey mentioned there has been a lot of discussion regarding the monies to the villages; we need people that are creditable, weigh those heavily. As far as the interpretation he is willing to try to do word for word. Equity had been mentioned many times; do the villages have this issue or that issue. We can't just band aid it; we need to be careful who we have in our communities. Thank you.

Vice President Nelson mentioned everyone had valid points and comments and questions on these ordinances. She encourages the Administration to do outreach to inform the community to get the message out there, they are hearing different stories. Can do radio PSA, newsletters or what you can do to get the message out there, please.

President Weisner mentioned that ICC had sent a letter for Member Cleveland; President verified if Patrick or Mayor are writing the letter for endorsement or something. If Assembly approve then it will be submitted although they are asking for a donation. President Weisner raised concern to making a code revision to place an acting Mayor in your absence; so can consider at a later date.

## MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Richards mentioned good meeting, lots of information and lots of work ahead of us. Look forward working with the Assembly and getting out to the village. Thank you Verna and NANA for attending. Thank you.

President Weisner raised concern to next meeting; in July? Although we have one scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of June.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Vice President Nelson motion adjourn at 3:05 P.M.

*Stella Atoruk*  
6/27/17

