



**Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes**
Tuesday, June 27, 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

President Weisner expressed his appreciation for the Search and Rescue in Kotzebue to take preventive measure so that the boats are ready in case of a search needed.

Member Loon expressed the importance keeping matches and lighters away from children; if you have in your cooler take with you and shells.

Member Armstrong mentioned when boating make sure you have your pfd and necessary gear.

ROLL CALL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

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

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Clement Richards	Matt Mead	Shield Downey Jr.	Angie Sturm
Patrick Savok	Sarah Espelin	Fritz Westlake	Kyle Ensley
Noah Naylor	Helena Hildreth	Janine Bedford	Sophie Foster
Clara Jones	Susan Georgette	Jaime Lambert	Stella Atoruk

(telephonic)

A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for approval for June 27, 2017; President Weisner ensure the public that this agenda had been reviewed at the budget, audit and finance meeting and work session the previous day. Member Loon request to add Resolution 17-24, request for executive session which will be noted at the time. President Weisner request to add Lieutenant Ensley under communication, VIF Update, Regulation of Taxation of Tobacco and Marijuana and Taxation of Alcohol.

Member Carr motioned, Member Loon seconded to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes presented for May 31, 2017 regular meeting and June 13, 2017 special meeting for approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve previous meeting minutes as a block, seconded by Member Hadley. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES

Kyle Ensley, US Coast Guard provided an update of what Coast Guard have been doing; their focus is on Search & Rescue, Education, Safety and familiarization. He informed the Assembly they are not focused on enforcement; last year had assist with twenty-two search and rescue which were successful. Currently trying to get a fishing vessel examiner to set up education visits. He mentioned they will be here from June through late October; here to serve your community if not in water than in town. Don't want to be a hindrance. Temporary stations in Nome, Barrow and potentially Bethel; committed to have a mobile and seasonal presence.

Member Ballot asks if they will be doing any outreach to the communities, visiting with the youth and recruitment and any other activities. Member Carr thank him for their presence and for presentation today; grateful that there are temporary stations in Barrow and Nome. President Weisner mentioned the welfare checks on fishing vessels. He thank him for the involvement with Search & Rescue; is it true that the Coast Guard may officer some assistance to boat. Member Carr mentioned the swimming off Front Street jumping off the wall and a lot of unsupervised children; supports Kids don't float program.

President Weisner request to have Assembly to indulge him; Sophie Foster request to have a few minutes with Assembly whom won't be available during audience comments. He thanks her for her service working with search and rescue and feeding the community.

Sophie Foster, Kotzebue resident raised concern regarding the Assembly meeting on air; shameful to listen to arguing. There is so much conflicts of interest with projects, nepotism; you all are here to support the people. When traveling, hope and pray that you

are not partying and try to influence people to vote or benefit them. She request a stone to be thrown at her if have no guilt; when cooking we listen to you. Your adults to serve our people, not yourself, your friends or families. Thank you. We have Sunday community dinners; lunch for church members along with community that come in. They haven't been getting donations, have reached out to different organizations. They serve every village whether it's one person or many. She mentioned Clement may be her brother but he didn't know she was coming. Better yourselves and represent the people and not individuals; you were elected for that reason.

Member Carr thank Sophie for serving the people and Elders; they are not on payroll whom volunteer. When you see them thank them. Sophie thanks Johnny Octuck, Innie Jones and Eva Snyder, also Blaine Barger. They work; both cook and clean. President Weisner thank her, keep her in mind to better ourselves.

VIF Update since the ordinance had passed, President Weisner request Mayor and Legal to provide the listening audience. Mayor Richards mentioned that he would like to schedule trips for the third week of July; currently seeking a couple new employees to start. Have requested for Matt to format a letter for the communities for recruit members for commission. Legal Mead summarize the ordinance which are in the code. Vice President Nelson verified if the Mayor considered the recommendation to have funds to hire a Capital Projects Manager?

Regulation of Tobacco and Marijuana and Regulation of Alcohol to possibly build framework to proceed. With the regulation of tobacco in the fourth quarter has brought in \$450K into the Borough and need to discuss how it will be appropriated properly. If Assembly decides to put forward then the initiative needs to go before the voters in October. Member Loon raised concern to the two committees; what is the difference between these two and City of Kotzebue is already taxing alcohol. She also verified if taxation is going forward with taxation of marijuana?

Member Carr mentioned that it's a big challenge with the timeframe; if we wanted to get before the voters then would have to been started yesterday. As far as the marijuana and alcohol it has been sold illegally all these years. Would like to know the issues before going to them. President Weisner mentioned that it maybe for the next election year too.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Madam Chair Nelson summarize the Budget, Audit and Finance Committee meeting held previous day.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

None presented.

ASSEMBLY REPORT

Member Swan mentioned he forwarded an email regarding AML Board whom passed a budget in Juneau; although the AML CEO didn't like very well for some reason.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Richards apologize for not having a written report; didn't have much since our meeting on the 13th. Have been in the office and recruiting for two employees, possibly start first week of July. No travels since last meeting except family medical.

Member Carr mentioned that yesterday she verified if all the positions are full time at the Borough? See that Mayor will be hiring new position; as an Assembly member she would like accountability.

Member Loon thank Mayor for work; also to staff. At the last meeting you have mentioned two names; she believes that working with the VIF funds you need to live in the village where there is no water and sewer. Have a good local perspective, sit next to an Elder; she understands that government have challenges but should have someone that live in it.

Mayor Richards mentioned Borough have ordered a new pump and hose for Kivalina Water and Sewer; the pump will be shipped there and back so we can help them every year.

Member Hadley thank Mayor's office for the donations to Villages; heard that Borough helped a village. If the villages need help, get a hold of Mayor.

Member Loon expressed to Mayor Richards to not be afraid to donate to Cudd Hall for community dinners, even though Sophie is your sister; we all appreciate what she is doing with her own money and time. She supports any donation.

Member Swan mentioned he gotten an email from Kathy Wasserman with AML announce that Northwest Arctic Borough will get PILT payment \$1.1 million plus.

Member Armstrong mentioned he would like to see better communication to the communities regarding the VIF Commission.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Time and place of next meeting to be determined by the Assembly President and Mayor. Mayor Richards mentioned that 24th and 25th will be fine for a regular meeting. Second week of July he would like to do outreach.

Break observed at 9:51 A.M.
Reconvene at 10:08 A.M.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None presented.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 17-13** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with Alaska Janitorial S.F., to provide janitorial services for the Borough Building, and for related purposes.*

Mayor recommend do pass; he mentioned this went to bid and this is a local company which cut our expenses in half. President Weisner verified if it's for this building here.

Member Carr recommend do pass for Resolution 17-13, seconded by Member Ballot; motion passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution 17-14** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a contract for legal services and for related purposes.*

President Weisner mentioned that all these resolution were presented at the Budget, Audit and Finance previous day. Continued work with Landye Bennett and Blumstein; Mayor Richards recommends do pass.

Member Armstrong recommend do pass for Resolution 17-14, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed by majority with Sampson voting no.

3. **Resolution 17-15** *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 recommend do pass; continued work and support Angie in Finance so we are in compliant. Mrs. Strum mentioned this had went out for RFP and she brings experience and helps tremendously. Ms. Espelin enjoys working with Borough, look forward to making the FY17 smooth and transition to the new software.

Member Ballot recommend do pass for Resolution 17-15, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed unanimously.

4. **Resolution 17-16** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly in support of the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act (S. 785 & H.R.1867).*

Mayor Richards highly recommend do pass; for those that didn't get an allotment since they were serving our country. Member Sampson request Assembly support on this

resolution and all the major organization to support this. President Weisner mentioned that NANA is working on a similar resolution for our Veterans.

Member Sampson recommend do pass for Resolution 17-16, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed unanimously.

5. **Resolution 17-17** *a resolution to approve a professional services agreement amendment with Stephanie Joannides and for related purposes.*

Mayor recommend do pass. Vice President Nelson request a summary. Legal Mead mentioned that this contract amendment for independent counsel for the Ethics Committee.

Member Westlake recommend do pass for Resolution 17-17, seconded by Member Cleveland; motion passed unanimously.

6. **Resolution 17-18** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with NANA Regional Corporation, Inc. for Title Nine Monitoring and related services.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass; monitoring Borough lands within the Region with cooperation with NANA. Member Sampson request a budget and plan how they will address the Trespass Program and a monthly report. President Weisner appreciate the work with this effort; local employment and fuel/supplies purchased in the villages. Member Carr mentioned when discussed with Damon Schaeffer yesterday they raised concern to whom to call.

Vice President Nelson mentioned some of the resolution has contract or agreements and some don't; would have less comments or questions if attached as well.

Member Carr recommend do pass for Resolution 17-18, seconded by Vice President Nelson; motion passed unanimously.

7. **Resolution 17-19** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract with Caselle, Inc., for the purchase of Accounting Software upgrades and related services.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass, continued upgrades with software system to keep up with accounting requirements.

Member Armstrong recommend do pass for Resolution 17-19, seconded by Member Ballot; motion passed unanimously.

8. **Resolution 17-20** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve the purchase of a loader for the Borough and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass for the Ice Road as well as to maintain the driveway so we don't have to contract. This would also extend the ice road period from one week to two.

Member Carr supports this although she raises concern to use of the vehicle, on lease when not in use. She also mentioned storage, liability and for those that use it to ensure they are licensed.

Member Hadley recommend do pass for Resolution 17-20, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed by majority with Member Cleveland and Vice President Nelson voting no.

9. **Resolution 17-21** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve the purchase of a vehicle for the VPSO Program and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass; the current vehicle has a lot of mechanical issues and problems winter time not starting. Vice President Nelson informed the listening audience know this is from a grant and not general fund.

Member Hadley recommend do pass for Resolution 17-21, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously.

10. **Resolution 17-22** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing a contract for services with TekMate LLC for maintenance and technical support for the Borough's computer equipment, software, and server, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass; continued maintenance of the new system that had been installed to maintain our communication systems.

Member Armstrong recommend do pass for Resolution 17-22, seconded by Vice President Nelson; motion passed unanimously.

11. **Resolution 17-23** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract with Alaska Media LLC for publication and related services.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass, continuing to do outreach to residents through media. President Weisner verified if this is for the Sounder.

Member Loon recommend do pass for Resolution 17-23, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed unanimously.

12. **Resolution 17-24** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving the unincorporated Community of Noatak for participation in the FY18 Community Assistance Program.*

Mayor Richards recommend do pass; good resolution for the Community of Noatak. President Weisner mentioned they don't have a City office and this used to be the Revenue Sharing and now the Community Assistance Program.

Member Westlake recommend do pass for Resolution 17-24, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Weisner provided the guidelines of an executive session. Member Loon mentioned she had consulted with Legal and will comment nicely during Assembly comments.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None presented.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Sampson appreciate you accepting the call from Ambler and thank you for a good meeting.

Member Cleveland provided no comment.

Member Swan mentioned there will be a Tobacco meeting on the 24th, look for updates.

Member Carr mentioned her comments which she mentioned yesterday. She thank the Coast Guard, fortunate to have them here. Feel should have years ago, if you can show your appreciation. Yesterday she mentioned doggy stations, this past winter we have constituents upset with public; so many people walk their dogs, do their business and walk away. If can coordinate with City she would like to have a station to clean up after the dogs, there are a lot of people that step in it. Another issue; kids are swimming, she supports Kids Don't Float Program and majority of the time no adults around. Please parents tell kids to wear lifejackets. Also, there is a small whale out there and seals.

Member Westlake provided no comment.

Member Hadley again thank Mayor for his donation. If any of the villages need donation to contact the Mayor. Need to keep the Cities open.

Member Ballot mentioned good meeting yesterday and today. She encourages residents to participate in Wellness Activities and Cultural Activities. This is the season to gather berries and fish to sustain our families. Encourage young adults and college students to get on track with scholarships to help families and self.

Member Armstrong mentioned good meeting as we work on the resolutions. Look forward to hearing from Kivalina, Noatak, Kiana and Noorvik as we work together with this VIF.

Member Loon thank Mayor and staff; thank you to legal and good to see the audience that provided an update. She mentioned the VIF Commission, the Elders say we are coming to hardship and that time is here. Member Loon asks that those that are going to represent the communities; select a woman with humility and humbleness and a man who stepped and walked on hardship.

Elder Representative Downey mentioned he is not here to cause any waves or problems; important that you hear from the audience and hear on the radio. We have representatives from few villages and you can voice your concerns. Glad that Member Loon decided not to have an executive session; he understand that it should be personnel issues and if then you'd state a reason. He reiterate on the equity of the funds to be distributed to the Borough; over the years he observe what Borough does. He would like to see an equity of what is spent to help rest of the Borough; why build an ice road every year? We spend a lot of money sending stuff to Upper Kobuk; if it's to help our people than we should get a better bang for our buck to help the whole Region. Would like to see equity on expenditure.

Vice President Nelson thank Elder Downey for translating your comment. We have general election coming up; there are seven seats up and encourage to everyone to be a part of. She expressed the importance of contracts; constituents can get these too just need a business license and knowledge. Constituents are always welcome to meetings. Thank you to Sophie Foster for your comments regarding Assembly members conduct; we have to respect each other and be fair, appreciate your comment. Thank you to Coast Guard; also mentioned that they are need in April and May when the ice is thin. She also supports the Veteran's resolution. Vice President Nelson thanks Angie and Sarah for supporting the Administration; worried about accountability and sustainability. We've had control and thank you for assisting the Mayor.

President Weisner mentioned that the previous day to update the Borough Code for the ones that haven't been reviewed. Look forward to traveling to the village regarding infrastructure and immediate needs. Took Borough and Teck approximate two and half years.

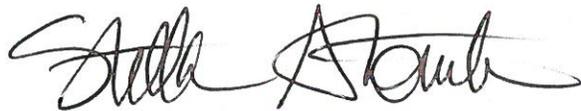
MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Richards thank Coast Guard for attending and updating the Assembly. To all the travelers please let someone know where you're going and take extra gas. Good meeting. To the audience, Elections coming up and encourage to those that want to run for public office to apply. Learning experience and do wonderful work for the communities.

Mrs. Sturm provided an update on the investment. She mentioned in the FY17 budget amendment there was \$7M appropriated to the financial contingency reserve to meet our sustainability goals to keep the doors open in the future. There has been \$1.5M transferred to the contingency reserve to increase that investment to \$10M per ordinance. There is a remaining \$1.5M transferred today for the sustainability fund.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Carr motion to adjourn at 11:00 A.M. Motion passed unanimously.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stella Sturm". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.