

**NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 16-07**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC
BOROUGH ASSEMBLY DESIGNATING THE ALASKA STATE
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017.**

WHEREAS: The Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly is the governing body for the Northwest Arctic Borough, an Alaska home rule, regional, municipal government that encompasses eleven communities within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS: In previous years the Borough has requested from the Alaska State Legislature state legislative grant funds for capital projects in the Borough and Community Revenue Sharing ; and

WHEREAS: In prior years, the Alaska Legislature has appropriated legislative grant funds for some of the Borough's requested capital projects and Community Revenue Sharing; and

WHEREAS: The Borough has utilized the state legislative grant funds and Community Revenue Sharing funds to improve the lives of residents in the Borough; and

WHEREAS: For fiscal year 2017, the Borough has designated the following projects and programs as the Borough's top 10 priorities:

1. Kivalina Evacuation Road and School Funding
2. Community Revenue Sharing
3. Borough-Wide Purchase of Fire Trucks
4. Borough-Wide Maintenance and Renovation of VPSO Housing
5. Borough-Wide Erosion Control
6. Borough-Wide Maintenance and Repair of Heavy Equipment
7. Borough-Wide Maintenance , Repair, and Renovation of Community Buildings
8. Borough-Wide Maintenance and Repair of Landfills
9. Borough-Wide Purchase of Burial Equipment
- 10.Noatak Power Plant and Fuel Tank Relocation

WHEREAS: All of these projects and programs will benefit the residents of the Borough; and

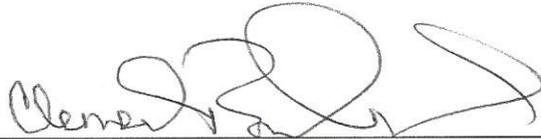
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly has designated their fiscal year 2017 state legislative priorities as detailed in this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2016.



Carl Weisner, Assembly President

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2016.



Clement Richards, Mayor

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 23rd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2016.



Stella Atoruk, Borough Clerk



CAPITAL PROJECTS 2017

Community-Wide Heavy Equipment Repair and Maintenance \$500,000.00

All of our communities have heavy equipment that is in need of maintenance and repairs. Some equipment may also need to be converted to meet new fuel requirements. Many of the communities can't afford to purchase the needed parts and repair the equipment. The equipment is used in the community to assist with many activities that benefit the residents: maintenance of roads, snow removal, water and sewer system repair and maintenance, hauling solid waste to the landfill, dump maintenance, and capital improvement projects. The heavy equipment helps the community take care of its basic needs without assistance from others. This funding will first be used to maintain and repair existing equipment borough-wide when cost effective. If there is any remaining money it will be used to purchase new equipment. The 11 communities that may benefit from this project are Kotzebue, Ambler, Kobuk Shungnak, Kiana, Noorvik, Selawik, Buckland, Deering, Kivalina and Noatak.

Community-Wide Maintenance, Repair and Renovation of Community Buildings \$500,000

All eleven communities within the Northwest Arctic Borough have community buildings from which basic public services are provided to the community. The community buildings are used by the community for a variety of activities that benefit the residents: city and emergency services, community meetings and events, and youth activities. Many times the community buildings are one of the few buildings in town that can host events with larger crowds. In the event of an emergency, the community building often serves as a command center or an emergency shelter. Most of our community buildings were built in the 1970's and most have not been upgraded or renovated. Many need basic repairs and energy efficiency upgrades. To operate the buildings is very expensive because the building lacks newer and more efficient insulation, windows and doors. Some of the buildings have needed repairs that currently pose safety risks. Fixing the community buildings will help our communities fulfill their duty to provide basic services to our residents. The funding will be used to maintain, repair and renovate community buildings.

Community-Wide Maintenance and Repair of Landfills \$500,000

All eleven communities within the Northwest Arctic Borough have landfills which provide basic sanitation services for our communities. The landfills provide a space where household, commercial, and toxic waste can be sorted, recycled, stored or burned. Human waste is also placed in landfills if a community lacks piped water and sewer. All of our landfills need maintenance and repair. Some of the landfills have needed repairs that currently pose safety risks. Some of the landfills aren't enclosed which means the trash is not properly contained and also allows access to children which is hazardous. Many of the landfills are over capacity and need consolidation and a burn box to properly reduce the amount of trash. Several of our communities are growing and will need long term solutions to the landfill capacity issues. Fixing the landfills will help our communities fulfill their duty to provide basic sanitation services to our residents. This request for funding fulfills a life, health and safety issue. The funding will be used to maintain and repair the landfills in all 11 communities.

Community-Wide VPSO Housing \$718,000

The Northwest Arctic Borough 5-year public safety plan focuses on increasing and retaining public safety personnel in the Borough's 11 villages. Housing continues to be the biggest barrier to recruitment and

retention of officers in Borough villages. Stationing officers in communities versus providing services rotationally strengthens public safety in rural communities and ensures that public safety officers are available to the community at all times. The Assembly has also made providing public safety to all Borough communities a top priority. All of our communities have expressed their desire for public safety services as well. All residents should feel safe in their communities and have some form of police service.

Currently, the Borough has nine Alaska State Troopers stationed in Kotzebue that are dispatched out to communities when help is needed. These troopers are covering 38,000 square miles. Additionally, the Borough currently has 5 VPSO's and 10 VPO's. The VPSO's and VPO's provide basic local community policing but due to the lack of housing retention of our officers is difficult. Currently, several of our communities don't have a permanent public safety presence at all but only receive services on a rotational basis. The Borough has had situations where local residents have had to restrain a suspected criminal or have had to assist an officer in restraining a suspected criminal. In other situations, suspected criminals have had to be held by local residents for several days until an Alaska State Trooper can get to the community due to weather. These problems could be alleviated if there were more adequate housing for VPSO's and VPO's. In 2015 the Borough received an AHFC VPSO Housing grant for \$782,000 for the community of Ambler. The Borough is seeking \$200,000.00 as matching grant funds for this project.

The Borough is also seeking funding for VPSO housing for other communities for maintenance, repair and renovations. In several communities the Borough has housing that could be used for VPSO's or VPO's if upgraded.

Community-Wide Fire Trucks \$329,000

The Northwest Arctic Borough addresses its emergency response to both search and rescue and fire with a largely volunteer work force. The Borough has about 149 registered firefighters, a majority of which are volunteers. A paid Fire Chief organizes the firefighting efforts along with 10 regional coordinators who receive a stipend. Their mission is to educate, prevent and when necessary effectively fight fires to save lives and infrastructure in our communities. We have 11 communities: Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik and Shungnak. On average the Borough has about 19-21 fires a year. In 2014, the Borough responded to 19 fires including 11 building fires, 3 grass fires, 4 landfill fires and 1 outside fire. In the last two years, both Kivalina (store) and Noatak (house) lost important infrastructure due to fires. The inability to effectively respond to fires poses a life, health and safety issue to all 11 of our communities. Currently, none of our communities have adequate firefighting equipment and all lack a basic fire response vehicle. The requested funding will purchase 11 fire response vehicles with a pump and hose systems. These trucks will provide a very basic system to fight fires. The fire response vehicles are an important first piece of equipment so that communities can take care of themselves and more effectively respond to fires when they occur. This request addresses a life, health and safety issue.

Community-Wide Burial Equipment \$250,000

The Northwest Arctic Borough and its 11 communities are responsible for providing burial services for its residents. These services are provided with a volunteer work force. Provided services include building coffins and crosses, digging grave sites, and placement in the ground. Currently, none of our communities have adequate burial equipment since the existing equipment has been used beyond its useful life. At times communities must wait for a burial while needed equipment is borrowed from another village. The requested funding will purchase basic equipment for burials like shovels, ropes, jack hammers, and

generators. This requested funding will provide basic equipment to provide burial services for all 11 communities: Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik and Shungnak. This funding request addresses a life, health safety issue and allows for communities to meet their resident's basic needs.

Community-Wide Erosion \$5 million

This funding will provide the Borough a resource to begin addressing our erosion issues. Coastal erosion rates in the Arctic over the past half century have been among the highest in the world. In some areas erosion has already doubled since 2000. Loss of land-fast ice, thawing permafrost, and briefer seasonal freezing are making coastal soils increasingly susceptible to erosion. The communities in the Northwest Arctic Borough are no exception to these changes. We are seeing increasing erosion issues in all of our communities, but have few resources to address our needs. This funding will provide the Borough with a resource to begin addressing our erosion issues. Virtually all eleven communities within the Borough have erosion issues. The submitted legislative document highlights seven of the communities' erosion issues.

Kivalina Evacuation Road \$6.5 million

Kivalina is a traditional village lying precariously on a low-lying barrier island between the Chukchi Sea and Kivalina Lagoon. The community of Kivalina will have to be relocated due to significant erosion. In recent years, the fall storms hit before the shore ice has formed leaving the shorefront unprotected and resulting in unprecedented erosion. Each year it seems that the storms and the erosion get worse. In the interim, a series of mitigation measures have been constructed to protect the community to the extent possible, but the community is still not safe and the erosion is still occurring. A state study on climate change and a federal study on erosion both recognized the serious erosion issues the Kivalina community faces.

Currently, the only way to leave the village is by plane or boat. Both of these means of escape would be dangerous, if not impossible, during a large ocean storm. Compounding the situation is the fact that the community is in a remote area making it difficult if not impossible for outside help to reach the community in time for a successful rescue mission. The community must have a way to safely evacuate and the evacuation road meets this need. Funding for this project is time sensitive: Kivalina has had three emergency evacuations in the past five years, two to the school for local sheltering and one out of the village entirely.

The state has recently funded the construction of a new school on high ground near Kisimigiuktuk Hill, which is approximately eight miles inland from the existing community. There is currently no road access to the new school site which will obviously be needed. The proposed road will serve as both an evacuation road and as an access road to the new school from the village. The US Army Corps of Engineers has done some initial field work and testing of the soil. DOWL was hired to provide project management services. Work by both entities will continue next summer. Listed below are some of the milestones already achieved on this project:

- 2005 Kivalina Evacuation Road Feasibility Study.
- 2010 Kivalina Consensus Building Project.
- 2012 \$2.5 Million Legislative Request Awarded.
- 2013 Community Selects Location for Lagoon Crossing.
- 2014 Kivalina Reconnaissance Study Complete.
- 2014 Alternatives and Chosen Route Identified.

- 2014 Causeway Field work, Corps of Engineers.
- 2014 Project Management Services Contract Awarded to DOWL.

More recent work includes the following:

Cultural Resource Study:

- WHPacific has been contracted to conduct a desk-top Cultural Resource Study which is needed to complete the NEPA requirements for design of the Evacuation Road Project.
- WHPacific has subcontracted to Northern Land Use to complete this study.
- GIS will be used for modeling this study in conjunction with information from the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey and the Office of History and Archaeology.
- This work will be completed prior to December 2015.

Wetland Delineation Study:

- ASRC has been contracted to provide Natural Resource Consultant Services.
- ASRC is conducting a desk-top that includes a wetlands mapping exercise as well as values and functions assessment via remote sensing methods.
- Study evaluates wetland vegetation communities within the study area.
- Work will be completed prior to December 2015.

Geotechnical Work:

- Geotechnical work has been contracted to Golder & Associates.
- The USACE, NAB and the Northwest Arctic Borough School District (NWABSD) are coordinating geotechnical investigations for the school site, the evacuation route, the causeway, and numerous material sites. Through previous efforts, approximately five material sites in the project area have been identified to provide material for the construction of the road. This gravel meets DOT&PF Type A aggregate.
- Nature of the geotechnical investigation was landform based to allow deviations in the roadway alignment.
- Investigation reports recommend construction of an embankment style roadway.

Total projects expenses to date include the following:

- United States Army Corp of Engineers - \$478,282
Working on the causeway across the lagoon
- DOWL HKM - \$69,312
Contracted and Project Managers area expertise
- Golder & Associates - \$336,703
Geotechnical Drilling and Investigation
- ASRC Energy - \$23,000 committed
Wetlands Mapping
- WHPacific - \$20,815 committed
Cultural Resources & Archeology study

Total Expenses to date: Approximately \$909,000

The requested \$6.5 million in funding will provide for the work to continue on the design, permitting, and construction of the road.

Community Projects:

For each community, the Borough also inputted the following priorities for each community into the state legislative grant system as follows:

- Ambler: Fire Department \$500,000 / Equipment Storage Building \$500,000
- Buckland: Erosion \$500,000 / Landfill Upgrades \$500,000
- Deering: Alternative Route to Airport / Shoreline Erosion Control \$ 1 mil.
- Kiana: Beach Access Erosion Control and Alternate Evacuation Route \$200,000/ New Landfill \$500,000
- Kivalina Evacuation Road: \$6.5 mil. / Public Safety Building \$1 mil.
- Kobuk Community Building Renovation: \$400,000
- Selawik: Community Building and Youth Center \$500,000 (combines two)
- Shungnak Heavy Equipment \$350,000/ Landfill Upgrades \$500,000
- Noorvik Community Building Renovation \$400,000
- Noatak Power Plant and Fuel Tank Relocation \$12 mil. /Road to DMTS \$25 mil.