



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 – 9:00 A.M.
Assembly Chambers - Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

President Hadley called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence held.

SAFETY MOMENT

None presented.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

<i>Austin Swan Sr.</i>	Dood Lincoln Carr	Delores Barr	Walter Sampson
<i>Miles Cleveland Sr.</i>	Derek Haviland Lie	Reid Magdanz	Raven Sheldon
Craig McConnell	Elmer Armstrong Jr.	Nathan Hadley Jr.	

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Dickie Moto	<i>Darrel Hildebrand</i>	Jade Hill	Noah Naylor
<i>Ingemar Mathiasson</i>	Clara Johnson	Matt Mead	Hiram Walker
Chuck Greene	Thomas Baker	<i>Ryan Anderson</i>	Shaunti Shroyer
Lenora Moses	Pierre Lonewolf	Frank Lane	<i>Jim Bourquin</i>

A quorum is present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for approval for January 28, 2025. Mayor request to add Resolution 25-03. Member Carr asked if ANTHC will call in? motion to add. BAF Chair Magdanz raised concern of the letter from Native Village of Kotzebue or discuss during road update. Member Barr stated that Mr. Nelson will be present today. Member McConnell requested to add discussion of code 6.16.220 Contract amendments, overages on expending. **Member Sampson motion to approve as amended, Member Haviland Lie seconded; passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2024, regular, November 26, 2024, regular and December 18, 2024, special presented for approval.

Member Lincoln Carr motion to approve as a block, seconded by Member Cleveland; passed unanimously by roll call vote.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE

Road Update, DOT Commissioner Ryan Anderson provided an update of recent activities. Phase two estimates at approximately \$100M which is a challenge.

Member Lincoln Carr asked who was on the working group. Member Sampson raised concern about deepening the port. BAF Chair Magdanz asked what materials sites are

currently looking at and match funding. Member Sampson raised concern of resources in our area. Member McConnell raised concerns of inflation. Member Carr raised concerns of monies going to a different program within DOT. Member Sampson asked what the cost of importing A and B rock from Nome or Sand Point. Vice President Armstrong believes Kivalina have good rock.

Member Sheldon thank DOT on behalf of Selawik on the STIP project they completed last Fall. Member McConnell asked if the KIC permit they are seeking is for building this road. President Hadley raised concerns of match funding. Member Sampson expressed his gratitude to Mr. Anderson for all his work in our area.

ANTHC Update, Chris Cox President Hadley requested a breakdown of training that the workers been attending. Also, asked if there is a difference between online training verses in person. Member Lincoln Carr asked who pays for the training. City, Tribe or Borough? Member McConnell raised concerns of ANTHC preventing the freeze-ups, if did happen respond accordingly. Also, concerns of utilite doors would be inspected and maintained; is that not part of the program? He asked if possibly the two workers go to the villages that usually freeze up and do preventive maintenance during summertime. President Hadley asked about funding source for Selawik this coming Spring. BAF Chair Magdanz asked if the payment was reimbursement from the State. Member Sheldon asked if they were reimbursable through the tribe.

Nichols Vika, Maniilaq EMS Program Manager and **Hans Nelson** recently got approved a grant at end of December for EMT in Buckland and Shungnak. They provided recent activities. Member Lincoln Carr asked what entails driving the ambulance; what are the requirements? She asks difference between city and Maniilaq ambulance. Member Sheldon asked if volunteers get background checks done. BAF Chair Magdanz encourages you to continue to do things that work in the villages. Member Sampson expressed his gratitude to the health aides.

Member McConnell mentioned the basketball tournament coming up. Recommend having medical staff there at the gym.

Break at 10:51 A.M., reconvened at 11:09 A.M.

Member McConnell motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Vice President Armstrong to hear from KOTZ Radio; passed unanimously.

KOTZ Radio, Lenora Moses and Pierre Lonewolf submitted a letter requesting donations for FY25, in need of a program manager and personnel shortage. BAF Chair Magdanz raised concern of lobbying for them when in Juneau. Member Lincoln Carr asked who else has been requesting funding from. Member McConnell verified the last monies received from the Borough is in the saving account. Vice President Armstrong asked Finance how much is in the ARPA? BAF Chair Magdanz asked if Borough underwrite? Is that possible? Member Lincoln Carr includes them on lobby.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Budget, Audit & Finance BAF Chair Magdanz provided a summary of the previous day.

Financial Report *Treasurer Hill provided a summary ending November 30, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Member McConnell highlighted Shungnak and Noatak IPP monies. Raised concern of ice road monies, plan to build it sooner. Had concerns about the Elder program and the shelter cabins. The BAF Chair thanked previous grant writer Erin for her service.*

PUBLIC HEARING, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES
None presented.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Vice President Armstrong mentioned there was a Joint Maintenance Construction Committee on January 21, 2025.

Member Swan mentioned a couple weeks ago there was an incident at the water tank. The school maintenance was filling the water truck, overfilled and possibly water will be delivered earlier in the Spring.

MAYOR'S REPORT

CEDC Director Greene summarized the report by Acting Director Johnson and Hannah. The commission will be meeting soon to address challenges and create a plan. *Energy Coordinator Mathiasson provided a summary of recent activities. OCED grants have been halted on the latest executive orders, not even communicating; hopefully have an update by the 10th or 15th of February. Although the Alaska Energy Authority isn't affected.*

Member Lincoln Carr asked if Kotzebue is included in the heat pump project. Member Sheldon mentioned Tech Center has a couple courses coming up, are those tied to these projects related to energy. Member McConnell asked about which villages are next to develop IPP and when they come on board. BAF Chair Magdanz noted that when rates go about a dollar then they fall on the customer. Member Sampson asked if the heat tapes let residents go over on watts. President Hadley asked how Borough can educate the residents on this. Member McConnell recommend something like a gas gauge for heat pumps.

VPSO Coordinator Darrel Hildebrand summarized a written report for Public Safety. Unfortunately, the Planning Director Naylor couldn't present his available if you had any questions. The Public Services Director Johnson provided a summary of a written report.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

February 24-25, 2025, for the next meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 25-01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a professional services agreement with Deerstone Consulting, LLC for Ambler Power Plant Upgrades Project Support Services, and for related purposes.* Public Services Director Johnson summarized Ordinance 25-01, recommend do pass. **Member Lincoln Carr motion to enact Ordinance 25-01, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 25-01** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly adding Chuck Greene as an authorized signatory for Borough checks.*

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 25-01, seconded by Member Sheldon; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. **Resolution 25-02** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a two-year lease with Lee's Sea Air for VPSO Housing in Kiana, and related purposes.*

RPSO Hatch summarized Resolution 25-02, recommend do pass.

Member Lincoln Carr motion to approve Resolution 25-02, seconded by Member Haviland Lie; motion passed by majority vote with McConnell no vote.

3. **Resolution 25-03** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving an Assembly donation appropriation for grave digging equipment, and for related purposes.*

Public Services Director Johnson summarized Resolution 25-03, recommend do pass.

Member Lincoln Carr motion to approve Resolution 25-03, seconded by Member Haviland Lie; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Letter from Native Village of Kotzebue, which will be discussed further at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

James Bourquin called and raised concerns about water pipes and flooding. Suggested for the heat recovery systems, any villages look at heat recovery to the plants. Solar training would be great for locals. He has concerns about heat pumps only for shareholders or tribe members. He said his street doesn't get plowed or trash picked up.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Cleveland mentioned that the Ambler Gym is closed due to chimney fire. Echo comments of Mr. Bourquin, prepare for Springtime.

Swan no comment, thank you.

Barr mentioned a good meeting, look forward to Retreat. Room for approval process; good budget and information.

Sheldon thanked Mayor and staff responding to the declaration.

McConnell thanked the Ambler residents for turning off the fire, saving the building. Thank Hiram for his work. Enjoy this time of the year, basketball. Don't drink and travel. Robert Fairbanks will be flying the bigger jets, first trip to Kotzebue on Tuesday. Thank Shauntai.

Haviland Lie was hoping when Mr. Anderson was talking of the Cape Blossom Road.

Recommend coming together as one to start the process to expand, not one entity. At AML he learned that Mat-su residents can submit online the trail staking.

Armstrong thanked staff and Assembly, good discussions. Sends condolences.

Sampson thanked Mayor and staff. Thank Shauntai for filling in, noticed Clerk missing.

Good discussions; don't take personal when disagree. Expressed the importance of public safety. Congratulations to Robert Fairbanks, now a pilot. Appreciates your views.

Lincoln Carr thank you for the couple days, look forward to retreat. Would like to discuss further the code and budget reporting. Thank Mayor and staff.
President Hadley suggests putting photos of the first Assembly, Mayor and the charter. Match funding should be addressed by all the entities in the area. Thank Shauntai.
Condolences to Marie and Chuck, their son Jason was a good friend of his.

MAYORS' COMMENTS

Mayor Moto echo President Hadley comments. Thank you for the last couple of days. Thankful to the staff.

Frank Lane thanked staff for helping with the trail staking, an excellent job. Thank both Assembly and staff, appreciate it. Program is getting better and better.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Lincoln Carr motion to adjourn at 2:59 P.M., seconded by Member Haviland Lie.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shauntai", is written in a cursive style.

