



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 25, 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

Cleveland provided invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Mr. Weisner expressed the importance of safety from leadership on down.
Cleveland mentioned Kobuk stated ice is not safe in front of the community, be careful.
Swan mentioned there was an incident where the water truck slid sideways, watch driving.
Haviland Lie be mindful when traveling, watch for thin ice; be mindful.
Sampson stated to be careful on the roads, be careful about the snow machines.
Vice President Armstrong expressed the importance of gun safety while hunting.
President Hadley mentioned the apple cell phone without signal that go directly to satellite, unsure of the android phones yet.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

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

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Dickie Moto	Noah Naylor	Chuck Greene	Hiram Walker
Clara Johnson	Jade Hill	Matt Mead	Alice Melton-Barr
Carl Weisner	Margaret Hansen	Terri Walker	Natalie Dickie
Ingemar Mathiasson	Tristen Ferguson	Stella Atoruk	

A quorum is present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda presented for approval for March 25, 2025. Mr. Weisner, Native Village of Kotzebue requests to provide an update on the current project. Mayor Moto requests to add Terri Walker, School District. McConnell requests to add further discussion on CUAP/Selawik water and sewer.

Member Haviland Lie motion to approve as amended, Member Lincoln Carr seconded; passed unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2025, regular and March 7, 2025, special meeting minutes presented.

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

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE

Native Village of Kotzebue Deputy Director Weisner provided summary of power point presentation; an update of the \$23M building project they have. There will be a VIF application soon. McConnell raised concern of square footage, budget and timeline.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Budget, Audit & Finance BAF Chair Magdanz provided a summary of the previous day. Having discussions of the Real ID, deadline is May 7, 2025; work with other entities in spreading the word.

Financial Report Treasurer Hill provided a summary ending February 28, 2025. Anticipate having a presentation from the auditors next month to present FY24; a new process that we create our own statements and have auditors' review. BAF Chair Magdanz appreciates the grants summary; \$68M in grants which are both federal state.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE

NWABSD Superintendent Walker summarized power point presentation along with President Hansen. Haviland Lie asked if you have an estimate of cutting health and life insurance for the board? Cleveland asked about the Ambler gym which needs repair. Sampson asked how much impact will happen since Trump cutting education. McConnell raises concerns about no reserve, not realistic. President Hadley raised concern of timeline of bill of BSA. McConnell asked what would be cut of the \$1.2M of the food. Haviland Lie raised concerns of bypass mail system which will increase rates.

BAF Chair Magdanz raises concerns about bullying and sleeping in school, what do the students really need? Lincoln Carr recommends working with NWALT and NMS, efforts from everyone for school issues. Sampson raised concern of discipline, protect by law. Sheldon mentioned they have one teacher on city council, thankful for him. Mayor Moto recommends a joint meeting with the School Board and Assembly next month. Break observed at 11:11, reconvened at 11:31 A.M.

PUBLIC HEARING, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 25-02** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the Borough standards for contract amendments, and for related purposes.*

Public Services Director Johnson summarized Ordinance 25-02, recommend do pass.

Vice President Armstrong motion to enact Ordinance 25-02, seconded by Member Haviland Lie; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. **Ordinance 25-03** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract for Legal Services with Vinson & Elkins.*

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

Member Cleveland motion to enact Ordinance 25-03, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote although McConnell stepped away.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Magdanz attended the NANA Annual meeting in Shungnak recently, seeing Mayor Moto along with Hatch, Fire Chief and one of the VPSO whom given the safety speech.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Public Services Director Johnson provided a summary of the written report. President Hadley asked how many villages filled out for the CUAP. BAF Chair Magdanz raised concern of an ice road, awaiting funding? McConnell raised concern of CUAP monies, is the application process lengthy? The requirements are they Borough or State? Sheldon asked if an audit is required for the CUAP.

CEDC Director Greene summarized the monthly written report. McConnell raised concern of Sulianich housed by another organization. Haviland Lie raised concern of Kotzebue not included on the heat pump project; KIC isn't interested in seeking grants and we should push to go forward. McConnell asked about Selawik farm and battery, what timeline is it? BAF Chair Magdanz asked if the battery could back up directly to the water and sewer plant. Sheldon asked if local labor is needed.

RPTO Hatch provided a summary of Public Safety activities. Vice president Armstrong raised concern to monies for ten-year batteries for the fire alarms built in the electrical. McConnell raised concern timeline, location and cost of material of the storage buildings. Sheldon raised concern of timeline and what the dog will look for. Haviland Lie asked for status about the on-line report. BAF Chair Magdanz appreciates trail staking efforts, sounds like it isn't staked outside of Kiana; ensure complete before Kobuk 440.

Planning Director Naylor provided a summary of the written report. Lincoln Carr raised concern of timeline of house numbers for the villages for Real ID purposes. Vice President Armstrong mentioned Tribes wondered how can do house numbers. Sampson recommended administration to work with other entities, May is around the corner. Sheldon recommends research STIP and follow up of the NWALT session. McConnell raised concern of the timeline of road to Iggy Hill and Kivalina replacement water treatment. And whether if ice road or a permanent one.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Moto recommends April 28-29, 2025, for next month's meeting. Also, schedule a joint meeting with the School District. Vice President Armstrong request to attend if having a joint meeting with Native Village of Noatak regarding CUAP. Haviland Lie raised concern of the School Board deadline of their budget deadline of May 1st. BAF Chair Magdanz raised concern of the timeline of budgets and deadline of their funding request.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None presented.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 25-07** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving Accounting & Finance Policies and Procedures.*

Public Services Director Johnson summarized Resolution 25-07, recommend do pass. **Vice President Armstrong motion to approve Resolution 25-07, seconded by Member Lincoln Carr; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

OTHER BUSINESS

The CUAP Agreement follow up discussion after yesterday regarding Selawik freeze up. Haviland Lie requested clarification, Selawik isn't part of ANTHC or ARUC, meaning? Sheldon requests leadership from the Assembly presence when meeting with the project manager this summer. To legal, how can a letter be sent to ANTHC Anchorage.

President Hadley stated at an NWALT meeting NIHA presented and stated the villages needs audits for federal funding. Requests to the Assembly and Mayor to work on audits. Asked if CUAP is just pass through?

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None presented.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Barr stated a good meeting, appreciated the presentations. Raised concern of when prioritizing priorities. Brought up concerns of ANTHC. Condolences to families.

Swan mentioned City Clerk resigning 5th of April, Joseph Swan III (email: alaskanswan32@gmail) temporary and will monitor city email.

Cleveland glad to be here today, good presentations.

Sheldon requesting a State Representative to give an update. Lot of work for water and sewer along with all departments. Thank you for all your support.

McConnell thankful for department reports. Although uncomfortable conversations, getting work done. Enjoy springtime.

Haviland Lie sends condolences. Thankful to the Mayor and staff, and I have a lot of work. Hope everyone has a safe spring. Busy time of the year, be careful and mindful.

Magdanz sends congratulations to basketball athletes. Look forward to the joint meeting with School. He hopefully will call in for the May meeting, which will be upriver with family. Sampson thank Assembly and staff for the past couple days. Beginning of problem issue.

Lincoln Carr also thanked the Assembly and Mayor for the good two days.

Vice President Armstrong thank Mayor and staff, good discussions. Also, thanks to the Native Village of Kotzebue and School, better understanding through these discussions.

President Hadley sends condolences also. Hard times, hopefully families are prepared.

Thank the military, honor the veterans. Safe hunting season, be prepared. Enjoy life.

MAYORS' COMMENTS

Mayor Moto is thankful for the Assembly and staff. Working with directors, good meeting. Condolences to those that have lost loved ones. Public Services Director thank the staff for getting the packet out.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Lincoln Carr motion to adjourn at 2:12 P.M., seconded by Vice President Armstrong.

