



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 25, 2023 – 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

Member Loon provided an invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Sampson mentioned Springtime, people going out hunting; some areas have thin ice. Weather conditions changed, need to advise our children about traveling this time of the year. Watch where they travel to.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

Austin Swan Sr.	<i>Dood Lincoln Carr</i>	Walter Sampson	Reid Magdanz
<i>Miles Cleveland Sr.</i>	Hannah Loon	Delores Barr	Tanya Ballot
<i>Sandy Shroyer Beaver</i>	Nathan Hadley Jr.		

Excused

Elmer Armstrong Jr.

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Fritz Westlake Sr.	Colt Ticket (9:49)	Arianna Erlich	Dominic Ivanoff
<i>Angie Sturm</i>	Gem Belamour	Matt Mead	Clay Nordlum
Hiram Walker	Stella Atoruk	Ingemar Mathiasson	Hans Nelson
Elizabeth Ferguson	Brittany Sweeney	<i>Maxim Mamontov</i>	China Katner

A quorum presents to conduct business. Member Sampson motion to excuse Member Armstrong, seconded by Member Ballot; motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for approval for April 25, 2023. Acting Mayor Westlake requested to add Brittany Sweeney discuss caribou herd. Mrs. Erlich, Economic Development Administrator request to add 2022 Village Improvement Report discussion and possible approval under other business.

Member Sampson motioned to approve as amended, Member Magdanz seconded; passed unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2023, regular meeting minutes presented for approval.

Member Sampson motion to approve, seconded by Member Loon; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote with Member Cleveland not participating.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE

Brittany Sweeney, Selawik Wildlife Refuge provided information on hearing of proposed regulation changes for caribou herd which will be held tomorrow; from five per day to four per year (one of which can be a cow). First of action, put forward by Northwest Arctic Federal Subsistence Advisory Council; similar action by Western Interior Subsistence Council whether what comments are on proposed change.

Member Loon thanks Ms. Sweeney for information; asked or what organization initiated to four a day. Member Sampson asked if there was any documentation, any resolutions or letters coming from any of the communities in regards of the proposals. What has the State done to address the decline? Is there any documentation or letter from State addressing the critical issue?

Maxim Mamontov, Altman Rogers - FY22 Audit Report Mr. Mamontov provided a summary of the FY22 audit report. Member Magdanz is glad for a healthy fund balance, thankful to build up revenue. Member Loon asked about 'retired' on the chart. She also asked Mrs. Sturm in regard to lack of control, possibly Public Safety – are we watching closely, so won't happen again?

Joseph Kemp, DOT & PF Northern Region Update Mr. Kemp couldn't join.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

President Hadley summarized previous day meeting summary, all resolutions and ordinances were recommended do pass for today's vote.

Mrs. Sturm provided summary of financial report ending March 31, 2023; she encouraged listening audience to call in during the work session. Member Magdanz thank Mrs. Sturm for including the VIF spending sheet, although don't believe made it to the paper packet; he suggested regular reports of project spending with the two overview pages.

Member Loon asked about the 1.2M debt between Sulianich and general fund, do to? Member Sampson thank Acting Mayor Westlake for keeping the door open for our artist, we need to make sure to find a way to support that; possibly grants for subsidize our traditional outer wear that folks wear.

Break observed at 10:22 A.M., reconvened at 10:33 A.M.

PUBLIC HEARING, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 22-04am01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving and adopting an amended line-item budget for fiscal year 2023.*

Acting Mayor Westlake summarized Ordinance 22-04am01.

Member Sampson motion to enact Ordinance 22-04am01, seconded by Member Swan; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Loon mentioned she attended first Sulianich Board meeting recently, discussed debt; meeting held April 4, 2023. There are three seats open, one artist, Sulianich would like one more Assembly seat and if anyone is interested contact your interest to Mayor Moto.

Member Swan mentioned VIF met recently, good session; they do their homework and look at each of the community needs. Will look at a Kobuk resolution.

Member Ballot shared to Assembly and listening audience know that on April 18, 2023 the village of Noorvik, Kiana and Selawik held a tri-village meeting; some discussions were challenges, issues that face together, shared resources and services. Infrastructure and development, coming together end of July; look forward to it. Many topics were discussed and well attended.

Member Carr mentioned she attended the joint meeting North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic; all attended; good short meeting. Same issues such as caribou.

Member Magdanz shared that Ms. Sweeney mentioned to him about Federal Agencies hosting co-stewardship talking circle here in Kotzebue on May 22, 2023, at 5:00-8:00 P.M. plan to attend, here in Kotzebue.

Member Loon asked if there has been any communication to Elders and tribal leaders in the villages, to come to attend in person, where will funding come from?

Member Sampson expressed the importance of our traditions, we have four major organizations to come together to make resources available to have people come in; have two-three representatives come for the meetings. Member Loon expressed the importance of hearing. Member Sampson mentioned these meetings need to be held at the villages, so more people can have discussions at village level.

Member Ballot mentioned Lawrence Westlake Sr, of Kiana has been selected as representative on regional planning organization and Ellen Coffin of Noorvik as alternate; awaiting signatures from Tribal Council Presidents to submit.

Member Swan provided hearing information in Inupiaq, we need the caribou; for sure we will become unlawful people because of our stomachs.

President Hadley mentioned he attended the Energy Steering Committee meeting last week, good two meeting. If this grant comes through, possibly \$46M then our Borough would be taken care of with solar paneling and heat pumps for our homes.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Planning Director Clay Nordlum provided a summary of the Planning Department ending March 2023.

President Hadley requested excusal at 10:56 A.M., Member Sampson reconvened.

Member Loon thank Mr. Nordlum, what will happen to the remainder of the monies?
Member Carr asked if Borough received any billing from City of Kiana for the ice road.

Public Services Dominic Ivanoff, Interim Director, thanks the previous Director for recruiting him. He summarized his report, after a brief history of Kivalina Road activities.

Member Swan thank you for the report, the school missed is not all due to the road. District need to look into their operation because the road was open; someone didn't like two inches of snow on the road. He suggested to VIF staff to work with City or IRA for Kivalina to get a dozer; he had been encouraging them that maybe the quickest way.

Member Carr asked if can get an amount of what have been spent on snow removal and post on the website. Member Sampson suggested that staff work with school district to address critical need; possibly contract out. For the shelter cabin renovations, where are the funds coming from? Special funds or general funds?

Mr. Ivanoff mentioned Teck offered snow fence material for Kivalina Road, thankful for Teck. Member Magdanz requested history of the project; what other options may be available. Member Carr thank Magdanz comments, if there are any monies through DOT or tribal entities to apply; don't hurt to ask to turn road over. Is it even feasible? We are told that the Ambler Road is funded through the State and eventually go public; why and what would stop Ambler/Shungnak/Kobuk seek funding to maintain and take ownership of.

Public Safety report by Hans Nelson, Fire Safety Coordinator provided summary of department activities. Member Ballot asked how many VPSO's do we have active? Are any positions will be filled, what are the distributions to the communities, how soon is that going to happen? Our communities need support; although Selawik has a Trooper stationed there rotationally; still need support.

Community & Economic Development, Ingemar Mathiasson, Energy Coordinator provided a summary of meeting and recent activities. Member Magdanz asked about the commercial/subsistence fishing grant; is there a reason it's only open for one week? Sustainable Energy Conference coming up 23rd-25th of May; there is travel grants from Denali Commission.

Acting Mayor Westlake and Member Sampson presented a Sunny Awards to Mr. Mathiasson for receiving two National awards for the projects. Thank you for your work.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

May 22-23, 2023, for next meeting date.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 22-05-AM-01** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving and adopting an amended line-item budget for the FY23 Village Improvement Fund.*

Acting Mayor Westlake summarized Ordinance 22-05-AM-01, recommend do pass.

Member Swan motion to approve Ordinance 22-05-AM-01, seconded by Member Carr; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. **Ordinance 23-03** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for establishing and adoption of the line-item budget for the FY24 Village Improvement Fund.*

Acting Mayor Westlake summarized Ordinance 23-03, recommend do pass.

Member Ballot motion to approve Ordinance 23-03, seconded by Member Barr; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 23-14** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund application from The City of Kobuk to purchase and ship heavy equipment for a Disaster Mitigation and Remediation Project.*

Acting Mayor Westlake summarized Resolution 23-14, recommend do pass.

Member Magdanz motion to approve Resolution 23-14, seconded by Member Ballot; motion passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution 23-15** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly supporting the Save Our Sisters Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Amber Alert Proposal.*

Acting Mayor Westlake summarized Resolution 23-15, recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 23-15, seconded by Member Ballot; motion passed by majority vote with one not participating.

3. **Resolution 23-16** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a contract for the main office building boiler replacement project with Northern Contractors and Consulting, LLC, and for related purposes.*

Acting Mayor Westlake summarized Resolution 23-16, recommend do pass.

Vice President Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 23-16, seconded by Member Swan; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

4. **Resolution 23-17** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving an easement across Borough property in Deering for Fiber Optic cable to connect the medical clinic, and for related purposes.*

Acting Mayor Westlake summarized Resolution 23-17, recommend do pass. Member Magdanz asked if Legal was able to contact GCI regarding funding requirements.

Member Swan motion to approve Resolution 23-17, seconded by Member Ballot; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

5. **Resolution 23-18** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a lease with the City of Selawik for the Selawik Freezer Building, and related purposes.*

Acting Mayor Westlake summarized Resolution 23-18, recommend do pass.

Member Carr motion to approve Resolution 23-18, seconded by Member Ballot; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

6. **Resolution 23-19** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a lease with the City of Selawik for the Village Public Safety Officer Program Housing, and related purposes.*

Acting Mayor Westlake summarized Resolution 23-19, recommend do pass.

Member Ballot motion to approve Resolution 23-19, seconded by Member Swan; motion passed by majority with one not participating.

7. **Resolution 23-20** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to pursue a U.S. Department of Energy Grant with the Native Village of Ambler Traditional Council for a Solar/Battery Project, and for related purposes.*

Acting Mayor Westlake summarized Resolution 23-20, recommend do pass.

Member Swan motion to approve Resolution 23-20, seconded by Member Ballot; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

2022 Annual Village Improvement Fund Report submitted for approval per Teck MOC. Member Magdanz gives kudos to Buckland and Selawik to leverage other monies coming.

Member Loon motion to approve the annual report for VIF 2022, seconded by Member Swan; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

China Katner, Protect the Kobuk provided overview of activities; growing group of those that oppose the Ambler Road. The premise of the resolution at the joint NSB/NWAB recently; in support of timely completion of the road. Many people in the area are highly concerned about the project.

Member Carr asked what numbers you listed, how many of them are residents of the area.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Magdanz mentioned good things discussed today. Excited about possibly solar in every community; although believe should save, federal monies may only come once in a lifetime. Look forward to long term financial plan. Stay safe this Spring, enjoy outdoors.

Member Ballot congratulates graduates, college as well; those that graduate high school, keep on further education to take over these leadership positions. Be safe, do physical activities. Remember to call in tomorrow for hearing. Good to see VIF report, take advantage of funding while still out there. Happy Spring, be safe.

Member Swan thanked staff for doing a good job, pleasure working with this group. Glad basically over Covid. Appreciate all the help Kivalina has gotten. Thank you.

Member Loon thank you staff for reports, congratulations to Arianna for report, good job. Safe travels to Assembly. We all need wellness, reach out to get assistance to hold a conference.

Member Barr mentioned good meeting, appreciate all the work. Good to hear from the auditors, now to get to budget retreat to ensure direction taking. Congratulates those that are graduating, huge milestone. Encourage everyone to participate in caribou hearings. Stay safe this Spring.

Member Cleveland mentioned good meeting although didn't catch the audience comments on petition; believe need development in the region. He knows he can't pay taxes for lots, if we don't find another source to pay taxes. Subsistence will never be the same, all nature; we adapt to it. Thank you.

Member Carr comment on the private road, is it possible to find private road monies. Even for Kivalina Road, if can look at travel monies. We have serious decisions to make regarding services and priorities of our mission. Thank you for updating the ice roads.

Appreciate ice testing, and practice putting on website. Need to get the RPTO going, will help with all. Thank you for the ability to call in.

Youth Representative Ticket thank you to those that presented. He mentioned if hunting or traveling, be aware of the surroundings as the snow and ice are melting. Animals are hungry. Thank you.

Vice President Shroyer Beaver thank Member Sampson for facilitating. Congratulations to graduates from Tech Center, our schools and college/vocational schools. Thank China for comments. Our meeting with North Slope, we talked of VIF process; need to have an open session on economic development. Concerned about economic development. Often, we know who is selling drugs and alcohol although we don't talk of it. Thank you, safe travels home.

Member Sampson thanks Acting Mayor Westlake for good meeting. To graduating class of 2023, few days away; stepping into the world. Some of you will go to college, training or any branch of military service. Lot of issues before us, we need to come together to address. Critically important to participate in hearing tomorrow, voice out. Thank you, good luck to Mayor in Pt. Hope.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Acting Mayor Westlake thank Assembly, last minute sitting in for Mayor Moto; thank Legal for support. Thank Elizabeth for attending partner with NANA.

Member Carr congratulates Mr. Mathiasson for hard work and a well-deserved award.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Loon motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Carr at 12:40 P.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stella Atanul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stella" and last name "Atanul" clearly distinguishable.