



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 23, 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 Loon mentioned that it's okay to reach out on mental health. Also, it is okay to get help during Memorial Day. Thankful that parents take their children out. Careful with children on the road. Hunting is always challenging, always using gun safety, extra survival kits.

Member Swan mentioned a lot of water under the snow, careful around the creeks; hard to get out of slush when stuck.

Member Lincoln Carr stated when you need someone to talk to; call 988, national number.

Member Cleveland ensure a life vest or jacket when boating, keep an eye out for glare ice.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

Austin Swan Sr.	Dood Lincoln Carr	Walter Sampson(9:30)	Reid Magdanz
Miles Cleveland Sr.	Hannah Loon	Delores Barr	Tanya Ballot
Sandy Shroyer Beaver	Nathan Hadley Jr.		

Excused

Elmer Armstrong Jr.

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Dickie Moto Sr.	Colt Ticket	Richard Camilleri	Hans Nelson
Angie Sturm	Gem Belamour	Clara Jones	Fritz Westlake Sr.
Hiram Walker	Elizabeth Ferguson	Rick Warner	Willard Commack
Stella Atoruk			

A quorum presents to conduct business. Member Lincoln Carr motion to excuse Member Armstrong, seconded by Vice President Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for approval for May 23, 2023.

Member Lincoln Carr motioned to approve as presented; Member Ballot seconded; passed unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

April 25, 2023, regular meeting minutes presented for approval.

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

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE

No communication and appearance presented.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Budget, Audit and Finance Chairperson Lincoln Carr provided a summary of the meeting held the previous day; good discussion when all the Assembly is present. All recommend do pass.

Borough Treasurer Sturm provided a summary of financials ending April 30, 2023.

Member Loon asked if Borough will be expecting any deed reimbursement in the future?

PUBLIC HEARING, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY 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.*

Mayor Moto summarized Ordinance 22-05-AM-01, recommend do pass. Member Magdanz proposes to amend since no new version was presented; 4.1 million to match what the budget it which is 8.1M.

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

Member Magdanz motion to amend Ordinance 22-05-AM-01, seconded by Member Lincoln Carr; motion carried.

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.*

Mayor Moto summarized Ordinance 23-03, recommend do pass.

Member Swan motion to enact Ordinance 23-03, seconded by Vice President Shroyer Beaver; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Lincoln Carr mentioned she provided a summary of the BAF meeting held earlier; good to have all the Assembly there at BAF and work session.

President Hadley mentioned most of the Assembly attended the hearing on caribou, he believes it went well. Hopefully the Assembly can interact and speak on hunting.

Member Loon mentioned she attended the special meeting on hearing of the caribou, another hearing coming soon; June 8, 2023, 1:00 PM to 3 PM.

Member Sampson joined at 9:30AM. He echoes his comments yesterday; critically important to get involved otherwise our people will be hurting this coming Fall. If can attend in person that would be stronger, for the June 8 hearing.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Planning Administrator Gem Belamour provided a summary of report ending April. Member Ballot asked if the Planning Coordinator must be in Kotzebue or can be in one of the Villages. *Member Sampson asked if there has been any discussion of Kivalina relocating. In regard to Noatak, where are we since Borough is trustee for them, where are we with 14 (c) (3).* Member Magdanz requested an update on McClintock proposed work ahead for this summer, for FY24. Member Lincoln Carr mentioned she asked in the past that if there are any constituents to pay for the survey to squeeze them in. *Member Sampson echo Member Lincoln Carr's comments, encourage to push that.* President Hadley mentioned it will be good to have house numbers in Buckland.

Community Economic Development Director Westlake provided a summary of recent activities. Member Magdanz mentioned he saw State budget. He asked about water and sewer possibilities, who in our region trying to get safe water monies, is that Borough or Maniilaq to ensure our villages compete for monies for water and sewer. Encourage someone to bring that up at NWALT or make sure someone is paying attention to that in our area; possibly 250M in State budget for water and sewer and more coming. President Hadley mentioned he hopes that State gets rid of the best practice scoring. *Member Sampson encourages Borough to work with entities on local planning, design of infrastructure; designs bought somewhere else.* President Hadley asked Director Westlake when the deadline for the solar paneling is. Hopefully every village joins that IPP, which is important when generator goes out.

Mayor Moto asked Director Westlake to explain the process of partnering up with Deer Stone for a couple villages working on warm storage buildings.

Public Safety Report given by VPSO Coordinator Warner provided summary of report. End of June is a scheduled summit in Shungnak, scheduling all ten villages visits and having community outreach. President Hadley mentioned he talked with an Elder last night and glad to have a VPSO in Shungnak. Member Lincoln Carr that many are grateful for these positions, thankful for lobbying. *Member Sampson mentioned it's critically important to have a follow up after a major search to discuss what worked, what didn't work and what needs to be improved.* Member Lincoln Carr sees on social media,

encourage communication to public on what the process is on starting a search and why; possibly posted on the website.

Member Loon thanked him for report, encouraging you to keep up with your good work. Our biggest enemies in our families today are alcohol, fentanyl and other drugs coming through the post office. We can't blame the VPSO, it's our responsibility as a healthy family to encourage our young kids to be alcohol and drug free. Can be addressed at the summit.

Member Sampson echo comments from Member Lincoln Carr regarding lack of if we are talking of search and rescue. We have two different organizations; village is not giving the responsibility of taking the lead on a search than can ask Regional. Keep in differentiate of what search and rescues we have so each can take responsibility of what needs to be done. Be sure to publicize the process so people will understand.

Member Ballot always applaud Noatak for having a Hasty Crew, would like to see it in all the communities. Came prepared and ready to go with all essential and would like village follow suit. Crucial when traveling notify someone, whether good intentions or not. Every situation is different.

Member Loon asked if VPSO's can use body cams. Also, she asked if can have firearms. Fire Coordinator Nelson provided a summary of recent activities. Member Lincoln Carr mentioned there is a new product; can spray to contain until something else comes along. Have you seen or heard of them? She thought it would be good for the villages.

Public Services Director Jones provided summary of activities since she started recently. Member Lincoln Carr welcomed Director Jones back, believes that Borough or Regionwide seek grants to hire casket builders and grave digging. Needs to be addressed because we all are going to die, it's a lot of work. Help these volunteers. Member Loon asked regarding the boiler replacement and toyostove, is this available to any kind of house; NIHA always say not eligible because your house is already paid for.

Youth Representative Ticket thanked Rick for his reports, also to Clara. Thank you.

Break taken at 10:55 AM, reconvened at 11:09 AM

Mayor Moto requested excusal; Director Jones will reconvene.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

June 6-7, 2023, for special meeting, possibly call in for teleconference. Regular meeting June 26-27, 2023, regular meeting on June 27, 2023.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 23-04** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line-item budget for fiscal Year 2024.*

Acting Mayor Jones recommend do pass.

Member Lincoln Carr motioned to approve Ordinance 23-04, seconded by Member Swan; motion carried by roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 23-21** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving the purchase of fire pumps and hoses for firefighting use and for related purposes.*

Acting Mayor Jones summarized Resolution 23-21, recommend do pass.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 23-21, seconded by Member Ballot; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. **Resolution 23-22** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly authorizing execution of a cooperating agency agreement with the Bureau of Land Management for the Ambler Mining District Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, and for related purposes.*

Acting Mayor Jones summarized Resolution 23-22, recommend do pass. Legal Camilleri provided a summary of discussion held previously; status to give Borough a seat at the table to participate as a cooperative agency.

Member Magdanz believes it's important to have a seat at the table, he believes the EIS process themselves aren't good enough for helping our people giving feedback. We need to push for answers, what is it going to look like; we need conversations with our communities.

Member Lincoln Carr encourages any other public funds for the Ambler Road, and to be tribal owned and private road. A majority don't want AIDEA to own; just comments she is making.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 23-22, seconded by Member Lincoln Carr; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

3. **Resolution 23-23** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving an Assembly donation under the FY23 budget for the Native Village of Kotzebue Nikaitchuat Ilisagviat.*

Acting Mayor Jones summarized Resolution 23-23, recommend do pass. Member Lincoln Carr mentioned she stated yesterday that we need to consider the amount; at one point it was twenty-five thousand. Any donations given she would like to see reports from whomever monies are given out. Member Magdanz mentioned back up was emailed yesterday after the meeting, he requests it be with the resolution when presented.

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

4. **Resolution 23-24** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the FY24 local contribution to education.*

Acting Mayor Jones summarized Resolution 23-24, recommend do pass. Vice President Shroyer Beaver requested explanation of reimbursement portion. We have not paid an extra donation to the School District, and this is the minimum required and because of Borough usage fees Borough gets reimbursed; just to clarify. She requested clarification from Finance Treasurer Sturm that two million for this upcoming year although taken out of last fiscal year.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 23-24, seconded by Member Lincoln Carr; motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

VPSO Coordinator Warner asked for clarity; he stated that the Public Safety Summit is June 27-28, 2023, in Shungnak so these two will go simultaneously. And some will attend the summit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Shungnak resident Willard Commack called in regarding water and sewer issues. People are in hardship, there are four-six houses in Shungnak; why are these bills so high. One bill is fifteen thousand dollars. Important to have hygiene, need clean water. Concerned about the children and Elders of Shungnak. There is an oil spill near his Uncle Neil Sheldon's house, no reports submitted to the State. He tried working with the federal government to clean out the spill from three years ago. The water system needs attention. Even getting help from the Clinic, no help; they have equipment and it's not being used.

Borough resident Elizabeth Ferguson expressed her gratitude to Assembly and Administration for the scholarships, recipient throughout her education. Graduated in December and walked earlier this month. Thank you.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Sampson mentioned he got a call from Statewide Native Organization through AFN they will create a full board representing all the regions in the State; he was asked to participate. He requested excusal.

Member Barr mentioned good meeting, lots of information. Thank administration, keep up the hard work. Look forward to budget retreat, forecasting and tightening our belts going forward. Thank you.

Member Loon thanked Mayor Moto and staff for preparing for the meeting. Alarming;

happy that Mr. Commack call regarding inactive communities. Reach out to ANTHC and cooperating agencies together out there to make sure Elders are taken care of. Thank Youth representative Colt for being here, all of us are still learning. To the listening audience, condolences to those that lost loved ones. To those that graduated college and Chukchi College, encourage high school students to work on scholarships. There is hope. If us Aana's can do it, you can do it. Thank you.

Member Swan mentioned good session, thank you to staff and Assembly members. We have students going to summer school, making use of the new school, getting on the bus.

Member Ballot mentioned good meeting. Condolences to those that lost loved ones. Be proactive and not reactive; mental health first aid is vital. We can get training to recognize the signs; whether we are leader, citizen, young adult, or old person we all go through challenges. Like Dood said call 988, there for a reason. Social media can be a curse or blessing. Excited to see VPSO program grow. Welcome back Clara, give thanks to Mayor and staff for work that you do. Thank you.

Member Magdanz congratulated those that graduated this past month; high school and college, hope you come back to the region and help us out here. Great to see birds; hope everyone has a safe hunting season. Thankful for Willard calling in, hope administration can help. Be safe this Spring.

Member Lincoln Carr glad to see Willard call in. echo many of the members' comments. She is thankful for the City of Kotzebue; grateful since the wall was put up, if wasn't there for this last storm many homes damaged. Also, with addition there are many out; to the dog owners in Kotzebue, you need to be more responsible cleaning poop. The City of Kotzebue has a policy, stop letting your dogs' poop unless you clean it up. Also, the villages are getting protection for the VPSO program; grateful to have City of Kotzebue have policeman have rotations. Please pass to Mayor that the website is utilized more, post the program for constituents. Thank you.

Vice President Shroyer Beaver sends condolences, hard when loose someone. Congratulations to the graduates, exciting to see photos of families and traditional clothes. Welcome Clara back. As you know education is always struggling, if we can do what we can to support; we get a portion back. She still thinks about the kindergarten classes, some are discouraging; keep our kids with more hope and bigger dreams. Dr. Eck used to say kids need lots of sleep, read with your children. Happy many applications for VPSO. Thank you, have a good summer.

Shungnak Willard Commack comment regarding well, don't know what they are drinking. Their VPSO is leaving for Selawik, only if emergency they will have someone in Shungnak he believes. The environmental contractor would come every six months to check the water, the tank hasn't been cleaned. We learn from the Elders. Have a safe day.

President Hadley thanked Willard for calling, important to take care of our Elders. Hard to go through change when you loose parents. A big part of the community, feed younger people too. Hope all goes well, be safe while hunting. Take care of each other, share your catch. Great to be part of the community. Hope everyone has a great summer. Thankful

for grants. Thank you.

Youth Representative Ticket thank you to Hannah, still learning. Hope everyone has a good day.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Acting Mayor Jones thank you for great meeting, good to be back at Borough. Look forward to Special meeting. Will reach out on Willards concerns. Thank you for a great meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Shroyer Beaver motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Carr at 12:06 P.M.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Stelle Atuk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.