



Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 19, 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 Fall time, lot of boating around; still have high water in some of the areas have wood floating down. Be careful and be aware, don't travel in the dark.

Member Loon raised concerns of mental well-being, check often, and pass positive comments to children. Believe Manilaq is traveling to the villages, we all need some kind of help during these days.

Member Lincoln Carr mentioned there is a nation-wide number to talk to someone, everyone needs access for mental health. The number is 988, someone to listen.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

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

Excused

Elmer Armstrong Jr. and Reid Magdanz

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Dickie Moto Sr.	Matt Mead	<i>Angie Sturm</i>	<i>Clara Jones</i>
<i>Fritz Westlake</i>	<i>Ingemar Mathiasson</i>	Chris Hatch	Gem Belamour
Shayne Schaeffer	Matt Will	Randy Walker	Chris Cox
<i>Ann Howarth</i>	<i>Marlene Moto-Karl</i>	Stella Atoruk	

A quorum is present to conduct business. Member Lincoln Carr motion to excuse Member Armstrong and Member Magdanz, seconded by Member Swan; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda presented for approval for September 19, 2023. Member Lincoln Carr requested to add Resolution 23-53 which was reviewed yesterday. Member Loon requested Covid numbers under other business.

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

August 22, 2023, regular meeting minutes presented for approval.

Member Sampson motion to approve, seconded by Member Swan; passed unanimously by roll call vote.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE

Ambler Metals Upper Kobuk Mineral Project (UKMP) Update, Ramzi Fawaz, President & CEO of Ambler Metals Mr. Fawaz provided a summary of recent activities through power point presentation. Last interaction was possibly during the Retreat early this year. Look forward to the draft supplemental EIS sometimes next week, request and encourage to listening audience to provide comments in a timely fashion.

Member Sampson asked about the timeline of investment scheduled, that will bring this Borough to the point where Red Dog is starting to slump down. This is possibly ten to fifteen years to start developing. In the attendance of per village of meeting, what percentage of support and oppose to Ambler Mining.

In regards of process of planning the development of road system; would there be any delays in the event there is an interest group that files a lawsuit. Possibly if AIDEA invites the interior to this area to have a dialogue, ideal for future development.

CUAP Update, Chris Cox Mr. Cox provided introduction and summarized the power point presentation. He has been trying to mirror this program to other regions although difficult to do; you all should be proud of thriving success for us. As you all know, Noatak hasn't joined since the beginning of this.

Mr. Cox mentioned that ANTHC ARUC had received in May a 2023 Featured honored nations all star from Harvard Kennedy School Project on Project on Indigenous Governance and Development; because of the CUAP Program they were able to get the recognition.

Member Lincoln Carr thanked them for the presentation, proud of the program; our villages deserve this safe water. Congratulations on the award. Suggest continuing to tell the State, they are failing yet for the communities with no water. Thank you for your work. Member Sampson thank you for presentation; raised concern of biomass issue, is there a wood cutting plan in certain areas through NANA or private landowners.

Legal Mead asked if there is anything planned to help the villages with the RUBA program. President Hadley asked if there are other regions that joined like this.

Break observed at 10:15 A.M., reconvened at 10:30 A.M.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Budget, Audit & Finance Chair Lincoln Carr provided a summary of the previous day's meeting, a good meeting.

Financial Report Mrs. Sturm provided a summary of financial ending August 31, 2023; this was discussed in detail yesterday, if any concerns please join during the work session.

Member Loon raised concern of the PILT declining; VIF having savings only for village infrastructure, is that correct?

PUBLIC HEARING, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES
Non presented.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

President Hadley mentioned he traveled to Utqiaġvik with Administration met with different departments. Also, met with Public Safety regarding the policing and search and rescue department. They are concerned of hunters going on their lands that pass through this area; possibly have a resolution.

Member Lincoln Carr asked who all attended this Utqiaġvik meeting? This resolution presented today entails some of that right?

Member Swan mentioned school had a late start, second week now. He raised concern of road; had a hard summer, some foot wide cracks.

Member Loon asked President Hadley to clarify his comments referencing forming a rescue like Utqiaġvik because no caribou, alarmed; do we want to rescue. Member Lincoln Carr raised concern of hunters buying hunting permits, although ours are subsistence hunting. We as a region, need to put stuff in writing; known facts who, where.

Public Safety Director Hatch stated there have been rumors or threats on social media to shoot airplanes down; none of this is acceptable. Member Sampson suggests forming a task force with Arctic Slope; put a plan to address the critical issue. Member Shroyer Beaver no matter where they are or from, it's our responsibility.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Community and Economic Development Director Westlake provided a summary of recent activities. Next commission meeting scheduled for November first in Anchorage. Next scholarship deadline is January 15th for the Ferguson Scholarship college and university applications. No deadline for ATC or vocational classes, would like week of class or sooner if possible. For the VIF applications, the deadline was September 15th with meeting date of October 10-11, 2023 in Kotzebue.

Energy Coordinator Mathiasson provided an update of activities, next Energy Steering Committee is scheduled 3rd and 4th of October.

Interim Planning Director Belamour provided an update of activities. Tentatively the next meeting is scheduled for October 11-12, 2023, also, a youth representative seat open.

Public Services Director Jones provided an update on activities. Phone difficulties.

Interim VPSO Coordinator Matt Will provided a brief update of the program. Held a booth at the State Fair, currently offering positions. For the FY24 budget with approval today from Assembly at the amount of \$1,340,468.00 with additional \$500,000.00 in funding for positions. Construction to start soon in Noorvik on the renovation of the VPSO house.

Member Lincoln Carr expressed her gratitude for the VPSO Program, appreciate the booth at the State Fair. Member Loon welcome Mr. Will to the Program and to Mr. Hatch. She raised concern of near-death experiences because substance abuse, beyond our control. She requests a number of medivac due to these issues.

Member Cleveland requested an update while on KOTZ Radio of the boiler tune-up for the communities.

Director Jones continued with the Public Services summary. A teleconference scheduled tomorrow joint agreement with NANA and Northern Contractors; for inspecting, cleaning and recalibrating residential boilers and toyostoves for the whole area. Starting with Upper Kobuk River than Noatak.

Vice President Shroyer Beaver asked about how people qualify or sign up for Kotzebue on the boiler/toyostoves program. She reminds everyone that we the Borough serve all, not only shareholders. Big job, thank you for the work you're doing. Member Lincoln Carr asked if it will be expedited throughout the region due to the time frame.

Public Safety Director Hatch provided an update on the activities. Mentioned traveled to Utqiagvik along with Administrator Saima Chase, Mayor, and President; met specifically with the Police Department for the strategic plan.

President Hadley expressed his gratitude for having warm storages available in all the villages. Member Lincoln Carr asked about aerosol spray cans or fire blankets you throw on; has any of that been considered? President Hadley mentioned that shipping of the extinguishers is double the cost with shipping.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Special meeting on October 9, 2023, regular meeting October 23-24, 2023. President Hadley asked Legal about a meeting on this Friday, a telephonic meeting for the RFP opening today. Member Lincoln Carr asks if on 23rd? She requests a morning meeting. President Hadley stated on 22nd. Member Loon thank Member Lincoln Carr for the time suggestion although children are brought to school about that time.

Member Lincoln Carr asked if October 23-24, 2023, is during that AFN; not that we'd agree to attend but if other entities the Assembly sits on.

President Hadley mentioned September 22, 2023, time set by Mayor.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None presented.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 23-49** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly accepting an FY24 Village Public Safety Officer Grant and for related purposes.*

Mayor Moto summarized resolution, we accept and recommend do pass.

Member Sampson motion to approve Resolution 23-49, seconded by Member

Barr; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2. **Resolution 23-50** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving engagement of Altman, Rogers & Co. to conduct the FY23 Audit.*

Mayor Moto summarized resolution, recommend do pass.

Member Lincoln Carr motioned to approve Resolution 23-50, seconded by Member Swan; motion passed by majority by roll call vote with no response from Member Cleveland due to phone difficulties.

3. **Resolution 23-51** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve a grant from the Alaska Energy Authority Renewable Energy Fund for a Solar PV Project in the Community of Selawik, Alaska, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Moto summarized resolution, recommend do pass.

Member Lincoln Carr motion to approve Resolution 23-51 as presented, seconded by Vice President Shroyer Beaver; passed by majority with Member Ballot abstain.

4. **Resolution 23-52** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly ratifying the appointment of election judge chairs for the 2023 General Election to be held on October 3, 2023.*

Mayor Moto summarized resolution, recommend do pass.

Vice President Shroyer Beaver motion to approve Resolution 23-52, seconded by Member Sampson; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

5. **Resolution 23-53** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly opposing any action by the Federal Subsistence Board to drastically reduce the allowable harvest of Western Arctic Caribou Herd.*

Mayor Moto summarized resolution, recommend do pass.

Member Loon motion to approve Resolution 23-53, seconded by Member Barr; motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Public Safety Director Hatch provided an active number of Covid cases; as of September 18, 2023, seven cases (five in Kotzebue, two in Noorvik).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Ann Howarth, Kotzebue resident, has four children; one of which is a private pilot. She heard your discussion on safety issues with social media threats. Worried, wonder if any local, state, or federal law enforcement will contact the people making the threats. Really think they need to follow through, whether arrest or citation can't make threats on local pilots. Very upsetting, nothing being done about it. Encourage Borough to put on the website or social media informing residents not all the pilots are transporting hunters. Private pilots have access to the country as well as everyone else, but the threatening part is serious. Want feedback from Borough, thank you for taking call.

Marlene Moto-Karl, Deering resident called regarding subsistence hunting for caribou. Can emergency orders shut down for transporting guides in our area. Local hunters have been traveling by boat, been rough and worried about boating. Close sport hunting. People should respect our local option law, too many importers there. Also, Borough has land but don't remember where. They welcome local hunters although no caribou around.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Barr mentioned good important information, appreciate all work being done. Exciting to see RPO positions being filled, hope to get nominations in to get planning. Condolences to those that lost loved ones, prayers for those that are sick in hospitals. Stay safe this Fall. Thank you.

Member Loon thank you, good meeting; thank you Assembly, staff, and presenters. Thankful for resolution on caribou. Thankful for this day, even though it rains, and food security is in question. Thankful for moose that had been shared. Condolences and prayers. Thank you.

Member Swan is thankful for the Assembly, Mayor, and staff for doing what you do to move forward. Condolences to families that lost friends and relatives, always praying for you. Thank you.

Member Cleveland miss Zoom. Good meeting, those that comment about caribou, thank you; the animals are not ours. Blessing to us, we need to understand that we share. Blessings in return. Thank you.

Member Ballot sends condolences to those that lost loved ones. Thank you to the Borough Mayor, staff; thank you for reports, dedicated time for all the work. Look forward to finalizing the VPSO/warm storage in Selawik. Wish everyone safe hunting and gathering; as Miles said we must share but shared more than enough; we need to feed our family as well. Switched over to moose since haven't had caribou for a while. Surviving and making it work in our communities, thank you for the great meeting.

Member Sampson stated issues we've discussed are always on the forefront of this very body; also, to NANA and Maniilaq. Three major organizations that receive, complained of services for clients. We represent this whole region, what is presented; thank you Ann for comments regarding threats made. Suggest address through NWALT so that can publicly make statements regarding their viewpoints. Encourage administration and President to address these critical issues.

Member Lincoln Carr echo Member Sampson's comments, thankful for comments. We need to make people accountable; people paid to address these issues. Thankful for Mayor and Administration for working on public safety. It's time when we see wrong; first, do it in writing; address it, make them accountable. Echo Member Sampson, refer to NWALT. Thankfully CUAP, costs are reduced. We need to let the public know about the heating program. Get out and vote, vote for people you believe will speak for you and not for themselves. Thank you to Sandy and Tanya who helped move forward. On behalf of Zoom, it is beneficial to move forward to do business.

Vice President Shroyer Beaver stated good two-day meeting. Lot of good information, hope people will ask questions if needed regarding the caribou harvesting. Thank staff for the work that you do. Friendly reminder, concerned about the boiler program; timeline of that, Kotzebue is a big community. There are families with single parents. Thankful to the election workers, tough job. Thank you for the work you do.

President Hadley wishes his mom happy birthday. He enjoyed working with Mayor at different meetings, had concerns about the VPSO Program. To the hunters, be safe. Take care. Thank you to Ann and Marlene for calling in. Condolences to relatives, losing family is hard. Safe hunting to all local.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Moto sends condolences to those that lost loved ones. Good meeting, we continue to work on VPSO program. Still working on improvements, last year we lobby for additional although actively recruiting. Met with Utqiaġvik, possibly have them come here to see what we've been doing.

Still working with Noatak to join the CUAP program, while the funds are available. Working with Legal and NANA on the boiler program.

ADJOURNMENT

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stella Atanah".

