

Aleutians East Borough Minutes
March 4, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mack called the March 4, 2014 Assembly meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. from the Aleutians East Borough Anchorage office and by teleconference in each community.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Stanley Mack	Present
Paul Gronholdt	Present
Carol Foster	Absent-Excused
Marvin Mack	Present
Alvin D. Osterback	Present
Ken McHugh	Present
Joe Bereskin, Sr.	Present-Arrived late.
Brenda Wilson	Present

Advisory Members:

Nikki Hoblet, False Pass	Present
Harold Kremer III, Cold Bay	Absent-Excused
Justine Gundersen, Nelson Lagoon	Present

A quorum was present.

Staff Present:

- Rick Gifford, Administrator
- Roxann Newman, Finance Director
- Anne Bailey, Community Development Coordinator
- Ernie Weiss, Resource Director
- Tina Anderson, Clerk
- Laura Tanis, Communications
- Sam Cotton, AEB Fisheries Consultant
- James Brown, Maintenance Director

Agenda Additions:

- New Business, Nelson Lagoon erosion
- New Business, City of False Pass request for funding for ferry dock repairs
- New Business, disposal of the hovercraft.

Adoption of Agenda:

MOTION

Paul moved to adopt the agenda with the additions and second by Ken. There were no objections, MOTION PASSED.

Community Roll Call and Public Comment on Agenda Items:

False Pass, King Cove, Cold Bay and Sand Point and the Anchorage office were participating.

Minutes, January 16, 2014 Minutes:

MOTION

Brenda moved to adopt the January 16, 2014 Minutes and second by Ken. Hearing no objections the minutes are approved.

January Financial Report:

MOTION

Brenda moved to approve the January Financial Report and second by Ken.

DISCUSSION

The Administrator said budget is tracking along good, 58% through the fiscal year; the only concern is the amount of money spent on the hovercraft operations and helicopter operations for Akutan transportation link, but getting that under better control.

ROLL CALL

Paul-yes, Ken-yes, Brenda-yes, Marvin-yes, Alvin-yes. Advisory: Nikki-yes, Justine-yes.

MOTION PASSED.

January Investment Report:

In packet.

Presentation, Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc. (EAT) – Jennifer Harrison, Executive Director:

Jennifer Harrison said she is from Alaska and has a lot of experience in grant writing. She said EAT's eight community health clinics are all working just as well as they have worked, looking for improvements, especially technological improvements.

Paul asked how many employees EAT has. Ms. Harrison answered around 70. We are focusing rehires on mid-levels at clinics making sure two mid-levels at the two large clinics and two community health aides at the smaller clinics. Hope to get more permanent mid-levels focusing on long term retention of them.

Paul said there is a focus in the communities about substance abuse counseling in the region and asked how many staff members does EAT have focused just on substance abuse in the region. Ms. Harrison answered that EAT has one full time clinician located in Sand Point and a behavioral health aide in Sand Point and King Cove. We have a new clinician starting in April that will be located in King Cove and looking to hire a third behavioral health clinician possibly located in Cold Bay to travel to the smaller communities.

She is also trying to find behavioral health aides to train, which is very similar to Community Health Aides where you can go up different levels.

Marvin asked how EAT is involved in the travel from the communities. He said during poor weather conditions travel earlier is sometimes necessary to ensure arrival into Anchorage for medical appointments, but that travelling earlier is against ANMC policy. If you miss your appointment you might have to wait three or more months for an appointment reschedule. He feels more work needs to be done to accommodate rural travelers because weather is a huge issue for us. Ms. Harrison said it is a big concern and said Martha Hahn or Sarah Dushkin, EAT's case manager can help with issues like that. She added that it is a common problem and working on improving it. One thing about the Anchorage service and ANMC being our hospital, out of the 56 tribes getting service it is the squeaky clean tribes that get a little more attention and ours has been very good.

Alvin agrees with Marvin and also feels a longer timeline for noticing people when the dentist or doctors are traveling to the communities could be done. He said some elders have limited resources and did not know the doctor was coming into the community. Ms. Harrison said staff recently discussed this issue because of the concern and will use website calendar, Facebook and local bulletin boards. Also will keep some open appointments because the appointment schedule gets full prior to them getting to the community. Brenda suggested also noticing on the local radio station.

Ken said about two years ago EAT was putting work into developing telemedicine. Ms. Harrison said EAT is now using telemedicine at our clinics and does training at their Whittier clinic. She said they also use video conferencing for behavioral health clinicians without needing to travel to a village.

(Joe arrived 3:16 p.m.)

Brenda said regarding the illegal drug issue, while in Sand Point she watched drugs being distributed out of a vehicle to 11 trucks. She feels it is our responsibility to report to the police dept. These people are our future and not sure how to stop some of the drugs coming into our communities, we know these people and are related to them. She said EAT sent people to Sand Point to participate in the Reclaim Alaska event. King Cove has the same illegal drug issues. There is a clinical psychologist coming to King Cove in the middle of the month and staying for about a week. The city of King Cove and School District is helping to pay for travel. The psychologist will be working with the school, children, community, a potluck will be held, and the Sand Point clinician will be coming over to King Cove. She added that the tribes, city and recreation dept. are all involved. Feels we all have to step up to the plate and take care of this adding that we have a generation we are losing. Mayor Mack stressed the importance of recovery. There are not enough counselors or facility in the area to administer rehab. We have to do something in regards to rehab and recovery.

Ken asked about rehab facilities in Anchorage. Ms. Harrison said there are facilities and also a place called Jake's Place in Dillingham that we've been sending people too, but the problem there are not enough beds here in Alaska, people are often on a waitlist for 6 months. Ms. Harrison said there is a committee hearing down in Juneau because the Alaska Legislature is trying to cut residential treatment budget by \$2M. There are people trying to get into residential treatment but not being able to because the wait is too long, but it is a statewide need. No one is stepping forward because they don't have the money to pay for it, so it is a struggle and is a statewide struggle and the legislature is considering a reduction in treatment facilities funding.

Brenda said on March 17 Bryce Edgmon will be holding a hearing on rural drug trafficking issues. She will get the time and information to people.

Marvin said the cities are working on the drug problem, but when you can't get a warrant they can't do anything. We need to respect the job that our public safety is doing because they are working overtime on the issue.

Regarding medical travel, Ms. Harrison added that when people are trying to get home and delayed due to weather, ANMC automatically approves to fund those days because there is proof of delay due to weather.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 14-15, Participation in the FY15 Community Revenue Sharing Program:

MOTION

Brenda moved to adopt Resolution 14-15 and second by Joe.

Hearing no objections MOTION PASSED.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Close-Up Student Travel budget increase request:

Mayor Mack said there is a request from Sand Point Close-Up students to increase the contribution amount to Close-Up travel saying the cost per student is \$4,500. He said he does not know what the School District budgets for the program.

Mike Seiler, Sand Point Close-Up Advisor, said \$2,800 covers the airfare to Washington D.C., room and board for the 7 days but does not include the airfare from Sand Point or King Cove to Anchorage.

Paul said in talking to the Close-Up Advisor in Sand Point there are six eligible students. Annette Calver, King Cove Close-Up Advisor said four eligible students in King Cove. Brenda asked how the fund raising efforts are going. Ms. Calver said King Cove has almost raised enough, if AEB approves an increase, we would be done.

Mr. Seiler requested an increase up to \$20,000 to be split between the schools. Paul asked if the School District has a budget line item for Close-Up. Mr. Seiler said he is not sure, but believes the AEBSB has a set amount covering the per diem, hotel in Anchorage and chaperone. Mayor Mack asked if they are able to meet the budget now. Mr. Seiler said Sand Point is short \$18,000 and Close-Up is April 18th.

Alvin said it is difficult to make a decision without more information.

Brenda said we should take into consideration an increase, but to be careful to not over help. She agrees that Close-Up travel hasn't been increased in a while, but students need to be accountable in raising some of the funds.

Mayor Mack thanked Mr. Seiler and will take under advisement.

Draft AEB/ADF&G Cooperative Agreement for Unimak Crab Survey:

Ernie Weiss, Resource Director said in the FY 2014 budget the Assembly included \$50,000 to ADF&G to expand the crab survey. Last year ADF&G made three trawl surveys at no cost. This year the trawl survey will occur in the summer further eastward, closer to Lazaref and Ikatan. Included in packet is the Cooperative Agreement. No action is necessary, except will need the Mayor to sign the agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

Nelson Lagoon Erosion:

Justine said, in order to move forward, the AEB needs to take the initiative to declare Nelson Lagoon a disaster and is requesting AEB pass a resolution declaring a disaster. Once that happens, we can move forward to secure funding. If we have another storm surge, Nelson Lagoon will lose its water line.

The Administrator said while in Juneau meeting with representatives he and Mayor Mack explained the Nelson Lagoon erosion issue and showed pictures so they are aware of the problem. He plans to meet with Dept. of Homeland Security & Emergency Management to see what they might recommend we do. After a resolution, then it goes to the state level to assess the problem and then a recommendation. In order to get FEMA funds the State of Alaska would have to declare an emergency.

Paul said in looking at the tide gauge in Port Moller and at the web cam in Nelson Lagoon during the last extreme high tides, if there was a storm surge at the same time as the high tides, it would have been serious trouble.

Justine said we can't wait and do nothing, feels AEB needs to take the initiative to move forward with a disaster declaration. Mayor Mack said, if a request for a resolution that we declare Nelson Lagoon a disaster and we need some help with erosion on the water line, then we need to do that. Justine said there are two erosion issues, the inside beach and the outside beach.

The Administrator said they also made Dept. of Transportation aware of the erosion issue since close to the airport. He will follow up with Emergency Management and draft a resolution for the next meeting. Mayor Mack also encourages the Nelson Lagoon Village to also pass a resolution. Alvin said the sooner we do a resolution then it is on the record that we've done something and have a paper trail. Mayor Mack said there are maps showing the erosion over a period of time. Brenda suggested including the history with that resolution.

City of False Pass dock Request:

Tom Hoblet, City of False Pass Mayor, said an inspection of the ferry dock was done by HDR, Inc. in 2010. There are repairs and timber replacement needed for the dock. Mayor Hoblet said total cost of repair and labor is \$150,000 and is requesting \$50,000 from AEB for the cost of labor. Mayor Mack felt it may have been beneficial to have had this repair request while in Juneau.

Paul said it is an important dock for the ferry and fishing gear, and feels we can find the funding in the new fiscal year budget, which is not too far away to give False Pass a firm commitment. Mayor Hoblet would like a firm commitment because intention is to do the project this summer.

Alvin said since the dock is part of the marine highway system, asked if the state surveys. Mayor Hoblet said the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) does an inspection which happened about four years ago, but there has been some wear and tear on the dock since then.

The Administrator said, if approved, would have to amend the FY14 budget or put in the new FY15 budget, but False Pass won't know until June.

Alvin asked if it would be possible to do the project and then put in a funding request for reimbursement from the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). Bailey said AMHS has a tight budget, when we were working on the Cold Bay dock they would not help so does not think AMHS is an option, typically when the state funds the state runs the project.

Mayor Hoblet said the city of False Pass has \$100,000 available to do the project in-house, just asking for \$50,000 from AEB. Mayor Mack said not available in our present budget, but suggested trying to work it in the next fiscal year budget. Mayor Hoblet said False Pass will move forward and order material once final quote is in.

Disposal of the hovercraft:

The Administrator said we have been working with our Washington D.C. lobbyist making sure we have the ability to sell the hovercraft, which we have been told we do as long as we comply with AEB Code. He said he has been working with Kvichak Marine who built and operated the craft and knows the inventory and condition of the hovercraft. He is working on an agreement with Kvichak to help AEB sell the hovercraft for a commission, but it is not ready yet. He has had some inquiries and would like to get authorization to advertise and put the hovercraft up for sale.

MOTION

Paul moved that the AEB authorizes the administration to do appropriate advertising for the disposal of the hovercraft. Second by Ken.

DISCUSSION

Paul said by advertising it does not commit to sell, prior to selling will have to come back to the Assembly.

ROLL CALL

Marvin-yes, Ken-yes, Alvin-yes, Joe-yes, Paul-yes, Brenda-yes. Advisory: Justine-yes, Nikki-yes. **MOTION PASSED.**

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Cold Bay Dock:

Paul asked if a wave barrier was incorporated in the Cold Bay dock project. Anne Bailey said right now we have \$1.7M for the Cold Bay dock repairs. \$500,000 is from Federal Highway money, local match from AEB and city of Cold Bay, and \$1.2M from Dept. of Transportation (DOT). This is just for repairs to keep the dock operating and functional for the next 15 years to service the ferry, get fuel and tie up fishing vessels. Eventually we will need a replacement for the dock. However, a mini study on a potential wave barrier or harbor is being done to be used to discuss with the Corps of Engineers (COE) a feasibility study. Although pointed out that COE funds are competed for at a national level.

The Administrator said Congress is working towards passing a Water Bill (Water Resource Development Act), the bad news is that it is just one big bill that we have to compete with nationwide. Our delegation is trying to get a portion of that for Alaska and Hawaii so smaller sites can compete, but that hasn't happened yet. Alvin asked when the last time a Water Bill passed. The Administrator answered about 4-5 years ago.

Akun/Akutan Transportation Link:

Anne Bailey said the helicopter arrived in Akutan February 12 and in service February 16th. Logistically, there are a lot of issues to work out with fuel and reservations. Website should be up and running in two weeks. From February 17 through the end of the month, the helicopter has had 107 passengers, 11,538 lbs. of mail and 1,500 lbs. of freight. Have permit requirement

for fuel and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with city of Akutan for assistance on Akun Island to help with passenger luggage, etc...

Mayor Mack said the helicopter hours that had been forecasted in the contract might have to be adjusted. He added that this is just a band aide fix at this time because it is another subsidy that the Borough is struggling with financially. The ultimate mode of transportation will be something more permanent. The Administrator said DOT headquarters has offered to give their expertise, need to figure out best location and get some estimates as to what it would take. So, will meet with them, but could be a big project and may need to look for some federal funding.

Cold Bay Terminal:

The Administrator said the apron will be built in 2016 with a possibility of 2015, possibly tying it in with the crosswind runway work to shorten that runway in 2015. Bailey said she is working with the state on a MOA on the contribution the AEB is giving to them to go toward the project, which is the \$2M grant funding and \$225,000 AEB money.

Fisheries issues:

Sam Cotton, Fisheries Consultant, attended the last Council meeting with Weiss and Paul in Seattle. Next meeting April 7.

Board of Fisheries meets this month to address proposals on king crab, tanner crab and supplemental issues. One proposal from King Cove Advisory is to change the tanner crab opening from January 15 to January 3.

NPFMC priorities for the year is the trawl by-catch management, which is also known as Gulf rationalization or issuing quota from cod and Pollock. The new observer program has problems that need to be worked through. Another issue is halibut stock being down. Council priority is to reduce the halibut by-catch in the Bering Sea. Aleutia issue on the crab processor quota shares will be on the October agenda for final action. Weiss said April is the next meeting for Gulf of Alaska trawl by-catch program. He also attended the ADF&G pre-season cod fish meeting in Sand Point. Cotton said Council also discussing Adak inshore protection for the community.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Joe said Nelson Lagoon and False Pass in time crunch and he encourages the Borough to help Nelson Lagoon and False Pass get their needs.

Ken said March 27 is the 50th anniversary of the great Alaska earthquake and there will be a statewide drill that communities can participate in. Website is www.shake.org.

Paul said Gary Hennigh, City of King Cove Administrator, was supposed to provide information on the King Cove road and is reminding him of his commitment.

