

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback called the Aleutians East Borough Assembly meeting to order at the Anchorage office and by teleconference in each community on January 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback	Present
Chris Babcock	Present
Carol Foster	Present
Warren Wilson	Present
Josephine Shangin	Present
Paul Gronholdt	Present
Brenda Wilson	Present
Denise Mobeck	Present

Advisory Members:

Dailey Schaack, Cold Bay	Present
Samantha McNeley, Nelson Lagoon	Present
Tom Hoblet, False Pass	Present
Justin Mobeck, Student Representative	Absent-excused

A quorum was present.

Staff Present:

Roxann Newman, Finance Director  
Jacki Brandell, Assistant Finance Director  
Tina Anderson, Clerk  
Anne Bailey, Administrator  
Mary Tesche, Assistant Administrator  
Ernie Weiss, Resource Director  
Charlotte Levy, Assistant Resource Director  
Glennora Dushkin, Administrative Assistant  
Laura Tanis, Communications Director  
Emil Mobeck, Maintenance Director

Adoption of the Agenda:

MOTION

PAUL moved to adopt the Agenda with amendments, changing the title of Resolution 20-45 and removing from Consent Agenda.

Title amendment:

*Resolution 20-45, a resolution of the Aleutians East Borough Assembly authorizing an appropriation in the amount of \$20,000 from the Borough's project contingency funds for the research project entitled Tagging of Pacific Cod in the Western Gulf of Alaska.*

Second by DENISE.

Hearing no more, the agenda is adopted as amended.

**Conflict of Interests:**

Mayor Osterback asked for any potential **Conflict of Interests** to discuss. There were none.

**Community Roll Call and Public Comments on Agenda Items:**

The communities of Sand Point, King Cove, False Pass, Cold Bay, Nelson Lagoon, Akutan and the Anchorage office were participating by teleconference. Also broadcast on KSDP radio.

**Public Comments:**

Jennifer Nelson with GCI said they are going forward in seeking funding with USDA for their fiber optic cable project. Getting additional funding to support the project will move the project closer to a reality. Since an agricultural grant, fishermen, similar to farmers, can voice their support using the USDA form. GCI will set up teleconference, community visits and mailers, to gather more community support. Application is due in March.

Mayor Osterback suggested GCI use AEB's, In-the-Loop, to get out information. AEB supports the project and the benefits fiber optic will bring.

Tom asked when in March is the application due. Jennifer said first part of March but hope to have it submitted by February.

Paul said SWAMC will discuss fiber optic at its board meeting and conference. He asked if there is any information to consumers. Nelson said the product would look similar to what is offered in Kodiak. If we sell capacity to another entity, it would be up to them.

Chris asked if fiber optic service will be more than just internet. Jennifer said product can be broader than just internet. Would also update cell service to LTE.

Public Comments: None

**Minutes, December 12, 2019 Assembly Meeting Minutes:**

**MOTION**

CHRIS moved to approve the December 12, 2019 Minutes, with a correction, on page 5, deadline for community grants. Deadline is February 18, not 28<sup>th</sup>. Second by JOSEPHINE.

Hearing no objections, **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Financial Report – November:**

**MOTION**

BRENDA moved to approve the November Financial Report and second by DENISE.

Administrator said four months into the new fiscal year and everything is tracking along well.

Paul felt once fish tax is received, we will have a better idea how the revenues will look this new year.

**ROLL CALL**

YEAS: Warren, Denise, Brenda, Carol, Paul, Josephine, Chris. Advisory: Tom, Samantha, Dailey.  
NAY: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

November Investment Report: In packet.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Resolution 20-44, authorizing the mayor to negotiate and execute a notice to proceed to DOWL for Phase 2 of the Sand Point School DEED major maintenance grant application project in an amount not to exceed \$43,000.

**MOTION**

DENISE moved to approve the Consent Agenda and second by PAUL.

Mary Teshe said Phase One work has been completed, Phase Two is remaining work necessary for grant application completion. The assessment recommends major work that can be through the Dept of Educations Grant Program. DOWL submitted Scope of Work. DOWL costs not to exceed \$39,600, with additional for any contingencies. Recommend approval.

**ROLL CALL**

YEAS: Josephine, Denise, Paul, Warren, Chris, Carol, Brenda. Advisory: Dailey, Samantha, Tom.  
NAY: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 20-45, A resolution of the Aleutians East Borough Assembly authorizing an appropriation in the amount of \$20,000 from the Borough's project contingency funds for the research project entitled Tagging of Pacific Cod in the Western Gulf of Alaska.

**MOTION**

CHRIS moved to approve Resolution 20-45 with amendment of removing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) requirement and second by WARREN.

Assistant Resource Director, Charlotte Levy, reviewed Resolution 20-45 saying, Pacific cod fisheries important to AEB and communities. Cod declining, and currently managed under Gulf of Alaska stock, however, prior tagging studies show cod highly migratory. To address migration, have partnered with fishermen and scientists to develop a cod tagging study. Total cost \$192,000. Alaska Fisheries Science Center will cover 90% and AEB contribute 10%, if approved. Funds will cover vessel fuel, crew, staff time and field work. The amendment was to remove MOA to save time on federal approval. A formal proposal is available on how funds will be expended.

CHRIS asked about the B20%. Levy said it is a line for shutdown, for competing Stellar sea lion needs.

PAUL supports and hopes this moves the project along and gets Pacific cod count to where it belongs.

**ROLL CALL**

YEAS: Brenda, Carol, Warren, Paul, Josephine, Denise, Chris. Advisory: Dailey, Samantha, Tom

NAY: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution 20-46, A Resolution of the Aleutians East Borough Assembly authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a contract with LCG Lantech, Inc. to provide construction administration services for the Cold Bay Clinic Project in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

**MOTION**

CAROL moved to approve Resolution 20-46 and second by BRENDA.

Mary Tesche said Resolution 20-46 will allow construction administration of Cold Bay clinic and \$100,000 will allow extra money for any contingencies. Recommend approval.

PAUL supports the project.

**ROLL CALL**

YEAS: Paul, Brenda, Carol, Chris, Warren, Denise, Josephine. Advisory: Dailey, Samantha, Tom.

NAY: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion item – Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) Rockfish Program:

Ernie Weiss, Resource Director, said NPFMC took action on the CGOA Rockfish Program in December and final action will be next Council meeting on reauthorizing the CGOA Rockfish Program. AEB fishermen concern is, proposed removal of catcher processor rockfish program sideboard limits established for Western Gulf of Alaska rockfish fisheries.

Sideboards are intended to limit the ability of vessels in rationalized fisheries from exceeding historic levels of participation in other fisheries. Fishermen priority is sideboards on WGOA fisheries for other rationalized fisheries. Council is set to remove any sunset date on rationalized fishery. WGOA rockfish fishery occurs in July so no local historical participation by our fleet since fishing salmon, at that time. Recommend a letter from the Mayor to the Council oppose removal of any rockfish catcher processor sideboard limits for WGOA rockfish fishery and oppose removal or establish a new sunset date for CGOA. The 10-year sunset date will sunset in 2021, without reauthorization.

**MOTION**

PAUL moved that the Assembly direct the Mayor to submit a comment letter to the NPFMC requesting the Council to 1) maintain CGOA Rockfish sideboard limits for the WGOA, and 2) establish a new sunset date, as part of Final Action to reauthorize the CGOA Rockfish Program. Second by BRENDA.

**ROLL CALL**

YEAS: Chris, Paul, Josephine, Denise, Brenda, Warren, Carol. Advisory: Tom, Samantha, Dailey.

NAY: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

REPORTS AND UPDATES

**Administrator's Report in packet. Highlights below:**

Cold Bay Terminal: Ravn Air Group and Grant Aviation have entered into sublease agreements. Still need sublease approval from State of Alaska, Aviation Leasing Dept.

Maintenance Director working with contractors to complete electrical work and ticket counter installation.

Two new terminal employees -- Ricki Ruta, new janitor and Kurt Uttecht, terminal manager.

Strategic Plan: Will be presented to Assembly at the February meeting.

King Cove Road Litigation: State of Alaska filed its motion to intervene on land exchange, supporting the people of King Cove.

**Assistant Administrator Report in packet. Highlights below:**

Cold Bay Clinic: Before bid for construction is issued, Memorandum of Agreement between EAT, AEB and the City needs signatures prior to end of February, in order to meet summer construction schedule.

Reissue Surplus Bid: Reissuing the advertisement for concrete slabs in King Cove, bid deadline January 20.

APIA Opioid Summit: Mary Tesche and Laura Tanis plan to attend the January 28-31 EAT/APIA Opioid and Substance Misuse Summit in King Cove.

Tom Hoblet asked if any new development on the airport runway in False Pass. Bailey said False Pass Airport is one of our priorities. We contacted Lobbyist Hickey to do research on where we can go from here, and Laura Tanis is writing a white paper on the airport and what has been done. Have also discussed with Silver Bay and Trident Seafoods, requesting assistance for lobbying efforts when needed.

**Communications Director Report in packet. Highlights below:**

Regional Air Service White Paper: Gathering information on Ravn Air Group flight information. Also, gathering information from sport and recreational guide operators, Eastern Aleutian Tribes, seafood processors.

In-the-Loop: To be sent out soon, with information on the Planning Session held in December.

Mayor Osterback said we also held a pre-bid conference for Nelson Lagoon dock repairs.

**Natural Resources Director Report in packet. Highlights below:**

Board of Fisheries: Meeting starting January 11, in Kodiak. Denby Lloyd and Eric Volk assisting Kodiak.

Board of Fish, Seward meeting, Board passed a proposal to make the Aleutian Islands Adak exclusive P-cod fishery. The proposal gives vessels under 60 foot a head start.

Marine Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB): Submitted comments prior to MTAB meeting, which is January 15, to look at ways to save the marine highway. The re-shaping report will be available at that meeting.

Humpback Whale Critical Habitat: January 31 is deadline for comments on humpback whale critical habitat. We already submitted resolution 20-32, to consider impacts in AEB. Will request exclusive area for mariculture project.

Disaster Relief: Will submit resolutions to be considered for disaster relief assistance for the SEDM salmon fishery and the Pacific Cod Federal Fishery.

Paul suggested a letter from the Mayor regarding the concerns of everyone on the Humpback Whale Critical Habitat Area. This affects everywhere and worthy of more effort by AEB. Mayor Osterback said we will definitely do whatever we need to do.

**Natural Resources Assistant Director Report in packet. Highlights below:**

Pacific cod tagging project: Proposal link in packet. NOAA news article on Aleutian Island tagging study for cod. Field work on project starts as early as next month for about a week. Project to last one and a half years, with results as early as next year.

Trawl EM Project: As of January 3 the exemption permits has been approved and collecting signatures from vessels participating. Will provide a presentation for processors regarding observers.

Kelp Mariculture: Designing water sampling protocol. Will also combine field work of mariculture project and tagging study, to combine travel. Zachary Bay permit application process forward.

UAA has also drafted a kelp farm cost calculator and loan annualizer, link available in packet.

**Maintenance Director Report. Report not in packet:**

Cold Bay Terminal: In Cold Bay completing terminal set up to get airlines tenants in. Has been difficult to get contractors and equipment in to the community to complete.

**ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

CHRIS appreciated Eastern Aleutian Tribes (EAT) providing a newsletter, as requested.

CHRIS suggested community meetings, to include city councils, to discuss the financial concerns happening in our communities.

BRENDA voiced her concerns about the Humpback Whale Critical Habitat Area capturing our entire region and appreciated the updates.

WARREN asked if other small air taxis will have access to the terminal and tarmac or only exclusive for the two carriers with subcontract leases. The Administrator said we are currently in the process of writing a permit or agreement, which ever the state allows, for charters and others to be presented to the Assembly once draft is completed. Ravn and Grant are the only airlines purchasing access. The terminal is open to the public, however, Grant and Ravn will have some insurance requirements and regulations on where they can go.

WARREN said King Cove runway is going through another thaw period allowing only Cherokee size planes to land. He suggested AEB put King Cove runway on the list when looking for runway solutions in False Pass. The road unfortunately is not happening soon enough. The E1 material put on runway is poor quality, and holds water. Solution options are correct gravel quality or pavement. He suggested a possibility of a bundled project for both False Pass and King Cove runways.

PAUL said SWAMC is in March, and suggested a concurrent Assembly meeting at the same time, as in the past.

Mayor Osterback said we will begin setting up meetings to work with some of the airport transportation issues in the region.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

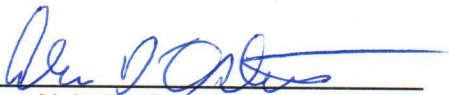
None.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Regular meeting date is February 13, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT**

DENISE moved to adjourn and second by JOSEPHINE. Hearing no more, the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.



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Mayor Alvin D. Osterback



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Tina Anderson, Clerk