

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback called the Aleutians East Borough Assembly meeting to order by teleconference on March 11, 2021 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	Absent-Excused

A quorum was present.

Staff Present:

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

Adoption of the Agenda:

MOTION

WARREN moved to approve the agenda and second by JOSEPHINE

Hearing no changes or additions, the agenda will stand as written.

Community Roll Call and Public Comments on Agenda Items:

All Assembly and staff were participating by teleconference from their individual locations, for the purpose of following the mandates of social distancing and protecting the public health. Also broadcast on KSDP radio.

The Communications Director, Laura Tanis, will read any Public Comments on agenda items submitted by e-mail.

There were no public comments on agenda items.

Conflict of Interests:

Mayor Osterback asked for any potential **Conflict of Interests** to discuss. There were no conflicts on agenda items.

Minutes, February 11, 2021:

MOTION

CHRIS moved to approve the February 11, 2021 Assembly Meeting Minutes and second by JOSEPHINE.

Hearing no more **MOTION CARRIED.**

January 2021 Financial Report:

MOTION

WARREN moved to approve the January Financial Report and second by CAROL.

Administrator Anne Bailey said January financials tracking along well, at 58%. Some salary line items and legal fees are lower due to CARES Act funds being used for hours spent on Covid-19 issues. Fish Tax at \$221,842, monthly 5-year average is 111.8%. Year-to-date 5-year average is lower, at 69.8%.

ROLL CALL

Yeas: Chris, Carol, Denise, Josephine, Paul, Warren (no Brenda). Advisory: Samantha (no Dailey).
Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED

January Investment Report:

Administrator Bailey said Permanent Fund portfolio value presently is \$45.4M than what was reported in January Investment Report, which was \$43.9M.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Resolution 21-36, in Support of the Reappointment of John Jensen to the NPFMC.
- Resolution 21-37, in Support of the Reappointment of Andy Mezirow to the NPFMC.
- Resolution 21-41, participation in the FY22 Community Assistance Program.
- Emergency Ordinance 21-10, Declaration of Disaster and Authorization of Telephonic Quorum.

MOTION

WARREN moved to approve the Consent Agenda and second by DENISE

Resolution 21-36 and Resolution 21-37 are in support of reappointment of John Jensen and Andy Mezirow. Natural Resources Director Weiss said Jensen has served his first term, Mezirow is finishing his second term. The governor has recommended them both for reappointment and will be appointed by Secretary of Commerce. Both have been supporters of AEB as NPFMC board members.

Resolution 21-41 approves the unincorporated community of Nelson Lagoon Village for participation in the FY22 Community Assistance Program.

Emergency Ordinance 21-10 reference to the State Disaster Declaration has been removed and inserted in its place state health protections. In effect until May 29, 2021.

WARREN asked, if in 3 weeks the state opens completely, whether these protocols remain in place. Administrator Bailey said this declaration is declaring a local emergency disaster. It allows the Mayor to request state and federal assistance and allows telephonic Assembly meetings. The ordinance does not say people have to do things a certain way, but encourages people to do protective things.

ROLL CALL.

Yeas: Denise, Chris, Carol, Josephine, Paul, Warren (no Brenda). Advisory: Samantha (no Dailey).
Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCES

Public Hearing Ordinance 21-09, authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute a sublease within Cold Bay Terminal for air transportations services:

MOTION

CHRIS moved to approve Ordinance 21-09 and second by WARREN.

Administrator Bailey reviewed saying this authorizes the mayor to negotiate and execute a sublease within Cold Bay Terminal for air transportation services. Equipment was originally in old terminal and now ARINC'S is interested in storing in terminal. The February meeting allows the mayor to dispose of property by sublease. If approved then can begin negotiations for sublease.

Mayor Osterback opened for Public Hearing. Hearing none, Public Hearing closed.

ROLL CALL.

Yeas: Warren, Carol, Josephine, Paul, Denise, Chris (no Brenda). Advisory: Dailey, Samantha.
Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED

BRENDA AND DAILEY JOINED AT 3:17 P.M.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 21-38, authorizing the mayor to purchase a tractor to maintain the King Cove Access Road in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.

MOTION

WARREN moved to approve Resolution 21-38 and second by BRENDA.

Administrator Bailey said Resolution 21-38 authorizes the mayor to purchase a tractor (excavator) to maintain the King Cove Access Road. Per the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) the City of King Cove agrees to perform regular maintenance services. City Maintenance Dept. has noted the need to purchase an alder-clearing excavator to clear alders. The AEB has received a quote in the amount \$71,900, plus shipping. If approved, it would amend the FY2021 MOA. Any major repairs or mechanical that exceeds \$1,000 at no fault by the City, will be discussed with the AEB to address situation.

The City of King Cove maintenance will insure the tractor is maintained. If needed, the equipment could be used by other communities. If approved, the funds are available in the hovercraft budget. Joe Calver with King Cove Public Works said the excavator would move well on the side of the road.

WARREN said he researched during the break. The equipment is 9,000 lbs. and one step up is 12,000 lbs. The drawback with bigger mower is no hydraulics, so the recommended one will handle better and feels this unit will work. He said the alders are 1 inch thick along the road and the equipment can handle that. He supports the purchase.

PAUL said he also supports, however, a mulcher can also be mounted on the end of an excavator.

ROLL CALL

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

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 21-39, authorizing the mayor to purchase a transfueler for the helicopter operation in Akutan in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

MOTION

WARREN moved to approve Resolution 21-39 and second by BRENDA.

Administrator Bailey said Resolution 21-39 is to purchase a TransFueller for the helicopter operation in Akutan. Maritime and USDOT pays 50% and AEB pays for the remaining 50%. Existing fuel truck is not working. AEB would like to replace with a TransFueller that consists of a tank, trailer, aviation

pump package, and 2kw generator. AEB will pay out of helicopter budget to be adjusted at year end.

WARREN asked whether TransFueller will be kept in Akun or Akutan. Bailey answered Akutan.

ROLL CALL

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

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 21-40, authorizing the mayor to negotiate and execute a two-year helicopter services agreement with Maritime Helicopters, Inc. to provide helicopter services between airport on Akun and the community of Akutan, not to exceed \$920,000 per year:

MOTION

CAROL moved to approve Resolution 21-40 and second by BRENDA.

The Administrator said in 2010 AEB agreed to provide transportation between Akun and Akutan for 20 years. AEB entered into a Helicopter Services Agreement with Maritime Helicopters November 22, 2013 that had been extended to January 31, 2019. AEB was subsidizing for approximately \$1.5M, which was unsustainable.

In 2019 the USDOT agreed to pay for 50% entering into an agreement to provide Essential Air Service (EAS) February 1, 2019 through March 31, 2021.

In 2020 USDOT advertised for EAS and will now enter into an agreement with Maritime April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023. In turn, the AEB agrees to pay for 50%.

AEB anticipates paying \$905,429 for year one and \$914,240 for year two. AEB provides fuel for the operation, hangar fee, and skiff charter service and invoices Maritime for those services. Overall estimated subsidy for year one, \$531,000; and year two \$540,000. Both years can fluctuate with fuel costs and unanticipated costs. Recommend approval.

WARREN asked about the ticket sales revenue. Bailey said AEB no longer collects for ticket sales, Maritime does.

ROLL CALL

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

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS *None*

NEW BUSINESS

Quarter 4 Strategic Plan Update:

Administrator Bailey said Quarter 4 is the Strategic Plan through February 28, 2021. In packet is the Navigational Chart. Due to Covid-19 a lot of projects got shifted to next strategic plan schedule March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022. Many projects also got completed or partially completed throughout the year.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Administrator's Report in packet. Highlights below:

CARES Act Funding:

AEB received \$3.72M in CARES Act funds from the State of Alaska. AEB expended \$2.7M, with a balance of \$1.01M. \$856,225 is available for re-appropriation. Looking at different options to expend those funds and will bring options before the Assembly at a later date.

Food Distribution Program to communities expended \$900,347.

Assembly Telework Reimbursement Program was initiated to cover Assembly Members internet costs for SWAMC 2021 meeting remote attendance.

The economic stimulus bill, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, was passed and signed by the President with less restrictions than the CARES Act.

Unofficial estimates:

AEB	\$650,000
Akutan	\$220,000
Cold Bay	\$30,000
False Pass	\$10,000
King Cove	\$210,000
Sand Point	\$220,000

Lobbyist Mark Hickey said State Disaster Declaration has not been extended so health advisories in place only.

Cold Bay Terminal:

Snow Removal: Executed a contract with Aleutian Services for snow removal at the terminal building.

Terminal Expansion: DOWL is under contract and is working on the terminal expansion project.

King Cove Road Update:

9th Circuit Appeal has been completed. The King Cove Access group filed their reply briefs. Oral argument in August. We will have more information as we get closer.

The confirmation of Congresswoman Deb Halaand as Secretary of Interior is proceeding. Senator Murkowski voted favorable, however, other GOP are not supporting.

Nelson Lagoon Dock Repairs Project:

Met with Moffatt & Nichol. Tentative schedule is May through June. Nelson Lagoon village understand the dock will be closed at that time.

Other Items:

Travelled to Cold Bay in February to look at terminal and new clinic location.

Purchased a new generator for the Akutan hangar.

In the process of finalizing the short-term lease agreement for military use of the Cold Bay school during a military exercise.

Looking at re-initiating the Sand Point and Akutan harbor floats grant proposal. Grant writers did give us great input to improve our chances.

DAILEY asked if there are any updates on the Cold Bay feasibility dock study. Bailey said it is on the strategic plan to work on this year.

Assistant Administrator Report in packet. Highlights below

Cold Bay Clinic Update:

Met with Eastern Aleutian Tribes and City. Discussions on the current clinic site and alleviating some of the fill requirements. More research necessary before final conclusion and will share with the Assembly when we know more. Also, identifying other site and considering a feasibility study at an alternative site. Also looking for any other funding sources.

WARREN asked who owns the old dilapidated fire hall near old clinic. Bailey said Dept. of Transportation is planning to remove the old fire hall this summer and building a new facility.

Communications Director Report in packet. Highlights below:

King Cove Land Exchange:

Many news articles have been published regarding the King Cove land exchange pending litigation.

Website Updates:

Will go out to bid soon for a website designer.

E-New:

In-the-Loop and Fish News continue to go out as scheduled.

Natural Resources Director Report in packet. Highlights below:

Board of Fisheries:

Board met March 8. They rescinded their previous decision to double up on meetings and have moved

meetings forward. New schedule for Area M Proposals is April 2022; P-cod meeting, October, 2022; salmon meeting February, 2023.

Will work to help ADF&G Advisory committees as we move forward to the board process.

State Water P-Cod:

South Peninsula opened March 9 after weather delays. 30 vessels registered, 28 vessels are fishing.

NPFMC:

There will be a new Advisory Panel Member as Jamie O'Conner went to Washington D.C. to work for Senator Murkowski.

U.S. Coast Guard Mask Mandate Onboard Fishing Vessels:

The Coast Guard has stated that they believe the mandate that looks like it is for passenger vessels only also includes fishing vessels. Senator Sullivan's office does not agree and is working on it.

GOA Cod Disaster Funds:

No new information.

Assistant Natural Resources Director Report in packet. Highlights below:

AFSC Cod Tagging Project:

In Sand Point with the AFSC scientists to conduct the tagging study. Doing a mandatory 14-day quarantine. All tested negative for Covid-19 this morning. Have been utilizing the closed Teen Center to do preparation work while in quarantine.

RFP went out to contract a charter vessel and received one proposal awarded to F/V Decision. Will get on the vessel March 19th and tagging will take no longer than 10 days.

Electronic Monitoring – WGOA2/EFP:

Implemented mid-season adjustments with protocols to improve communications with onshore observers.

Mariculture:

While in Sand Point will be exploring kelp species to see if there are any viable kelp spores yet.

State of Alaska, Dept. of Natural Resources has posted its Public Notice for Trident Seafoods Kelp Mariculture Project. It's a good first step for Trident to do some research, development and processing of seaweed.

Salmon projections:

ADF&G just posted the 2021 projections. Total run forecast down again this year.

Maintenance Director Report in packet. Highlights below:

Ongoing Maintenance Projects:

King Cove School upgrade work with DOWL is scheduled.

In Sand Point, conducted boiler repairs at Sand Pt School and 4-plex teacher housing and scheduling annual maintenance.

Working on schedule for a contractor to do boiler tune ups to get boilers functioning properly at all sites and hope to do annually. Will continue safe Covid protocol throughout.

AEB office building-King Cove is scheduled to be painted.

Pump replacement scheduled for False Pass School this spring.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

CAROL asked when offices will re-open to public access. Mayor Osterback said we will begin conversations on this and include the AEBSD in the conversation since they share the Sand Point office building.

CHRIS said he was happy to be able to attend SWAMC. The Board and SWAMC did an excellent job. Great broadband opportunities coming our way and a lot of mariculture expansion happening. He noted that Paul Gronholdt got re-appointed to the SWAMC board.

PAUL said Kodiak and Unalaska have been using Zoom to provide public involvement in meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Laura Tanis read Jennifer LeMay's public comments. Ms. LeMay said the AEB Mitigation Plan draft will be out for review in the next week or two. The plan will be available for review and link will be on AEB website. She will attend the April Assembly meeting for public comments.

NEXT MEETING DATE

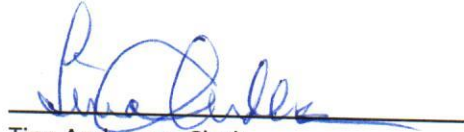
April 8, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

WARREN moved to adjourn and second by JOSEPHINE. Hearing no more, the meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.



Mayor Alvin D. Osterback



Tina Anderson, Clerk

Date: 4/8/21