

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback called the Aleutians East Borough Special Assembly Meeting to order by teleconference in each community on February 8, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Alvin D. Osterback	Present
Brenda Wilson	Present
Jim Smith	Present
Chris Babcock	Present
Dailey Schaack	Present
Josephine Shangin	Present
Paul Gronholdt	Present
Warren Wilson	Absent

Advisory Members:

Samantha McNeley, Nelson Lagoon	Present
Tom Hoblet, False Pass	Present

Quorum was present.

Staff Present:

Anne Bailey, Administrator
Talia Jean-Louis, Assistant Administrator
Glennora Dushkin, Administrative Assistant
Ernie Weiss, Natural Resources Director
Charlotte Levy, Fishery Analyst
Beverly Ann Rosete, Borough Clerk
Jacki Brandell, Finance Director
Seward Brandell, Accounting Clerk
Others: Bikky Shrestha, BDO
George Barker, BDO

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Josy moved to Adopt the Agenda, seconded by Chris

Hearing no objections, the Agenda will stand as Written.

COMMUNITY ROLL CALL AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PRESENTATIONS

- *FY23 Audit Presentation, BDO by Bikky Shrestha and George Barker*

Bikky thanked the Borough staff for providing all the needed information to complete the audit in a timely manner. Said this is the earliest a financial statement has been printed. There are a lot of improvements and has no more findings compared to last year. The copy of the financial that was included in the packet was still a draft and we have some dates that we need to update and resend but the actual matters that was presented in the doesn't change.

George said they have completed the audit and have released their report as of February 7, 2024. The purpose of the audit is to obtain a reasonable, not absolute assurance at whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements and the scope of their work did not change as described on the earlier audit planning. And at this point we have issued an unmodified opinion on the financial statements and statement for the Single Audit. All records and information requested were freely available and the management's cooperation was excellent.

Within the statements, there is a summary of the Borough's accounting policies and procedures. There were no substantial changes to that this year, although the Borough did adopt GASB #96, which has to do with subscription-based IT arrangements. However, after performing the review, the Borough concluded that there are no agreements that are on scope. There are no significant changes on accounting policies and practices during FY23. The summary of significant estimates, one that is new this year is the discount rate related to leases, the other two aren't new. The net pension/OPEB liabilities and Allowance for uncollectible accounts.

Results of the audit can be found on page 8 of this document, included is a schedule of adjusting journal entries during the audit. There was one minor adjustment to Terminal Fixed assets post a couple of Yamaha motors that were there and then the usual annual entry to post Gasb 68 and 75 that has something to do with Pension and Opeb. There is one other adjustment recognizing PERS. Page 10 shows the internal control over financial reporting, it outlines the definitions of the different findings we would recognize. One thing to point out is that there is no material weaknesses, that is an improvement from prior years. There are 2 significant deficiencies this year, however we expect this to be remediated.

George Barker did a comprehensive review of the Borough's financial statements. The Borough's governmental activities amount s to \$155M. Business type activities total assets is \$7M. On Schedule B-1, governmental balance, there is a balance of \$91M mostly is held between the general fund and permanent fund in cash and investments. One thing to point out is there are restricted bond proceeds under the bond construction capital project ins about \$3M. The total liabilities for governmental activities were \$10M, of this \$3.7M is payable to US ACOE. On the Bond construction project, there is \$3.6M being recognized as restricted fund balance and that relates to those funds proceeds that are intended to specific capital projects that are ongoing.

Total Revenues for governmental activities is \$15M from Raw Fish Tax, State of Alaska, Investment Income, and funds from Federal government. Expenditure is about \$10.7M and Ending fund balance is about \$79.9M. Schedule C-1 shows the statement of Net Positions for Enterprise Funds which has \$7.2M, most of this is in Terminal Funds in relates to fixed assets. The total operating expense in helicopter is about \$1M , mostly for professional services. Transfer in is about \$764K to offset the loss

of the funds. The ending net position of Enterprise Funds is \$6.1M. Page 78 shows the schedule of financial assistance.

The results of the audit can be found on page 90 of financial statements in particular to details related to *State Law audits. The findings that were identified this year as well as management's corrective action plan* in response to prior findings.

George Barker thanked the management and those who were involved in the audit.

PAUL asked if the new software would complicate the audit or make it easier. George Barker responded; it does add a little bit of work to the audit because we have to do some procedures to review the conversion from one system to the other. At this point, they are still determining when they want to put that in place. Paul asked about the sale of the Hovercraft, George responded that, that was an issue a few audits ago.

Mayor Osterback thank the presenters.

MINUTES

January 11, 2024 Special Assembly Meeting Minutes

MOTION

Brenda moved to accept the January 11, 2024 Assembly Meeting Minutes, seconded by Chris.

The Clerk pointed out there was a minor clerical error regarding Charlotte Levy's title, it will be corrected before printing out the minutes.

Hearing no correction, Minutes will stand as with correction.

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2023 Financials

MOTION

Brenda made a motion to approve the December 2023 Financials Report and second by Josy.

Administrator Bailey this is 6 months into the fiscal year. Few things to highlight is the Interest Revenue, because of how we start to invest our monies we have made \$771K in interest revenue. Raw Fish Tax, we received about \$26K in December which is really low. Hopefully that will increase in the couple of months. Everything else is tracking along well.

PAUL asked since King Cove Peter Pan is now shutdown, is that going to affect the Shared Fish Tax? Administrator Bailey responded, that the Shared Fish Tax Revenue is based on prior years revenue, it will not affect this year's revenue but next year she believes it will.

ROLL CALL

Yeas: Brenda, Chris, Dailey, Jim, Josy, Paul Advisory: Samantha, Tom

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED

INVESTMENT REPORT

APCM December 2023 Investment Report

CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Ordinance 24-02, Amending Title 2, Chapter 2.04 Section 2.04.050 of the Aleutians East Borough Code of Ordinances

MOTION

Josy made a motion to approved Ordinance 24-02, second by Dailey

Borough Clerk said the legislative power of the Aleutians East Borough is vested in the Borough Assembly under Alaska State Statue 29.20.050. The Borough has adopted a Borough Municipal Code of Ordinances which includes filling a seat vacancy for an Assembly Member. The Borough desires to amend the Code to establish a process for filling a vacant Assembly seat. The Borough Code Section 1.04 provides that the Code may be amended by an act of the Assembly. The administration worked with Levesque Law Group to update the Code and suggest adding the subsection that is included in the packet.

PAUL asked if the Borough Attorney helped draft the ordinance. Mayor Osterback responded yes. The Clerk researched what other municipalities do and drafted an ordinance from there with the help of the Borough Attorney.

JOSY asked if it a seat is vacant, we would see who was running for the seat at that time and the assembly will vote for on those factors or would it be anyone that the assembly chooses, Mayor Osterback responded that as far as he knows, we do not have any assigned seats, it is basically at large.

ROLL CALL

Yeas: Chris, Dailey, Jim, Josy, Paul, Brenda Advisory: Tom, Samantha

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCES

- Ordinance 24-03, Amending Title 6, Chapter 6.08, Section 6.08.030 of the Aleutians East Borough Code of Ordinances

MOTION

Brenda made a motion to approved Ordinance 24-03, second by Dailey

Administrator Bailey said this will amend the Borough's authorized investments. This initially took place because we wrote a cash management plan while APCM was reviewing it, they noticed that these items needed to be updated. APCM recommended to change section 6.08.030 A(5) to add "or the National Credit Union Administration". This addition makes the statement more complete. The authorized investments are allowed for CDs from credit unions, but the NCUA is actually the one who insures those deposits – not the FDIC or FSLIC as already included in the statement. Another amendment is section 6.08.030 to take out Prime

Commercial and just say Commercial and A1 be replaced by P1. APCM recommended the word "Prime" be removed in order to clarify that buying Commercial Paper on the secondary market is allowed. The Primary Commercial Paper market generally requires a minimum investment of \$20 million per piece of Commercial Paper. We do not participate in that market regularly and primarily trade in the secondary market.

a. There is a definition of "Prime Commercial Paper" out there which simply means 'investment grade Commercial Paper' and includes Commercial Paper rated as low as A3/P3. The client specification of A1/P1 minimum guarantees that we will always meet this definition of "Prime Commercial Paper".

2. For Authorized Investments #7, the grades for Moody's and S&P are flipped and incorrectly shown as A1 for Moody's and P1 for S&P. The correct designation should be A1 for S&P and P1 for Moody's

Paul asked if this ordinance originates from the financial advisor. Administrator Bailey responded, yes the recommendation is from APCM.

ROLL CALL

Yeas: Dailey, Jim, Josy, Paul, Brenda, Chris Advisory: Samantha, Tom

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution 24-26, Selecting and Promoting FY 2025 Capital Projects for the Health, Safety, and Welfare of Its Residents

MOTION

Brenda made a motion to approved Resolution 24-26, second by Chris

Administrator Bailey said Borough staff have reviewed the Borough projects and have had conversations with Mayor Osterback and Mark Hickey in regard to the projects listed below. Borough staff recommends that the Sand Point School Rehabilitation Project be listed as the Borough Legislative Priority for FY2025 Capital Project Funding. Staff also recommend the King Cove Access Project, the and the False Pass Airport Project be listed as a Borough Legislative Priorities for FY2025 with no specific funding requests at this time. *In the packet, includes explanation on each project, what we would do if this got approve, is we would submit the 2025 CAPSIS request to the Legislature which is due on February 16 requesting additional funds for the Sand Point School project. The other two projects, we will continue to lobby for, but we are not requesting the money at this time.*

PAUL commented that in the Strategic Planning we did, there were 9 projects. This resolution seems like conflicted in some way. How do we resolve that apparent conflict. Administrator Bailey responded, that she is assuming Assembly Paul was referencing to King Cove Access Project, which got some read dots, however, we are currently working with DOI and others on MOU's that are in motion that we can't stop so we need to continue for this project. What we are referring to at those meeting is the financial aspect. What we are currently doing with this project is not costing us much money and we have funds available. You are right, it conflicts a little but however we are still in the process of writing MOU's and doing stuff with the Federal government and the State's support.

JIM asked if the Sand Point School project will be on hold until full funding? Administrator Bailey responded that we have already began the project, we are currently almost finished with the 35% design. We are waiting

on the State to allow us to make an amendment to the budget, so we can do the 65% design. So, we are already moving forward and absolutely necessary to fund the whole project but we really want the State to assist with it.

ROLL CALL

Yeas: Jim, Josy, Paul, Brenda, Chris, Dailey Advisory: Tom, Samantha
Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED

- Resolution 24-27, Urging the State of Alaska to Provide Additional Matching Funds for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation Study in the Amount of \$288,523

MOTION

Brenda made a motion to approved Resolution 24-27, second by Chris

Administrator Bailey said that the City of Homer asked Mayor Osterback for support of this project. Currently, Homer has a regional port that serves the need of commercial vessel operating across Alaska. They are in need to expand their current harbor for the safety and efficiency of the fleet. City of Homer has identified a new large vessel port expansion among its highest rank of priority in it's Capital Improvement Project since 2004. The Homer harbor general investigation is successfully initiated in 2023 and during the investigation, it was determined that additional work is needed to be conducted during the general investigation study with an additional cost of \$1.154M. Since fishermen from the Aleutians East Borough frequently use the Homer Harbor, the Borough think it will benefit them.

Mayor Osterback added that he had talked to the Port Manager at Homer and they really do need to expand their harbor. A lot of our boats have been and continue to go there for different types of services that they have. It will be good on Borough's behalf to support their expansion project and it doesn't impact any monies for harbor project.

PAUL thinks it is inappropriate to be in the AEB's agenda. Said we have our own projects and we don't ask other communities for support and they can take care of themselves.

BRENDA commented she is in support of this, and the ferry comes from there, a lot of out boats go there ad get their work done there. This is just supporting their project, thinks as a Borough that utilizes their facilities, *we should as a Borough technically support it.*

TOM commented that he supports this project. He used that harbor quite a lot and they have a lot of services that we do not have here in the Borough.

JOSY commented that if it's not going to affect us, we should be supportive of this project.

ROLL CALL

Yeas: Josy, Brenda, Chris, Dailey, Jim Advisory: Samantha, Tom
Nay: Paul

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- North Pacific Management Council Candidate Discussion

Natural Resources Director said There are two Alaskan seats on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council whose terms are up and available for nomination. The seats are currently held by Andy Mezirow, who has served 3 terms and is not eligible for reappointment, and John Jensen, who has served 2 terms and is eligible for reappointment. The Assembly adopted Resolution 24-13 in November 2023 supporting Mr. Jensen's reappointment, which was forwarded to the Governor's office. In January 2024 the Borough received requests for letters of support from 3 other potential nominees: Lena Hoblet, Brian Ritchie and Mike Heimbuch. Mayor Osterback submitted a letter of support for Ms. Hoblet's nomination to the Governor February 1st. We have included documents from all four of the candidates requesting our support following this memo. The Alaska Governor needs to submit his nominations to the US Secretary of Commerce by March 15th and must nominate at least 3 individuals for each seat. Governors are requested to identify each nominee as either commercial, recreational, or 'other' sector. The Secretary will announce appointments by the end of June for Council terms that begin August 11th.

PAUL asked if Ernie has seen any correspondence from Kenai River Sports Fishermen Association to the governor's office? Natural Resources Director Weiss responded no, he has not seen anything about any other nominees. Paul commented that as far as he knows, when nominations are moved forward, the Commissioners weigh in a lot, do you or the mayor have a meeting scheduled with the Commissioner? Weiss said he doesn't have any information. Mayor Osterback asked the Assembly if they wanted to endorse anyone else. Paul asked if Ernie or Charlotte would be at the council meeting in Seattle. Weiss said, Charlotte plans to attend. Fishery Analyst Levy responded; she believes the Commissioner is still in Juneau.

- PeterPan Sand Point Discussion

Assembly Paul said one of the gear storage houses in Peter Pan Sand Point caught on fire and apparently Denali Commission can help in emergencies like this if fishermen are in jeopardy of losing their season because they do not have gear. But it will probably take a governmental agency like the Borough or the City of Sand Point or even SWAMC to work with Denali Commission. Maybe they could do it or not, I am just providing information. Not really sure how much gear were damaged or if they have insurance on the gears.

Mayor Osterback asked Anne if someone can check what Denali Commission can do. Fishery Analyst Levy commented that there is a Village Infrastructure program and Lisa Mack is the primary contact, so she might be a good idea. Paul commented that Erick Obrien is a good person to contact.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Administrator's Report in packet. Highlights below:

King Cove Access Project - The King Cove Group continues to work with the Department of Interior's (DOI) staff to make progress on the SEIS. The DOI staff and the King Cove Group have established a bi-weekly call to discuss the SEIS. A few items to highlight is DOI has agreed to invite the two tribes, the City of King Cove and the Aleutians East Borough to serve as Cooperating Agencies. MOU was already submitted to FWS to review. While under federal regulations, the King Cove Corporation (KCC) cannot be a Cooperating Agency since it is a for profit corporation. The DOI has agreed that KCC can serve as an agent/designated representative for the two tribes. The USFWS continues to state that the SEIS will be finished by the end of 2024.

Akun Dock & Breakwater - On January 16, 2024, the Army Corps of Engineers held an Agency Decision Milestone Meeting. The Corps is pleased to announce that the Akutan Navigational Improvement Study received its endorsement during the meeting. This endorsement allows the Corps to proceed forward with their recommended plan and to complete the feasibility-level design, as well as the feasibility study report package. The next Major Milestone will be at the District's submittal of the Feasibility Study Report Package on April 4, 2024, in the meantime there are still some items to be completed. On January 30, 2024, the Corps requested an additional \$62,002.20 to complete the Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment along with the remaining technical, policy, and legal compliance reviews, that was already approved. Without the funds the existing project would most likely encounter a work stoppage, preventing the Corps from submitting the Final Report on schedule. Administration funded this request.

Sand Point Pool - Borough Administration has signed an agreement with Renosys in the amount of \$19,859.20 to conduct gutter and liner repairs. Renosys has worked with DOWL and the pool manager on gathering additional details prior to traveling to Sand Point to conduct the work. Renosys is scheduled to arrive in Sand Point during the week of February 12, 2024. They will work directly with the pool manager while onsite. A work order has been issued to Living Waters to complete the plumbing repairs and conduct additional work at the pool. A proposal should be submitted soon.

Sand Point School DEED Grant -The DEED project is underway. DOWL/ECI is in the process of completing the 35% design. There have been discussions with the Borough/School District regarding the types of flooring, restroom alterations, code compliance, lockers, windows, office layouts, doors, and other items. ECI plans on having the 35% design completed at the end of February 2024. The tentative schedule for the remaining work is as follows: May 2024 – 65% Design completed; July 2024 – 95% Design completed and August 2025 - Construction completed. This is a Construction Manager – General Contractor project; therefore, DOWL will develop a solicitation seeking to engage a construction contractor to review the 65% design and offer input for constructability, pricing and material availability. In November 2023, Administration submitted a budget amendment request to DEED. The request was to move \$339,236 from the construction line item to the design line item, so DOWL could continue with the 65% and 95% design. After much persistence and patience, the State has responded and is in the process of drafting a budget amendment.

Other Items - On January 12, 2024, Mayor Osterback, Talla and I met with personnel at the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies. The main goal of the discussion was to see if the military would be interested in utilizing any of the Borough communities for Arctic military needs. Particularly, was interested in seeing if they had interest in Cold Bay since the Dock design is forthcoming and they have the airport. We did not receive a definitive answer; however, it was a great to initiate the conversation.

Trident Update - Since Trident's December announcement of intentions to sell our False Pass, Kodiak, Petersburg, and Ketchikan facilities, we've received interest from potential buyers for each. A broker is working with potential buyers with NDAs in place and they are working through due diligence. I do not have anything to share at this stage, but as initially announced, Trident is moving as quickly as possible through this process to support continuity for affected communities, harvesters, and employees. We understand of particular interest to Aleutians East Borough and budget planning is the status of Trident's operation in False Pass. We do not envision any scenario where fish typically delivered to False Pass would leave the Borough. To protect confidentiality agreements, we cannot further comment on potential outcomes. Given the speed we aim to move through this process, I expect to have a more substantive update for all stakeholders well in advance of the salmon season. Regarding Akutan, Trident last announced that deteriorating market conditions and inflationary pressures are delaying our Captains Bay project to start a 3-year construction period no earlier than 2025. We do not have any further updates and will soon be focusing on how we can best inform related Akutan and Borough planning needs and processes. This update was from Stephanie Moreland from Trident.

Paul asked if the Assembly members can have a copy of the Trident update.

Assistant Administrator's Report in packet. Highlights below:

Healthy & Equitable Communities (HEC) Grant: - I was informed that the morgue was not in the Port of Chinook but at the Trident dock on Chignik Lagoon. I have been working along with Paul Mueller to direct them with how to deliver the morgue to the correct location. Paul Mueller the CEO of Eastern Aleutian Tribes is tentatively scheduling to have the False Pass Morgue set up the week of February 4, 2024. But due to unforeseen circumstances this schedule has to be pushed back.

Akutan Visit - On January 22-25, 2024, Anne and I traveled to Akutan where we visited the City, school, clinic, float and hangar as well as Trident. On January 24, 2025, Anne and I met with Zachery Conner the electrician with Trident to discuss the electrical repair needed to restore the heat at the Akutan Hangar.

Maintenance Connection: While in Akutan, I met with the principal of Akutan for training on Maintenance Connection. We were able to successfully enter seventeen (17) work orders ranging from broken windows, replacing showerheads in the restrooms, and need for new hardware i.e. doors and windows. On January 31, 2024, DOWL submitted a request for proposals through the Borough's construction term contract to solicit repairs and maintenance for the Akutan school. This proposal will address the exterior back stairway and landing, windows, securing exterior crawl space hatch, and general walk through of the school interior and exterior to identify recommended repairs.

ICE Services - On February 1, 2024 I met with Ice Services for AEB's quarterly meeting. As of date, the 2023 server upgrades in Anchorage, Sand Point, and King Cove have successfully been completed with ICE Services now able to decommission the old server in Sand Point with Laserfiche now installed. In the packet is a list of items ICE Services is recommending and they are sending quotes. The list of meetings attended is in the packet as well.

Paul asked about the approximate amount of money for the quotes, Assistant Administrator Jean-Louis responded she has not received it yet.

Natural Resources Director Report in packet. Highlights below -

North Pacific Fishery Management Council - The NPFMC meets in February 8-12, while the SSC meets February 5-7 and the AP meets February 6-9, all at the Renaissance Hotel in Seattle and virtually via Zoom. Included in the report is a list of items we are interested in. Comments has also been submitted. There is no final action that was made with great importance for us.

International Pacific Halibut Commission - The IPHC met in Anchorage January 22-26 for the 100th Annual meeting to set policy and specifications for the 2024 Pacific halibut fishery. There is a chart included in the packet that shows the Total Constant Exploitation Yield (TCEY) in pounds adopted for each harvest area for 2024, the TCEY from the previous 5 years and the 2024 reduction for each area compared to 2023.

Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game - Board of Fish proposals for the next meeting cycle, including for the Statewide Shellfish meeting in Anchorage, March 2025, are due April 10, 2024. Board of Game proposals for Southwest Alaska, including game management units 9 & 10 within the Aleutians East Borough, will be due May 1, 2024. The Board of Fish meets in Anchorage February 23rd – March 6th for Upper Cook Inlet finfish proposals. A Joint Boards of Fish & Game meeting is scheduled for March 25-28, 2024 in Anchorage to consider proposals on Advisory Committees and Boards process for developing regulations.

Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee - The AIWSC will start up again on March 1st after several years of inactivity. The potential expansion of North Pacific Right whale critical habitat throughout the AEB is my top concern on the AIWSC.

Alaska Salmon Research Task Force - The Task Force met virtually January 25th and will meet again February 13th in person in Anchorage (ADFG Raspberry Road) and virtually. The draft report of the Task Force will be released for public comment April 1 and the final meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for June 27. The chart of fish tax revenue was included in the report but the December revenue was not included.

Fishery Analyst Report in packet. Highlights below:

Electronic Monitoring - WGOA4/EFP - Fleet is standing down until the 15th; we will ensure observers are in place for when deliveries start again. I am in the process of finalizing the final financial and programmatic reports, and final reimbursement for the NFWF Grant # (WGOA4). EM4Fish has requested I do another article. After discussion, I will likely write a smaller article on the results of the "switch-gear" subproject of the NFWF grant. Then, after Trawl EM implementation in 2025 I will help facilitate a large-scale lessons learned article that will include all PI's, fishermen from different fleets, and NMFS AKRO staff who were involved in development and reg writing. TrawlEM Proposed rule was published on Monday, so the comment period is open for that.

Salmon - Several fishermen have provided feedback on modifications to the adaptive management plan for 2024, and I am working with Chordata to integrate those changes to the portal. We are tracking two legislative bills, SB 128, which closes the commercial salmon fishery in Area M from June 10, 2023, through June 30, 2023. Committee Substitute for SB 128 modifies closure areas. These bills were introduced last session. And HB294/SB209 by the Governor and introduced Jan. 26, one has referred to the Fisheries, Allows Board of Fisheries to use electronic monitoring as an alternative or in addition to onboard observers in state fisheries.

AFSC Cod Tagging Project - We received notice that our 2024 NCRP funding request has been awarded for the full amount of \$189,873 which will cover the cost of AFSC scientists salary and travel, as well as a full sea day on the BS survey, and a tag release in Savoonga. We are in full swing preparing for the upcoming winter charter tentatively scheduled from March 11-31st. We will operate the charter as two legs, and I will be participating from March 11-21, as I have annual leave schedule beginning March 24. We will be operating it as two legs, Western Gulf to Kodiak and then Kodiak to Prince William Sound. We also have a small pilot project in collaboration with the Freezer Longline Coalition, who will release a small set of tags from a longline vessel during A season. I am holding a tagging training session with Jim Armstrong from FLC on February 2nd.

NPFMC - The AEB hosted a trawl fleet meeting January 8th to give fishermen an opportunity to voice concerns about the recent Trident news, and collectively discuss ideas and potential solutions for protections in 610 and options to help stabilize the pollock fishery short-term and long-term. The fishermen were highly engaged and provided several ideas and perspectives, and we will continue to track this issue and provide support as needed.

AFA Pollock Single Geographic Location Requirement - Mayor Osterback, Ernie and I met with Joe Sullivan to receive an update on his investigation into the AFA pollock location requirements. Joe is unable to attend the February meeting, so we decided it would be appropriate to have a full discussion in March when he can attend and answer questions directly and provide potential options. Preliminary findings are listed in the report.

Paul asked if Charlotte attended the electronic observer bill hearing. Fishery Analyst Levy responded yes; the hearing happened at 1:30pm, I testified and submitted a written comment which is not available yet. It is not included in my report, but I can send them. There are significant written comments all opposed to the bill however only myself and 3 others testified.

Paul asked how Joe Sullivan relay information to keep Assembly informed. Fishery Analyst Levy responded, as of now, this is all the information, the way it is communicated to me, Ernie and Mayor Osterback, this is all the information we received and felt it was appropriate to wait until next meeting when he is here to have a more robust conversation so he can explain some of the options and considerations we need to think about before making the next move or deciding how we want to proceed.

Tom commented that he appreciates what Charlotte and Ernie is doing for the community, asked what we can do as a Borough to speed up the process of getting fish back from Western Gulf. Fishery Analyst Levy responded, it is rough times all around for every direction. I think we are getting very close, we are having conversations now with stock assessment authors about actual ideas on how to change the management plan.

It is slow moving but very promising because now we are looking at how to restructure cod. Natural Resources Director added that Charlotte has been doing a lot especially with cod tagging and changes.

Mayor Osterback thanked Charlotte for her testimony.

Finance Director's Report in packet

Audit- At this time, the audit should have been issued and BDO is on the agenda for presentation.

Caselle – The majority of the work needed on the chart of accounts has been completed. The current chart of accounts is more of a running collection of line items, which made it nearly impossible to pull itemized data from the system, rather than a set methodology. It currently contains 107 departments, 110 sub departments, and 335 various objects. With extensive work, the accounts are now aligned within a “set chart of accounts” consisting of 15 departments and approximately 50 accounts with the use of sub codes to identify specific projects. I am waiting on verification on some transfer and closing accounts to ensure they are set up correctly as an asset, liability, or expenditure so the transactions flow the correct way at time of entry.

End of the Calendar Year- All of the reporting requirements for the calendar year end of have finally been completed. Since the IRS has lowered the limit on “paper returns” to 10 total everything needed to be electronically filed. E-filing is definitely simpler, but the initial set up was hectic. It required numerous ID verifications, user ids in multiple sites, requests for PINS and applications for transmitter controls.

Routine tasks- The daily and weekly tasks are operating smoothly, and the grants were reconciled to the quarter end.

Mayor Osterback thanked Jacki for all her work.

Mayor Osterback asked Paul if SWAMC is planning to have Fishery item on the SWAMC meeting. Paul responded, on one forum they are trying to get all the processors to give a firsthand report. Yes, there will be Fishery items. Mayor Osterback encouraged all the mayors within the Borough to attend SWAMC and participate on it.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Brenda thanked all the staff for all their hard work and perseverance.

Paul commented if Ernie can update everyone about the North Pacific Council and AFA program review schedule so everyone can listen in if they want to. Paul commented on the swimming pool, that there is a 100% chance that the leak is above halfway, encouraged to find the leak.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NEXT MEETING DATE

Regular Assembly Meeting March 14, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Josy moved to adjourn seconded by Brenda. Hearing no more, the meeting adjourned 4:54p.m.



Mayor Alvin D. Osterback



Beverly Ann Rosete, Borough Clerk

Date: 3/15/24

