

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723
Phone: 907 852-2611 or 0200
Fax: 907 852-0337 or 2595



Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly

FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

Charlotte E. Brower

DATE: March 1, 2015

SUBJ: February Status Report

Good evening Assembly Members and listening audience.

February was a difficult month for our staff and communities, but I am pleased to report on following accomplishments achieved by my dedicated staff over this past month:

Staff from the **Mayor's Office** have been working with the Department of Wildlife Management on the Polar Bear quota issue. Staff members have been working with MYAC students in nearly every village and we are happy to say that they have begun identifying and starting their own community service projects. The Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission is gearing up for their quarterly meeting, and staff have begun traveling to the villages to start collecting testimonials from residents.

The **Department of Search and Rescue's** aircraft were utilized a total of 114.8 hours. There were eight Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), Search & Rescue Activities, or Welfare Checks since the last report. Six Personal Locator Beacons were activated. For six of the eight incidents, ground crews were dispatched. The Rescue Helicopter was dispatched for two incidents. In all cases, everyone made it home with no reported injuries. Also in February Search and Rescue Pilots Richard Patterson, Robert Mercer and Tim Bienlien attended a morning talk show on KBRW to discuss Lazing.

The **Department of Administration and Finance** has begun the mail out of tax notices. Any resident that has difficulty meeting their property tax obligation is strongly encouraged to complete an application for the Low Income Property Tax Relief Grant. The budget process is on track and we would like to thank each department for turning in a timely, thoughtful, and well planned budget request for the upcoming fiscal year. In February, we recognized the retirement of Sue Howard, a longtime and valued employee in the budget office.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** staff, in addition to their other duties, has been largely focused on outreach, education and taking an active role in doing all everything possible to make sure that if there is a polar bear quota that it is based on reliable science. A group of Wildlife staff was joined by staff from the Law Department and Government Affairs to discuss this situation with various leaders in Washington DC. Staff from the Department of Wildlife Management will continue to travel to impacted North Slope communities to conduct informational meetings on the proposed quota and to document local concerns. Residents are strongly encouraged to attend.

The **Department of Public Works** has been diligently working on the fuel needs. Since the ice road into Nuiqsut is operational, 100,000 gallons of Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) to Nuiqsut. The power plant and the bulk tank farm have received 20,000 and 80,000 gallons respectively. In Atqasuk, Peak cut the rolligon trail in the third week of January. In the fourth week, Peak began hauling fuel from Barrow to Atqasuk. Approximately 550,000 gallons of fuel will be delivered to Atqasuk. This fuel haul should be completed within a month, weather permitting. In Barrow, Shop II has dedicated the majority of their time to improving road conditions due to the recent blizzard by working overtime and on holidays as needed. Operators are working hard to scrape the slick streets and intersections. We also hauled fuel spill sandbags for the NSB Risk Management. We continue to respond to snow removal requests for senior citizens. A total of 344 loads of snow were collected with 81 services requests being completed.

The **Planning Department** had three pre-application meetings since the last report. The Community Planner visited Point Hope on February 8, 2016 and conducted SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) exercises with the Tri-Lateral in the afternoon and the community in the evening. Both meetings were well attended (over 100 adults signed in for evening community meeting) and meaningful input was received. We hope to have an administrative draft for Pt Hope in early May. The Community Planer also visited Anaktuvuk Pass and introduced the administrative draft of the Anaktuvuk Pass Comprehensive plan to the Tri-Lateral committee on the evening of February 10th. Again, this meeting was well attended and good discussion occurred as we walked through the draft plan. We have requested the village leadership review the draft and provide comment. Once comments have been received on the administrative draft, a 2nd draft will be published and distributed for a 30 day public comment period.

The **Police Department** responded to 2,692 calls for service this month. 1,063 calls were dispatched and 1,629 were officer initiated. There were 76 traffic related contact with 7 citations written, and a total of 42 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized 59.2 liters of alcohol, 4.83 pounds of marijuana, 128 grams of hash oil, .3 grams of methamphetamine, and 3.3 grams of brown heroin. Officers in Kaktovik worked extra curfew patrols at the request of the community. Officers in Wainwright, Barrow and Point Lay attended ASRC Days at the school and spoke to students about alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

The **Fire Department** conducted two Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) trainings for the Police Department. Slope wide there were a total of 345 ambulance calls, 18 were drug or alcohol related, and there were 13 fire calls. Additionally there were 33 flights completed by the medevac division.

The **Human Resources Department** had four employees attend the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM) Human Resources Academy in Anchorage from February 8th through February 11. The MJP job posting was announced on February 1, 2016 and will close March 4th, this cycle will begin on March 10th. The Training and Development Division offered 15 trainings in Barrow and 7 in Wainwright. Logistical planning continues with the installation and implementation of the OnBoard and Perform components of the NeoGov human resources program. Cross-training and continuing education is underway for all Divisional employees. We are very proud of how our individual employees continue to step-up to fill unavoidable gaps as necessary.

In the **Department of Health and Social Services**, plans are underway for the 2016 Health Fairs to take place across the North Slope. These health fairs take place every other year and bring health promotion and prevention, as well as health screenings to every village across the North Slope. The Department appreciates village planning involvement. Staff attended the Anchorage Police Department Spice Summit and upon their return trained Integrated Behavioral Health staff on recognizing Spice use and intoxication, relevant terminology, effects of use, and shared about what options and recommendations exist for addressing Spice use in communities. PHN will begin teaching classes on decreasing the risks of Osteoporosis at the Senior Center Monthly to teach monthly bone strengthening exercise classes. On January 30, 2016 Susi Peterson PHN II attended the training in Anchorage to become a "Strong Woman" trainer. The Prevention Team program provided Tobacco Listening sessions for leaders and community members to gather media strategies to lower smoking rates on the North Slope. Wainwright is under rabies quarantine until February 27, 2016. Kaktovik is under rabies quarantine until March 6. Atqasuk is under rabies quarantine until February 29, 2016.

This concludes my summary report for the month of February. Thank you!