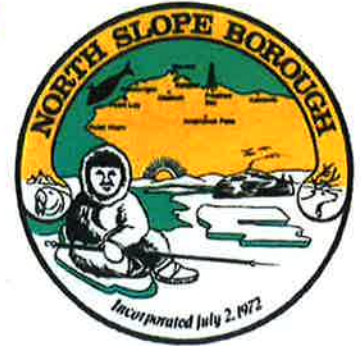


North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Michael Aamodt

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly
FROM: Michael Aamodt, Mayor
DATE: June 14, 2016
SUBJ: Status Report

Good evening Members of the Assembly and listening audience. The month of May was another busy and productive month for my administration.

Department of Administration and Finance staff attended the State Assessment Review Board (SARB) meetings on May 16-18 regarding the Intangible Development Cost (IDC) and Intangible Drilling Expense (IDE) appeals raised by industry on the valuation of oil and gas infrastructure on the North Slope. As result of the hearings, SARB increased the valuation of upstream oil and gas infrastructure- increasing the Borough's tax base by \$185 million. SARB'S decision will be subject to appeal to State Superior Court.

Fitch Ratings has requested a conference call with the Department to talk about the results and developments since Fitch's last rating action of March 2, 2016. Fitch has released revised criteria for the U.S. with respect to State and Local Government Credits. Fitch is hoping to get an update on the Borough's financial position and overall assessment of the Borough since the last bond rating.

The **Department of Health and Social Services** has plans underway for the opening of the Child Advocacy Center in partnership with the NSB Police Department. The facility will be located in the old Allied Health Training Center behind the Wellness Center and be staffed by the new Victims Advocate under the Police Department. This is an opportunity to have improved local services for children in cases of sexual abuse.

The Department's summer college intern program started in May with returning college students. The program is structured for students to develop an education program regarding a health topic. In previous years they have developed a suicide prevention video and an alcohol prevention video. This year the focus is drug prevention and awareness. A 4th of July event is being planned with dumpster art, video development, and a poster series to be rolled out in communities across the North Slope. We are very proud we have students who are committed to serving our region in health care career fields of study and this program is an asset to our residents.

Department of Planning and Community Services staff flew to Nuiqsut on the 27th to attend the NSB Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting that was held at the Kisik Community Center. The meeting focused on the impacts of oil and gas development on the village and community concerns. Recommendations from that meeting are being drafted and will be forwarded to the Mayor's Office for approval for distribution.

The Anaktuvuk Pass Comprehensive Plan draft was distributed for public commenting beginning May 1st. The Comprehensive Planning team visited the community on May 17th and held an evening community meeting. This meeting was well attended by several community members. The purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the community with the draft Comprehensive Plan and solicit public comments. The Meeting stretched from 5PM to midnight and several thoughtful comments were received. The draft Plan should be on the agenda for the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for June 23rd.

Staff from the **Department of Wildlife Management** were involved in examining and sampling landed whales in both Point Hope and Barrow. Their "harvest crew" included local and contracting scientists. Spring 2016 was a particularly interesting season with 12 whales examined across a range of sizes and ages- including several pregnant females. These examinations will advance our understanding of reproduction and early development.

Several staff members were actively involved in whale hunting and helped with logistics and providing valuable information about the timing and location of landed whales, ice safety, and information on polar bear sightings.

Science staff spent the last part of May finishing scientific papers in preparation for International Whaling Commission (IWC) Scientific Committee (SC) 2016. Paper subjects included: harvest statistics for 2015, pathology reports, an update on the aerial PhotoID study, and a proposal to modify to the suggested aboriginal whaling scheme to remove the 'phase out' rule.

The **Department of Inupiat History, Language and Culture** staff prepared for the next village outreach program to be held in Kaktovik and continued work to partnership with tour companies to help facilitate the summer tourist season. One of the highlights included a presentation of a "passport stamp" from the National Park Traveler's Club. As a sister site to the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, the Inupiat Heritage Center (IHC) is often visited by members of the National Park Travelers Club (NPTC). The goal of many NPTC members is to visit as many of the 411 National Park Service units and affiliated areas as possible and commemorate their visit with a "stamp" in their books. It is hoped that the prospect of obtaining a "stamp" from the IHC will entice more visitors to our region.

During the month of May there were 813 visitors to the IHC which generated \$6,994.27 in income.

Staff from the **Department of Public Works Shop 1** have been busy maintaining vehicles from all departments as well as working at night to help clear the roads and culverts. Laborers and operators have been working hard pumping water from areas around town. Over 1,118 loads of snow were removed from Barrow & Browerville and brought to the Shop III Dumpsite. Department staff also completed 58 Service Requests for the month.

The **Police Department** responded to 3,040 calls for service during which 83 incident reports were filed. 95 of the calls were alcohol related. 1,145 calls were dispatched and 1,895 calls were officer initiated. There was 98 traffic related contacts during which 12 citations were written. A total of 65 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. The Department received and processed 54 requests for Police Reports and 27 applications for Alcohol Permits and/or renewals.

Officers seized a total of 15.75 liters of alcohol, 1.5 ounces of marijuana, and 6.3 grams of meth.

The **Department of Search and Rescue** responded to multiple search and rescue calls from hunters, travelers, and campers. SAR flew a total of 24 medevac and 3 search and rescue missions for the month.

The **Fire Department** is now in the process of implementing a digital patient care and incident reporting system. This system will allow for more accurate reporting of information to the State of Alaska and Federal Government. The system is expected to go live across the North Slope in early August.

Staff members from Barrow and outlying villages participated in a Tactical Medic training course. All participants successfully passed the class earning certifications and endorsements in Tactical Combat Care from the Rescue Training Institute. The 10 day course included training for rapid assessments of patients and how to identify and treat life threatening injuries from traumatic incidents such as explosions and gunshot wounds. In partnership with the Police Department they plan to have at least one trained personnel in each village.

The Fire Department responded to 242 ambulance calls, 11 of which were drug or alcohol related and 11 fire related calls.

This concludes my summary report for the month of May. Congratulations to all the successful Whalers and family members who help in preparation for our spring festivities. Quyanaqpak!