

# North Slope Borough

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

*Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor*



### MEMORANDUM

TO: Assembly Members  
FROM: Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor  
DATE: January 8, 2019  
SUBJ: Mayor's Status Report for December 2018

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Good afternoon Assembly Members and listening audience.

Happy New Year!! I want to start this year by thanking our residents for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. I am humbled with a sense of responsibility in this New Year to find ways to do more for you. I ask that you keep me and your representatives on the Assembly in your prayers for wisdom and understanding to accomplish great things in 2019 for our people.

December was a busy month even with the holidays. We worked with many of our communities to sponsor activities for our residents during this part of the year when even the sun seems to take a break. Our departments began developing their budgets for the next fiscal year and these activities will continue through January.

News of the partial federal government shutdown is a concern of ours that we are monitoring closely. We are in the middle of activities by federal agencies on the development of an Environmental Impact Statement for an ANWR leasing plan, the proposed sale of Oil & Gas Leases for the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf of the Beaufort Sea, and the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Integrated Activity Plan. We submitted our comments on the 2019 Alaska Outer Continental Shelf proposed lease sale in December. We made recommendations for large subsistence exclusion zones and have received a favorable response. We are pleased to hear that BLM's community outreach on the NPRA Integrated Activity Plan is continuing to some degree based on appropriations encumbered from last year's budget. We have not heard any news of continued activity related to ANWR, but are prepared to submit comments on the development of an Environmental Impact Statement by February 11, when they are due.

**Quyanaqpak**

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The following are departmental endeavors toward achieving the Mayor's Initiatives:

The **Department of CIPM** has received funding from the bond sale last month to also continue existing projects that support mayoral initiatives for resilient communities. As a result of completed projects removed by closing ordinance last month, and the addition of new projects from this month's bond sale, CIPM is today managing a portfolio of 148 Capital Projects that total \$911,944,000 in value. Two Thirds of this total has been expended over the years. CIPM is presently administrating 133 contracts for engineering services, material procurement, and construction. Four new contracts were solicited this month. \$61,836,536 remain to be expended to complete the terms of these agreements and \$217,822,531 is available for spending which includes the proceeds of the most recent bond sale.

**Public Works** reports that the holiday season and extreme cold weather has challenged the operations over the past month. Especially hard hit are our heavy equipment and operators. Staff has risen to the challenge and worked to provide essential services. Although improvement has been made, we continue to have too many vacancies in important positions. We've used private contractors, where appropriate and are looking to expand opportunities for the private sector to assist. In addition to providing regular services in all communities, the Department of Public Works also worked on the following projects:

Capital Project and Budget Process The Department of Public Works has begun the annual capital and budget process. As always, we strive to do more with less operationally and prioritize the capital needs of our aging infrastructure.

Area wide Itinerant Quarters Installation of the Itinerant Quarters are complete in all communities. Final acceptance is expected by the second week of January.

Anaktuvuk Pass Fire Cleanup The site of the USDW fire in Anaktuvuk Pass is secure and the final cleanup of remaining ash will be done after spring thaw.

Airport runway lighting controls were lost in the fire and permanent lighting control modules are not expected to be installed until April 2019. We have installed an interim solution and airport runway lights are operational and will return the battery-operated system to the State of Alaska.

Renovation of the Old Washeteria to replace the office space lost in the fire continues using operational funds and local in-house labor. We've received heating supplies and work will begin with our roving plumber assisted by local staff. Delivery of supplies is being coordinated with the North Slope Borough School District to share space on a charter flight.

Safety All Department of Public Work staff attended required OSHA training presented by Risk Management. We've implemented a mandatory eye protection policy in all shops and while operating vehicles. Our current focus is to ensure necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided and used. We are also updating and, in many cases, creating Emergency Action Plans for all North Slope Borough facilities. With the assistance of Risk Management, our efforts are being led by the Department of Public Works Safety Committee.

The **Fire Department** is pleased to report that the Department has successfully renewed the State Licensure for the Barrow Volunteer Fire Department. This license is what allows BVFD personnel to provide patient care and patient transport services to people in our community. With this new license, we were granted an Expanded Scope, which allows our personnel to better care for and treat the people we serve.

In order to more effectively communicate with the public, two of our Volunteer Fire Departments on the North Slope have established pages on social media. This platform will be used to share fire and life safety information with the public. These pages are also used to report on training activities and publicize fundraising events in our communities. Because these two Departments have an established

presence on social media, they are able to efficiently communicate hazards that may arise within their communities.

The NSD Fire Department continues to offer courtesy inspections for residential and commercial properties in all our communities. At that time, we are able to talk about fire and life safety topics, as well as ensuring smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms are functional. For more information please contact (907) 852- 0234.

In December there were 252 Ambulance calls, 17 Fire Calls and 36 Medevac Transports, details by community are provided below:

Village	Ambulance Calls	Fire Calls	Medevac Transp.	ETOH	Drugs
Anaktuvuk Pass	33	1	5	2	0
Atqasuk	18	0	3	1	0
Wainwright	9	0	2	0	0
Kaktovik	16	1	0	0	0
Nuiqsut	30	3	6	0	0
Point Hope	38	2	3	1	0
Point Lay	8	2	0	1	0
Utqiagvik	100	8	17	24	3
Totals	252	17	36	29	3

**2 Department of Search & Rescue** missions were performed last month with no loss of life or reporting injuries. Further details are provided below:

11/22	AKP	AK18083725, PLB Alert, AKRCC, AST, Anaktuvuk pass SAR ground crew dispatched to site south of Community, located person and was assisted back to AKP. No injuries reported, closed out AKRCC, on Alert, closed out mission with AST.
11/25	NUI	AK18084257, NUI SAR called for mission, AST contacted, person stuck 25 miles north of Nuiqsut, in a truck. 1 adult 1 child. Sar truck and community truck headed to site, got truck out broke 4 wheel drive, no reported injuries, closed out with AST

NSB Aircraft logged 92.7 hrs. of flight time performing 40 sorties; details are provided below:

Aircraft	Sorties	Hours	Other
Learjet N789SR	11	41.8	Aircraft was down for two weeks for routine maintenance.  Has 71.8 hours until Phase A inspection.
Bell N402ES	4	6.6	Primary 412 ready to go.  Annual 100 hour inspection is due in 8.2 hours.
Bell N401ES	0	0	Has 54.9 hours out from an overhaul.  Currently secondary 412.

King Air N408SR	14	52.2	Routine maintenance has been complete. Phase 4 Inspection is due in 33.7 hours.
S-92	13	21.6	Aircraft was down for once for scheduled maintenance. Next 50 hour inspection is in 32.6 hours.
Total	42	122.2	

The **Department of Human Resources** has the following recruiting statistics to report:

Community	BRW	AKP	ATQ	KAK	NUI	PHO	AIN	PIZ
Permanent	14	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Temporary	8	3	0	1	1	0	0	1
ETP	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Interns	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The **Police Department** along with NSB Fire Department and NSB Search & Rescue continue to work to establish an Emergency Services Explorer program. The explorer program will be for high school aged students in all of our North Slope communities and will allow them to prepare for a career in emergency services. The staff is working to establish the Charter to begin the program.

During the month of December 2018, the Police Department responded to 2,080 calls for service during which 53 criminal and noncriminal cases were filed. 143 of the calls were alcohol related, 32 calls were drug related, and 20 calls were domestic violence related. 970 calls were dispatched and 1,110 calls were officer initiated.

More details on those calls are provided below:

Community	Total Calls	Alcohol	DV	Drug
Anaktuvuk Pass	198	12	0	0
Atqasuk	49	0	0	0
Kaktovik	102	5	0	1
Nuiqsut	131	1	0	2
Point Hope	182	8	4	1
Point Lay	137	1	0	0
Deadhorse	163	3	0	5
Utqiagvik	978	106	16	23
Wainwright	140	7	0	0
Total	2080	143	20	32

**A total of 25 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney for prosecution.**

Drug Seizures (On Slope):

**Total Alcohol:**

- (0) milliliters of distilled spirits

**Total Drugs:**

- 11 ounces of Cocaine
- 12 ounces of Fentanyl
- 12 ounces of Heroin
- 15.5 pounds of Marijuana
- 472 grams Hash

Task Forces:

**NSBPD Detectives continue to participate in multiagency task forces with our law enforcement partners.**

**Total Drugs:**

- 392.2 grams of Methamphetamine
- 39.5 grams of Heroin
- 10 grams of Cocaine
- 2 pounds of Marijuana
- 5 grams of Crack Cocaine

The **Health Department** Prevention Team is attempting to coordinate village outreach with other NSB Health Department providers in order to provide more effective substance misuse/abuse outreach programming. The Team is also able to assist ASNA and NSB CHAP in providing tobacco cessation services and training to North Slope residents.

The Integrated Behavioral Health Sober Living Home has opened its doors and is currently in operation. The facility naming contest has concluded and a final determination is underway.

AWIC provided training to our Safe Home Providers. A Safe Home Provider is still needed in Kaktovik. For more information about becoming a Safe Home Provider, please contact Virginia Walsh at AWIC at 907.852.0261.

The NSB Women Infant Children staff provided WIC services to all villages, and staff traveled to Nuiqsut to provide WIC services. The WIC Program continues to emphasize the importance of telling pregnant and breastfeeding women about the importance of eliminating nicotine and the importance of breastfeeding. WIC staff completed a Vendor Monitor at the AC store in Utqiagvik. Plans are to monitor all four participating vendors in 2019 (Utqiagvik, Point Lay, Nuiqsut, and Wainwright).

IBH will begin offering Walk-In Clinic during the weeks that Psychiatric Clinic is not scheduled. The Walk-In Clinic is an opportunity for individuals who would like to talk with someone regarding a personal crisis and are seeking short-term therapy and support. During Walk-In Clinic a Behavioral Health Clinician will be available from 1:00pm to 5:00pm to provide same-day access to Behavioral Health support – No intake, assessment or treatment plan is required. Village residents can be seen via VTC (pending VTC availability in the village clinic).

Walk-in Clinic Dates scheduled through June include:

January 22 and 24	February 12 and 14	February 26 and 28	March 12 and 14
March 26 and 28	April 9 and 11	April 23 and 25	May 14 and 16
May 28 and 30	June 11 and 13	June 25 and 27	

The **Department of Planning and Community Services** staff are meeting with ASRC on a regular basis to begin coordination of the 2019 Community Wide Access Trails (CWAT) planned activity. We have received the BLM right of way grant for the Anaktuvuk Pass route and are working on coordinating with the contractors for all trail segments. Final permitting and land owner contact are underway. Contracts have been finalized and currently in place for work to begin.

Village travel is scheduled for the weeks of January 8<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Nuiqsut, Atqasuk, Utqiagvik and Anaktuvuk Pass are planned the first week, with the others to follow. Census project anticipated to begin in villages early 2019. Planning Department is teaming with Community Planning contractor (AES) to build a local team for implementation of upcoming census.

Planning staff and contract team continue working on the NSB Area Wide Comprehensive plan administrative draft. Public Hearing with Planning Commission is scheduled for Jan 24<sup>th</sup>.

The **NSB Housing Department** coordinates with the Village Deputies in each community to assure we are identifying and working to address housing issues slope wide including emergency heat, electrical, and plumbing projects. We have begun occupying the Senior 5 Plexs in Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Wainwright, Kaktovik, and Anaktuvuk Pass. Programs for new Public Housing and Major Upgrades to General Housing are in development.

**NSB Wildlife Department** staff are working hard to prepare for two bowhead whale population abundance surveys in 2019: a) A spring ice-based count at Utqiagvik (April and May); and b) A large-scale aerial survey in August 2019. Currently staff is recruiting whale survey observers from the villages. People interested in working on the survey should call the department at 907.852.0350.

The Wildlife Department is currently working on an update of the old “Bowhead Whale Book” originally published in 1993. Our staff will be the principle editors for the book and will solicit experts to write chapters on topics such as: anatomy, reproduction, the effects of noise on bowhead whales, feeding, and other topics. An entire chapter will be devoted to contributions of traditional knowledge to bowhead whale science. The main objectives of the book are to: accurately summarize the new and relevant science on bowhead whales over the past 25 years, and to establish the NSB and AEWC as the world leaders on bowhead whale biology and management.

**IHLC** hosted Qitik Christmas games practice at the Heritage Center. Over 80 children enthusiastically attended to practice and learn the traditional methods and meanings of the games. IHLC also hosted Christmas bazaars every Saturday in December with over 10 artisans and over 170 patrons.

IHLC continues to support and work with artists using the traditional room, a new drill press had been ordered for the artisans use. Preparations are being made to begin traditional classes and workshops hosted by IHLC for the New Year.