

# North Slope Borough

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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*Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor*

### MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly  
FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor  
DATE: October 8, 2013  
SUBJ: Status Report

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Good evening Assembly Members and listening audience. September was a very productive month for my administration. My administrative team and Assembly President Mike Aamodt met with credit rating agencies in New York in conjunction with the Borough's 2013A GO bond issue. The meetings went well and we are hopeful to maintain or improve our good credit ratings. Our auditors, KPMG, are performing field audit work, and we appreciate the patience and cooperation displayed by other departments as we make information available for audit.

The **Department of Public Works** road crews continue to maintain the public roads as necessary and have been extremely busy here in Barrow. The Dam Road (Ahkovak Str.) is still under construction due to re-facing of concrete culverts that will be done by contractors. All the guardrails and materials have arrived and will be put in place in October. At the regional level, airport and runway repairs are on-going. Work also continues throughout the villages to ensure that the landfills remain operational. Routine facility repairs continue in the villages on overhead doors, sprinkler systems, boilers, and electrical work. Preventative maintenance and routine upgrades in the facilities are on-going.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** staff spent considerable time and effort examining whales landed in Barrow and Kaktovik by local hunters in fall 2013. Staff examined 18 whales at Barrow and three (3) at Kaktovik by Gay Sheffield, a Department contractor. All whales appeared to be in good health based on gross examinations. The main scientific interests include: basic health monitoring, anatomy of the bowhead hearing system, age estimation using ear bones, reproductive status, digestion of krill in the gut, feeding habits, and many other studies.

The North Slope Borough **Human Resources Department** Recruiting Division has completed the mandatory sexual harassment training. They are also working on completing the video conference anti-harassment training for the villages. Staff also participated in the “Customer Service,” “Business Writing” and “Technical Writing” classes offered. “On-The-Job” Training has started for the 2013 fall semester. We have placed 5 students in Barrow, and 1 student in Wainwright. We are currently working with the other villages to employ students in their village. The **Training & Development Division** offered 25 classes this month, teaching 220 students. Classes offered were First Aid/CPR, Heartsaver First, NSB Rules & Regulations, Job Club, Progressive Discipline, Basic Life Support/CPR for Health Care Providers, and Contracts training. Also, in conjunction with Ilisagvik College, we have started an NSB Management 2-credit class designed to teach management skills to NSB employees, and is also designed as a development class leading to an Associate of Arts Degree.

The **Department of Health and Social Services** in conjunction with ASNA and the Family, Fitness, Food and Fun Coalition hosted a “Stop the Pop” event in September. Presentations about the harmful effects of sugared beverages were presented and had over 80 participants. Planning is underway for the Joint ASNA/SSMH Governing Body/NSB Health Board annual meeting to take place in October. With the Pepe’s fire, the **Health Department** has had an increase in requests for itinerant housing requests. These requests are filled on a first-come first-serve basis, with a prioritization for Health Programs and health services first. Since the Health Department does not charge for itinerant quarter usage, the Department requests in-kind donations of bedding, towels, laundry soap, and items for door prizes to utilize at any of the many community meetings, health fairs, health promotion activities that the Department hosts.

The **Police Department** has hired two new officers: Michael Gonzalez is currently assigned to the 12-week Field Training Program, and Sean Gueco is attending the Alaska Law Enforcement Academy training and Certification Academy. The North Slope Borough continues to work with partner agencies to reduce the amount of illegal drugs and alcohol being trafficked into our communities.

The **Fire Department** Barrow-based staff traveled to the villages to conduct preventative maintenance on the Oxygen generators and Airpack filling stations. Assistant Chief Dingman completed his travel to conduct Basic Fire Fighter Training in all the villages of the North Slope. Candidates that completed the Basic Fire Fighter Training are eligible to attend the State of Alaska Firefighter I training being held in Barrow to further their knowledge and skills.

This concludes my summary report for the month of September. Have a safe and blessed fall season!