

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Mike Aamodt, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly

FROM: Mike Aamodt, Mayor

DATE: April 7, 2016

SUBJ: March Status Report

Good evening Assembly Members and audience.

I am pleased to report on following accomplishments achieved by my dedicated staff over this past month:

Staff from the **Mayor's Office** coordinated with KBRW for each Department to present information the week before budget to highlight each departments function and describe the services they provide. Additionally, staff assisted the Rural Justice & Law Enforcement Commission (RJLEC) in holding their quarterly meeting on March 30th. They established the term stagger, which will be before you next month, and swore in a new member. Prior to March 30, the staff and a commission member attended the Barrow Town Hall meeting on Saturday, March 19, 2016. The attendees listened to various issues such as the use of alcohol and drug use, and the social issues created and affecting residents and organization. The commission was one of several agenda items presented. It was also a precursor to the similar meetings that are scheduled to occur in Atqasuk, Wainwright, Pt. Lay and Pt. Hope in May and June.

The **Department of Search and Rescue's** aircraft was utilized a total of 87.3 hours. There was six Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), Search & Rescue Activities, or Welfare Checks since the last report. All six cases had Personal Locator Beacons that were activated and our ability to quickly respond was increased. In each case, ground crews were dispatched and all involved returned with no reported injuries. Also, the new S-92 Helicopter is scheduled for the paint scheme on April 13, 2016 and we are still currently on track to receive delivery in September 2016.

The **Department of Administration and Finance** is pleased that the upcoming Budget has passed the Assembly. We would like to once again thank all of the Departments and staff, especially Jaysun Cox, for all of their work on putting the Budget together. We would also like to thank the Assembly for their ongoing support to the Department operations throughout the North Slope Borough. We have also been involved in assisting the Planning Department with their Project

Review Committee process and are pleased that it will be presented to the Assembly in next month's regular meeting.

The **Department of Public Works** has, in addition to their normal workload, been diligently working with a contractor for the recovery of the L180E Volvo Loader from the Kuk Rover Lagoon in Wainwright. They will exercise diligent care to minimize any discharge of hazardous materials into the Kuk River Lagoon. In September 2015, we worked with the Admin & Finance Department-Grants Division in submitting grant applications for Round 9 REF (Renewable Energy Funding) for two of our renewable energy projects – the Atqasuk Transmission Line and the Kaktovik Wind-Diesel Generation Project. Both of the applications were approved and recommended for the funding list. However, due to the current fiscal constraints of the State of Alaska, we do not expect funding to be awarded.

With the help of the Human Resources Department, we recently filled our vacancy for a Compliance Officer. This person will work in conjunction with the Risk Management Division in making sure that the North Slope Borough protects our environment in the midst of projects and operational activities. We will work with the Risk Management Division in helping clean up our villages' wastes, such as old batteries, used oil, and other hazardous waste. There will also be training opportunities for village staff on proper ways to handle such wastes.

The **Planning Department's** Capital Improvement Program (CIP) received Project Request Submittals which were compiled into the master workbook for Project Review Committee (PRC) Workshop Ordinance 2016-10. We also conducted a PRC Workshop for Ordinance 2016-10 on March 29, 30, and April 1. This year was especially challenging because there was presentation of 154 project requests totaling \$501,000,000, with a significantly smaller amount available to send to bond.

The **Police Department** responded to 2,627 calls for service this month. 1,083 calls were dispatched and 1,544 were officer initiated. 118 of the calls were alcohol related. There were 89 traffic related contact with 11 citations written, and a total of 37 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized 54.5 liters of alcohol, 188.63 ounces of marijuana, 15 grams of heroin, 60 grams of methamphetamine, and 4 grams of cocaine. Officers in Kaktovik continue to work extra curfew patrols at the request of the community. Officers in Atqasuk, Nuiqsut and Barrow have given presentations for students at various schools on topics such as drugs. At Hopson Middle School K-9 Banjo also gave a demonstration.

The **Fire Department** participated in a "Water Rescue" training conducted by the United States Coast Guard in Barrow. There were 17 participants in the training, many of them new to water rescue, and all of them performed admirably in the class. Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope had ETT trainings in March. There were 5 courtesy home inspection requests, 3 were completed and the other 2 are pending because the occupants were unavailable during attempted contacts. Slope wide there were a total of 324 ambulance calls, 37 were drug or alcohol related, and there were 17 fire calls. Additionally there were 36 flights completed by the medevac division, 3 of which were alcohol related and 2 of which were drug related.

The **Human Resources Department's** Recruiting division has posted the College Intern job announcement for the upcoming college break. Students who apply and placed will be in positions related to their course of study for field of interest. The Training and Development Division offered 21 trainings in Barrow, 8 in Kaktovik and 3 in Wainwright for a total of 32 trainings. All the attendees of the "Job Club" trainings in Wainwright were unemployed and will now be working as MJP's for either this or the next cycle.

The **Department of Health and Social Services'** Arctic Women in Crisis, in partnership with the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, held the 7th annual Choose Respect Walk on Thursday, March 24th. The Tobacco Prevention Team hosted the SCRIPT (Smoking Cessation and Reduction in Pregnancy Training) training for North Slope providers in March. Integrated Behavioral Health Program has started a regularly scheduled Grief & Loss support group that will be held every Monday at 7:00 PM.

Due to many rabid Arctic and red foxes across the North Slope, several villages are currently under quarantines. Reminders to tie up loose dogs and vaccinate pets are announced regularly.

Nuiqsut Early Learning Center planning for a fall 2016 opening is underway. Next steps include fixing the plumbing issue and to have state licensing conduct an inspection and train staff for credentialing and licensing.

The NSB Health Board will also meet in Point Hope on April 21, 2016. Anaktuvuk Pass Community Health aide, Nolita Madros, won an award from Tanana Chief's Conference for her healthcare delivery and emergency response during the plane crash that happened in Anaktuvuk Pass. Congratulations Nolita!

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