

North Slope Borough

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Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly
FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor *Charlotte E Brower*
DATE: January 4, 2015
SUBJ: December Status Report

Good evening Assembly Members and listening audience.

December was a month filled with blessings and reminders of the essential duties that we perform for our communities.

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

Staff from the **Mayor's Office** are working on Kivgiq preparations. There was also an Operational Efficiencies kick off meeting on December 12, this will allow staff to work with each department and Borough wide to create more efficiencies. Several Mayors' Office Staff members met with consultant Paul Fuhs in regards to the purpose and organization of the NSB Port Authority, as well as the economic benefits of increased maritime operations. The 15 members of the Police Task Force met recommendations are forthcoming.

The **Department of Search & Rescue** reminded us all during December how critical their mission is. There were five call outs from PLB's (Personal Locator Beacons); all of the searches were successfully concluded. There was also a mission involving an overdue resident between Wainwright and Barrow. All resources of the aircraft and volunteer ground crew searched for four days and resulted in success. The missing person survived with frostbit injuries. There was no PLB activated. The importance of the PLB cannot be emphasized enough – another resident was picked up earlier in the same week but because he had a PLB device it allowed the helicopter to go directly to the site within an hour.

SAR personnel along with representative from the Fire Department, the Mayor and Whaling Captains from Wainwright and Barrow traveled to Coatesville, Pennsylvania to take further steps

to acquire a Sikorsky S92 heavy lift helicopter with long distance flight capability. Outfitting a helicopter for the needs of the North Slope can take a couple of years, but we look forward to seeing the benefits of having this aircraft will provide once it has finally arrived.

The **Department of Administration & Finance** assisted with the financial aspects of the S-92 helicopter purchase. Also their Risk Management Division assisted Search & Rescue in searching for a lost hunter using the Mat track truck, the team was out searching for two days before they sustained damage to one of the mat tracks and had to return home.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** will be providing support to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Subsistence Division to conduct a major subsistence harvest recall study for Barrow, the study will run from January 7 through January 29, 2015. An update on the Seal Baseline study, 10 spotted seal and 2 ringed seals are still transmitting data, Wildlife is also exploring the possibility of tagging seals in the Beaufort Sea region based on a recommendation of the NSB Fish & Game Management Committee.

Baseline sampling of recent polar bear harvests continues. Staff examined and sampled 4 harvested bears, and all were in excellent body condition (very fat) and without obvious signs of disease. Collaborative work continues with North West Fisheries Science Center to determine petroleum exposure baseline levels from bile in healthy harvested marine mammals including bowhead, beluga, ice seals, walrus and polar bear.

In addition to its normal workload, the **Department of Public Works** had Power & Light staff restoring power from outages in Nuiqsut on December 8, 2013 and in Point Hope on December 13, 2014. The crew worked well after hours in inclement weather until repairs were made and power was restored. Many thanks to the Search & Rescue Department for providing assistance in getting our crew to both villages when commercial air travel was not possible and to Public Works staff and Tikigaq Corp in Point Hope who helped in clearing the runways.

Point Hope had a concern raised regarding street lights. Public Works is working with CIPM in a project to procure at least 100 street lights to Point Hope by January or February 2015.

The **Planning Department** had an inspector visit the REPSOL ice road on December 12. As a reminder residents are not allowed to use the ice road until it is completed, Planning will make an announcement when the road is complete.

Susana Montana assumed the role of the Community Planner on December 1. The Kaktovik Comprehensive Plan was presented as a resolution at the Planning Commission Meeting in Kaktovik on December 18th and approved to recommend to the Assembly. Planning is

preparing documents to introduce an Ordinance to the Assembly on March 3. The Barrow Comprehensive Plan will be presented to the Assembly Workshop on March 3, 2015.

The Public Interest Determination Agreement with ASRC (subsidiary AES Alaska) for Village and NSB Comprehensive Plans was approved this month. Preparations are being made to have a kick-off meeting for coordination next month. This will cover Nuiqsut, Atqasuk, Point Hope, Point Lay, and Anaktuvuk Pass.

In the spirit of the holidays a group from the **Fire Department** made of Barrow Fire Fighters and volunteer responders decided to find a way to give back to the community; they met and selected a bed-ridden community member who is unable to provide for herself. The group of fire fighters met at the individuals' residence and conducted a thorough cleaning of the individual's home. The group returned to the station and expressed their sense of satisfaction having done something for someone in need.

The ETT/EMT1 Bridge class was concluded in Barrow in December, 13 students attended from across the slope and several other responders re-certified in the EMT1 class. Assistant Chief of Training, Joseph Dingman just passed his Fire Service Instructor 2 training which will allow him to offer a higher level of training to the Fire Department slope wide. An Emergency Medical Technician II class will be conducted January 5 through January 17, 2015.

The **Human Resources Department's** Training and Development Division partnered with Iisagvik College and the Fire Department for trainings this month. In total the division offered 22 trainings that were attended by 147 individuals.

The **Department of Health & Social Services** had a busy December. The City of Barrow and the North Slope Borough School District provided a Christmas dinner for the elders of Barrow in December. The elders were very thankful and happy for the great dinner! Heather Dingman, Health Impact Assessment Project Manager, attended the Nuiqsut Tribal Council meeting in December to present the climate change assessment report.

Three senior level nursing students visited NSB Public Health Nursing Program for their public health rotation. The nursing students are from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. The rotation provides an opportunity to strengthen public health services across the North Slope and provide cultural insight to the students.

Bullying Prevention classes were held with Hopson Middle School. Other villages and classrooms were visited in the previous months.

This concludes my summary report for the month of December, Thank-you!

