

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723
Phone: 907 852-2611 or 0200
Fax: 907 852-0337 or 2595



Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly

FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

Charlotte E. Brower

DATE: December 1, 2015

SUBJ: November Status Report

Good Evening Assembly Members and listening audience.

I am pleased to report on following accomplishments achieved by my dedicated staff during the month of November:

The **Mayor's Office** staff helped coordinate the community feast for Thanksgiving. We would like to thank all of the Departments and individuals who contributed to ensuring this event was a success. As Mayor, staff and I attended a meeting of the Arctic Marine Protected Areas Working Group to express the North Slope Borough's concerns regarding working groups of this nature convening and making recommendations without representatives from the North Slope involved. I spoke to the group about ensuring that we had a seat at the table moving forward. As the Arctic becomes more of an international focus we continue to work diligently to improve representation for our region.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** staff has been working on various International Whaling Commission (IWC) papers, reports, attending meetings as well as conducting analyses of whales landed in 2015. Ongoing studies include health assessment, oil fouling of baleen, genetics, morphology, hearing, age and growth analysis and many others. Preparations for IWC workshops and Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) meetings are underway. Regarding the ongoing study on oil-fouling of bowhead baleen, staff recently shipped three baleen sections to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. They will be transported to Ohmsett Facility where oil and dispersant research will be conducted with the baleen in the Ohmsett Facility test tank.

The **Department of Public Works** has been training two students in the OJT (On The Job Training) Program on mechanic work. These students have been giving hands on assistance to the Department. The Department is now in the process of determining which village (Point Hope, Wainwright, or Pt. Lay) would be best suited to start the final Design process for the Wind-Diesel

Generation Project. The Heavy Equipment Operators hauled a total of 720 loads of overburden for the Barrow seawall rebuild, they also assisted in hauling a total of nine whales.

The **Department of Administration & Finance** has been hard at work on audit. KPMG staff completed their site work on the FY 15 audit on November 4, 2015. This marks the earliest that this gargantuan task has ever been completed! KPMG management was highly complementary of the preparation and organization this year. Work continues on the final draft of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), and issuance of the final audit report.

The **Department of Search and Rescue's** aircraft were utilized a total of 143.2 hours. There were 5 Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), Search & Rescue Activities, or Welfare Checks since the last report. Two Personal Locator Beacons were activated. One search activity included over 25 volunteers and helicopter search operations, after 72 hours the search was completed with no casualties. We once again want to thank our volunteers and remind hunters and travelers to be safe and prepared.

The **Police Department** responded to 2,675 calls for service during which 83 incident reports were filed. 91 of the calls were alcohol related. 1,292 calls were dispatched and 1,383 calls were officer initiated. There were 75 traffic related contacts during which 10 citations were written. A total of 44 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized a total of 40.56 liters of alcohol and 15 grams of methamphetamine. In Barrow, an officer is volunteering her time coaching youth basketball. In Kaktovik, the officers have been working extra curfew patrols at the request of the village; they have also been working with community members to create a better understanding of how curfew works.

The **Fire Department** continues to work diligently on ensuring that response vehicles and apparatus are in good working order. This month the Maintenance Division traveled to Atkasuk and Wainwright to conduct preventative maintenance on apparatus. The training division held an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class from October 26-November 21 and graduated nine new EMT's and recertified two more. This was the first class done here on the North Slope meeting the new national standards which the State put in place on January 1, 2015. Since then there have been some revisions, deletions, and decisions made to better fit the rural climate. The course is a difficult class to instruct compared to the course we have been teaching since the 1999 when the State went through the last major change in course content.

The **Human Resources Department** is pleased to announce Short Term Disability benefits for employee in classified and partially-exempt positions effective December 1, 2015. The Training & Development Division has begun offering individual modules of the Job Club every Friday to Kiita students. By the time they graduate they should have all of the components and be eligible for the Mayor's Job Program. Additionally, Training & Development offered 17 trainings in Barrow, plus the 2 at Kiita and 9 in Point Lay, for a total of 28 trainings in November.

The **Department of Planning and Community Services** has been making progress on community plans. The Nuiqsut Comprehensive Plan draft is nearing the end of Public Comment Period (Dec 4th/extended at request of Corporation). Once all comments are received, a final draft will be distributed and a request issued for supporting resolutions from City/Tribe/Corporation. We are

scheduling the Planning Commission Public Hearing in January 2016. In Anaktuvuk Pass, the Strength Weakness Opportunity and Threats (SWOT) Exercise was conducted on November 17th. There were 60 residents in attendance, and the meeting was a great success. We hope to have the first draft of the plan to the community and leadership next month.

The **Department of Health and Social Services** had Community Health Aides complete the ANTHC Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training which allows them to outline treatment plans and strategies to assist clients in quit attempts. Thursday November 19th was The Great American Smokeout, the Health Department posted a large banner in Barrow that states "Tobacco Kills Nearly 600 Alaskan's each year with 600 balloons representing the Alaskan lives lost each year to tobacco. Barrow is under a 30-day rabies quarantine from November 15 to December 15.

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