

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

Harry K. Brower Jr., Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Assembly Members
FROM: Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor *HB*
DATE: March 6, 2018
SUBJ: Community Concerns Addressed for February

Good afternoon Assembly Members and listening audience. I am pleased to report on the following Community Concerns that have been addressed from the last Assembly Meeting:

The Point Hope Animal Control Officer recently extended service to the community to assist with the polar bear patrols in the temporary absence of a Village Bear Patrol Officer. The Animal Control Officers' contribution to the polar bear patrol service is imperative to our safety, and appreciated by the community.

Unfortunately the School Bus was not in service prior to February, due to lack of qualified bus drivers.

Special Events (basketball, church services, etc.) that are scheduled are covered by a Sub-driver. To verify if an event has a driver, please call the Health Department or the Village Deputy Assistant.

At the time of the Assembly meeting the Point Hope Van Drivers schedules were as follows:

Driver One	M-F	8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Driver Two	M-F	9:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Lunch 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Below are the Updated Schedules:

Driver One	M-F	8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Driver Two	M-F	10:00 AM – 6:30 PM	Lunch 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Subdriver:

Saturday:	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	1:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Sunday:	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	2:00 PM – 4:30 PM

The Department of Public Works is exploring the possibility of operating an airport shuttle in Point Hope to address the need for transportation to/from the airport that is two miles away.

In Anaktuvuk Pass, a request was made for elders' meals to be provided by Nunamiut Restaurant in the event that the school is closed. During the particular circumstances with the school closed, the Nunamiut Restaurant was also closed for renovations. For this incident the Health Department worked with the Police Department, the School District and Wright Air to have food from Fred Meyer in Fairbanks shipped to AKP where sack lunches were made available to elders and youth. Thank you to those who worked around the challenges faced to provide a solution at a time in need.

In Anaktuvuk Pass the Emergency Landing Lights acquired from the Alaska Department of Transportation are being used, and our Staff has been trained to operate the system. To continue to use the system extra lights and batteries have been ordered.

In regards to the Point Lay concern of only one person from the Fire Department certified to make decisions in the event of a fire, each of our fire personnel are offered the same training. In the event of a fire, direct employees and volunteers are relied upon to make intelligent and informed decisions when responding to emergency calls. Any new recruits who have not yet received all training are then paired with an experienced and trained responder to ensure their safety.

In Point Lay's case, the Fire Chief Anthony Neakok has the experience and training to lead his department. In his absence, Kuoisuk Curtis is well trained and would have a crew of four who would be able to follow his instruction for any fire situation. Unfortunately, with volunteerism on the decline on the North Slope as well as nationwide, other departments are in the same situation. This is one reason the Fire Department is continuously building up the number of members to receive training and mitigate these situations. Each of our communities rely heavily on volunteers for our emergency services.

Each Fire Station has a bunkroom and a couch/foldout bed to use for itinerant workers and instructors who travel for training. No other housing has been needed, nor do we anticipate the need in the future. Training is the top priority for the Fire Department. Training is imperative for the Fire team to be ready for the critical incidents. Recruitment and retention follows as the second priority.

In Point Hope, the vehicle assigned to the Fire Chief is left running as is the same with other emergency response vehicles that are on-call. In the last four months, Point Hope has averaged 56 calls that the Fire Department responded to for a total of 224 calls (November, December, January, and February). There is a second vehicle that is dedicated to the fire staff and volunteers that is used by the station to man-haul for emergencies; however, due to unforeseen circumstances this vehicle is out of commission. A replacement vehicle has been requested.