Dear Friends,

During the July 1 meeting, the North Slope Borough Assembly took an important historic step in protecting the future of our people. They unanimously voted to place the issue of forming the North Slope Port Authority before voters for their consideration in this upcoming October 7 election. My administration has been working hard to better understand how port authorities can be used to provide vital infrastructure to protect our environment and coastal resources and to assure that development projects benefit our local people.

February we held a meeting of the North Slope Leadership Roundtable in Fairbanks where we heard from statewide port consultant Paul Fuhs on the purpose, powers and mechanics of forming port authorities under Alaska state law. After considering this information the Leadership Roundtable voted to ask the Assembly to take up this issue. The process of forming a port authority is similar to the process our great leaders of 40 years ago used to form the North Slope Borough. They saw the development of the oil resources of the North Slope and seized the moment to protect the interests of our people on our lands. Today we see similar developments on our coastal waters with offshore oil and use of the Northern Sea Route for Arctic shipping. I believe we need to take steps to address this situation now and a port authority can be one of our tools. According to State law, “The creation of a port authority is an exercise of a municipality’s transportation system powers”.

North Slope Childcare Team Update

For the past two years the North Slope Childcare Team has been working hard to develop sustainable childcare options for the communities in our region. This effort is a striking example of transorganizational collaboration. In this effort many entities have come together to provide resources and valuable people to the project (NSB, ASNA, ICAS, ASRC, UIC, NSBSD, NVB, The City of Barrow, and Iljisaġvik College).

This year’s progress has been amazing and the support and collaboration is a prime example of what a group of people can do when they set their differences aside and come together for a common purpose of good.

Here are the major milestones and highlights that the childcare team has seen come to fruition in 2014.

- Facilities for Barrow and Nuiqsut were identified and funding for renovation has been secured to bring them up to code for licensing.
EMPLOYEE
of the Month

Alexander Solomon
Employee of the Month
July 2014

Alexander Solomon is the July 2014 EOM. Alex is a valued employee at the North Slope Borough Mayor’s Office. Alex was originally hired as an Office Specialist in 2010. He was promoted to a Travel Coordinator in 2013, a position he currently holds. His commitment and dedication to ensuring all travel is done in a timely manner shows. He is a great asset to the Borough and is always willing to assist in other positions within the Department. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. Quyanaqpak Alex!

Reed O’Hair retires from the borough

July 14, 2014 marked the end of Reed O’Hair’s service to the North Slope Borough as Director of Administration and Finance. Starting as a Government Accountant, Reed worked his way up to Director of Administration and Finance and served with great distinction.

His career with the North Slope Borough included remarkable accomplishments including:
- Negotiating an upgrade for our General Obligation bonds to AA (the same credit rating as China and Saudi Arabia!),
- Leading a review of our sales and use tax agreements that brought the first increase in funding in 22 years, and
- Revitalizing our school debt reimbursement program which brought many millions in additional state funding to our schools.

Quyanaqpak Reed!

Early Voting information

The North Slope Borough wants every resident in our region to have the opportunity to cast their vote. Through a coordinated effort with local village governments, tribal organizations, and NSB village liaisons, each village in our region will be provided a greater opportunity for residents to vote by providing early voting options.

We will be joining the effort as a part of 176 new village locations for early voting. This effort will take place beginning two weeks prior to the state elections. Important dates:

- July 3 - First absentee ballots sent to active military households, U.S. overseas citizens (UOCAVA voters) and remote Alaska civilian voters
- July 20 - Last day to register to vote or update registration information
- July 25 - First mailing of absentee ballots to civilian (non-UOCAVA voters) voters
- August 4 - Early and absentee in-person voting begins at many locations throughout Alaska
- August 4 - May apply for absentee ballots by electronic transmission
- August 9 - Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail
- August 18 - 5:00 p.m. Alaska Standard Time Deadline for electronic absentee ballot
- August 19 - Primary Election Day – Polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- August 19 - Deadline for absentee by-mail ballots to be postmarked
- August 19 - 8:00 p.m. Alaska Standard Time, is the deadline for electronic absentee ballots

North Slope Locations:
1. Anaktuvuk Pass precinct - NSB Village Office
2. Barrow/Browerville precinct - NSB Office, 1274 Agvik St.
3. Kaktovik precinct - City of Kaktovik Office
4. Wainwright precinct - Wainwright Traditional Council
5. Atqasuk - NSB Village office
6. Nuiqsut - NSB Village Office
7. Point Hope - NSB Teleconference Office
8. Point Lay - Point Lay Community Center

Mayor Charlotte Brower would like to thank all the communities taking on this endeavor, Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) and the Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act (ANCSA) Regional Association for initiating this exciting new opportunity and the Division of Elections for accommodating this statewide effort.
North Slope Childcare (continued from page 1)

• Business plans for childcare centers in Nuiqsut and Barrow have been completed and are now being finalized in an effort to garner further support and long term funding.
• Project timelines are in place for September 2014 opening date for Nuiqsut and October 2014 for Barrow.
• Staffing and training plans have been developed to support long-term and local childcare career support in partnership with ASNA, Thread, RuralCAP and Iḷisaġvik College.
• Agreements are in place with RuralCAP, two organizations with childcare center development and licensing expertise, to expedite opening quality childcare centers with culturally relevant early learning curriculum in place.
• Owner/operators have been determined for both childcare centers in Nuiqsut in Barrow, in Barrow for the short-term it will be the North Slope Borough and for Nuiqsut the Native Village of Nuiqsut has taken the reigns.
• A Regional Childcare Sustainability fund has been outlined with the Arctic Slope Community Foundation to ensure that over the long-term there will be funding available to support the childcare industry on the North Slope.

In addition to this progress the childcare team has set some clear goals for the future and has plans to begin working with the community of Point Hope and Wainwright to replicate what has been done in Nuiqsut and Barrow to make quality childcare a reality. This is what you can expect in the next year.

• Renovations on the Nuiqsut community center, an old AWIC building will be completed this fall. (Planned openings in Nuiqsut is September 2014 and in Barrow, October 2014).
• In parallel with construction projects Childcare professionals will be hired and trained in accordance with licensing regulations for both Nuiqsut and Barrow childcare centers.
• Point Hope has a building identified and a PAR is in the works.
• A Regional Childcare Coordinator will be hired at the North Slope Borough to oversee and support the childcare industry while working very closely with the Childcare team.
• Other communities on the North Slope will then be evaluated for program feasibility.

All in all it has been a fruitful effort to bring forth a much-needed service to the communities that have identified childcare as a priority. The programming will be culturally relevant, tailored to each communities needs and designed with future sustainability in mind. The childcare centers are envisioned to be welcoming, loving places where children and their parents come for support and education and where parents can feel confident that they have left there kids in a safe and loving environment. I want to thank all team members for their hard work and dedication to this important issue the past 2 years.

Who is it?

Can you guess who this young man is?

Answer from the last issue of North Slope News. L-R: Elizabeth “Ebus” Sakeagak & Edna Ahgeak MacLean
Mayors' Message (continued from page 1)

The purpose of the Authority as stated in the NSB Ordinance passed by the Assembly is:

“To plan for, finance construct operate and maintain transportation related facilities and activities within the boundaries of the North Slope Borough. These facilities and activities, or projects, are intended to provide emergency response capability environmental protection, improved efficiency of local cargo operations, resource development and training and employment for local residents”.

If adopted by voters, the Authority would be governed by a Board of Directors appointed by my administration and confirmed by the Assembly. The Board would have the following representation:

• 1 member at large
• 1 member representing the North Slope Borough
• 1 member representing a city government within the North Slope Borough
• 1 member representing a North Slope Tribal organization
• 1 member representing a Regional Native Corporation
• 1 member representing a Village Native Corporation
• 1 member representing the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission

Plans developed by this broad representation will be seen as representing a unified approach of the key entities on the North Slope. This will help us in achieving funding for our projects. All meetings of the Board would be noticed and all financial statements and annual reports would be published and public. Any debts of the Authority would not be considered debts of the Borough and would not affect our funding caps or interfere with our bonding for schools and other necessary Borough infrastructure. Representatives of the Borough will be travelling to our villages to discuss the possible formation of the Authority, to further explain its purpose and powers, and to answer questions. They will also be requesting information on local transportation related projects that each community would like the Authority to consider.

The Arctic is rapidly becoming an active maritime province. I believe we need to take steps now to ensure that this activity is managed in a responsible manner and that our people are able to economically benefit from it, rather than just watch these ships float by our shores.

Sincerely,

Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor
North Slope Borough