In accordance with section 5.010(b)(7) of the North Slope Borough Municipal Charter, it was my pleasure to report earlier this month to the Assembly on the activities undertaken by my administration over the past year. There are 7 major themes that have guided the efforts of my administration:

To ensure the Borough’s long-term fiscal stability and economic growth,

- We strengthened the borough’s financial position.
- We passed a bill that allows us to use over $60 million more tax revenue for annual operations.
- Our debt is at its lowest level in 35 years, going from $470 million in 2011 down to $353 million in 2014 (a reduction in debt of over $117 million in three years).
- The borough’s bond rating is the highest it has ever been.
- We’ve successfully shown there’s an increase to our population numbers.

continued on page 3

Mayor Brower welcomes Governor

Earlier this month, Mayor Brower welcomed Governor Sean Parnell to Barrow for the ceremonial signing of Senate Bill 138. Governor Parnell, who was joined by his wife, Sandy, newly reelected Representative Benny Nageak, House Speaker Mike Chenault and many other borough officials and community members for the event.

The bill, in addition to launching Alaska on a track to become an owner in the Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas Project, encourages the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC) to carry the state’s interests in the project’s infrastructure. The bill modifies a tax cap that provides more flexibility to municipalities with oil and gas properties to use more property tax revenues for critical services for their residents.

During the event, Mayor Brower thanked all involved in the process and spoke about the importance of the legislation for the people of the North Slope. The bill will bring jobs and allow for lower energy costs across the Slope, she said.

Along with the beginnings of a gas pipeline, the event was about celebrating a bill brought forth by Representative Nageak that allows the borough to use oil and gas property tax revenue for the operating budget. The restriction was written into law in 1973. “When the North Slope Borough was first formed during the early 1970’s, our efforts were faced with opposition from oil companies, and even the State of Alaska,” Brower said. “We had to go to court to be able to form our own local government. There were voices (which) said the people of the North Slope weren’t capable of governing themselves. But today is a day to celebrate the end of those arguments.”

“SB 138 strengthens the North Slope Borough, and it strengthens the State of Alaska,” Brower said. “For that we should all be thankful for the resources we have, and we should be thankful to our leaders here for helping us solve an issue that has been plaguing mayors in my position for over 40 years.”
EMPLOYEE of the Month

Pauline Havea Lilo
Employee of the Month
August 2014

Pauline Havea Lilo has been selected as the August EOM. She is a valued North Slope Borough employee for over 7 years. Pauline was originally hired as an Office Specialist for Administration & Finance in 2006. At the time she was a recent high school graduate. In January 7, 2008 she was promoted to Executive Assistant.

Pauline is a very pleasant person to be around. She is friendly, responsive and intelligent. Through the eight year of her service to the Borough, she has grown in skill and self-confidence. She gets along well with people around her, both in groups and in one-to-one situations. Pauline’s happy attitude, her willingness to work with others, her dazzle tooth smile and composed demeanor demonstrate her high energy level which is a reflection of her good physical health and her positive orientation toward life. Quyanaqpak Pauline!

Alison Akpik is the daughter of Selene Akpik & John Pacheco. She was raised by her grandparents Rosanna and Morrie Lemen Jr., and also the grand-daughter of Walter and Masak Akpik.

Alison graduated from Barrow High school in 2010. She went on to pursue a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Psychology from Arizona State University, where she was also on the Deans List.

Alison plans to continue her education as a graduate student at Argosy University in San Diego to earn a master’s degree in counseling psychology with a focus on marital and family therapy.

Her plans are to return to Barrow to give back to the community and region from which she came.

Ever since she can remember she has had a passion for helping people and trying to find solutions to their problems, whether it was friends, family, or strangers. She has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel around the world and see different aspects of life. Her passion for helping people will require her to become engaged in the lives of others, many whom are socially, mentally and economically disadvantaged. It is her hope that the education will allow her to be better equipped to help those who are less fortunate or who are constantly facing adversity and are subject to circumstances beyond their control. Alison said the knowledge gained from her educational experiences in college will transform her into an even more considerate and compassionate person seeking to make a difference in the lives of others.

Alison would like to thank her family, friends, and community for supporting her throughout the years. Quyanaqpak.
which provided over $7 million in additional General Funds

- We currently have the lowest unemployment rate in the State (per Alaska Department of Labor).
- We invested heavily in maintaining our public infrastructure—roads and buildings, landfills and the Barrow gas fields, all of which need upgrades, and continual maintenance.

To ensure that we have safe and responsible oil and gas development,

- My administration supported the proposal to build a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Cook Inlet, and demanded the inclusion of language in the legislation that will require opportunities for local villages to have ownership opportunities and access to affordable energy.
- Successfully got Governor Parnell and the Legislature to form a Municipal Advisory Group that recognizes the need for compensating local governments for development impacts.
- We invested $90 million in Service Area 10 Utilities.
- Design efforts are also ongoing for an expansion of the Oxbow landfill, the development of waste stream reduction alternatives, and a coordinated metals recycling program.

To combat the chronic housing shortage in our communities,

- We are addressing the lack of affordable and quality housing with $20.5 million in capital funds.
- We created a Housing Solutions Group that I tasked with identifying options to address the issue of available housing.
- We are looking at the housing situation in a systemic way, and working hard to create pathways of opportunities for our residents.

To protect the North Slope environment and subsistence practices,

- We successfully conducted studies on bowhead whales, caribou, beluga whales, ice seals, fishes, geese, eiders, Arctic foxes and other species, including collection of samples from harvested resources for our wildlife health assessment program. The information from those projects will enhance the North Slope’s ability to influence management decisions.
- Expanded Search and Rescue services with three (3) full-time Emergency Responder positions in Wainwright, Nuiqsut & Point Hope, and increased village staff and support.

To continue to foster healthy communities and the safety and well being of all North Slope residents, we worked on the following areas:

- Immunizations Rates have increased from 78 to 80%, second highest in the State
- Our Wellness program is fully staffed with 4 fulltime PHNs and a Coordinator, increasing village visits and presence to increase immunizations, EPSDTs, Obesity Prevention.
- We added 3 Clients Service Assistants who are now providing scheduled activities for Elders at both senior center and assisted living.
- We opened a new AWIC facility in May 2012 that allows increase in overall program service delivery.
- We established a formal SART (sexual assault rape trauma) team and MOU to address rape in our region.
- My administration has made it a priority to stop the illegal sale of alcohol and drugs into our communities. That’s why the primary focus of the Detective’s Unit is alcohol and illegal drug interdiction, along with the investigation of all major crimes.

To advocate for equitable education and career development for all residents:

- We facilitated a partnership between the borough and the University of Alaska – Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) to allow the NSB to provide professional internships for ANSEP engineering and/or science students. This program provides opportunities for students to explore and enter into professional careers on the North Slope.
- The concept of a Residential Training Center was vetted with community involvement and is now being fully developed.
- To provide sustainable quality childcare services for working parents and caregivers,
- The North Slope Regional Childcare Team was formed and began working to develop sustainable childcare options.
- Facilities for Barrow and Nuiqsut were identified and funding for renovation has been secured to bring them up to code for licensing.
- Staffing and training plans have been developed to support long-term and local childcare career support in partnership with ASNA, Thread, Rural CAP and Ilisagvik College.
- Owner/operators have been determined for both childcare centers in Nuiqsut and Barrow, in Barrow for the short-term it will be the North Slope Borough and for Nuiqsut the Tri-lateral leadership group has been instrumental with the management plan. ASNA is working closely with the Native Village of Nuiqsut to operate the center.
- 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 closing, I am very thankful for every employee who is working for the borough and I appreciate every one of you. For the full version of my report, please visit our website at north-slope.org.

Thank you.
Earlier this year, the Housing Solutions Group, in consultation with the Mayor’s Office and community leaders, made a strategic decision to focus on supporting families that want to build their own home. Through the leadership of Mayor Brower and CAO Adams, a partnership was built between Wells Fargo Bank, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and the North Slope Borough. Under this arrangement the NSB will commit $6 million to a revolving loan fund. The loan fund will finance the construction of new single family, owner-occupied homes for residents.

The idea was presented before the assembly last month, for the North Slope Borough to provide financing through-out the construction period and then help the families transition to traditional, long term financing. Just last week the Mayor and the Assembly recognized that a key part of addressing the NSB housing shortage is to stimulate the construction of new housing stock.

A private market solution was desired, so construction would be handled in a competitive and efficient manner-creating high quality homes at the best possible prices for NSB residents. Research indicated that the normal tools for financing new home construction were not available to NSB residents. Without construction financing, very few new homes are able to be built. When the homes are complete, participants would then receive a long term home mortgage from the bank of their choice. The money from the long term mortgage would be used to repay the revolving loan fund and allow additional families to be served by the program. The proposal was unanimously passed by the Assembly.

For more information contact Patsy “Aqi” Neakok or Jeslie Kaleak, Jr at the Mayor’s Office at 907-852-0200.

The responsibilities of being Mayor of the North Slope Borough require attention to many important and complicated issues, but it’s an honor to be part of a great team that tackles the issues facing all of our communities. There are also humbling times when, as Mayor, you meet someone special. Recently at an Assembly meeting in Point Lay, I was approached by a young girl named Marjory Mary Pikok. Marjory had heard that her late Grandparents, Danny and Ruth Pikok, Sr., were great friends of mine. She wanted to tell me that meeting me made her feel connected to her Grandparents, and one day she hopes to be Mayor of the North Slope Borough.

God Bless You, Marjory. With your enthusiasm, intelligence, and positive attitude, you will go a long way. Your Grandparents would be very proud of you.