

MINUTES OF BETHEL COUNCIL MEETING  
COWAN HUT - 1/13/58 (Mon)

OFFICERS PRESENT

Howard Elliott  
James Hoffman  
Jesse Oscar  
Ray Miller

OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Kinagak  
Alice Miller  
Dave Nuckoles  
Father Hargraves  
Barbara Nuckoles  
Butch LaRue  
Marilyn LaRue  
Mr. Fancher  
Mr. Schotschneider

Meeting was called to order by Howard Elliott at 8:10 p.m.

Mr. Elliott stated that we had been reinstated as legal again, altho we are really illegal in another way because of one member having resigned.

Mr. Schotschneider stated he thought there was a provision providing for the Council being able to appoint another member.

Mr. Miller was of the opinion there would have to be another election by townspeople, rather than the Council appointing. That way the Council would not have complete control.

Mr. Elliott suggested we could perhaps nominate 3 or 4 and hold election in a few weeks.

Mr. Miller questioned if it would be objected to if the same judges who were in the original election were had.

Mr. Elliott asked if they were not Mr. Schotschneider, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Schmidt. (Affirmed) (No objections were made.)

Mr. Hoffman made a motion that an election by the townspeople be held Feb. 4 to elect a fifth Council member.

Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

Mr. Elliott read a letter from Wm. Olson, Area Director, BIA re: well and surrounding property and access road being conveyed to local town officials or Territorial School authorities. It was understood by him the well was to be used by the Health Center and for general use. After incorporation, the BIA would recommend the property be conveyed to the Village, provided that the water be made available to BIA buildings on Lot 5 retained by BIA. Access area for a road is to be provided by BIA. If at any time the Secretary of Dept. of Interior decides that the Village has failed to carry out the provisions agreed upon, the land is to revert to the U.S. and become subject to Public Land laws.

Mr. Schotschneider brought up subject of road being flooded--it was thought that difficulties could be surmounted.

Mr. Elliott read telegram from Jack Cog<sup>hill</sup>field stating that the Attorney General "today issued a reversal of Asher's decision and Hon. Judge Forbes agreed to giving your Village full eligibility . . . ." Also read letter from Gov. Steponivich to Judge Forbes.

Mr. Miller suggested the letter writing committee next week draw up plans for incorporation. Also spoke of plans to formulate sales tax program. He suggested Wednesday for writing to McNeely to draw up papers of incorporation.

Mr. Elliott: Mentioned starting the water supply development and remarked that any method of development whether with surplus material or new would take money. Stated that Governor's letter to Dr. Gibson, Accounting Commissioner of Health, called attention to water system of Bethel, which is too large (being over 500) to be eligible for assistance from the Rules Development Board. Discussed Alaska Public Works putting in the well. It was stated that they buy all new material and make their own plans for the building. They would also have to be assured of payment.

Mr. Miller: Stated that we are going to be able to acquire the land, but installation of the well cannot be done until a sales tax is made. The Council will have to raise money of its own.

Rev. Hargraves inquired what the cost will be.

Mr. Miller remarked that Mr. Featherstone (DIA) made an estimate of \$40,000. The cost will necessarily be a lot because a building will have to be constructed to keep it from freezing right along with the development of the well itself. The well will have to be re-drilled--it is frozen.

CAA drilling was discussed.

Barbara Nuckoles inquired what the Council's plan is re: sales tax.

Mr. Elliott stated they had written to Fairbanks, Cordova and Nome for regulations but had got nothing entirely satisfactory for Bethel use.

Mr. Miller said present plans are to have McNeely draw up tax plans that will be legal.

B. Nuckoles stated that McNeely is out in the States, and whether his partner would accommodate the Council was discussed.

Discussion was had re: out-of-town retail purchases. No conclusions were made.

Progress in Fire Dept. was discussed. Elliott offered help; Mr. LaRue reported fairly good progress in installing floors and paneling. Stated he plans to have N.C. Co. hook up lights; plans to move siren. Repair of truck engine was discussed. Mr. Elliott and Mr. LaRue offering to do the work.

Fancher stated that Boy Scouts will give up the hall of Tuesdays. Mr. Elliott stated Council would meet 1st Tues. ea. month.

B. Nuckoles suggested a woman Council member be nominated.

Mr. Miller advised that Jan. 14 notice would be put up to eliminate the dog popula on the following Monday, and that the National Guard would be called on, or that the Council members would do it if necessary.

Mr. Elliott suggested use of shot guns for safety. Also asked for nominations for the fifth member of Council.

Mr. Miller proposed that any Council member accept nominations until Friday, then work up posters for Monday. Election to be held February 4.

Mr. Nickoles offered to make ballots and posters for the election. (Accepted)

Mr. Hoffman made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Miller: Seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.