

SCOMM

#10:34A



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE
COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY

Co-Chairmen
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Representative Bill Parker

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correspondence to:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

PUBLIC HEARINGS

(Capsule summaries of main issues discussed)

BETHEL - Sept. 28, 1979 (Approximately 35 participants)

*Ineffectiveness of Existing Public Safety System

Currently there is a lack of individuals who are interested in participating in second-class city organizations as the 2nd class city is seen as limited in its ability to deal with public safety/judicial problems. They are limited in the sentences they can impose and found that they were able to handle problems better under the IRA Council. Under the IRA government, they were able to have certain flexibility in regard to public safety which they don't have now.

Additional police protection is needed. Training is essential as well. Changes in revenue sharing formula would be helpful. If CETA were defunded, how would training be accomplished? If you upgrade the training of village police, there will be better communication with state troopers.

*Specific Comments on Proposed Legislation

Caution against establishing a body which would be advisory. Regional Corp. boundaries should be considered. Once boundaries are established, everyone should adhere to them. In regard to planning responsibilities, there needs to be "teeth" in the legislation. Mandate that the local people get involved in fiscal planning.

At large election is counterproductive. District representation necessary.

The elected assembly would need its own staff. This "elaborate creature" is not necessary (unorganized boroughs). Don't create a half measure for the unorganized borough. Mandate a borough. Advisory business is no good. The community has to decide if it wants self government.

* General Concerns

There was the fear that the Coastal Zone Management planning power/process was arriving too late. The time frame is off in regard to effectively managing OCS development.

There was a feeling that the regional government approach might be an acceptable one. But there were concerns as to whether or not the villages might not be heard. That they might get "shafted" in the process of organizing. That Bethel might elect someone from a village who the village didn't want representing them. At the present time the villages are recipients of programs rather than the initiators. The program becomes dominant and the local people can't pick up maintenance of ill-conceived projects.

AKES

Coastal Zone Management Bill... should have the same...

Feder. Subsidies...

Don't let Central... (SB 354 & 374...)
... planning... people for observations...
... established...
... made...
... planning...



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HOOPER BAY - Sept. 29, 1979 *20 participants*

*Lack of an economic base in the community was a dominant issue. In order to have a borough, some source of income would be needed. Services are needed now. There was discussion of some areas which might provide an ec base if developed: commercial fishing, reindeerling, shale. At the present time there is nothing other than subsistence. Now that they are functioning in a cash economy it is essential that they have a way of earning money.

* The general lack of necessary public services was pointed out:
Water
Sewer disposal system.
Road needs to be rebuilt from airstrip to town.
T.V.s are in the village yet they do not receive signals.
The police force needs additional training; money for uniforms; more monetary support. At the present time they rely on CETA.
Concerned about reduced funding of CETA and could use additional funds at this time.

DILLINGHAM - Sept. 30, 1979 *16 participants*

*Generally the community was described as a well-knit one with fishing being the unifying ingredient. Subsistence and commercial fishing is the backbone of village economies. The concerns expressed included: *more top on fishing boats needed, need dock facilities*
Lack of local match money, increasing cost of freight being flown in; sewer and water for Aleknigik.; little direct impact from bottom-fish and oil development but it may be indirect impacts.

*Concerns re proposed legislation
How would Bristol Bay be handled? Perhaps the area would get less grant money with a regional government.
Frightened by fear of taxes if borough is formed.

NEW STUYAHOK - Oct. 1, 1979 *20 participants*

*Comments on proposed legislation
How would representation work?
Would people go to Dillingham to vote?
Concern that too much would be taken off the top (\$) for administrative purposes if borough is formed. How best can people get voice in government.?
What positive impacts would an unorganized borough have?

* Deficiencies in existing services noted were:
Airport can't be used 2 weeks in the spring as it needs a new gravel base. It is essential for emergency uses.
T.V. not working. Would like to receive educational TV
Backhoe needs to be replaced for maintenance of dump.
Water/sewer system being transferred from Public Health and the community can't afford to maintain it.

FORT YUKON - Oct. 18, 1979 *37 min committee*

The discussion in Fort Yukon focused on the pros and cons of borough formation in light of the Yukon Flats Borough Feasibility Study. There was a statement urging "patience" with the rural areas of Alaska as they are much like and "emerging nation". They may be slow to form boroughs but must do so at their own pace. The rate of change has been so great and the villages are emerging into the 20th century late.

There was a concern that the Daryshire Report may be "too slick"--may not deal with all the realities which may eventually have to be faced in the area if a borough is formed. If rural Alaska falls, Anchorage and the rest of the state will feel it.

GLENNALLEN - 10/27/79 *75 min committee*

*Area generally opposed to the creation of regional government.
Taxation is a fear. Businesses might not be able to survive.
Governmental control is unwanted. People moved to area to get away from government.

How would villages benefit? How would services be delivered when you are spread out along the highway?

Sovereignty is the issue. Initiation should come from within the area rather than outside of the area to form a borough. Don't really know long-term results of borough formation.

*Other concerns

Unfamiliar with the revenue which might be available to the area from the pipeline.

If a community doesn't organize, can roads be absorbed by existing borough? Concern about "piece meal" annexation.

PUBLIC HEARING - DILLINGHAM"

Sept. 30, 1979

Carlson- 29 villages served
Public dock needed.

Schroder- Public Health Service-water and sewer done by IAS
50 new homes
22 sq. mi.-bond not tabable as in..
water and sewer service limited
Snow plowing within City limits
Public bathhouse-truck water and sewerage
4 city employees
6 maintenacne
10 mil. rate maintained
Small tax base
Local match 20% CZM is problem
Little impact from bottomfish/oil but there may be indirect
spinoffs.

School Bd. Member

Judy

1.7 million budget.

Bond appropriation for new shcool not approved.

Drop in enrollment of boarding home students.

Freight-cost of barge freight has lowered but air costs rising. Small
communities suffering.

Sue

Village administrator training.

Bristol Bay Healther corp.

9 villages incorporated and rest are traditonal Councils.

Option of haveing village administrator

Lack of local match \$

Frightened by fear of taxes if borough ws formed

Subsistence and commercial fishing is backbone of village economy.

Working on herring industry. Cooperative members being sought.

Fish related.

No 3% fish tax.

No boundary jurisdiciton for fish tax.

Historically community doesn't tax fishermen.

Judy Nelson-Native service hospital treats non-natives as well as
natives. Extened care facility should be constructed. Public health
nurse.

Well knit community. Fishing unites.

Problems not like Calista

Ad Hermann- How would Bristol Bay be handled? Dependency on fishing.

Not going to help. may get less grant \$ with a regional government.

Expertise not in the bush.

Ec development Plan

Alegniak needs waterand sewer.

Visited Alegniak.

PUBLIC HEARING - FORT YUKON

10/18/79

Proposal (Yukon Fltat) not realistic.
Feasibility study only.
How would organization effect taxes?
What is alternative if you don't have boro?
Taxes will ultimately come with organization.
Oil can't support forever. If there is no mineral development, where will the money come from?

FEAA highly successful. Time consuming board but results evident. Programs are better. Superior to SOS. Less frustration, and red tape. Better maintenance of schools.

Deficiencies of Title 29-No communities being incorporated as small communities find Title 29 burdensome. Form of election contrary "seat" set up "eye wash". Have top 3 win. At large rather than running for a particular seat. 45% of each dollar comes from alcohol sale for City. \$15 per head for police. Spend \$60,000 for police protection. Shouldn't have to be in liquor business to support local government.

Concerned that pipeline \$ might be used for all unorganized borough unless Ft. Yukon could be guaranteed some amount organization would bring.

Maybe sharing of localized resource is necessary.

Concern about representation after reapportionment.

Airport- state wanted to have control of area around airstrip.

Effect on REAA and Assembly of any incorporation?
What will support from State drop to?
Relationship of School Bd. and Assembly?

Land issues need to be settled before there is any planning and zoning. Conveyance needs to be settled. Land crisis. City hasn't zoned as there isn't any choice. 153 acres-surveyed townsite. When transfer takes place, then they can start.

Title 4-Alcohol=Sen. Ray's bill.

Darbyshire report "too slick".

Annexation to North Slope Borough a problem?

Taxes in boro go up constantly .

Large gov't infrastructure will only last 20 years. Then what? Great number of fields yet untapped.
Pipeline not valuable unless oil is going through it so that even tho it is taxed, it wouldn't be worth much.
Gas line...

Like an "emerging nation". Rapid change. Have patience. Allow rural areas to have ideas jell. Don't knock village H.S. May be slow to form boros. Rate of change so great. Emerging into 20th Century late.

Can boro be voted out once it is voted in?

Ft. Yukon seems to be taking care of itself. "Government viewed negatively.
Have pros and antis- sit down to gether to fight it out.

Village understnad their dependency on each other.

If rural Ak. falls, Anch. will feel it.

"Capital '79 isn't recieved. Translate info in Kuchin.

(Send report to Eu Priest, Birch Creek for comment. 9 yr. resident.

Low grade form of boro being proposed.

Assembly should be given power to provide for referendum to upgrade status.

Protection from C&RA is what is needed. All kinds of direction dictated from state, fed agencies--unwanted.

✓ This approach goes around school \$ which is usually the charge levied.

Money received from pipeline are over and above amount needed for education.

Sam Lightwood-

✓ 1. Taxes ¶ 2. Gov't Control

These are the two reasons he opposes creation of borough.

At the present time unplanned growth is unsatisfactory. Leary of

✓ planning. Results unsatisfactory. Pipeline revenue available. Business able to survive. Tax might be too much. Mat-Su taxes are not a blessing

✓ Taxes might identify who own land. Can't get easements for utilities as land ownership is not clear at the present time. But this is not a good reason for taxes.

How would villages benefit? How would services be delivered when you are spread out along highway?

Bob Lohr-

Do boundaries around whole state.

• Assemblies should be voluntary.

Remove all mandatory aspects of proposal.

Home Ruel concept is workable.

Provision for community to vote to change boundaries should be included.

Questions REAA boundaries.

Everett(?) Valdez oriented yet in Glennallen REAA

✓ If a community doesn't organize, can areas be absorbed by existing boroughs?

✓ Concern about "piece meal" annexation.

Wants to keep enough area to have a good boro if they ultimately have one.

Mr. Baylis, Copper Center-

✓ Sovereignty is the issue. Initiation should come from within area rather than outside of the area to form a borough. Don't really know long-term results of borough formation. What will the ec base be when the pipeline can't be depended upon. Sovereignty is the question.

✓ Dick Ford, Copper Center-

Establish boundaries around existing boroughs so that organized boroughs don't take over the unorganized areas.

4th Class Cities--Glennallen and Copper City wanted to organize.

Interest of subsistence users need to be taken into consideration. Elderly need to be given priority in subsistence use. There needs to be money for a conference to disperse subsistence information.

Kenny Lake--water supply is a problem.

✓ In Tok, road and police are problems. What would the area get in exchange for becoming a borough.?

Area not large enough to sustain self. Elected Reps. should represent the interests of the area. That is what they are elected for.

What would happen if Glennallen was incorporated as a second class city? Wanted to slow down things. Now organization attempt is being raised. What to be left alone. Tax will drive people out of bush.

Herb Smelier

Resources need to create boundaries need to be identified. Inventory of resources is necessary before any assembly would be created. Study must be done. Legislature should help do the inventory to check feasibility. Soil, population, etc. should be included. Premature to have Assembly without this information. Draft plan for Aetan region is being developed. Aetna Ec Study outline is available. Transportation, land status and future projections need to be included.

Gathering information is the key. Aetna doing it for their people .. It is also important to do it for all people. Fact sheet-pros and cons organization. Eventually something will happen. What kind of provisions is Stat making for land availability?

Delta Land Use Management Study might be a model (Moss)

Stat could contract with Copper River Native Ass'n for info already developed.

Health Study

Kenny Lake League tried to initiate studies of boroughs unsuccessfully.

Resentment re planning and zoning concepts.

No point in studying until you can step on land.

Lack of local government given as reason for living in Tok (201)
Problems are manufactured.

Maybe citizens fund should be established for bringing people to Juneau to make this point.

Voice of people in the bush who are negative re borough government is not being heard.

Have gone through this before. Have been asked what they thought. Put in comments on D2. Less control. Less organization which spends money is what they want. Get what they don't want all the time. Existing tax structure won't work. No one is listening to people.

D2 situation. Copper Basin effected. Taslina River, Paxson. Anch. legislators didn't know effect.

Fire control as problem in Chitnook. Unmet needs under existing government re fire. Need help and assistance re fire support.

Glennallen -volunteer fire dept. Class 80 rating.

Identify who is asking for borough study and who is putting on pressure re borough study.

Legislature should come to unorganized boro to get input so they can function effectively as Assembly.

Leave lines off map.

Give a grant to opponents of the borough.

PUBLIC HEARING - HOOPER BAY

Sept. 29, 1979

Nanuk- Problems and needs of community. Time to tour village.

Road problems.

Discussion of history of attempt to rebuild road.

Water and sewer disposal system needed.

One of the largest village yet Hooper Bay doesn't have these things.

Oil \$ so state should do it.

Resolution needed for this.

Representatives only give promises and don't deliver.

A.G. opinion stopping on use of Village Safe Water Act.

Perman frost cited as problem.

Complicated by overlapping authorities.

Water plant? built 3 yrs. ago. Just started getting water this week.

Campaign promises not fulfilled.

One way of getting government closer to people . Regional distribution of money.

* Source of income needed to have borough. Services needed now. Not boroughs as there is no money.

Dudolf Smith- Shale hunting along shore.

Commercialize this. (the shore)

* Children need some place to work.

Commercial fishing may help.

No work other than subsistence.

Money necessary now for survival.

Reindeering might help.

Land Claims.

Swamp area need to be filled in.

Revenue sharing not enough

4-5 CETA employees.

Police

Road

Water/Sewer

T.V.

(DOT contact person was Rick Nelson) re road)

* Comments on Proposed Legislation

The Committee should not create another layer of bureaucracy to provide services. A great deal of organization exists in rural Alaska already. No boroughs should be mandated. What should be mandated is financial support as the Kotzebue area has no tax base. The people are not ready for a borough.

Providing services on an areawide basis is important but the communities could get together to do this without the formation of a borough. A regional government might not benefit the villages--they might in fact receive fewer services. In the North Slope Borough the regional government has consolidated power and taken it away from the villages.

(The fifteen points made by the City Council of Kotzebue in reviewing the Local Government Study proposal were discussed. See attached statement)

Regional services can be provided on a service specific basis. State agencies could be authorized to contract for delivery of services.

* General Concerns

At the present time CETA is providing many of the basic funding for municipal services. A reliable source of money is needed to operate and maintain the services which have been provided by Federal money. CETA doesn't really pay enough to live on and the turnover of employees is great. Some of the employment criteria used by CETA is too restrictive.

The lack of a record system for land ownership is a problem. It would be helpful to have a system. The records have been moved from Kotzebue to Fairbanks and these land records should be regionally located so they can be used by the people.

Economic resource planning needs to be done. Planning grants need to be available on an ongoing basis.

In the NANA Regional Strategy the recommendation is being considered to make the overseeing group a loose organization of city mayors. These collective regional representatives would meet when necessary to make decisions related to general planning. There is time to develop their Coastal Zone Management Plan and there is a mechanism for local input in the development of the plan.

Providing local match money is a problem. The NANA Strategies require a 30% local match and CZM requires a 20% match. This is a very real problem for areas where there is no economic base.

Government "red tape" cited as a problem.

Rural energy concerns were discussed. The possibility of oil from the top of the gas cap in Prudhoe Bay was mentioned as well as wind, hydro, and geothermal power. Congress is looking at cash subsidies to help solve the problem.

comments and then do nothing about the problems.

"It is more important to ask where they are going than where they came from".

CITY OF KOTZEBUE

P.O. BOX 46
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA 99752
907-442-3401

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY PUBLIC HEARING

THE CITY COUNCIL OF KOTZEBUE HAS REVIEWED THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY CHART PREPARED AFTER AUGUST 4-5 SYMPOSIUM AND OFFER THE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION;

1. THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD AUTHORIZE AN ELECTION OF UP TO ELEVEN ASSEMBLY MEMBERS. WE ALL KNOW THAT ELECTED POLITICIANS REQUIRE A STAFF, MEETING AREAS AND VARIOUS SUPPORT FUNCTIONS. THIS COSTS MONEY.
2. OUR BEST GUESS FOR COST IS \$ 250,000 to \$ 300,000 FOR PAID STAFF, TRAVEL MEETINGS AND OTHER EXPENSES FOR THE KOTZEBUE REGION.
3. HOW LONG WILL THE STATE BE ABLE TO FUND THIS TYPE GOVERNMENT? WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER BOROUGHES? SURELY THEY WILL DEMAND AND, RIGHTFULLY SO, TO BE FUNDED AT THE SAME LEVEL.
4. KOTZEBUE NOR THE VILLAGES IN THE REGION HAVE ~~NOT~~ ^{A TAX} BASE TO FUND THIS LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT.
5. IN THE KOTZEBUE REGION WE HAVE A POPULATION OF ABOUT 5000. OF THIS 5000, MAY BE 1500 HAVE STEADY INCOMES FROM WORK. THESE 1500 WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THIS LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT AT SOME POINT IN TIME. THE MAJORITY OF THIS WORK FORCE IS IN KOTZEBUE. THEREFORE, KOTZEBUE WOULD BE CONTROLLING THE REGION. SO WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED? ONE MAN ONE VOTE LAW WILL PREVAIL,
6. IT IS PROPOSED TO CREATE A PROCESS FOR CHARTER OF HOME RULE. WE HAVE THAT RIGHT NOW UNDER EXISTING LAWS.

"GATEWAY TO NORTHWEST ALASKA"

7. COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LENDING ASSISTANCE, THEY ARE CHARGED WITH THAT RESPONSIBILITY NOW. COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS IS NOT ADEQUATELY FUNDED NOW TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES.
8. HOW CAN YOU PROVIDE LEGISLATION FOR HOME RULE AS CURRENTLY DEFINED AND ALLOW REAA POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO REMAIN INTACT?
9. WE HAVE THE A-95 REVIEW PROCESS NOW - THERE ARE NOT REQUIREMENTS FOR ANOTHER REVIEWING AGENCY. WE ARE REVIEWED AND STUDIED BY EVERY BUREAUCRAT THAT LANDS AT THE AIRPORT.
10. THE STATE IS PROJECTING A FUNDS SURPLUS. CREATION OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENT IS A POOR WAY TO SPEND THIS PROJECTED SURPLUS.
11. WE WERE CUT 15% ON REVENUE SHARING IN 1978 AND HELD TO THAT AMOUNT THIS YEAR; IN EFFECT, CONSIDERING INFLATION WE HAVE BEEN CUT 25% PLUS. TAKE THIS SURPLUS AND FUND REVENUE SHARING AT 100%.
12. PROVIDE A MINIMUM STATE REVENUE SHARING SAY, \$25,000.00 TO ALL SMALL CITIES SO THEY CAN BE VIABLE - DON'T CREATE ANOTHER LEVEL OF BUREAUCRACY. THE CITY OF KOBUK RECEIVES ABOUT \$6000 YEARLY FOR REVENUE SHARING. IT COST MORE THAN THIS TO APPLY AND PROPERLY MONITOR EXPENDITURES OF REVENUE SHARING.
13. THE STATE SEEMS TO HAVE A PROBLEM RECOGNIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS NOW. CREATE ANOTHER LEVEL AND THE GRASS ROOT'S GOVERNMENT WILL BE LOST.
14. WE NOW HAVE REAA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS, HEALTH CARE BOARD, MAUNELUK BOARD, NANA BOARD, IRA COUNCIL, COASTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL, CITY COUNCILS AND PLANNING COMMISSIONS, JUST TO NAME A FEW THAT OUR PEOPLE DEAL WITH DAILY, ~~WE~~

YOU ARE CONSIDERING ANOTHER. YET ALL THESE VARIOUS BOARDS COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS POWERS WILL REMAIN INTACT.

15. WHAT WE NEED IS MONEY FOR PROJECTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR OUR UNEMPLOYED, NOT ANOTHER LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT TO TELL US YES, YOU HAVE AN UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM.

NEW STUYAHOK - Public Hearing

Oct. 1, 1979

How would representation work?
Would people go to Dillingham to vote?

Airports, roads, trails \$?

When wil DOTPF survey take place? Let New Stuyahok know.

Annie Woods- Problem with the regional school board--some of the people don't really represent village interests on the school board rather those of Dillingham.

William Gumlickpik- Are bush legislators effective in getting things done?

68% Regional Corp.

Concern that too much will be taken off top for administrative purposes if boro formed. How best can people get voice in government?

What good would unorganized boro do?

Taxes on what?

Water, sewer, lights problem areas.

Backhoe not working- 8 yrs. old breaks down alot.

Transferring system from Public Health Service to village and village can't afford.

Airport-can't be used 2 weeks in Spring as it needs a good gravel base. Emergency uses. 3 yrs. ago--tried to get gravel. There is a local gravel source.

TV not working . Would like to receive educational TV

Handwritten notes:
Annie Woods
William Gumlickpik
68% Regional Corp.
concern that too much will be taken off top for administrative purposes if boro formed. How best can people get voice in government?
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GENERAL CONCERNSPublic Safety

One of the first priority concerns noted for Noorvik in the NANA Regional Strategy Report is the need for funding for "Search and Rescue". The local organization is reimbursed for some expenses from the state however, when they don't have formal authorization from the State troopers for an operation, they don't receive funding.. The \$15,000 allocated for Search and Rescue for the current year has almost been expended. Local control over spending for these activities is desired.

The turnover in police personnel has been high. There are a number of factors which may be responsible, primarily peer pressure exerted on the individuals who are policemen. There are family resentments as certain families seem to be singled out by the police. Also, the courts do not support the public safety people. The District Attorney does not back the local police and this has a demoralizing effect.

In Noorvik it appears that the CETA pay for police is adequate as they are only needed on weekends as there is not much happening weekdays. It seems as if those who become police are only in it for the money as once they get paid, they quit. Even those who have received training seem subject to the pressures mentioned. LEAA seemed to be more effective in this regard than CETA as the former paid for two individuals who could be supportive of each other and some continuity was provided in this way.

Schools

There was a concern that the role of the advisory school boards has not been clearly defined. In hiring, the Board acts on the recommendations of the REAA advisory members and there are often personality problems between the teachers and principal.

Also, the question was raised on the relationship of other village school personnel with the villagers. It was felt that some isolation existed between the village and the school community and that there was not enough informal and personal interaction.

Economic

Unemployment is a major problem. Bingo is one of the few sources of revenue. The finances of the city organization are dependent on CETA monies.

Some mineral wealth exists and could be developed for job opportunities. With the introduction of a cash economy, the villagers can't survive without money. Reindeer herding is a possibility but doesn't employ too many people. BLM is cutting off grazing ranges and caribou are a problem when considering reindeer herding. Fish and Game are not managing caribou properly according to the Noorvik residents.

Specific Capital Improvements Needed

Sewer System

The existing vacuum-type sewer system is functioning well but needs to be expanded to serve more homes. This system was introduced as an experiment in 1971 and the public health service assisted in establishing rates. A larger water and sewer facility is needed as the town grows and financial assistance will be necessary for this. At the present time the facility can only service 50 homes and a larger vacuum pump will be needed.

Road

Funding for a road to the gravel source is needed. The plan is to create a land fill at the gravel site but the land status of that area needs to be explored. BIA has promised to construct the road. (Followup contact with Tom Peterson, of BIA Road Construction confirmed that road surveying in Noorvik might take place in Spring, 1980 with construction planned for 1982. BIA builds roads upon request from the villages recognized under ANCSA based on a priority list developed from the villages and regional federal people).

Street and Airport Lighting

Street lights are needed. It is difficult for the elderly to get around in the dark of winter days and evenings without light. A system had been established at one time but the bulbs were without protectors and were broken by children. They had no bulbs to replace them. A vandal proof system needs to be used.

Also, fire pots are now used at the airstrip. The question was raised of the adequacy of these and the question of cost is a paramount one with the rising cost of fuel oil for the pots.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONCERNS

It is difficult to get people to run for offices for the second class city. They don't understand the system too well. There are often conflicts between holding both church and city positions.

Assistance is needed in the writing of ordinances and the operational problems related to city government.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

There are social problems related to the generation gap between the old and young. There is the desire to maintain village identity and also to help the older people who often don't understand new ways.

Alcohol is a major problem. Alcohol programs need to be funded, possibility to limit and quantity available.

Energy availability is also a major concern.

MISC. COMMENTS

The village has alot of visitors who come and go and ask for



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PUBLIC HEARING REPORT VENETIE - October 19, 1979

The Venetie Public Hearing was held at the Community Building in Venetie on Friday, October 19 at 7:00 P.M. Approximately 35-35-4/10 individuals from both Venetie and Arctic Village attended the hearing (see attached list). The main topics of discussion were as follows.

Concept of Borough Government

In response to
There was discussion of the Yukon Flats Borough Study. The If was stated that the group didn't know much about local government but must be prepared for it. They want to figure out something that would be for the good of the people in the long range. *Ready to sit down and talk and figure out something for the benefit of the people for the long range.* Ready to work with Doyon, Tintana Chiefs, State, rest of the villages in the Yukon Flats area. *Unity was seen as important.* They must stick together, support one another; one people; one tribe. Accomplish one thing at a time.

As new concept to community
There was the feeling that they were being asked to respond to the idea of borough government when in fact it was a new concept for them. They have no basis for comparison between the effectiveness of state and borough government as they know nothing of the latter. They would need a chance to review the borough idea. Explain it to their tribal members, sit down and discuss it in their own language. They have just been introduced to the concept of borough government. They feel they don't want any part of the borough idea. Don't want to be bribed into being a borough and have passed a resolution in opposition of the borough concept.

Relationship with Federal Government

It was pointed out that the villages of Venetie and Arctic Village have a unique relationship with the federal government in that that opted to maintain a reservation status under AN&CA. With the passage of ANSCA, the vilalgsges did not get a monetary settlement, instead choose to keep fee simple title to a large amount of land which had traditionally be en used by their people. A main concern was the fear that in 1991 their land might be taxed. It was their understanding at the time the ANCSA was passed that ititle would be clear and that there would be no taxation. The Congressional delegation is aware of the problem and is trying to pass an amendment to rectify the problem. *Also, there has been no clarification of the status of land & surrounds to government.*
The orientation of these villages would appear to be with the

*appear that state involvement & Venetie as a unit
To the action of federal government & state who appear at state level not get
themselves. Don't get involved in things, although Fed.*

Venetie - p. 2

the federal rather than the state government .Through government grants the villages are implementing a long range plan which consists of airport projects, housing, sewer , water, timber development, status of land clarification, organization of tribal government, offices, etc. They are trying to move from the a substituted way of life into the mainstream of America by studying laws, and trying to make acts of Congress work for them. Bureaucratic red tape has been a stumbling block.

U.S. Indian Water Policy--organization, research and money to keep them from taking away what is theirs. Water quality

Recognition of Existing Governments

The question of recognition of IRA and Tribal Councils was raised. with the question being asked if the Constitution would need to be changed to accomplish this. The point was made that tribal councils are recognized by Federal government but not by state government for contacting.

UNIQUE CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

They listen to the people and get instruction from the people.
Trying to move from a subsistence way of life into 20th Century America.
They live their lives the same as their grandfathers did.

Have to respect people--look out for the future of their people.

Finally realizing what is theirs.
Keep old thing ways but work with modern things.
Feel independent as a tribe.

2/10/74

****PLEASE NOTE****

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"LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY - 1979"