

Ahvakana returns to borough ready to work

Re-appointed to his position as North Slope Borough Director of Administration and Finance, Lloyd Ahvakana has put the election behind him, rolled up his sleeves and started work.

"There is a lot of work to be done. A lot of things that have been hanging up in the air that we have to take care of," says Ahvakana.

Ahvakana resigned from the position of Director of Administration and Finance this fall to run for Borough Mayor. When Eugene Brower finished ahead of a field of candidates this October, he re-appointed Ahvakana to the director's post.

One of the projects Ahvakana is pursuing is a checkless paycheck system. Under the system the Borough would be able to transfer an employee's pay directly into that employee's bank account. This would save the Borough the time and materials now used to issue between 700 and 800 checks every two weeks.

"We could write one check



Lloyd Ahvakana has returned to work at the North Slope Borough and will seek to streamline Borough record keeping and accounting procedures.

to the bank to authorize payment of those salaries," Ahvaka says. "It's a new system that we know exists in other areas but it isn't practiced up here."

On other fronts Ahvakana's department is re-evaluating some of the Borough accounting sections in order to improve efficiency. He cites, for example, the need to decrease administrative lag which, in some service sections, causes a three-month delay in the collection of bills.

Ahvakana says the Borough will be joining the computer revolution that is sweeping national and international business in order to streamline its administrative and financial transactions. Recording dead financial and administrative files on microfilm is another process which Ahvakana proposes as it will save time, money and that precious North Slope commodity—space.

Along with the equipment changes, some procedural changes are slated, particularly

in the methods of fixed-asset accounting. The annual Borough audit conducted by Main Hurdman (certified public accountants out of Fairbanks) called for improvements in this area.

Computerization is part of the fixed asset improvements and Ahvakana expects a computer program on line and fully operational by June 1, 1982.

Issuing bonds is another duty of Ahvakana's department. This year the Borough is scheduling bond issues that will total more than \$350 million dollars. These bonds will go to fund various construction projects designed to bring the amenities of modern living to North Slope residents.

On top of all this the annual Borough budgeting process has begun again. A budget proposal is due for submission to the Borough Assembly by early March with Assembly action required by the first of May. Ahvakana reports that all departments have submitted their initial budgetary in-put documentation.