

Times' board acts on newspaper expansion

The board of directors of the Tundra Times, meeting on February 26 and March 1, in Fairbanks, acted upon a number of items aimed toward accelerating efforts to expand the newspaper's operations statewide.

The board moved to act upon filling vacancies among its membership, considered resignations offered by several directors, approved financing proposals advanced by the publisher, and considered budget and finance matters.

Fairbanks attorney Barry W. Jackson was elected to fill a vacant directorship and was selected as board chairman during the February 26 meeting.

Acting Chairman Chris Anderson was returned to the office of Executive Vice-President of the company. The resignation of Laura M. Bergt, tendered because of a potential conflict of interest situation, was accepted by the board with regret. Letters of resignation from directors Ron Crowe and Mary Jane Fate were not acted upon.

New directors, nominated by the publisher, were unanimously selected to fill vacancies on the board. Alfred R. Ketzler, president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, chairman of the board of the Toghettle Corporation, and treasurer of Doyon, Ltd., was elected to one directorship. Mr. Ketzler is a resident of

Nenana.

Murlin G. Everson, of Juneau, programs director of the Tlingit and Haida Central Council, and an officer of the Goldbelt Corporation, was selected to fill another directorship. The selection of Mr. Ketzler and Mr. Everson was viewed by the board as an indication of board support for the publisher's efforts to expand the policy-making function with more of a statewide perspective.

The directors approved a multi-faceted financing package advanced by the publisher and designed to meet the needs of the Tundra Times expansion effort. Increased business staff, equipment purchases, installa-

tion of instant communications capability among the company's offices, and a rapid distribution system were among the items for which financing was approved.

Publisher Thomas Richards, Jr. said of the meeting, "I am grateful for the board's actions in support of the Tundra Times expansion effort. The election of new board members will provide our board a measure of depth and experience which will be extremely helpful during the critical expansion period. I am confident that further progress may continue in order that we may move closer toward our objective of providing a better communications service to Alaskans. It is with regret

that we accepted Ms. Bergt's resignation, and we hope that the interest conflict problem will not be a long-term situation."

Chairman Jackson set the date of the next board meeting on Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairbanks offices of the newspaper.