

Brower promises new relationship with ASRC

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A re-assessment of the relationship between the North Slope Borough and the Arctic Slope Regional Corp. has been promised by newly elected Borough Mayor Eugene Brower.

Brower, the 33-year-old former NSB director of public works, last week was announced successful in his bid to unseat incumbent Mayor Jacob Adams. His election makes Brower, a whaling captain and chairman of the Alaska Whaling Commission, the third mayor in Borough history.

The final tally was so close that the election wasn't decided until two weeks after the votes were cast. As the votes were tallied and before absentee and challenged votes

were counted, Brower led by a slim 37 votes. That margin grew smaller but the lead held after the absentees were counted and the challenged ballots decided upon.

The final vote showed Brower ahead by only 25 votes. The final tally was 592 for Brower and 567 for Adams.

Brower wasn't specific in his statements on the new Borough-ASRC relationship but said ASRC "will be treated like anybody else. There will be no reference given unless it is the specific intent of the borough."

Brower said he also plans to re-organize the Borough government and will find new directors of public works, planning, and finance. The public works and finance de-

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partment now have temporary directors. Only Emily Wilson, planning director, is a permanent department head, said Brower. She will be re-assigned, he said.

Brower said he also plans to re-open the borough's Washington D.C. office which Adams closed after his election. Brower said the office is needed to keep in contact with events in Washington which affect the North Slope.

The Borough's Anchorage office also will have an overhaul, said Brower. Although nothing has been set, a Brower supporter, John Buchholdt, was former head of the NSB Anchorage office and may return or become a consultant for the Borough.

Brower said his immediate goals as mayor are seeing that each village obtain adequate fire training. Several new fire trucks will be arriving in the Borough soon and Brower said he will have the key fire fighting personnel in

each village come to Barrow for training in the new equipment when the first truck arrives.

Brower said the runway facilities in each village also are of concern to him and he hopes to see that adequate runways are constructed.

He said he also is looking at the time when the massive public works projects will be ended and jobs on those projects are over. He said that he is investigating a public education program to help educate NSB residents in either vocational or higher education.

He said the Borough's position on offshore oil drilling will be that oil exploration be conducted on the land first before going to the ocean. "That's our garden," he said.

Adams said of the outcome, "We ran a good honest campaign and it just didn't come out the way we felt it should." He said that he intends to remain active in borough politics especially because of the narrow margin.