

Special board meeting held

A special meeting of the AFN, Inc. Board of Directors was held at CINA on April 3. The primary agenda item was the AFN's financial situation.

According to the AFN's accounting department the AFN will be facing a \$40,000 shortfall on June 30, the end of the fiscal year.

Measures are being taken to help alleviate this situation, as, not filling the Human Resources vice-president position formerly held by Clifford Black, not hiring further staff, reducing the accounting staff, limiting travel more, renegotiating the indirect, and phasing out two programs: the Alaska Student Higher Education Services (ASHES) and Health Careers.

The AFN obtains most of its funding from the indirect of the

programs it sponsors and this runs about 20 per cent. In the case of ASHES and Health Careers though, the indirect rate is statutorily set at only 8 per cent, causing these programs to be carried at a loss of break even status. Because of this the decision was made to discontinue these two programs on June 30 and to help them find other sponsors.

Another decision was made to explore the possibility to discontinuing all the programs AFN has presently and to seek and develop options of alternative funding that would focus

into a research, advocacy, and coordinating capability. The President and his staff were directed to report back with a status report at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Under other agenda items, the Board set up a committee to work on the AFN Annual Convention dates and established a litigation committee. They also discussed barter and subsistence.

Roger Lang warned, "Subsistence regulations, once they are in, are difficult to amend or change."

The AFN also mentioned sending a letter to the governor asking that a public apology be made to the surviving elders persecuted because of their fish wheel operation at Chitina.

They also noted that a State-wide Convention of Alaska Native Women is scheduled for May 10, 11, and 12 at the Alaska Pacific University.

A Land Claims meeting was held on April 4 and they discussed a proposal for regional corporations to self insure themselves; this would aid them in reducing the cost for protecting some of their ventures.