

Village Board delays NANA Merger Idea

By STAN JONES
Kotzebue Correspondent

The idea of a merger between NANA Regional Corporation and Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation (the Kotzebue village corporation) has been abandoned by KIC. The action came at the Corporation's May board meeting held in Kotzebue (May 5). But KIC President Al Adams says the action doesn't mean the idea won't come up again.

"At the annual meeting, 225 voted against the merger information question and 250 voted for getting merger information. But...800 did not respond to the question on merger information," Adams said.

"So the board voted not to give out any more information on the merger by a vote of 5 to 4," he continued. "So at this time this kind of halts the merger question. But this doesn't mean that it can't be brought up in the near future."

In other business at the May meeting -- the board's first since the April annual shareholder's meeting -- Frank Stein was reelected chairman of the board. Other officers are Chuck Greene, vice-chairman, Dennis Tiepelman, and Linda Upicksoun, secretary.

Also dropped by the Board was the possibility of KIC taking over the financially-ailing Kotzebue Sound Fisheries Cooperative. "The fact was that the fish coop's liabilities versus the assets were too high," said Adams. Now that KIC is out of the picture, NANA Regional Corporation is exploring the possibility of taking over the co-op.

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• Kotzebue village turning profit, despite slowing revenues from 7(i)

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Bruce Tiedeman, of Chugach Natives, Inc., reported on the Sunshine Plaza property in Anchorage, which is operated jointly by KIC and Chugach Development Corporation. The investment has turned a loss of \$176,000 for the first nine months of current fiscal year, according to Tiedeman's report. \$88,000, or half the loss, will

be borne by each of the two partners.

Further investment in the Kotzebue housing market may be on the horizon for KIC. The corporation has submitted a proposal to the state for construction of a \$1.4 million, 20-unit apartment building to house teachers and state employees. KIC already owns and operates a 41-unit apartment in Kotze-

bue. That investment normally enjoys a 100% occupancy factor and a long waiting list, and has turned a steady, if modest, profit since it started accepting tenants.

Although Sunshine Plaza is losing money, the corporation as a whole turned a profit during the first three quarters of the year. Profits on operations other than the Plaza came to \$149,000,

leaving a \$61,000 profit when the Sunshine Plaza deficit is deducted. The was accomplished even though revenues received under section 7(i) of the land claims act this year are running far behind those collected last year.