

Barrow Projects Eyed-

Regional High, Other Priorities Aired

By ROGER McPHERSON

The 4th Inter-Governmental Coordinating Committee meeting in Barrow brought together representatives from Indian Health Service, the Navy, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Aviation Administration, the State of

Alaska, and the City of Barrow.

Under the chairmanship of Robert Arnold, State Director of Planning and Research for the Office of the Governor, the meeting examined projects for a water and sewer system, housing, Native health facilities, an airport building and a regional high school.

ASNA

Larry Dinneen, Special Assistant to the Arctic Slope Native Association, outlined ASNA's plans in housing, water, land, environment, and housing.

"We have decided," Mr. Dinneen said, "that rather than build 114 houses under the Alaska State Housing Authority with ASNA contracting, we must first solve our gravel problem."

Once sufficient gravel is "harvested," building of the 114 houses will begin - probably next year. Another project, the \$3.6 million airport facility, funded 70% from the Federal government, depends on a bond issue up for approval in a June 20th Barrow election.

Also involved in constructing the airport building is the issue

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of serving alcohol — to be decided in a "wet-or-dry" entry on the June 20th ballot.

WATER & SEWER SYSTEM

A preliminary report on water and sewer facilities was presented by Linck-Thompson Company, contracting to the Public Health Service.

The Linck-Thompson plan focuses on a dam for holding fresh water, located at one end of the present lagoon near Barrow. A similar dam was constructed at Kotzebue, and does provide water for that city.

However, because organic material was not stripped from the ground before water was impounded, Kotzebue's water is not pure.

The Barrow reservoir will have the organic material stripped at a time of year when erosion cannot occur, and a filtration plant will also process the water.

The Director of the United States Indian Health Service, Dr. Emery Johnson, has stated a commitment to financing water and sewer facilities in Barrow.

Once the reservoir, pipe lines, pumping stations and utilidors are installed, Barrow would be expected to operate and maintain the system.

AIRPORT

The Federal Aviation Administration reported on new electronic equipment the airport is installing this summer. A directional finder, localizer, distance measurement equipment, and remote control devices will enable pilots to land when the cloud ceiling is as low as 300 feet.

Jack Chenoweth, Barrow's City Manager, displayed plans for the \$3.6 million airport terminal building. City elections scheduled for June 20th will determine whether Barrow people will finance a bond issue to complete funding of the facility, and whether the village will permit alcohol to be served.

If either issue receives a negative vote, the terminal building will not be constructed.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY

Robert Gaidys, Director of Planning and Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, discussed the Bureau's plans for a power loop connecting the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (NARL) and Barrow in case of emergencies.

Electrical power and natural gas requirements for both NARL and Barrow have been increasing faster than anticipated.

Last winter, gas well pipes blew up, causing an emergency situation. "The need is here now," Mr. Gaidys said, "but the BIA cannot undertake it until 1975."

The Office of Naval Development said the south Barrow gas well has an estimated life of 8 to 9 years. Winter demand for gas in 1972 may not be met, so a new well is planned to meet the short range demands of Barrow and NARL.

Dr. Max Brewer, former Director of NARL, felt the gas wells were being produced too rapidly, with the result that the water pressing out the gas was entering the pipes and freezing.

"Overnight," he said, "there would be zero gas." New developments in housing and the high school will require increased amounts of gas. Mr. Gaidys said that new gas turbines might be included in the new high school to meet power demands.

REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

The regional high school (to be completed by 1976) will be designed for 500 students. Included in the plans will be a student center, swimming pool, kitchen facilities, and a gym.

"A total community facility," Mr. Gaidys said, with a design "built around the wishes and desires of the people."

The high school will be located about a mile from the present school near the lagoon. Plans may be ready February, 1973, for Barrow people to approve. Dormitory space is not included in the plans, since the Bureau of Indian Affairs feels the boarding home program will be used.

ROADS

Road building in Barrow for the next five years will be very active. A highway engineer from the BIA Juneau Office will be visiting Barrow in June to examine the road situation.

The BIA's road budget has been tripled — they now have ½ billion dollars for the next five years, or approximately \$100,000 a year. The budget is for all reservations in the United States.

HEALTH

Irving Igtanloc, Chairman of the Arctic Board of Health, was one of the few participants at the meeting who had specific demands. The decrease in the hospital's in-patient load and the increase in out-patients, Mr. Igtanloc felt, necessitates four new examining rooms, ten more living units, and additional staff.

He cited the 1½% birth rate and the influx from other villages to Barrow for employment and education as factors in the hospital's load.

NAVY

Commander Yoshihara, Facilities Officer for the Office of Naval Research, explained the Navy's projects in the Barrow area. One and a half million dollars is allocated for a two-year clean-up of Naval Petroleum Reserve lands near Barrow.

A new power plant with four gas turbines will be completed September, 1972. An incinerator for trash and sewage, costing \$1.86 million, will be completed at the same time.

A sewage treatment plant south of the new laboratory will be finished in June of 1974.

Future construction includes expansion of the laboratory with mess hall and additions to the laboratory for \$2.5 million, a utilidor for \$1 million, and 125-man bachelor quarters for \$3 million.

Commander Yoshihara focused attention on operation and maintenance of the incinerator. "I wonder if all that participate in its use, understand that they'll have to pay for its use," he said.

Fifty million cubic feet of gas for annual operation will be free, but maintenance and operation costs are estimated at \$118,000 yearly. Barrow's use of the incinerator was estimated at 67% or \$79,000 yearly.

When asked what the city's budget was, Oliver Leavitt, Treasurer for ASNA answered:

"Thirteen whales!"

"That's why you need a borough," Mr. Fred Paul added. Stanley Brust of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency felt that since garbage and sewer facilities benefitted the community more than any individual, the community should bear the cost of incinerator use.

In the closing moments of the meeting, Jack Chenoweth pointed out the new importance of ASNA in development and planning, and asked that a member of ASNA be seated on the Board for its next meeting, November 1st.

Robert Arnold accepted the idea, and ended the meeting by re-stating the purpose of the Committee as "the improvement in the quality of life for the people of Barrow."