Resolution # 09-0624-181

Approval to submit grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the FY2009 Native American Housing Block Grant Stimulus Program Competition in an amount not to exceed $2,000,000.00 for the construction of 12-14 new affordable rental housing units at Aki maadiziwin

WHEREAS, the status of the Gaá Čhíng Ziibi Daáwaa Anišínaábek (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) as a sovereign and Treaty-making power is confirmed in numerous treaties, from agreements with the initial colonial powers on this land, to various treaties with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Tribe) is descended from, and is the political successor to, the Grand River Ottawa Bands, signatories of the 1836 Treaty of Washington (7 Stat. 491) with the United States, as reaffirmed by federal law in P.L. 103-324, enacted in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted a new Constitution, pursuant to a vote of the membership on May 27, 1998, which Constitution became effective upon its approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on July 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted amendments to the Constitution on April 26, 2004, which became effective upon approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on May 13, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is authorized under Article IV, Section 7(a) to provide for the public health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Little River Band and its members; and

WHEREAS, NAHASDA (the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996) authorizes the Native American Housing Block Grant Program to assist tribes in developing, operating, maintaining and/or supporting affordable housing for rental and homeownership housing; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI) has identified such a project (the construction of 12-14 new affordable rental housing within our existing housing development) that will greatly contribute to the Tribe’s capacity to address the escalating affordable housing needs of tribal members; and
WHEREAS, the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) through HUD (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), has made two hundred and forty-two million ($242M) in funding available to Tribes through a competitive process with the intent of spurring construction and helping create employment opportunities for low-income and unemployed persons; and

WHEREAS, the previously noted overall funding availability translates to up to $2M in competitive funding for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has identified a housing construction project of this size and scope and are, or will be, ready to proceed with the obligation of these funds in accordance with HUD’s requirements; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project to construct new affordable housing within our existing housing development is consistent with the purposes of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, the American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Native American Housing Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has engaged in a number of similar projects in the past 5-years that have brought the property to its current state of development (x21 rental units: x12 units reserved for Elders and x9 single family homes [x2 of which are ADA compliant]); and

WHEREAS, tribal members and their families, not unlike other low-income populations, have been very, very adversely affected by the current recession and related housing/mortgage/foreclosure/credit and unemployment crises; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project speaks to all of the issues identified above and has the wide support of tribal members, the Housing Commission, the Housing Department, Commerce Department, the Tribal Construction Company and the potential members of the Project’s Construction Task Force, as well as the support of other tribal entities and department, importantly including the support of elected tribal leaders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians by this resolution approves the submission of a grant application to HUD under the FY2009 Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG) Competitive Grant Program, as authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA, Public Law 111-5), the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA, Public Law 104-330 as amended), and NAHASDA regulations at 24 CFR part 1000. Application shall not exceed $2,000,000.00 for the construction of affordable rental housing within our existing housing development.
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians realizes that no cash match is required but that the leveraging of resources is an important element of the application. The Tribal Council wishes to support this project such that our application receives the maximum available points for Rating Factor 4 (Leveraging) that will be met with a combination of project in-kind, the costs associated with the expansion of utility infrastructure that will be undertaken to assure project success as well as the value of the land (that will be recognized as project leveraging) as well as a commitment of assuming ongoing expenses and responsibilities associated with the continued operation and maintenance of the housing involved. The Tribal Council hereby authorizes the Tribal Ogema to develop a letter of commitment to this effect in the event this need arises in the course of developing our application.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with _7_ FOR, _0_ AGAINST, _0_ ABSTAINING, and _2_ ABSENT, at the second Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on June 24, 2009 at the Little River Band’s Conference Room in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.

[Signature]
Jammie M. Sam, Council Recorder

[Signature]
Stephen Parsons, Council Speaker

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