



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2022
LITTLE RIVER BAND
VIA ZOOM
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**Approved
01/26/22**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center via ZOOM on JANUARY 05, 2022. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Recording was forgot to be played during the first part of the meeting, so this is just the motions of the agenda.

Recorder Wolfe: Nothing has been submitted to the agenda for this week

I. Opening Prayer

Moment of silence

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

Recorder Wolfe: The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

B. Roll Call

T. Guenthardt - Present	C. Champagne – Absent	P. Johnson - Present
R. Champagne -Absent	G. DiPiazza - Present	S. Wever - Present
R. Wittenberg- Present	J. Wolfe - Present	S. Lewis - Present

Quorum established.

Recorder Wolfe: Speaker is not present need to make a motion for recorder

Councilor Lewis:

**RESOLUTION # 22-1005-001 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL
MEMBER GARY DIPIAZZA AS TRIBAL COUNCIL RECORDER
PRO TEMPORE FOR JANUARY 05, 2022;** by Lewis; supported by
Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: roll call

Roll Call #

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Absent	P. Johnson -	Yes	
R. Champagne-Absent	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Seven in favor two absent resolution is passed. Next on the agenda is

C. Approval of Agenda

Acting Recorder DiPiazza:

**MOTION TO APPROVE WEDNESDAY JANUARY 05, 2022,
AGENDA WITH THE ADD C Pro Temp;** by DiPiazza; supported by
Wittenberg.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: is there any further discussion? Does anyone want to abstain?
Mr. DiPiazza roll call please.

Roll Call #1

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Absent	P. Johnson -	Yes	
R. Champagne-Absent	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Acting speaker Wolfe: The agenda for January 05, 2022, is approved. Next on the agenda is

D. Tribal Council Minutes

None was submitted. Then

III. Continuing Business

- A. Grants & Contracts**
- B. Budget Modifications**
- C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

None was submitted.

IV. Old Business

None submitted

V. New Business

None submitted. Following on the agenda is

IX. Concluding Business

- A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, January 09, 2022**
- B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update**

C. Legislative Affairs Update
D. Public Comment Period

Starting off where the recording started:

Acting Recorder DiPiazza: uht oh anyways uhm no as far as I I know it was never uhm never disclosed that I know not to me at least and I had my concerns when this item was being you know ah hurried along hurry up get it done cause I like to do my my research and my due diligence on items and at some point I would have probably found that you know that the home was right next to their home uhm I don't know what to say I'm getting old and a little slow I guess but I I really I I love to do my due diligence on things and I hate things that pop up and all of a sudden you know forced into a vote on certain things but to my knowledge it was never disclosed to me that's all that's all I have

Councilor Guenthardt: Me either

Israel Stone: ok you either. Any other council members was it recalled it being disclosed publicly?

Councilor Wittenberg: Put me in

Acting Speaker: Mr. Wittenberg has a response; you have the floor.

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, uh Miigwech! Myself I haven't uh I didn't know who lived where and still don't know who lives where even though that are sitting here knowing that here sitting that are members when we buy a or interested in a piece of property what I'm looking at is myself is looking at the property not who lived next door or across the street or something like that and so that's just my thought on that but no I didn't know but I don't look at it as who is living where because all of us ah throughout our membership different ones have different properties elsewhere so that's ah but even though when we were interested in looking at different properties I didn't ah and it hasn't been brought up oh so and so lives across the street or so and so lives next door whatever I look at the property not who is you know living next door. That's just my view on that Miigwech!

Israel Stone: OK and and council I want you understand I'm not faulting you that you didn't know who lived there ah that's the responsibility of those two conflicted council members because it does represent a conflict of interest at this point because when you in this case speaker or excuse me ah Councilman Wittenberg you have to look because it's an obligation to disclose that because when everybody knows when real estate sells or the market influxes in an area it artificially raises the real estate value of all the adjacent properties in that area so therefore there is a personal gain represented there potentially should that have continued on and went through uhm it's not anybody sitting in this meeting today's responsibility to disclose that the two individuals that had the conflict should have disclosed that and so in in certain cases yes if it's just a tribal citizen who has no political ties or no holds no office and lives up the road that's a different circumstance then in elected official who has a property so close to these properties that on Google

Earth you can't even tell them apart from each other in fact in the very packet that was submitted before Tribal council if you look at the photograph of one of the houses that's pictured there that's their house and he's standing in the side lawn in that photograph that you guys had in your pocket and I just want to know if that was disclosed I also want to know if tribal council was aware that the current speaker of tribal council has a pending case in Chippewa County for assault and battery coming up later this month was that disclosed the council?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Put myself in queue. Mr. Stone it was not disclosed to council with the information that came forward on a property purchase in Wisconsin I was never in favor of that development there was no feasibility study it was rushed through there was not enough necessary information to make a wise decision so as Tribal council I voted no on the original one and I voted no again with the to make the Ogema veto stand it was not disclosed concerning the pending charges those also have not been disclosed to tribal council as a body. Thank you

Israel Stone: Madam recorder I want to ah thank you for your honesty and integrity I wanna thank you for sharing what you did that helps me also understand a little better the other thing is Lee referenced a a statement that was put out by the speaker of basically 23 things that he has done since being in office what I don't see is any credit given to anybody else on this body and I just have to wonder if these are sole initiatives of the speaker uhm or these are joint initiatives and that's concerning to me as well. The last thing I will say, and I know I'm getting close to my time so I just wanna wrap up with this and I'll get back into queue if I have more questions. I wanna share some statistical information and we hear often times about what are our preference team members are doing here there and different things uhm and what's what's amazing to me is is discussion is good and is productive uhm but just so council is aware and as a matter of record and the citizens are aware since the period of time between 2014 and 2021 that 39% of our preference team members here at property had have advanced 31 of 76 tribal members for 40.7% have advanced 8 of 16 spouses for 50% have advanced that time 07 of 22 Native others for 32% have advanced in that time and 07 out of 23 descendants for 30.4% as well have advanced during that time for a total of 39% compared to other non-natives their total percentage of people that have advanced in this organization overtime is only 7.7 uh 7.47% so 39% of our our preference candidates have advanced in that period of time and those are the only the ones that are still working here that including people like councilor Johnson who have advanced and then moved on to somewhere else and so I just wanna share a little information on that uhm welcome any discussion on that as well again Ms. Speaker I really appreciate you being honest I think that as elected officials and as a former elected official of this tribe that council members have a duty and obligation to be forthcoming and disclose potential conflicts of interest issues in pending issues that may impact the reputation of the harm in a deleterious manner and I am calling for a higher level of accountability on some of these things one could argue that the purchase of that property in Wisconsin would be theft essentially by conversion if you look at the property prices over there and we've done all the research I've done it certainly uhm that proposed purchase increased the property value over 30% in that 30 day time period and so one could argue that there's a there's an ethical issue there a big

ethical issue and the fact that that was never disclosed to you guys for me as a citizen is problematic and so I really appreciate you speaking up and sharing the information madam speaker and the rest of you that spoke thank you for time

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Tom Guenthardt wanted to be in queue

Councilor Guenthardt: I didn't know about its upcoming court case coming up. I don't think nobody has of the five of us neither about the stuff in Wisconsin neither that's all on there

Acting Speaker Wolfe: So then moving on I have

Ogema Romanelli: Excuse me can I get in

Sandy Mezeske: Julie I think Michael is in the waiting room. Michael Burmiester is in the waiting room again

Acting Speaker Wolfe: What's his phone number

Ogema Romanelli: and can I get on. This Is the Ogema can you put me in the queue as well

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Sure, so next in queue I have Sara Agosa you have the floor

Sara Agosa 4478: my question is regarding the 2022 budget meetings my first question is to council were any organizational assessments and their recommendations taken into account when developing and reviewing the budget proposal and the second question is where uhm essential services in priority order also taken into account thank you those are my two questions

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Tribal council do you have a response? Anyone on Tribal council have a response? Sara to answer your question I don't believe that your two questions that they were a shared or organized I do believe that it was uhm there was some other background information that was used to support it, but I do not believe it was an organizational assessment or a uhm what was the second one an organizational chart. Thank you. Moving on I see Lee I have Lee next in queue you have the floor

Lee Iverson: thank you recorder. Lee Iverson tribal ID 99 again going back to the list charitable donations ordinance this was modified by tribal council and the explanation that I had before me is transition from one person being able to give donations which has resulted in funds being illegally disbursed above the adopted financial threshold to a to granting a system that focuses on supporting Indian country as our priority that's the explanation here my question is how many applications have been received for the charitable donation line and has tribal council or our tribe promoted assistance to our tribal members to establish these Native American 501C3's because this ordinance change has shifted the dynamic of how donations are offered to streamlining it to this

5013 C process for nonprofit or other organizations uhm just want your feedback input answers on these questions because as a tribal citizen who had prior employment with the tribe in members assistance I gave 13 years to the tribe and in that structure we would receive calls from individual tribal members who had events promoted their children's baseball teams and requesting donations for say jerseys for their teams this in essence abolish that process for goodwill effort in in donations to this 501C3 process so again going back to my question how many have how many applications have been received to tribal council and have you promoted any assistance in establishing 501C3 is for our tribal members so they can benefit from this this ordinance thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I'll attempt to answer that. Tribal council recorder is one that received the donation request. Since I've been seated, we see we received only three donation requests two of those were sent over to Larry and Larry forwarded over to tribal council I don't believe there's been any other than the adoption of the resolution and being posted I don't believe there's been any outreach from tribal members, but I believe always did charitable donations has had 5031C status. Any other tribal councilors wish to answer? Seeing none Lee you still have the floor if you have another comment.

Lee Ivinson: I do not at this time thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: K next in queue

Ogema Romanelli: Could I answer a little bit on the 501C3?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Sure, go-ahead Mr. Romanelli.

Ogema Romanelli: OK since the resolution has passed it does define it to tribal 501C3 is it it pared it down the problem with that is that again I get reports from other tribes and while we no longer donate to the local community or do things such as sponsor our children who may be a preference and not a tribal member that's all gone out there's no more of that. We recently had a fire for a family and we have somebody that has a cancer thing so much has just been thrown out the window with that and while given our neighbors to the north grand traverse grand traverse had a big article on how they gave to the community food bank we did all that and then I looked at the south and we have the Pokagon same thing donating to these different causes getting that kind of publicity we sense that resolution passed where we've limited it we've got a lot of bad press and lot of bad PR I got to tell you and is there anybody on council that has a 501C3?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I do believe there is one seated member of tribal council that has a 501C3 organization

Ogema Romanelli: OK I think so. OK would you like to disclose who that might be?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: It would be the Speaker councilor Champagne the 501C3 is Mino Aki

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Your Welcome. That brings us up to Susan Thull you have your hand raised I don't know if you still wish to be in queue

Susan Thull: No thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: K moving on then the next person I have wrote down for queue is Sandy Mezeske you have the floor

Sandy Mezeske: No, my hand is not up I thought I put it down thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I just have a list I'm going off here hands are going up and down thank you. Uh moving on I have Ron Pete next in queue Ron you have the floor

Ron Pete: thank you councilor Wolfe for letting me allowing me in I'm just going to make a couple statements I absolutely believe that that's a conflict of interest in Milwaukee to be approving properties it's gonna cost over \$2 million and they're right next to two tribal councilors house that should have been disclosed to every single one of you tribal members from the very gate of opening gate and the other thing is cause this is this is public comment I actually think I'm I I wish that a councilor Champagne not Ryan Cindy Champagne were here because I'd love to have had her here today cause I'm gonna bring it up to on Saturday when I attend the Ogema's meeting. I think that personally that you know personal things about me and they certainly involved me I remember when councilor and it wasn't I was when I was the GM at the resort I asked them ah Connie Waitner and us visited the lunch over at the over at the where they served the elders lunch and she went with me one day and there wasn't that many people in there and I went up to the to get our lunch and at that time she wasn't a councilor Cindy champagne said to me what I like to do is talk to you for a minute and I said sure what's the matter right now so we went and she said to me she wanted me to know why she hated me and she ruined used the word hate I had never had that done before in my life and I said well why do you hate me and she said because I wouldn't hire her son as the executive chef over at the resort then I had my reasons and of course I didn't disclose it because that was a uhm HR issue but I I just I just can't understand why she said to me there's nobody else in that room or anyplace else around there that went to my face and said they hated me and I think this is a carry over what she's done to eliminate people at the resort and personally I I take I take I hold her responsible for for saying that to me and and on the other side of it I've forgiven her for hating me I I forgive people for that but I never forget it and so that's all I wanted to say thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thank you for your comment, Ron I see next person in queue uh Connie Waitner you have the floor

Connie Waitner: thank you recorder uhm I just have a couple questions and these are directly at tribal council and I would like individuals answers just a yes or no you don't have to go into any explanation first of all when I was reviewing that packet information

on Wisconsin I noticed that tribal council is referenced all the way through so within that resolution it gives you the impression that tribal council was involved in every aspect because you're used throughout that for instance it says tribal council has determined that the Milwaukee area does not have any rentals, lease agreements, and so on and so forth you guys tribal council made that determination I wanna know how you made that determination did somebody provide you with some statistics to prove it another thing it's referenced just under 400 family members and it says tribal families now that could be in preference or out preference or so forth at poverty level lack of housing so on and so forth so do you have any information that showed you that? who is at what poverty level what the age groups are? is there a lack of health care I mean you see I wanna reach out and help those members but without those kinds of figures how could we know how to help another thing that's referenced in one of the those resolutions is tribal council met with I believe it was the broker and the realtor over this so it alludes to the fact that tribal council was on the phone or in meetings with the the broker on this so all I want is a yes or no were you guys on calls or meetings with this company that broker this whole deal and put it together thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Any Tribal council wish to respond?

Councilor Guenthardt: I wasn't didn't know anything on that

Councilor DiPiazza: I was never was purveyed to any phone conversations or any conversations with the realtor, that organizational group whoever they may have been. I know that group owned all the homes that we were in that purchase agreement with a lot of this I found out after the fact and same as you know yea and I feel I feel I let the membership down not doing my due diligence quick enough. I'm done.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: K I see councilor Johnson you wish to have a response

Councilor Johnson: uhm, I'm just going to go with a straight no and leave it at that

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Any other tribal councilors wish to respond? Again, I do believe cause we were using CARES act fundings some of the wording in the resolution was to make it congruent with those federal dollars so that in the potential it was approved we were in line with the spending on that and no there were no comments or individual discussion between tribal council other than here's the resolution here's the information. Thank you. Any other additional councilors wish to respond?

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah

Acting Speaker Wolfe: K councilor Wittenberg go ahead

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, and I can say on my part on that is a no

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Any other tribal council have a comment or response?

Councilor Lewis: just say I it it was a no I wasn't aware

Connie Waitner: thank you for your honesty I appreciate that

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Ok we all set Connie?

Connie Waitner: All set Julie thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Ok moving on I see uhm I guess it's Ron Pete again did you have a comment I know I just called on you I don't know if that was... looks like it's down again

Ron Pete: Ok madam speaker or recorder I thought I put my hand down

Acting Speaker Wolfe: well, I just had you on the list for the queue and I had it under Vicky this time but I

Ron Pete: *Laughing* ok

Acting Speaker Wolfe: we are all set

Ron Pete: ok thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I'll move on to the next person in queue I have Antonio Romanelli you have the floor

Ogema Romanelli: Julie, you have me in there some place to, right? I hope

Acting Speaker Wolfe: yes, your next Mr. Romanelli Larry

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you

Antonio Romanelli: K I just had a question I see that Ron Ron Wittenberg had mentioned that he had gone and looked at the houses and didn't realize it how close they were to the council members' homes was that a field trip that all the council took or was that just a few people or how did that whole fieldtrip get set up and I would like a comment from all councilors of all councilors that answer that please

Ron Wittenberg: I want to answer to him

Acting Speaker Wolfe: We have a response to councilor Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, ah Antonio did you say that I went to go over there to look at them?

Antonio Romanelli: that that's what you had stated earlier is that you went and looked at the homes and didn't realize how close they were to each other

Councilor Wittenberg: Nooo I don't think, no that wasn't me I don't know

Antonio Romanelli: OK maybe that was just a misunderstanding

Councilor Wittenberg: that's OK we have a lot of misunderstandings, and I can take it ah when the tide comes in it comes in when the tide goes out, I try to go with the tide and not get stuck on the sand bar so

Antonio Romanelli: and I just I have another comment or question the silence and the absence of some council members speaks volumes to the membership uhm when a members ask question to council and does not get a response it speaks volume uhm the absence of the two council members today speaks volume uhm and I'm looking forward to the meeting on Saturday and hoping to get some more information and to get answers to questions that the membership have I think the membership is owed those answers

Acting Speaker Wolfe: K and I have a response for you Antonio Romanelli, no tribal council did not go over and see the property in person it was all brought forward by the speaker and uhm he did work and consult with an attorney and did have a real estate agent on consulting. Those are my comments. Any other tribal council wish to speak on answering the question or comment?

Councilor Wittenberg: I have one

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I see councilor Wittenberg with your hand raised you have the floor

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah uhm on my computer it said that the laptop that is said that Ryan and Cindy won't be in ah whatever the reason is it wasn't stated but ah I would certainly ah for a different one because I certainly don't know so it keeps coming up to put a kibosh to it that ah turn around and ask will get when you see them in the next meeting because I know I can only go with what was on my laptop so that's just my thought on it that's all in a good way. Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: any additional comments from tribal council or a response to Antonio Romanelli? Seeing no councilors with their hand raised I'll move onto Larry Romanelli I have you next in queue you have the floor

Staci Cheney: Hey Julie can you see my hands up to its Staci Cheney

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Yep, your next

Staci Cheney: Ok thank you

Ogema Romanelli: thank you well first in response to councilor Wittenberg statement that go ahead and ask the people when you see him it's really hard to do because most of the time they are not in the room and I don't believe there's any reason why tribal council should not be available at least one day a week in council offices where work is supposed to be done there are councilors that are absent from the room on most most occasions I think that's really a problem. The other problem that we have is that the speaker has kicked multiple people off the call or out of the meeting and and done so through the recorder which I don't blame the recorder but in all my years of being as the ogema uhm I have not seen that many people kicked out of the meeting and for my perspective it's for very unreasonable reasons I think that it's somebody that may disagree with them and he gives a 123 almost immediately and get them and says we only need two in your out. I think that's very disrespectful I think the fact that they did not give even you as councilors a reason as to why they were not on this call today everyone knew this was going to be a call where members wanted answered and again absence missing in action here just seems unacceptable, I think they could have given a reason uhm and I just find that unacceptable. Last thing I want to mention and this is awful it's just kind of a sore subject in and it's an embarrassing subject as we know Janine Sam former councilor continues to go at me for different things that everything I do is wrong and then if I try to respond to her then I'm attacking her which is not the case you'll find many Facebook posts from her to me about me and you'll see very few from me I try to stay off from Facebook but it's very difficult to do what she said last night was that I supported councilor Wever and that uhm I've never supported anyone else and she noted that councilor Wever in most cases has voted against what I was voting for and supporting basically what those against me are supporting. I apologize for supporting that person I have to apologize for supporting that person because the person doesn't seem to be in line with what my thoughts and the people that supported me I have a lot of support out there still and they expect a certain level of response and that just hasn't happened unfortunately during this time several times the council as a whole individually has been asked to respond to these different situations I've not heard anything from Councilor Wever I see hear very little from sandy Lewis and these people voted for most of these things will it be the donation or or going on to the housing etc and if anybody should be answering it's the people that voted for these items and to hear them hear them to understand that their silence again yeah it does speak volumes but I do have to apologize for supporting that person I didn't I purposely did not support people because I thought people should be able to you know support whoever they want to I thought it was risky in this case I fell to it I was asked and I did the Flyers that went out were a bit much people asked me you know all I asked said yes you can use my name and it turned out something much more than that so that's the problem I was told that this person had a good heart and that they had nothing more than not even a parking ticket again I I guess that doesn't speak to their character or their ability to do the job on tribal council and I hate to be so blunt but I keep getting hammered by these things and you know I wish former councilor Janine Sam would be honest she answered somebody the other day I think it was Jim Nedeau about he asked about the board of directors I won't go into it but she gives half-truths a lot of time so I'll leave it at that if I have to answer I will I really don't want like to I'd like to hear from them councilors that voted for some of these things that are a big concern the donations , the cuts, the budget the removal of certain people, the unified

legal department and the list goes on the housing in Milwaukie, they voted for them they are the ones that should be answering and I'm sorry you know pleading ignorance doesn't do the job for me it doesn't do the job and then to have to make me veto whether it be the budget that has some odd things in it or veto the housing things they should have known they should have known and if they didn't they should speak up now and say I apologize to the membership I think that the two people councilors that are gone should apologize to the membership or apologize at least to their other councilors and I'll get off my soap box now but I just think this is all shameful we've been through a lot of stuff and we had some damn good workers on the resorts that keep getting poked at and the people in the government that work there butt off during some real critical hard years and I wanna thank all the employees that have worked there butt off only to be put through this and put in risky situations I had several different and we're getting rid of departments for Christ sake ah so I've had whole departments upset I've had employees upsets we've had people leave because of the fear of what's going on so I guess I will leave it at that but thank you for allowing me to speak and not kicking me off the call thank you

Sandy Mezeske: Julie this is Sandy, you have several in the waiting room

Councilor Lewis: I have my hand up also

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Sandra Lewis you have the floor councilor

Councilor Lewis: ok so uhm I'm just gonna say a lot of these questions they should be directed to the people that can answer uhm I'm gonna say that you know it's it's really sad that you know there's times where I wanna say you know hello to family members but you get kind of worried because if you say hello you might hear hey I'm gonna take you to court and it's really too bad because a lot of times you wanna hear that insight of other people and I thank everyone for you know speaking today you know to be able to hear your thoughts and you know uhm I I would have to say that no I did not know the property you know was right by someone else property I don't know everybody on here today I don't know where all of you live you I know where a couple people live but I don't know where many reside I am going to say no I was not aware of uhm a court case I guess the speaker had you know and and in my thoughts of the property in Wisconsin I I did not think it was a bad thing I had no knowledge of where anyone lived but my thought on the property in Wisconsin was to exert our sovereignty you know and I I believe that you know it would have been a very good thing you know health wise, financially if we would have had something in that area and you know if we had a clinic even if there's only you know 400 tribal members go from from us over there there's still a lot of tribal members all through Wisconsin and if we had a clinic area up there uhm that's just you know it's it's wellbeing for people but it also brings uhm wealth to our area it also exerts our sovereignty and we would be very unique in the state because we would uhm have both sides of the lake so you know my intent on that vote I did say yes and that was my reasoning behind that and I don't think that was a bad thing and no I had no interaction with like brokers etc. uhm yea so I'm I'm just going to leave it at that

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thank you councilor Lewis moving on to next in queue Staci you have the floor

Staci Cheney: thank you Julie uhm I first want to thank Ogema Romanelli for acknowledging uhm what happened with uhm councilor Wever uhm I really appreciate that and I know for a fact what's what's caused her to vote on certain things the way that she has but it's not my place to disclose that uhm the other thing since the charges on speaker Champagne has come up I don't know what the rules are but I do know it's a misdemeanor charge and I don't know if that matters since it's not a felony but I have confirmed that and I also know that the realtor who uhm put together the deal in Wisconsin wasn't somebody random it was somebody who has a close I'm being careful how I word this it was somebody that had a close working relationship with Mr. Champagne and I spoke with I'm being careful I voiced my concern regarding that and uhm I was under the understanding that that did not go through and that that's why we use the 1.5 million COVID dollars to give to the clinic so uhm I'm asking the council right now for clarification on that uhm did we actually purchase the Wisconsin uhm housing or is that just still up for debate?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: There was no purchase made in Wisconsin property

Staci Cheney: Ok that that's what I be I thought but are people just upset that that was even something that came up? Anybody on council?

Councilor DiPiazza: I can answer somewhat.

Staci Cheney: Is that why we are discussing it?

Councilor DiPiazza: I can answer a little bit

Staci Cheney: Thank you

Councilor DiPiazza: uhm a lot of these things we weren't aware of were made known to us

Staci Cheney: Yes

Councilor DiPiazza: you know whether the property was right next to the property they owned or the parcels uhm like I said I discovered that maybe a month afterwards somewhere in that vicinity that ah that would be like me wanting to buy my neighbor's house in grand rapids I would disclose that in a heartbeat

Staci Cheney: Sure and

Councilor DiPiazza: She is quite old its going to be for sale *laughing* but would I do that absolutely not

Staci Cheney: I totally understand that and something that I uhm something that I did was include cause you know we talk about how we have such a large population in Wisconsin but when I ran this and also how we have so many homeless or low poverty citizens that are in Wisconsin what I did is I ran the statistics of the people that are in Wisconsin specifically where those buildings were uhm where he wanted them to purchase them and actually it was under 50 people that live in that vicinity and none of them were homeless and they all are employed so I'm glad that they did not pass and uhm I am glad that's not how our COVID money was spent so those were the things i just wanted to add and uhm again thank you Ogema Romanelli for putting that comment in and that's all want to say. Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Councilor Lewis at one point I saw your hand raised do you have a response to the comment?

Councilor Lewis: Oh you know I I just wanna say yeah I am a nine county person but you know uhm I I look at the people as a whole also so you know as I you know move forward I I'm gonna always envision empowering all people you know including nine county and uhm I I wish that you know if somebody was aware that you know somebody lived right by building that you know that information should have been you know ah you know it should have been like all of us notified that you know that should have been a question I guess in like work session but obviously it wasn't so alright I'm done thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thank you councilor Lewis

Staci Cheney: Julie. Julie can I just respond to that?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Is that Staci?

Staci Cheney: yes

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Go ahead

Staci Cheney: Well, I was just going to say that I sent that information to the speaker because I thought that if I if I sent all that information with the statistics and everything he would share that and I can't always go to the work sessions because of my commitments but it sounds like he didn't share that with you guys in the uhm work session so from now on perhaps I'll email it to everybody

Councilor DiPiazza: uhm just I never received it I don't receive a lot of stuff anymore whether it's yeah, it's it's a little depressing evidently, I heard I'm not on his you know he only calls people that he that thinking the same mindset I'm sorry I don't think that way but not if anybody got something to share feel free to send it to all of tribal council

Staci Cheney: I will do that from now on

Councilor DiPiazza: Not a singular because I'm one councilor the same as everybody else there one councilor uhm

Staci Cheney: I totally understand and I I admit 100% I sent it to him because it was his initiative was my understanding and I from now on will send it to all of you I try not to send too many emails to everybody because I know that you guys get lots and lots of emails but for this one that was my bad and I apologize so I will for sure do that from now on

Councilor DiPiazza: just because I might not respond does not mean I did not read them and that's my apology to so

Staci Cheney: that's OK understood

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll at least send a response that I received them and that I read them

Staci Cheney: Thank you Gary

Councilor DiPiazza: my ____ on that population over there was like 34 people within that area

Staci Cheney: that that's exactly what I foun that was uhm the same findings that I found and

Councilor DiPiazza: Theres a IHS clinic like right there

Staci Cheney: that was the other thing that I sent him to

Councilor DiPiazza: yes, and plus there is no plan on who was gonna orchestrate to take care of them units and some of them units were made in 1800 1890s uhm yeah, I don't know that's kind of old, but I'm done

Staci Cheney: Thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: So, we do have a tribal member that just joined Scott Wahr can you identify yourself for the record

Scott Wahr: Scott Wahr 4689

Acting Speaker Wolfe: K thank you moving on we are still at public comment looks like we have phone number 2315648435 your next in queue

Shannon Crampton: thank you madam recorder tribal member Shannon Crampton 1747. First of all, uhm I would like to apologize for any ____ online it follows our teaching as things were said I guess against members that are not present especially tribal quay in our teaching that's a disgrace and I I it disturbed me. Uhm secondly there's a couple things I'd

like to point out the conversion by buying land is going to be really hard to prove and all this speculation is being heaped on I understand people are upset about the budget cut but let's get back to reality. There was a racetrack for Fruitport are they building it in Fruitport? I thought so. Secondly, council also had somebody arrested on council they didn't disclose it solely speculation of there going to court is neither nor there *Shannon stated something, but it wasn't heard clear in the ZOOM*. What greatly disturbs me is the ruling that we just received from our court I wanna know the absolute overreach by the judicial the separation of powers applies to three branches not two are you guys going to fight it? Thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thank you for your comment, Shannon, next I have in queue Sara Agosa you have the floor

Ogema Romanelli: Can you put me in as well again uhm speaker madam speaker

Israel Stone: Also, Julie am I this is Israel am I still in the queue?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Yes, we have quit a long queue going on just not yet

Israel Stone: Ok just making sure just making sure sorry

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Go ahead Sara you have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 I wanted to go back to the organizational assessment and list of essential services and priority order I would like to express and share my opinion and emphasize to council that these two reports should be utilized in the budget review meetings especially in a pandemic and I'm still not clear what objective data and research tribal council is using to develop the budget but there should be a more standardized evaluation method so I will reach out to the councilors individually I would like more information on how you're reviewing the budget and I would like a status of the budget review meetings where we're at and then regarding the Wisconsin project that was also my question just listening to the discussion I thought that project was vetoed and I just need clarification is this being re proposed in the 2022 budget thank you those are my comments.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I'll answer that the Wisconsin development project is not being re proposed in the 2022 budget it was using cares act funding which we no longer have available we spent that to members and it had utilized by December 31st 2021 it is not being discussed it's just members voicing their concerns after the fact it was vetoed it is not a standing item or bringing up for discussions for future purpose thank you moving on to uhm Israel you have the floor

Israel Stone: thank you and I apologize I just didn't know if I had accidentally dropped out of the queue somehow, I know you're trying to manage a lot of people on this call, and I appreciate your efforts ah a couple things worth mentioning here. First of all to be centered publicly for speaking our mind as citizens from somebody speaking on

traditions who has traditionally and historically attacked tribal elders, women and everybody else is just disrespectful and humorous the other thing I'll say is this the fact that this process was stopped by the Ogema veto does not negate the fact that it was actually passed this was passed it was approved the fact that the Ogema had to intervene and stop it does not change the fact the conflict still exists Mr. Ryan Champagne and Councilwoman Cindy Champagne owned the residence is from 2764 to 2766 N Buffum Ave or Street one of the homes proposed to be purchased is 2768 which is the next home over in addition to that if you look at the map that was provided to tribal council in the packet several of those addresses are within a mile radius also did you know that there's another residence owned by the uhm Champagnes on 5th St which is also directly adjacent it's about doing due diligence it's about doing research ah Mrs. Cheney spoke about speaking to the the broker that put this together suspiciously enough that package was put before a council and right after it was vetoed all that stuff came off the market where does that happen in real estate the other thing I'll mention is uhm it's just a question and you don't have then answer just a question do we all understand what a conflict of interest is uhm because I see several things going on where council member who's related to the director of health services votes on things for the health clinic I see this purchase I see all kinds of things that are happening and it just concerns me but Sandy hello Sandy by the way uhm she brought up the point of having a presence on both sides of the lake and while that's a good thought process nowhere in federal law does that is that allowed to happen it doesn't extend our sovereignty we're never gonna get recognition for anything across the lake ah we've never made that case ah but one person has. I have in my possession an email document from speaker Champagne that all of you are probably not aware of once again making a case in the department of interior as to why the Grand River Band ah Grand River band of Ottawa Indians of Milwaukee should be recognized so we have a council member that seated in our council that's had an ongoing project for years that I'm sure he didn't disclose to you guys working on a recognition effort for a Grand River band tribe in Milwaukee WI there's also testimony before the BIA where he represents himself as Ryan Champagne Grand River band of Milwaukee listen my opinion is this is playing right into the hand of that effort I am just embarrassed and ashamed ah that you guys didn't know this stuff and it's not your fault it's not your obligation to have to dig in you have a comptroller general over there you have several staff working for you over there somebody could have done the due diligence but the where the issue exists with this is that the person that had the conflict or persons did not disclose that conflict and if you guys aren't angry about that that's a problem because it put you all in a very bad situation and when we start looking into this and digging further there's several things guys tied to that purchase that you probably need to be aware of Gary mentioned the homes ages there was no due diligence done for lead based paint or anything of that nature no inspections on the condition of the home we were gonna just write a blank check or not a blank check we were going to issue a check for 2.3 million dollars based on a brokerage without any of the due diligence that's necessary to make a purchase anywhere near that amount you guys have contracts every contracts reviewed by legal counsel every contract no matter what the amount is to do due diligence this did not happen with this entire process and I feel bad for your council members sitting there they had no knowledge of any of this stuff I really truly do that's sincere it's not fair to you and the fact that that individual and and his Co councilor owned 2764 through 2766

N Buffum and the home right next door is being purchased in this process and several around that that couple block radius and he sponsored the item and didn't disclose it and she made the motion c'mon not fair to you guys not fair at all and so I I just I'm upset about that there are several things going on also did you know the recorder mentioned Mino Aki the 501C3 owned by Councilman Champagne speaker Champagne cause you know the address for that 5017 ah C3 or 501C3 is 2764 N Buffum this is easy to find and the research is easy to do but if you don't know what you're you know having to look into it because nobody is disclosing it uhm it's problematic and so I apologize to council this is not directed at any of you sitting there with the exception of the two individuals that had an obligation and a responsibility to be honest with you and their dealings with the tribe going back to miss Cheney point regardless of the status of the charge because right now it's misdemeanor you don't know if that gets bounded over you don't know any of that we don't know the circumstances the fact of the matter is an obligation to report it to you guys let you know and I I feel bad cause I feel a lot like Sandy does a lot of you guys sitting there related to me whether you like that or not is another story but I don't wanna feel like I'm on the opposite end of the argument because I take a stand you know the the judicial process is there for a reason it's to protect against misuses or abuses of any branches powers executive judicial legislation legislative legislative that's why they're there and I tried on several occasions on record letting people know where I thought some of these things were getting dicey before I took action to go to court I appealed the tribal council many times on record before Stone Ogema went to tribal council in that first very first case saying guys read the constitution there's a separation of powers issue here please don't make this mistake and then the actions are taken and then us as citizens are left with no other decision or no other choice to either let it run us over or take a stand and challenge it that's good government what's happening here today and I want to applaud all of you sitting there madam recorder as acting speaker for letting citizens come here today give voice their concerns that's good government that's what this whole process is about is for our elected representatives that represent every citizen in this tribe to hear from their citizens and this is how a meeting should occur this is how a meeting should be structured and be allowed to run today is probably the best meeting I've been involved in a long time because we're actually exchanging communication giving and receiving feedback hearing our thought processes of our elected officials I didn't know Sandy felt the way she felt until she said that today it gives me a better perspective I didn't know that you guys weren't aware that there were conflict of interest issues with this purchase now I understand that see that's good governance and I appreciate you guys having these discussions today and I would encourage you to ah just continue to to move forward in a good way thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thanks for your comment next I have in queue ah Lee you have the floor

Ron Pete: Madam speaker ah Lee can I interrupt for one second

Lee Ivinson: As the recorder allows

Ron Pete: This is Ron

Lee Ivinson: yes

Ron Pete: Ok this is Ron I'm sorry I got to have to leave this meeting I got a doctor's appointment at twenty after twelve and right now I don't even know if I can see so. Everybody have a good day and I'll see you Saturday

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Go ahead Lee

Ron Pete: Thank you

Lee Ivinson: Thank you Ron and thank you all uhm yes so going back to the matters at hand uh thank you Israel for raising Mino Aki uhm in their residence uhm on the north Buffum St I just want to go back to when I had served the the membership in members assistance and I believe they still carry out this uh goal in that the tribal members that are in need that department had advocated on several occasions for our Wisconsin brothers and sisters uhm at that time I was not aware of Mino Aki but I was aware of other agencies including the health services that we have referred our tribal citizens over to in conjunction to assisting them with the tribes resources in in this whole situation of this Milwaukee purchase at the root of this uh appears to be some you know heartfelt consideration for our residents over there we all get that we all want to ensure that our tribal members are OK so with that said please carry this information where you feel it needs to be handled outside of what the membership is providing you in information but also uh continue to advocate for those Wisconsin folks and we have a means to do that we have a means to carry those dollars into the budgets to ensure that any of their shortfalls uhm are recognized and assisted to the best of our ability I know this tribe can do it we have done it before in the face of hurricanes down South tribal council back then said we need to get resources to these individuals to help them out and with tribal councils help members assistance was able to do that so this is an all for not know we as a tribe we do gather together when there are individuals in need uhm so please keep that in the forefronts of your minds thinking about those demographics that truly need our assistance and I truly believe that tribal council has in the past helped the executive branch execute what needs to be done uhm another area if if I can I would like to raise resolution 21-1215-309 100% enrollment audit of membership files I couldn't participate in the work session so I was not able to uhm pose this question I would like to pose it now in the thirteenth whereas of this resolution it states tribal council has determined that throughout the years since it's sub since inception of this government enrollment of membership has been questioned and caused serious and tumultuous distinct amongst our membership in that point how much work has the tribal council reached out to identify if this is in fact a fact for a majority of your voting constituents to come to the decision that the tribe needs a 100% audit of membership files though I do understand constitutionally there is an authority however was consideration taken into resolution 11-0727-293 in which this tribal council at this time had a qualified roll adopted for 2002 for 1996,2004,2008 and 2010 membership at that time also within that the enrollment ordinance in the event and I believe tribal council has done a great job in having this language in this law for these situations where a tribal member has credible information

that an individual should not be enrolled with this tribe that there is a section within tribal council's law 8.02 that speaks to the individual bringing forth claim of a mistaken fact and the due process that takes place or an investigation to identify the situation and then from there make a determination of what is going to happen So what this resolution has done 309 in essence has raised everybody's concern who who are in tune with this to say and look at our fellow members and say should you be enrolled here or the individuals that have had to face going to tribal court or having to answer to mistaken fact the trauma for them to have to relive it again because you're going to go through another 100% enrollment uhm audit of all of these files a costly endeavor at that um I do know that uh apparently 150,000 has been set aside for this uhm I don't think that's enough I think you're probably gonna have to come forward with another appropriation to fund 100% because we are a larger tribe now um but in that would there be consideration that for resolution adopting the qualified roles that that area not be re-audited that could potentially could save you some money that's all I have thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thanks for your comment next in queue we have Michael you have the floor

Someone from Zoom: Michael are you unmuted?

Michael Burmiester: Hear me now? Hello?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: We can hear you

Michael Burmiester: ok I have a question about what's gonna go on with the new generation Learning Center since you all shut that down last October, I think there's nobody in that building anymore what are your plans for that?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I can speak on that I've been brought forward continuing resolutions to have discussion on that and see about it reopening working with the executive branch to two determine what best meets the needs of tribal members at this time it was not budgeted by the executive for 2022 so I don't know the status of it but we can always do supplemental appropriation it is something that we are looking at and gathering data on to see if it's beneficial to tribal members once the ordinance was acted to make it tribal members and 1st generation descendant. any other councilors for the response?

Connie Waitner: I would like to just say that after I reviewed the budget there's \$400,000 allocated for the Learning Center along with \$100,000 for two purchases for two buses at \$50,000 each 12 passengers so I just I just kind of there's a lot of little things in there that people don't notice but that was one of the things I did take note of thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: any other councilors wish to respond? Michael, do you have additional comments

Michael Burmiester: yeah, I'd like to know uh has council confirmed how many tribal kids will be in that school?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: At this time, we have not we put forward a request with education to assist in that the Ogema said that she was not available to assist well then, we rerouted and going back with the direction we still have not received the tribal enrollment list that was requested for the break from enrollment

Michael Burmiester: thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: you're welcome. Any other councilors wish to ah comment? And Michael are you finished?

Michael Burmiester: I am for now thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: OK next I have in queue Janine Sam; I don't believe she's on the call any longer Janine are you still available? OK I do think she left the call next, I did have in queue uhm phone number 2315101722

Joe Riley: alright this is ah Joe Riley 2904 I just had a question regarding the purchase in Wisconsin uhm I heard some talk about you know exercise our sovereignty and everything, but my concern is that Wisconsin is a PL280 state which would relegate us to being nothing more than landlords over there I think that there may be other ways we can help our people over there without opening ourselves up to that sort of uh liability I guess that's just a statement thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thanks for your comment, Joe any councilors wish to respond? I can just say for myself again it is not a project that is back forward it was already adopted in vetoed and it's no longer on the table at this time there's no discussion between tribal council with looking in future endeavors or purchasing property in Wisconsin at this time. Moving on to the next person in queue I see I have Mark Saugie if you're still available to comment?

Mark Saugie: No, I did not at this time thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thank you Mr. Saugie. Moving on next we have in queue Larry Romanelli the floor is yours

Ogema Romanelli: thank you I know this is a long meeting but I think that shows the members are hungry for information I think this has been a very informational meeting I hear that councilor former councilor Crampton gets on the line and speaks about uh how culturally he's insulted by speaking about people who aren't present that was the people's choice first off the other thing is is when we talk about insulting our culture insulting our people I think not protecting our tribal resources our tribal money our tribal citizens by not doing our homework I think that's a problem you know we spent and he was one of the first uh one of the main persons that pushed us through that got us into court for four

and a half years uhm him and another councilor uh pushed it through where they didn't even allow again myself other tribal members at the meeting speak and pushed it through this has been a long ongoing thing we finally resolved it after four and a half years and a couple \$100,000 that's what I find insulting and this is the same councilor who within a couple weeks of me becoming Ogema presented to me that I needed to take care of the membership that was defected and I needed to speak to Jim McClurken because he knew the facts I spoke to Jim McClurken and then Jim McClurken said that this person was out of line and these people were out of line but it continues to this day uh this is also the councilor who always had documents in his hand and always had the goods um but never got anything resolved so I just find it odd that he's back on again and talking about Fruitport talking you know if it went through he'll be sure to take credit for it if and when it happens which I believe it will so kudos to Crampton for his support as he usually says it depends on which side of the street we're on but uhm anyways I I'm ah I think that's it for now thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thank you for your comments, Larry. Next, I have in queue Shannon Crampton you have the floor

Shannon Crampton: thank you Madam speaker and to bring a little bit of truth back into the situation I'd like to say for the record uhm several of you council members see me at every powwow and ceremony from Sault Marie to Detroit because I see you there also *laughing* I don't see Israel ever at any of them I don't see Mr. Romanelli either and you don't either when your there so its laughable for them to talk about anything about culture but you and I I see Wittenberg there all the time I see Lewis is there all the time I see Metzger there all the time I see Deverney but I don't see those two ever so we're talking about culture don't make me laugh. Now my point about Fruitport was there's nothing wrong with those purchases and there's nothing wrong with the purchases in Milwaukee there was no purchase but even if there was there's nothing illegal if there was, they can file charges and I to having said in that to feeling sorry for you that you have to sit here and listen to such a blatant childish display we all know the real issue it's the budget cut over at the casino let's be adult let's address the issue there's no need for all of this little sidebar mudslinging it doesn't mean nothing there's no need for the fake I'm a culture person and I'm offended if you don't show up at the powwows or ceremonies cause I'm there I don't see you just cut the crap we know you don't like your job cut that's the issue my concern is that we have a branch of our government overstepping its authority and it needs to be challenged immediately. Council you have a lot of support out here. Thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thank you for your comment, Shannon. Next in queue I have Susan Thull

Susan Thull: I have quite a few comments so I'll start with the first one Connie mentioned the budget and it sounded like it was the government budget I'm wondering if everyone is Privy to that uhm is it posted somewhere uhm she as a tribal member has seen it evidently so I'm wondering if I could get a copy of that budget? can you tell me if it's posted or

Connie Waitner: That I have no idea on I don't know by whose authority gets posted I'm not sure on any of that Susan I would

Susan Thull: But you did see it

Connie Waitner: Yes, I did

Susan Thull: uhm not on not online though?

Connie Waitner: I don't I can't remember

Susan Thull: OK thank you

Connie Waitner: The system has been off and on but uhm that I can tell you.

Susan Thull: thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Susan Thull so I'm not aware of anywhere that it's posted it would have been shared by the executive branch because tribal council has not released the budget

Susan Thull: Could I ask uhm Mr. Romanelli could you send me a copy of that please

Ogema Romanelli: Well, the budget has been vetoed by myself and it's waiting for the tribal council to either override my veto or not and at this point in time I think uh we're in a pending situation so if you want to get it again the communications come from the council and it's in the council's ah basically spot right now so thank you

Susan Thull: Connie could you send me a copy of that

Connie Waitner: Susan if I can find it I sure will all I remember to is that I can't remember if somebody told me that that that was a part of the proposed stuff or if I'll take a look through for you Susan

Susan Thull: thank you it would be Susan.thull@gmail.com. Thank you very much Connie

Connie Waitner: Alright

Susan Thull: OK and then my next comment was uhm on the on the Fruitport casino I heard that there was uhm vote coming up in the Michigan government uhm and there would they have a resolution that they were going to be voting on no more Casinos. Uhm Larry, could you tell me if that if you know if that is happening and when?

Ogema Romanelli: no I'm not aware of that I know that there was a vote taken by the Republican Party a while back uh similar to that but I am not aware of anything ah going on at this time and then going back to the budget I just got an email this morning because

the budget complete budget that council sent back is I'm still looking through because there were some concerns and again we had Bradley Pringle and our CFO going back and forth so I was sent ah some more information on the budget which I'm going to look over ah but I'm not sure what it is so and on the report no I'm not I'm not aware of any of any resolution coming forward at the state level thank you

Susan Thull: Ok thank you very much uhm and then I wanted to talk about the uhm resolution uhm of the purchasing of the Milwaukee properties and the conflict of interest I know that Israel stone spoke a lot on this uhm and I I have always thought that we needed more information in those resolutions I believe that there should be stated that if anyone has any interest any tribal member has any interest it should be stated in the resolution uhm and declared by them if we find out afterwards that they should have and didn't I think there should be a very stiff penalty uhm I I know that I have asked about different things I know that uhm at the time that we were considering uhm a contract with I believe it was Copper Five for spa management and this was during the pandemic when everything was closed and I did question that I did question it I believe in a meeting uhm I questioned it on Facebook uhm others uh did check and say that they couldn't find any licensing for this company uhm nothing at all showing that this was a company uhm and I wondered if that was something that uh had a personal a connection with that and that did go through that was passed and it was passed in um a closed session so we don't know those details just like some of these details I was wondering if when we're discussing the Milwaukee if that some of that was in closed that shouldn't be talked about but I do think that I would really encourage the council to look at uh this I think this has been a great discussion I think that we really need to tighten up those uhm resolutions on conflict of interest I think this has been done in the past and all of a sudden now it's coming uhm to the form maybe it's because we have a difficult council uhm that that is an office right now so it used to be you know uhm everyone was kind of aligned and they had the majority but I'm thinking that now would be a real good time to look at our resolution our process and make sure that people don't have conflicts uhm and if they do its stated uhm I think that we've we've done a lot of this kind of stuff in the past uhm looking at the resolution of who we've done contracts with uhm it could be a former employee and all of a sudden now we're just doing contracts I think that this all has to be very transparent and I think we have to have penalties for uhm not just anyone that doesn't disclose the facts ahead of time so I would really uhm encourage council to have some work sessions on this and get ahead of this problem uhm I've asked before I like I said I had asked who uhm was connected with this Copper Five spa management and I did notice that the spa did finally open again and I don't know if they've been a paid as a contractor for their services all along or what's happened but I've asked before the task force test task force construction who's on that who was on the Covid task force I've never given an answer to a lot of these questions and I feel like this is something that we should be privy to just like the budget information if it's out there then I think everyone should know about it I also want to talk on the charitable contributions that's something that I had raised concerns about because I actually went to our GM um that we had given uhm a donation to um I believe it was called dancing with the stars and it may have been through the Chamber of Commerce for Fruitport or something like that on the charitable donations we had given something through the casino I went to the GM and I asked him for some

information on that he said he would be happy to tell me but he would have to run that by the

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Susan, you muted yourself

Susan Thull: I'm sorry did you hear me start with a charitable contribution

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Yes

Susan Thull: OK I'm sorry I know I'm taking a long time uhm I did ask the GM about the charitable contributions that was made to the dancing with the stars and he told me that he would have to run up by the uhm casino oversight and I said well that's OK I know I'm not going to get an answer then and I will let it go uhm I but also the shoreline group had given a donation so when I look at that and I see that we're making donations from two different entities and our membership doesn't know about this doesn't know the amounts I believe that uhm taking over the contributions ah by the council and overseeing it for everyone I believe that that is the right move I don't totally agree with everything in this charitable contributions ordinance but I do feel like they were at least trying to get in the right directions so that's that's all I had to say and thank you very much for your time I believe that this is a good discussion uh and I appreciate it thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I just want to go back to what you mentioned about the Milwaukee project it was voted on closed session it did not survive the veto by the Ogema at that time the resolution roll call motion and vote and all supporting documents was moved to open that's why I've allowed all the conversation today because none of it happened and it happened in closed session but it was then moved to open so I just want that clarification for membership um

Susan Thull: thank you for the clarification, Julie

Acting Speaker Wolfe: OK and I just want to go on with this this is getting into a pretty long meeting I'm going to go to people that haven't had a chance to spoke speak yet and then we'll be wrapping up public comment, so I see two people that have had their hand raised that haven't spoke Mr. Scott Wahr you have the floor

Scott Wahr: hello can you hear me

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Yes, we can

Scott Wahr: Scott Wahr 4689 hey uhm I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak when every council person is sworn in and they take an oath to act in the best interest of the tribe and I'm sorry I missed the first part of the meeting but the some of the materials that have been presented uhm there are a couple council people that have not acted in the best interest of the tribe per the constitution and per the tribal council ordinance that is very very disturbing uhm and should be handled appropriately and there is a procedure for that to be handled and I do take offense to a Mr. Crampton's comment I just joined

when he when he made a comment about the Fruitport purchase and said does anybody live in Fruitport nobody was able to answer I didn't have a chance to answer and yes there are people tribal members that live in Fruitport the Fruitport property in Muskegon property everything it is good to support the area and the tribe has done major investments already in Fruitport and the Fruitport community appreciates everything that's happened uhm that's uh you know it shows shows Mr. Crampton um his uh personality and his beliefs when he ah makes statements like that that's all I got to say

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Ok thanks for your comment. The last person I see in queue that I don't believe that have spoke there are two Sandy you have the floor. Sandy Mezeske

Sandy Mezeske: thank you uh Julie uhm just a FY I to you know a lot of council members that are on the call today you know all the decisions that you've been making you all do know that you can be held accountable with all this information that we've been given today and I'm sure that there is more to come if it goes to court you can all be held accountable for your vote I I I'm not sure everybody is aware of that you can be held accountable and you know at this point in time with this great information uhm council law to be a having a meeting minus minus two because it involves those two and talking about a removal process a removal process you have been duped you have been lied to you have not been told the truth on half of the issues that have been brought up today yeah it's sad you know it's very very sad as an elder to have this council not working together I you're not all not working together but you are not provided the information that you need to make a good decision and let's go back to the budget OK so you had an emergency meeting my understanding is it's only good for a week you totally know that that was illegal you have to extend it 30 days and not seven what happens on Saturday is the casino going to be in uproar again those employees is there a decision been made what are you going to do come Saturday have you met in closed session have you talked about this have you had a work session you know you're putting an awful lot of lives at stake because of making bad decisions and not reading to where it has to be for 30 days and not seven so is there a decision of what's going to happen come Saturday thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thanks for your comment, Sandy the last person I see in queue that haven't had a chance to speak yet Robert McCaslin

Shannon Crampton: I'd like to respond to Mr. Wahr Ms. Recorder

Robert McCaslin: Robert McCaslin also___ and I was just wondering if everybody was aware of the gambling tax write off now that you can do for gaming in the state of Michigan also since we're on the topic of you know uhm conflict of interest since we have a lot of former councils that have went to the executive side and some that has just remained on council can you see a difference in what the membership are seeing with the decisions that you are making that is all the comment I have Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Ok thank you Robert uhm still going with people that haven't spoke I just seen that uhm Chelsea raised your hand Chelsea you have the floor

Chelsea Densmore: Thank you Julie. Chelsea Densmore 3225 uhm I just want to say I really appreciate you leading the meeting today I think it does it has gone really well it has been really long and it has been all public comment because there was nothing on the agenda uhm so I absolutely feel for you guys but I so I guess I just wanted to say I don't know where it says that you guys should be shutting it down if there's still people in the queue right I guess for me public comment is the time that we're allowed to speak and that we're allowed to voice our opinion and there's been so much of this that's been off track or confusing you know good or bad or whatever agree or disagree but I mean this is the time that we're supposed to be allowed to speak and talk to you guys right this is the time that you know we're supposed to be giving you our voice and a lot of this conversation has been about people that aren't even here which I don't necessarily agree with just because that's not fair I've said that you know regardless of who it is but uhm I guess for me I just wanted to say you know as a citizen with a being our time to speak you know I would hope you would consider maybe giving everybody like one last time to have a 2 minute comment or something where they can at least you know uhm voice their concerns like I said I know this has been a long meeting and it's been all public comment and it's been a lot of hearsay and all that stuff but you know I just wanted to make that comment but I appreciate you giving me the time. Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I see Corey Wells just raised your hand you have the floor

Corey Wells: thank you uh recorder uh Cory Wells 4839 my comment is there's been a lot of comments about speaker Champagnes potential court case that's coming up and I'm not entirely sure so I could be wrong on this but because it's a pending charge and not a actual conviction I'm not entirely sure that he's required to report that because he's innocent until proven guilty so my guess is that he's or my observation would be that he's innocent of that charge until a court proves him otherwise and before anybody tries to say that I am jumping on trying to support Ryan and I would do this for any single person in chat from the Ogema on down that I would not expect them to tell us of a potential charge until they're convicted of it now maybe if you're charged with murder and you're in jail that's something different than a misdemeanor assault and battery but at the same time you know everybody is innocent until proven guilty and that's my comment on that thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: So, we do still have six people in queue. We're going to do your final comments and Tom Guenthardt suggested two minutes much like Chelsea so that's all your going to be alluded starting with Lee first in queue

Lee Ivinson: Lee Ivinson tribal ID 99 um I applaud this entire tribal council that's in presence right now um thank you for your courage and listening to all of the comments concerns by the membership who have taken time out of their day to attend greatly greatly appreciated uhm I think this open comment has has brought forth a lot of of areas but I think it's also brought forward a lot of valid concerns by our by our membership uhm I encourage tribal council to take a look at the 23 items that speaker Champagne has placed out there as accomplishments and see if any of those areas you might have questions on you know to ensure that that it was completely uhm looked at I do want to

make a comment in here about shaming a couple of our outlying council members uhm for not agreeing with the situation I commend any tribal council member that wants to stand up and speak their mind whether it's good bad or indifferent on the situation it's government that's compromise that's balance and we we need more of that so greatly appreciated for your courage and that um and I wanted to come back and a talk and speak to the comment about

Acting Speaker Wolfe: That's about two minutes do you have a final statement that we're gonna

Lee Ivinson: I do the way I practice my beliefs is not at the powwows the way I practice my beliefs is with my people and with my elders and that's all I have to say. Thank you so much thank you for your time tribal council

Acting Speaker Wolfe: thanks for you comments. Sara Agosa, you have the floor next two minutes please

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my question is regarding the Ogema upcoming information meeting my question is will he is he planning on doing what he did at the last town hall information meeting and slandering and attacking specific tribal members who have alternate viewpoints or question his management decisions that is my question for the Ogema thank you

Ogema Romanelli: I can answer that if you let me

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I'll offer a quick response

Ogema Romanelli: OK well first off I have to say uh I might may have made a mistake on my email address it should be Larryromanelli@LRBOI-nsn.gov I mistakenly said at dot com but it's actually dot gov and answer to that uh my guess that's everybody's opinion as to what goes on and hopefully I'd love to have more conversation like this uhm you know with people that are in the room and I'd like to see again our nine councilors you know and I think it's still unfortunate I don't like to talk about people when they're not here but everybody knew this was an important meeting again I would hope and the ones that seem to be most focused are the ones that are not here uhm so I'm hoping that all nine council members will be at the Saturday meeting uh I'm not going to take a question again off uhm off the teams I will allow uh people to write them in so let's hope we can stay on track and go from there thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Sara, I think you have about 30 seconds did you have a final comment?

Sara Agosa: I'm done thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Yep, so then I do see uhm Antonio Romanelli next in queue for two-minute timeline for final comment thank you

Antonio Romanelli: Antonio Romanelli 3954 I just had a question again about the Wisconsin uhm properties we know nobody works for free I'm just wondering if there were any contracts, or any money exchanged with any business over there uhm I guess the real estate company or the brokers or anything like that was there any money or any contracts that any of you know of that were signed up reference those those properties over there?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: No tribal dollars were expended in that process thank you

Antonio Romanelli: OK also I would just like to just make a comment that to reiterate that you guys are responsible for your votes you have to do your due diligence before making a vote uhm just because somebody tells you something does not necessarily mean that is true and that's been proven time and time again just in this meeting today and there were uh some other lies that look like probably come out from a campaign material I won't get back into that but uh that there was some material that was lied about on campaign material to a from Speaker Champagne uhm so I just you guys need to pay attention to what's going on and you need to hold their feet to the fire it's unacceptable and if if there's bullying going on if there's people being threatened or whatever now is the time for these councilors to step up and say this is going on it's not right because right now you have the membership backing you and if there's something that's not right or not going in now is the time to step up and say it

Acting Speaker Wolfe: thank you. Next, we have Israel Stone two-minute final comment

Israel Stone: thank you so uh just real quickly uh I agree uhm great meeting you guys have done a great job of listening today and hearing uh you know everybody is entitled to their opinion anybody can grow a long hairdo and a 70s Cheetos mustache and say that they are because they go to powwow's which aren't even a part of our tradition really they were brought over uh but uh talk to the traditional men and women that are out there hunting fishing gathering uh providing for our community doing all these things if we're gonna measure ourselves I don't see anywhere in our enrollment requires that say you must go to powwow's to be tribal citizen I don't see anything in our traditions that states that either uhm and it's not something you talk about doing it's something you live so I'll leave it at that uh agree you guys are accountable for every vote that you make ah whether you knew it or not come or you had all the information or not that's why it's important you hold each other accountable uhm on these things as it relates to what you did with the casino budget listen uh you guys are gonna do what you feel you need to do I'm gonna do what I feel I have to need I need to do a of course anybody that's being arbitrary cut out of a budget for a targeted attack and intentional purpose is going to defend themselves darn right but I'm also defending nine other people so you know what I can always run for council again I certainly can pull more votes than Mr. Crampton did hence the fact that he is not sitting there anymore have a great day thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Next, I believe it's uhm Shannon you have the floor

Shannon Crampton: oh I am not even going to get that childish I just want to say that uh I would like to commend the comments by Mr. Wells in the partial sentiments of Lee and respecting our traditions and not presuming Mr. concluding Mr. Champagne guilty of anything and to Mr. Wahr my point was that there was nothing wrong with Mr. Romanelli getting a casino buying property in Fruitport there's nothing wrong even if the property had gone through in Milwaukee I've heard a lot of speculations yeah I know the law and know there's nothing wrong with it if there was you could file a chargers and get that instead of trying to get council to do your dirty work it is very easy just follows charity now back to traditions uhm I never said I was at powwows and Ceremonies I still don't see these people there you don't see them either I see you there and when we're talking about people who cutting off other people being disrespectful the membership should just go to the last two years of minutes and how many times the speaker and fellow members of the council said I don't care if it's a conflict of interest I'm going to vote anyway that's on record that's real that's not speculation my prayer for you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: two-minute final comment

Shannon Crampton: My prayer for all you on council right now is that you do not buy into this baby games and use an adult mind I'd like to think that your competent leaders thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: thank you for comment next in queue Scott you have the floor

Scott Wahr: thanks again for the opportunity you guys are doing a great job I would like to remind you that the failure to dis disclose a conflict of interest is a means for dismissal uhm and that charges the rest of council to a proceed with that and if there was a potential con conflict of interest you guys need to decide that and move forward thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: thanks for your comment last in queue Stacey you have the floor two-minute final comment

Staci Cheney: thank you uh Mr. Romanelli are you still on the line?

Ogema Romanelli: I am

Staci Cheney: uhm I was just curious if there is any way you could post on the website not necessarily an agenda but like an outline of what's going to take place on Saturday just because um as an outlying member I um I know that there's been a lot of talk about today and like about the budget and all that stuff and I'm out of the loop on that or what took place with like a stay and uhm and people being like losing their position and stuff and a lot of us aren't privy to that information so when that's being discussed on Saturday be great if we just had uhm little bit of knowledge of what was going on we won't say anything we just want to know uhm we would just want to be able to follow along is that possible?

Ogema Romanelli: yes that's very possible a matter of fact I'm working on agenda as we're speaking and I'll read off what I've so far that is an informal meeting to hopefully provide to our members with some information and a chance to speak to the elected representatives in person the meeting is for tribal members and the tribal members can attend in person and be accompanied by another person but they may be asked to show their tribal ID etc. so that we don't have a bunch of outsiders coming in a team's meeting will be set up to allow members to listen and see the meeting but will be muted if a person wants to ask a question they might may write their questions out to me and we'll try to get them answered again you see this meeting alone has gone 2 1/2 hours and so it could potentially go longer but we're looking at starting out at 1:00 PM and that was done in respect for people that are live outside the area because so many people say Oh my God I've had to get up at 4:00 o'clock we do the best we can we're not providing

Acting Speaker: *stated something in ZOOM but it was unclear*

Ogema Romanelli: What?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: 15 seconds with your final comments

Ogema Romanelli: Oh, OK I was trying to answer a question but OK when it starts 1:15 we are going to allow tribal casino resort to present their state of their enterprise 1:30 to 4:45 explained recent changes within the tribe and then question and answers at 1:45 going on until we need to hopefully that's it. Thank you

Staci Cheney: excellent thank you very much

Acting Speaker Wolfe: you all set?

Ogema Romanelli: you're welcome

Acting Speaker Wolfe: OK we exhausted everyone in queue so we will be ending this meeting uhm to move into Closed session

The purpose of closed session is to discuss business matters considered privileged or confidential involving consideration of bids/contracts, pending legal issues, and/or personnel matters.

Councilor Guenthardt: Make A

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE FIRST OPEN SESSION; by
Guenthardt; supported by Wittenberg.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: We have a motion on the floor by councilor Guenthardt to adjourn support by councilor Wittenberg. Councilor DiPiazza can you do a roll call please.

Councilor DiPiazza: certainly, I had a comment this practitioner and things you know

Acting Speaker Wolfe: two minutes Gary go ahead

Councilor DiPiazza: no I'm just saying when I hear culture, culture you know how many of you actually greet the world as it comes upon us and ask that creator to look after everybody then are the things that need to start granted I can go to a powwow but sometimes I feel uncomfortable at them because just that's my feeling if I if I'm uncomfortable about something I don't go because I just don't do it anyways uhm and going back to the Buffum and I'm not making excuses but if you Google that address under Bing it's totally different format there's a couple of houses there that are no longer there but if you Google that address and look around and fish around in there all I can tell you is I missed it I feel bad I feel embarrassed all I can do is apologize and it's not gonna happen again that's all I can tell you I'm done

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thanks for your final comment if we can proceed with the roll call, we do have the motion on the floor

Councilor DiPiazza: oop you want a roll call

Acting Speaker Wolfe: yeah, councilor Guenthardt made the motion supported by Wittenberg

Councilor DiPiazza:

Roll Call #

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Absent	P. Johnson -	Yes	
R. Champagne-Absent	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Seven in favor two are absent we have adjourned first open at 12:35pm

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Ok thank you everyone

XI. Open Session

Acting Speaker Wolfe: So where in open session we're just looking for tribal member Lindsey Austin to identify herself for the record, it doesn't look like she has a microphone capacity I don't believe that she can hear me last call Lindsey Austin

Councilor Johnson: I'll say it looks like she just connected

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Lindsay Austin can you identify yourself for the record your tribal ID number. Lindsey Austin, can you hear tribal council getting no response I'll put her back in the waiting room so we can proceed uhm, so we are in our second open session we have one item, item A is items moved from close to open session

Councilor Guenthardt: Make a
MOTION TO GO INTO SECOND OPEN SESSION; by Guenthardt;
supported by Wittenberg.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I have a motion by councilor Guenthardt to go into second open do you have support?

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Supported by councilor Wittenberg. Any comments or discussion? Gary, do a roll call please

Councilor DiPiazza:

Roll Call #

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
R. Champagne-Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	S. Wever - Absent
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Eight in favor one absent we're in second open wait a minute at 1:36pm

Acting Speaker Wolfe: how do we proceed from here if the speaker is available

Speaker Champagne: You just continue on

Acting Speaker Wolfe: under open session we just have one item

A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session

There were no items to be moved from Closed to Open Session.

any comments or discussion by tribal council? Ok I'll entertain a motion to adjourn second open

Councilor Guenthardt: So be it

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: We have motion by councilor Guenthardt supported by councilor Wittenberg to adjourn second open. Any comments or discussion by tribal council? Hearing none councilor DiPiazza do a roll call please

XII. Adjourn

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING; by Guenthardt; supported by Wittenberg.

Councilor DiPiazza:

Roll Call #

T. Guenthardt - Yes	C. Champagne - Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
R. Champagne- Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	S. Wever - Absent
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Eight in favor one absent we have adjourn second open at 1:38pm

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thank you everyone

Respectfully Submitted,

Chantel Gamelin,
Transcribing Assistant

Gary Di Piazza,
Acting Tribal Council Recorder