



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022  
LITTLE RIVER BAND  
VIA ZOOM  
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

Approved  
02/09/22

**OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on January 12, 2022. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. speaker the recordings on

Speaker Champagne: thank you Madam recorder it was a little slow today getting on uhm must just be the systems uh we're here for a regular scheduled tribal council meeting today is Wednesday, January 12, 2022 this was scheduled for a 10 AM eastern standard time it's 10:05am eastern Standard time via zoom the agenda has been posted uhm on the website and other areas as required the link been added in the first order of business uhm before calling this meeting to order is

**I. Opening Prayer**

I would like to say a few words about Clyde Bellecourt his mate he's making this journey ah in the next couple of days for those who do not know him he's one of the founding members of the American Indian movement is well known civil rights leader and American Indian movement leader and has done a lot for our Indian country. No matter where you reside in urban Indian person on a Minneapolis uhm he's gonna be greatly missed and his advocacy work that he's done and uh I was thinking about all those type of leaders that we've had in the past ones current who are going on and what through Indian activism looks like in leadership I think uh it was a moment of silence for those who loved ones we lost uhm whether our own relatives or others at this time thank you. Ok thank you the second business is

**II. General Business**

Uh plus meeting to order I want to go through to ensure everyone here is allowed to be here there's myself online Nitumigaabow Champagne uh user iPhone can you please identify yourself for the record. User handler iPhone can you please identify yourself for the record? last call for user handler iPhone. Madam recorder director Wilson please escort the guest to the waiting room.

Recorder Wolfe: Does look like they have their video on the black screen

Speaker Champagne: yeah, it does have a voice though and so without being respond I would uh request them to go to the waiting room. We do have user handler Vicki if you can please identify yourself ma'am.

Ron Pete: Uh thank you Ryan this is Ron Pete 4158.

Speaker Champagne: Ok Mr. Pete thank you for joining us. 231-887-9856 can you please identify yourself.

Councilor Wever: Good morning, Shirley Wever.

Speaker Champagne: Thank you, councilwoman Wever. We also have citizen Miss Laura Echelbarger and uhm and also election board member uh citizen and cultural committee member uhm Miss. Nikki Nelson, our assistant uh Miss. Chantel Gamelin, citizen Mr. Binojeeuk commissioner Mr. Corey Wells we also have Director Crampton uh citizen Miss. Mezeske, grant writer Mr. Dorr, citizen Miss. Martha Howell, Councilor Champagne, citizen Mr. Stone, citizen Miss. Connie Waitner, citizen Miss. Ivinson, citizen Miss. Sara Agosa, citizen Matthew Chandler, citizen Robert McCaslin citizen and tax officer uh Miss. Valerie Chandler, IT Mr. Andrew Jeurink, citizen Miss, Thressa LaHaye, Councilor Lewis

Recorder Wolfe: I don't I don't believe IT has any agenda item would you want them in the waiting room?

Speaker Champagne: Yeah, IT is there a purpose for being on this meeting today?

Andrew Jeurink: Yes, there's been some website questions asked by tribal members so that's why I'm here

Speaker Champagne: OK thank you citizen Miss. Delia Ross uhm let's see if it moved around here citizen Miss. Kim Hinmon and family services uh personnel, citizen Miss. Chelsea Densmore, citizen Miss, Tammy Bogue, a legislative oh uhm we already called that Miss. Rebecca Groh, Mr. Patrick citizen Mr. Patrick Wilson and then we have 2313986837 can you please identify yourself? 2313986837 can you please identify yourself?

Brad Pringle: that's Brad Pringle Comptroller general thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank u 2312152739 did we already go through that? is that Miss. Shirley Wever?

Karen Love: no that would be Karen Love 2494

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Miss. Love. 2315648435 can you please identify yourself? I'm wondering if that was Madam recorder was that miss uh Councilman Wever?

Shannon Crampton: hello hello ah 564 is ah Shannon Crampton 1747

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Crampton all right it does appear that we have everyone allowed be here is entitled to be here.

**A. Call to Order**

I will call this meeting to order Madam recorder roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**B. Roll Call**

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

Nine are present called to order at 10:15 AM

Speaker Champagne: ok madam recorder. we do have the agenda before us seeking at this time a motion to approve the agenda

Councilor Lewis: I'll make a motion

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY  
JANUARY 12, 2022; by Lewis; supported by Champagne.**

Speaker Champagne: we have a motion made by councilor Lewis support by councilor Champagne. ah discussion on the motion on the floor? discussion on the motion on the floor by councilors or citizens? saying no discussions on the motion on the floor Madam recorder roll call please

Recorder Wolfe: just want to take a second and let everyone know that I am here and participating but I'm still having some difficulty to the illness with my eyes so that would be the delay on my end, so I'll just make membership aware of that for this meeting I'll proceed with the roll call

**Roll Call #1**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor the agenda has been approved.

Speaker Champagne: Thank you madam recorder the next of business is

**D. Tribal Council Minutes**

Minutes at 12/15/21. Uhm Any discussion on this item for acceptance of tribal council minutes from tribal councilors? Any discussion on this item from councilors or citizens at this time? Any discussion seeing no discussion I would entertain a motion to approve tribal council minutes 12/15/21

Councilor Lewis:

**MOTION TO ACCEPT TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR  
12/15/21; by Lewis; supported by Wittenberg.**

Speaker Champagne: We have a motion by councilor Lewis support by councilor Wittenberg. Discussion on the motion on the floor from councilors or citizens at this time? Discussion on the motion on the floor from councilors or citizens at this time? Seeing no discussion Madam recorder roll call please

Recorder Wolfe: uhm Mr. Speaker are you calling for abstentions

Speaker Champagne: Not on acceptance of minutes

Recorder Wolfe: ok

Speaker Champagne: It's just acceptance on minutes.

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call # 2**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor minutes have been accepted.

Speaker Champagne: Thank you

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

**1. Apply to Michigan Dept. of Health Human Services (MDHHS) as a part of the Tribal Mental Health Block Grant for Behavioral Implementation Program**

ITC received notice 1/5/22 that this application is due 1/14/22. We have received it for a few years now and it pays \$90,000 toward remote psychiatric services through Pine Rest.

This item is being brought forth by the Ogema's office with Director Crampton as designee along with there's Angela Schwandt and Grant Writer Mr. Dorr, I turn the floor over to you all.

Director Crampton: Boozhoo good morning yes we are seeking the support of council to resolution to apply to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for BeDaBin funds it's a total amount of \$170,000 we have four objectives that we are submitting through the in the application and it's for fiscal year 2023 and 2024 the first objective is to continue to reduce the number of client missed appointments the second objective is to maintain the increased focus group participation increase outside participation from community organizations and other governmental organizations and local hospitals and or other tribal organizations the third objective is to continue to develop a sustainability plan for LRB enhanced services specifically looking at assessing CARF accreditation and then the 4th objective is to continue to support a multi-disciplinary team to respond to mental health delivery challenges from the client level system the the budget itself I'll read for the benefit of the membership it's a like I said it's \$170,000 total and it's 52,000 is for a mental health counselor and then we have focus group mileage and meals at \$800 client transportation at 1,000 fringe benefits of 25,000 supplies \$1200 and then the contractual uh psychic psychiatrists that we contract through Pine Rest out of Grand Rapids is a total of 90,000 so the full bent or the full budget is 170,000. Lyle did you have anything that you wanted to add?

Lyle Dorr: I'm the speaker asked about the indirect cost, and I did forward through the fact sheet that said that this was not eligible for indirect cost and then just just a note for everybody that wasn't here for the work session is we got notice of this last Wednesday and council had been gracious to try to help us expedite because it's due Friday uhm late notice for uhm the state and then from ITC and you know they did the best they could get it out to us ITC did but uhm we just appreciate you getting it on the agenda here thank you

Director Crampton: Thank you

Speaker Champagne: does that conclude your presentation Director Crampton

Director Crampton: yes, it does thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you at this time do any councilors wish to abstain from this item? Do any councilors wish to abstain from this item? Any tribal councilors wish to abstain from this item? Seeing no councilors wish to abstain we'll move on to discussion from tribal councilors. I just want to thank our team through Family Services uhm do that they and and the Grant Writer Mr. Dorr for getting this it's a quick turnaround uh if we had more time, we probably could our team would have been able to do a little bit uhm go after the full amount it's a continuous amount of funding that we received uh these behavioral health services are much needed as mentioned in the work session for assistance who are not able to attend psychiatric services are hard to get in through telehealth this allows for psychiatric services and management and things of that nature so there are citizens who utilized Indian health services behavioral health program have access through quality care so I want to thank you all for that for putting this forward I think it is important I think you know investing into our behavioral health services is critical as it's a relatively a small area uhm historically where we used to be so I want to

thank you for that director Crampton for getting this turned around very quickly next in queue is Madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: yeah, so you kind of touched on it a little bit Mr. speaker but if uhm director Crampton can go over a little bit more of the direct service applied to the tele site because I don't believe that exactly *ZOOM recording was going in and out and couldn't hear what all was being said.*

Director Crampton: Could you please repeat your question?

Recorder Wolfe: can you give a general scope of services what the grant funding will provide uhm specifically tele site services that are available

Director Crampton: yeah, it's uh services directly to citizens needing psychiatric care that's the big chunk of this grant the 90,000 contracted with Pine Rest

Speaker Champagne: Madam recorder you still have the floor

Recorder Wolfe: how would citizens access the service

Director Crampton: by calling the behavioral health department and speaking with either Angela or Dottie and then an appointment is made and set up and if medication is required that's they also assist with that

Recorder Wolfe: Thank you

Speaker Champagne: madam recorder any other questions

Recorder Wolfe: no, I don't have additional questions thank you

Speaker Champagne: OK next in queue is myself uhm just for the record can you please I know you got some data on citizen numbers account served from to date this year and past year I think it's good to know because it puts the framework of why continue on contract services through Pine Rest uhm unlike other contracts where you know you're trying to get the uhm services lowest rate type of deal but behavioral health services is about relationship with established care providers already and so it gives an idea of so we have continuity of care and stability in that care uhm why continue on with the same same uhm agency as proposed also I think it's good to know just ah that's a that's it's a utilized service as well so it's a much needed area for the tribe uhm Mr Dorr did mention IDC is not eligible I think of course I was mentioned as that on every grant for that to be encompassed in as that pays salaries such as legal accounting, IT all those supportive services this grant is not eligible for the tribes federal negotiated IDC but I also want to encourage the department to look at you know make an agreements with executive side allow for their credentialing of the psychiatrist to allow for the FPHC encounter rates to have reimbursements come back I know the department has a put on two work for accreditation for private insurance such as Blue Cross Blue shield and things of that

nature at least for our medical assistance of FPHC encounters I think that both for the therapist and the psychiatric services it would be well advised to be able to get those encounters to help uh grow the behavioral health division and the funds that come from that I think in Michigan and correct me if I'm wrong it's about \$585 per encounter or something of that nature so it's definitely worthwhile pursuing director Crampton can you just run through the numbers of services utilized by our citizens that you shared with the just to have it part of the record please

Director Crampton: yeah, I'm just

Speaker Champagne: if you want, I can go to Madam recorder Wolfe she has her hand raised

Director Crampton: sorry I got cut off, but I muted and then I unmuted

Speaker Champagne: we didn't hear anything at least not on my end

Director Crampton: all right sorry uh for 2021 the numbers of citizens that use the program were 35 and then currently we have 26

Speaker Champagne: Madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: housekeeping order we have a phone number that just joined 12482177848

Speaker Champagne: telephone number 1-248-217-7848 can you please identify yourself for the record? Telephone number 1-248-217-7848 can you please identify yourself for the record? Last call for telephone number 1-248-217-7848 can you please identify yourself for the record? Madam recorder Wolfe can you please escort that user handler out. Further discussion from tribal councilors on this agenda item? First in queue who is patiently waiting a citizen miss Sara Agosa

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my concern is that Pine Rest is really well known in Grand Rapids its quite a large network and my understanding is that it is a Christian institution with a Christian mission, and I just pulled up its mission online mission statement Pine Rest Christian I'm sorry can you hear me?

Speaker Champagne: we can hear you we just ask anyone else please mute yourself right now citizen Miss Sara Agosa has the floor

Sara Agosa: so the mission statement says Pine Rest Christian mental health services is called to express the healing ministry of Jesus Christ by providing behavioral health services with professional excellence Christian integrity and compassion and I would like to see the tribe work with the service that is more multicultural and its mission and does not endorse one specific religion exclusively so my question is what type of screening process or qualifications will the psychiatrist from Pine Rest need in order to provide

sensitive care in light of our unique culture and spirituality and were any other psychiatry offices reviewed for service thank you that is my question

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Agosa um Miss Crampton

Director Crampton: When it comes to the care of people in the psychiatrist, I do know that there's a rigorous education process that happens what I don't have an answer to if it is whether or not other psychiatrists were considered other than Pine Rest. I will say that there aren't a lot of uh choices I do agree with you though I think that that we can look at other possibilities besides a Christian based program I will also add that we also have JD Gibson who offers traditional healing and so I think we kind of balance ourselves out with having Pine Rest and having JD available to people

Speaker Champagne: thank you. Miss Agosa you still have the floor ma'am

Sara Agosa: So one thing that I would love to see is maybe looking at a provider from Traverse City or even the Detroit area maybe even the American Indian center in Detroit might have or connection a psychiatrist who has experience working with native populations or even is Native American and my final question is I thought with the RFP process that at least three potential vendors had to be reviewed before a vendor was selected is does that also apply to our Health Clinic thank you that is my question

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Miss Agosa. I think the question goes to uh Miss Director Crampton in regard to if three bids was required for this contract this is a grant a grant item but since you mentioned Pine Rest in the narrative if you care to respond

Director Crampton: I don't know if three were considered uh I expected that if that's the process that's what happened because this was this is a continuing grant this isn't new the the what's being submitted here today is where a 2023 and 2024 it's been a um a grant that we've been in we see that for I believe six years so I would expect the process had been followed

Speaker Champagne: thank you director Crampton just so we can go in queue uhm next in queue is myself then councilor Wittenberg uhm I also seen a hand raised by Miss Chelsae Densmore and then 2315648435 in that order. Miss Agosa, do you have any other questions in regard to this grant application?

Sara Agosa: yes, I do Sara Agosa 4478, so I guess I'm unclear and I need confirmation this particular grant is specifically for Pine Rust am I understanding it correctly?

Director Crampton: that's what we have listed right now but that can be adjusted we can make changes to the grant we just were applying with this information, but this is for 2023 and 2024 and so what we can do is assess what we're doing over the next year and then make changes as appropriate for 2023 and 2024



Sara Agosa: yeah, that was my other question if this vendor has been used the last six years when that is switched up and it does have to go out to bid because it also come up with our election vendor this is a more extreme situation and Kim I know you're relatively new to your position but that vendor was used for 14 years so it was important to open that up and change vendors so if this vendor hasn't been changed for six years I think that would be great to open it up and see if there are other multicultural providers thank you that is my comment

Speaker Champagne: Thank you citizen Agosa next in queue myself I'll lower my hand here. You know I was unaware that was a Christian organization a lot of behavioral health social services agencies have that type of mission statement uhm would be hesitant if they would state that they actually utilized that part of their treatment curriculum and practice uhm as a medical provider but I think Miss Crampton gave you know a look into it and determined what is the best route to head I am support of this grant because it does bring in not just \$90,000 for psychiatric services but also funds of position funds for uhm a multi-disciplinary team and and services to our people so uh with that being said that concludes my comments. Uh next in queue I did see council member Wittenberg and I also uh Miss uh Densmore did you still want to be in queue?

Chelsae Densmore: Yes please

Speaker Champagne: ok it's councilman Wittenberg and then citizen Densmore and then 2315648435

Councilor Wittenberg: I want to say Miigwech for bringing this in through uh for helping our people and looking at it as a Christian base uh to me uh to me each person is their own captain but I do know that there I talk to quite a few members that are confused because of our ways and so to speak the Christian way and so I was happy to hear that JD Gibson is also involved in it because each way is for each person and each person has in themselves choose that way and we have to understand even though we are ah Anishinaabe but uh we're we're growing up in ah zagashnas world in for myself and I speak of myself only I'm not put my anybody else out there in my canoe but I was confused on many many things on both worlds but myself I come back home uh as you can see I come back to the circle to learn more and to understand more what is going on in my life and my circle I feel comfortable where I'm at uh we have to understand too that there are many paths to the top of the mountain and what one doesn't understand sometimes think that is their only way and that's fine but the bottom line is no matter what path you are go up to the top of the mountain appears the same so I just thought I'd put that out there because there are many ways to look at things and to do it and even though we had this Christian base and ah JD Gibson well they got a lot of mine two choices and personally myself I would choose JD Gibson but you had to go to uh the rope uh to get there so ok Miigwech. Just my view

Speaker Champagne: thank you Councilman Wittenberg next in queue assistant miss Chelsea Densmore

Chelsea Densmore: Miigwech Mr. speaker Chelsea Densmore 3235 uhm I just wanted to agree with Sara I really appreciate her bringing this forward I uhm I obviously it doesn't sound like a lot of people are aware of that uhm I do think it's important that we not be paying and working with ah with our history with boarding schools in all of our past I I think that we should be trying to find more neutral companies to work with I definitely think this grant is really important I really hope that you guys still pass it but I do hope that Miss Crampton and the department looks at may be using uhm a less religious company I I agree with a Ron there are many ways up the mountain but I don't think that we need to uhm be utilizing one that focuses in that way I I don't know that JD is available online and it sounds like this company may be uhm having an online aspect but regardless I do think it's really important that we be utilizing a more neutral company uhm that's not going to be religious based especially with all of our history um that's all I have to say Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: thank you Miss Densmore next in queue is 2315648435

Shannon Crampton: thank you Mr. Speaker Shannon Crampton 1747 um before we get too far down this road of a speculations as to who is what and who believes what I would focus more on the uhm attempt to help our members because when you say the Christian religion your talking about a a a diversification that just as wide as a Native American church it's not two sides of the coin how many churches are in Native America almost every tribe has their own religion when you're talking about the boarding schools that was done by the Catholic religion when you say Christian you're talking about a multi sect that's just as diverse as the Native American culture there's people there's a Christians who don't say hell marriage because the Bible doesn't say that then there's Christians that did not do anything to Native Americans so instead of focusing on where the help is coming from I would focus on the quality of the health thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you council thank you uh uh Mr. Crampton. Councilmember DiPiazza I recognize that you have your hand raised uhm there's a few right ahead of you Sir so I'm going to call how I seen it next in queue is Miss Tammy Bogue then Miss Kim Hinmon then council member DiPiazza then Mr. Stone and then back to Miss Sara Agosa. Miss Tammy Bogue you have the floor ma'am

Tammy Bogue: thank you this is Tammy Bogue 3179 I just like to make a comment I've used the services and my two children have used the services we've used the services probably about for about three to five years between the three of us and never once were we ever pushed any Christian views or anything it was more of let's work a program that works best for you thank you that's all I have to say

Speaker Champagne: thank you for that insight next in queue uhm Miss Kim Hinmon

Kim Hinmon: good morning I also would like to comment on Pine Rest uhm and their services I'm familiar with Pine Rest I've utilized their programming's in the past also working in the treatment center Saginaw Chip Indian Tribe we've utilized there programming um for youth as adults um some familiar with their programs and how they

work their counseling and I've definitely been very outspoken against Christian based counseling where they just teach you to pray it all away and that they don't really work on the actual getting down to the process of of of uhm working to get to the bottom of your problems uhm they're definitely on board with medication and you know working some of those other ways of getting into uhm care it's not just a program where they're you know God will take care of you and and it will be all better when you pray and when you're a better person no and that's not the way that it is and I think that when you consider their programming I think it's more of a moral guide twist for the organization as opposed to the way that they based their treatment programs uhm and I've seen their programs and the way that they work and they're fantastic and they're an industry leader in Michigan and I think that we would be wrong to just throw them out just because they're considered a Christian based organization and if you look at the area that they're located and you know West Michigan and Grand Rapids that that is the norm for them that is that's their that's that's their region uhm and I don't believe that throughout the state of Michigan that there are other organizations that are as qualified or that are as widely known accepted industry leaders that we can tap into and the fact that we've already had a working and established relationship with them really states you know how much that they do for us and the programs that they have um I like I said as a previous client if you will uhm my my children receive services there as well uhm I can't say enough about them and good things and considering that I like to think that I follow a traditional lifestyle and that their care and their programs coincide with my beliefs uhm the way that I believe I have absolute full faith in 100% in them and that's that's my comment thank you so much for listening

Speaker Champagne: thanks for sharing your experiences a council member DiPiazza next in queue then Mr. Stone and citizen Agosa and then also I seen uhm citizen Miss Nikki Nelson had her hand raised

Councilor DiPiazza: I was going to say just because the name says you know they're Pine Rest they have a Christian base doesn't mean that you can you know if you're not comfortable don't partake be the same as going to mass and taking a wafer that would be a personal choice some of us practice what we've known for eons and you know it's the same as a Saint Mary's in Grand Rapids that's a Christian based hospital now I don't believe they use a talisman and then you know to cure you they use a knife and a scalpel to help you that's a hospital so you know when you're talking of these things it's like I don't know you're going down a rabbit hole that's very interesting but uhm right now this is to help our tribal members get through life as they see a neat fit so that being said I'd like to make a motion on it also

Speaker Champagne: OK Sir you're making a motion go ahead

Councilor DiPiazza:

**Motion to accept Resolution #22-0112-003 to apply to Michigan Department of Health Human Services (MDHHS) as part of the Tribal Mental Health Block Grant for Behavioral Implementation Program**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support, support

Speaker Champagne: alright then councilor Wittenberg really wants to support this item uh (*Laughing*) we have a a motion made by Councilmember DiPiazza a support by Councilman Wittenberg I'm gonna try and go back to the queue of how it was uhm with hands raised before the motion

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. Speaker we have housekeeping of another citizen that joined

Speaker Champagne: OK is it it looks like there's still connecting we'll come back to that uhm well go to next in queue if I remember correctly uhm Mr. Stone and then I believe it was citizen Agosa and then citizen Miss Nikki Nelson or nick miss Nikki Nelson and then citizens Sara Agosa, but Miss Nelson do you still want to be in queue?

Nikki Nelson: Yes, please

Speaker Champagne: Ok thank you uhm Mr. Stone the floor is yours

Israel Stone: yes thank you Mr. Speaker and and uh I'll start out by saying this is one of those rare occasions where Mr. Crampton and I actually uh have the same view on on something and and that's no shot at Mr. Crampton that's just me saying he hit the nail on the head uh this isn't about uh anything other than helping our citizens you know too often and too often in in the last couple of weeks here I've heard these continuous attacks on Christianity and all this other stuff and councilor Wittenberg spoke on it very well that everybody has their own path and everybody has to choose that path uh condemnation for ones beliefs in my opinion are problematic to begin with if this program is provided continue to provide good services to our tribe and to our citizens they have a reputation they've been in business for years uhm you know what if that's what's working and people are accessing this and it's helping uh that really should be what matters not the the foundation of the program or any of that other stuff that that's talked about uh too often and so that's just my thoughts uh thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. stone I'm going to go to citizen miss Nikki Nelson because I think she was next and then back to citizen miss Agosa. Miss Nelson

Nikki Nelson: Miigwech uhm I just wanted to say uh first of all I do appreciate that a Miss Agosa brought this up because it is it is ah a valid point but I feel like there's two ends there's there's two different spectrums right here and where are the services that we're talking about today those are uhm mental health services that are desperately needed amongst our people we suffer from so many different mental you know ment depression all kinds of different mental disorders you know ment I don't want to say disorders but you know all kinds of mental problems and things that were brought on by things that were done to us intergenerational trauma all kinds of things and I think that there's there's two different things that need to be done these services definitely are needed but the other end that I think Miss Agosa is trying to touch on is that sometimes for a lot of us that Christianity doesn't help us identify where we come from which often

is the root of problems but that doesn't mean we don't need these mental health services that also means that we need to start pushing more cultural identity uhm help more more things like that on top of having these services available because where the problem is is not having a Christian psychiatrist the problem is that we as a people need to know where we come from we need to know who our ancestors are we need to know where we belong where our place in this world is and having psychiatric services available whether it be from a Christian service or not doesn't take those things away So what you need to do what we need to do is just add on to those other things and incorporate more culturally based uhm programs to have them available on top of having these much needed psychiatric services thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Miss. Nikki Nelson ah next in queue is citizen Miss. Sara Agosa and then back to 231-564-8435

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 well I just want to say that nowhere did I attack Christianity and I'm a little shocked how far this discussion has gone my stance is that we are a tribe and our traditional ways are valuable and we should be focusing on our seven grandfathers as much as possible that's not the exclusion of any religion however I absolutely think there is value in looking at other providers I'm from from Grand Rapids I am very experienced with that region and there is fundamentalist Christianity which I absolutely do not endorse and I've lived in other regions of the country and I will tell you that West Michigan is one of the most conservative backward parts of the country I've ever lived in including fundamentalist religion and to me as a tribal member that does not have a place at all in our tribe and a mission statement does have credence it influences I'll give you an example there is a nonprofit thrift shop store I won't I'll withhold the name but they also have a Christian mission and they've been known to require all employees regardless of their religious preference to pray in the morning and for some employees that's uncomfortable so ultimately what I like to say is that I fully support opening up a review of other vendors and that I do think multiculturalism including spirituality is important and to provide culturally sensitive care thank you that is my comment

Speaker Champagne: Thank you citizen Agosa

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. Speaker we now have four members that have joined

Speaker Champagne: and um I recognize citizen Miss Tina Bray ah whose use ha citizen Miss Alicia Knapp, citizen Miss Staci Cheney, citizen Mr. Mark Saugie, citizen Mr. Larry Olsen. I want to... user handler Teresa

Recorder Wolfe: you have Denise Cooper, Lindsay Austin and then the one that just identified as *ZOOM recording broke up*

Speaker Champagne: Miss Miss ah user handler Teresa Tressa can you please identify yourself for the record? User handler Teresa or Tressa can you please identify yourself?

Last call for user handler Teresa or Tressa can you please identify yourself for the record?

Thressa LaHaye: Thressa LaHaye 4651

Speaker Champagne: Ok I see yours up there Miss LaHaye there's another user handler

Thressa LaHaye: Oh ok

Teresa McCreedy: Hi sorry 4681 Teresa McCreedy

Speaker Champagne: Ok thank you

Teresa McCreedy: Sure

Speaker Champagne: Madam recorder uh I also see citizen Miss. Lindsay Austin is there any others that uh need to be read on the record? There's everybody uh

Recorder Wolfe: Denise Cooper was one I didn't recognize

Denise Cooper: Denise Cooper 3974

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Miss. Cooper all right and so with that being said we go back into the queue uhm 2315648435 your next uh you have the floor

Shannon Crampton: Thank you Mr. Speaker Shannon Crampton 1747 well not to be a off course to death but uhm I just want to go back and remind everybody what I wanted earlier even the Native American church in the Native American religion there are a multitude and I don't think that uhm we should be looking at this as just one when you say Christianity there's an multitude of different beliefs in the Christian religion and uh I know a number of tribes and a number of Native American people who have found salvation through Christianity but not just the Catholic religion in fact I don't agree with that but that's my personal opinion now what people should do is actually go back and look at the religions around here of the Native Americans and what you should read up on is how many of them include a visitation of the stranger of who walked on the water and enlightened them thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Mr. Crampton. Councilmember Wittenberg did you want to be in queue? I didn't know if you're raising your hand and those who are not in queue can you please mute your uhm mute your phones or your laptops as you're causing some feedback thank you Miss Cooper all right Councilmember Wittenberg did you want to be in queue? You're on mute sir

Councilor Wittenberg: Miigwech once again for all these things and I'm not going to beat a horse to death here but I'm looking at what it's going to do to help our members there isn't one nation out here that is 100% in their way we had that that's been in us and a

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is no different but what we need to look at and talk about prayer and I heard that up there there's nothing wrong with prayer there's more power and prayer than anything and that's what one doesn't seem to think you know you had that I'm not talking about the shaky tempt day one or the Catholic or the baptism I'm talking about that spirituality spirituality is totally different than what I had what I do if I go to the lodge or go to uh go to a church so a prayer is powerful if you let it be if you don't let it be well then you're putting on the captain's hat but in my life that's where I am this is helping it our people they got to start someplace and whether it be whatever it may be it's a start and it's up to each one to turn it on and continue on we can keep this going on all day and I'm ready to vote on it Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: ok we do have housekeeping user handler Miranda can you please identify yourself for the record? User handler Miranda can you please identify yourself for the record? last call for user handler Miranda. M-i-r-a-n-d-a in case I'm saying it wrong can you please identify yourself for the record? Oh, looks like they're still trying to connect to audio we'll come back. Any other discussion from councilors or citizens at this time on the motion on the floor? Any discussion from councilors or citizens on the motion on the floor? Any discussion from councilors or citizens? User handler Miranda last call can you please identify yourself for the record?

Ogema Romanelli: Mr. speaker with all due respect could we move on, on this subject thank you

Speaker Champagne: Madam recorder can you please uh escort user handler Miranda to the waiting room because it didn't identify himself on the record. Alright, so Mr. DiPiazza next in queue

Councilor DiPiazza: just one more piece for people to understand I've never been turned away from any hospital or any facility whether it was mental health or hospital if I was coming in there with my paawagan and my bundle to help somebody I have never been turned away they accommodated me to the full extent uhm so that's something to think about as you're adventuring through this world, so I'm done

Speaker Champagne: ok any further discussion from tribal councilors or citizens at this time on the motion on the floor? Seeing none madam recorder roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #3**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor resolution is passed

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Director Crampton and team. Next item we are onto III

**B. Budget Modifications**

There is none proposed move onto

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

I see one

**Payment of 2022 dues to the National Indian Gaming Association**

This item is a payment of those dues. This item is being brought forth by the Ogema office the floor is your sir.

Ogema Romanelli: yeah, this is a standard dues that we paid at the National Indian Gaming Association, and this is for the 2022 dues we do it every year because we have a casino thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you, any tribal councilors wish to abstain from this item?  
Madam recorder do you wish to abstain from this item?

Recorder Wolfe: I would like to make a postponement due to the budgetary not being in full effect for a fiscal year 2022

Speaker Champagne: Madam recorder is making a motion to postpone this item

Councilor Lewis: Support

Speaker Champagne: We got support by councilor Lewis. Discussion on the motion on the floor from councilors? Discussion on the motion on the floor by councilors?  
Discussion on the motion on the floor by councilors or citizens at this time? First in queue citizen Miss Sara Agosa

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my question is how did we utilize this membership? What are the benefits including? Who took training? That's my question thanks

Speaker Champagne: Thank you. Madam recorder Wolfe you have your hand raised.

Recorder Wolfe: That's not lowered from the motion

Speaker Champagne: Ok. Does anybody wish to respond uhm to citizen Agosa

Ogema Romanelli: Yes, sure by paying the dues we are allowed to uh they assist us with obviously our biggest moneymaker which pays per cap uh I would think that's one of the things she may be interested in uh I can't go beyond that I mean it's I I really can't it's something that all tribes with casinos have to do it's a must do so I'll leave it at that thank you

Speaker Champagne: OK any other discussion on this item a motion to postpone? Seeing none madam recorder



Recorder Wolfe: I just want to add clarification a  
**MOTION TO POSTPONE UNTIL FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET HAS  
BEEN ANNUAL BUDGET HAS BEEN ADOPTED**

Councilor Lewis: Still support

Speaker Champagne: Still support thank you councilor Lewis. Madam recorder roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #4**

T. Guenthardt -No	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	No
N. Champagne - Yes	G. DiPiazza - No	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (6-3-0-0)

Six in favor three against motion has been postponed

Speaker Champagne: Thank you madam recorder. The next item of business is

**IV. Old Business**

There is none submitted

**V. New Business**

Theres none submitted. We go on in

**VI. Concluding Business**

**A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, January 19, 2022**

The next item is B. Update on government and enterprises the floor is your sir

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you it's actually

**B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update**

Uh want to uh I guess the first order of business is that I just vetoed the latest budget that was sent over uhm there was so many things wrong with it that I had to veto it my question to the council is you did not override the other veto that I I put forward I'm not sure how that works but anyways this budget has just been vetoed as well uhm I'm not sure and you know that I've asked your question as a council I've asked you a series of questions one of them is why are we not meeting in the lodge room? If we're concerned with COVID where some of the council members are meeting are in the lodge room I mean excuse me in the council room which is very small it has a table a large table with nine chairs around it and a couple of chairs on the side that's not conducive to being very safe if we're talking about COVID as reason why we're not meeting in person the lodge room offers a lot more space I can't go in there for example with the chief of staff there is not a lot of room in in that little area it just doesn't make sense so we're if we're not doing this because of COVID I guess what is the reason that were not utilizing the lodge room uh the second thing and anybody can answer that one the other question or concern that I have is as you know I've listed questions to the tribal council more than once and I've not

received answers any significant answers at all yet on one subject we've gone on for about 50 minutes I I'm appalled by the lack of responses to the Ogema questions let alone our tribal members who have been asking as well I had a meeting on Saturday as everyone knows and we had two in attendance one on the phone one was sick uh but that doesn't excuse the other ones I guess and then I heard afterwards that one was at a funeral or had some kind of somebody passed away but to not even give notice uh that they wouldn't be attending again it was referred to as a circus uhm I think all of this is just appalling we have five or six major concerns that were brought up and we have probably 40- 50 people on this call we had almost 300 probably in attendance between the phone and in person at the meeting that needed a lot of questions answered and the ones that the questions that were proposed or concerned with were the ones that were mostly voted on by the people that were in attendance they still have five or six questions at least if not more I don't know if the councils intend to talk for 50 minutes on each one of those ah but I'm just saying that I'm very appalled and I hold each council member you know the ones that were there I get it the ones that was on the phone at least showed up there are several that I I hold to a standard that they were elected for and I don't think they they can shift that responsibility to anybody else I think that they were elected to represent people and to speak to the people and I think that they're falling well short of that and I hold them accountable individually with that I'll I'll stop thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Mr. Romanelli for your weekly business and status update. I do see uh in queue Sara Agosa, councilor Champagne, Mr. Crampton. Miss Agosa?

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 I have three questions, but I'll make it quick uhm first what is being proposed in the budget for education? Uhm the second one is when will the members be given access to the proposed budget? and then the third are there limits to how many times the budget can be vetoed? Thank you those are my questions

Speaker Champagne: This is business update by the Ogema so I would uh let him respond if he so chooses

Ogema Romanelli: yeah, I think the first question was about what is proposed in the budget for education uh again I think it was changed up from what the Ogema presented to the council so I guess the council would answer that question. Second question was how many times can the Ogema veto a budget uh I guess as many times as one is presented and in this case I'm not sure that more than one needed to be vetoed because I'm not sure that more than one budget should have been presented in the fashion that it did I have a concern that all of this has been done in closed session that's another problem that I have ah I forgot the third question

Sara Agosa: That was my question too when will numbers be given access to the proposed budget?

Ogema Romanelli: OK I think that the tribal council has a the duty to give the information to the membership in my understanding was that this again which I opposed

that the budget was all done in closed session once they presented they voted on this newest budget they did not take it out of closed session so it's still in closed session I'm not sure when I thought it was today they were going to take it out of closed session which still doesn't make sense because it's not something that should have been in closed session so I guess that's another question for the council to answer thank you

Speaker Champagne: Councilor Champagne

Councilor Champagne: Yes, thank you. Mr. Romanelli you yourself have claimed that this budget has been in closed session but yet you breached closed session by bringing this forward in an open session meeting I'm not saying I don't want the membership to know what's going on but if something is put in closed session uhm you're violating the closed session meeting when you're bringing it out into open session if you want to uhm bring it forward to the council to bring it out that's one thing but just to bring it out and start talking about the budget when you know that's been in closed session so you've admitted that you vetoed the uhm budget well that's all well and good but still I don't see where you're violating closed session minutes I don't know where are you at on that

Ogema Romanelli: OK thank you as I stated I don't believe that the budget should have been in closed session at any time it hasn't been in the past and please point to the part in the constitution that allows for the budget to be in there. There are three items that can be in closed session which were all aware of and I'm not going to go over all three please explain to me what gives you the right to put a budget in close session thank you

Speaker Champagne: Next in queue is Mr. Crampton

Ogema Romanelli: I would like an answer to that last question that I posed thank you

Speaker Champagne: Next in queue is Mr. Crampton

Ogema Romanelli: I would like an answer to that last question that I posed to Councilor Champagne

Speaker Champagne: OK if councilor Champagne wishes to respond one may but otherwise, I go back to queue

Ogema Romanelli: OK I find this offensive that questions are being answered by the Ogema on a very serious matter thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you for your note, Councilor Crampton your next in queue sir

Israel Stone: Shannon you got reelected

Speaker Champagne: Oh, my apologize Mr. Stone. Mr. Crampton 231 is I believe this is Mr. Crampton otherwise it's I got the wrong telephone number 2315648435. Mr. Crampton? I think that was their telephone number otherwise that user handler before

Shannon Crampton: Can you hear me speaker?

Speaker Champagne: I can Mr. Crampton thank you

Shannon Crampton: sorry about that I wasn't coming through uh no I I I actually would like to ah ah thank my council and ah remind Mr. Romanelli if he would just look at our policies and our constitution there are three branches of this government because one calls a meeting it does not obligate the other two. There was nobody from the judicial there was nobody from the election board. Please stop the baby games we have \$30 million that is in jeopardy here I would much rather hear about that or how is the Advisory Board functioning right now can you give us an update on the Advisory Board controlling our subpoena thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Mr. Crampton

Ogema Romanelli: I'd be more than happy to answer

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Romanelli

Ogema Romanelli: Unlike the tribal council to the Ogema, I'd more than happy to answer these questions. Uh First off there was no obligation in the constitution other than the fact that the tribal council should be available and ready to answer to the members questions 300 approximately 300 members had enough interest to bring forward questions and I think that the the rude response from tribal council to not even acknowledge and call it a circus is huge so it's in there and that's probably why you're still not on council and the other thing is the Advisory Board and the things that are going on are being held up to \$30 million by improper uh presentation of a a budget so you you he's right back on talking about games uh I apologize but you know the games those are not games this is a very serious issue thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Mr. Romanelli

Shannon Crampton: So, what was what what was the answer? What what is the status of the Advisory Board please that was my question. Are you going to do the same thing you're claiming the councils not doing?

Ogema Romanelli: OK the Advisory Board is in court by a couple citizens so I can't advise any more than that?

Shannon Crampton: So, you're not going to answer just like you're claiming the council thank you

Speaker Champagne: Ok thank you

Ogema Romanelli: See this is what we deal with. All of the all of the members that are on this call Please remember what's being said here and how it's being said so thank you

Speaker Champagne: That conclude your response Mr. Romanelli?

Ogema Romanelli: That was it

Speaker Champagne: thank you. Next in queue is Mr. Israel Stone sir

Israel Stone: yes, thank you Mr. speaker ah I just a clear point of clarification and I I heard a councilor Champagne say that there was a violation of the closed session actually there's not you guys posted a closed session meeting with the budget uh with the agenda item budget on it that's public knowledge of the people uh Mr. Ogema did you release the vote of the tribal council and how they voted on that?

Ogema Romanelli: No, I did not I just did release what they had on their agenda item meeting

Israel Stone: OK thank you thank you uh the other thing that I'll address on this is I think people are forgetting at the budget is actually belong it belongs to the Ogema that process belongs the Ogema to present to tribal council that that is presented in the fashion and accordance with Council's own law which is the budget and appropriations act and the budget and appropriations act sets up a timelines and deliverables on both sides ah the fact that the the council uhm voted through a budget uh you know I'm not going to get into the legality of that or the questions on that because that's not fair to you and it's not fair to me so we won't talk about that stuff that should be dealt with in court uh but I'll say this uhm the fact that it is done in closed session in the Constitution is very clear as to what can be handled in closed session and what can't be handled uh in closed session uhm we all need to take a closer look at that and so that that's just a couple of things uhm you know I understand these are passionate issues and passionate on every perspective no matter what perspective you share in this everybody is passionate but what I think we need to do is just take as a calm step back and take a look at the entire process including the laws of tribal council which is the budget and appropriations act on how that budget budget is presented and approved and what it states in there is that that the Ogema presents the budget council votes on it up or down ok uhm and so I want to ask not knowing any details uhm and I'm not trying to put the Ogema in a violation of closed session or I'll ask council to answer. Was the budget that was approved the budget that the Ogema presented?

Ogema Romanelli: The answer from the Ogema is no and I also have to say that I don't even if I did, I can't violate a closed session item that isn't supposed to be in closed session, but no the answer is no that it was presented as the budget that the Ogema presented which neither one that I vetoed was

Israel Stone: Ok and so I would just encourage everybody to take a look at it to review the laws review the constitution and uh to to handle this properly the council has the the ability to vote up or down the budget the Ogema has the ability to veto it that's just checks and balances government process and so for everybody concerned uhm I think the most important thing is understanding the laws of the tribe and how the spa this stuff is supposed to happen and I would encourage both executive and legislative branch to take a look at that thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Mr. Stone. Next in queue is citizen Agosa

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 well my first question is I just need clarification so this year the Ogema did not present a budget initially? and tribal council uhm I I guess I'm just confused about the process this year because if the Ogema is supposed to present a budget my understanding is that tribal council can amend it and ultimately approves the budget so I just need clarification on that and then in terms of the gaming enterprise advisory group yeah this case is in litigation but I think the public should still know what the status of this advisory group is if it's already staffed uhm if the group is spending money that's really just public information thank you that's my comment

Ogema Romanelli: ok the Ogema can answer both those questions. Uh I did not present a budget this year we're in 2022 I presented a budget last year and that's what is still being held up and as far as being in court and talking about where the process is please feel free on your side to give whatever information you want to to the membership thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you sir this is ah Ogema office uh weekly update uh next in queue Mr. Crampton then it looks like Miss Valerie McDonald

Shannon Crampton: I apologize this will be my last uhm comment on this Mr. Speaker can you hear me?

Speaker Champagne: Yes, sir please proceed

Shannon Crampton: Shannon Crampton 1747 well just so the members aren't confused who are on the phone uhm yes, the Ogema can present the budget but if you look through the Article 4 section seven of the Constitution it's like a manager handing you an idea it does not go anywhere until the people have the oversight authority which is council say it does thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Crampton Miss Valerie McDonald. Miss Valerie McDonald you're next in queue

Valerie McDonald: Can you hear me?

Speaker Champagne: Yes, ma'am please proceed

Valerie McDonald: Ok my tribal ID is 4340 and I just want to mention that I did try to get into the budget meeting as an election board chair, but I was denied and said I could not participate and also uhm some of the election board members did go to the meeting on Saturday, but the Election Board was not officially invited

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Miss McDowell. Citizen Miss Sara Agosa then citizen Mr. Israel Stone

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 so my question is what is the deadline for approval of the budget if it's being delayed because of the vetoes thank you that is my question

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Romanelli

Ogema Romanelli: No, I believe that's a council question answer

Speaker Champagne: Ok we are on update. Mr. Stone question posed to the Ogema about business or status update

Israel Stone: Yeah I I I just want to clarify uh again guys we're going back and forth and very loose interpretations of the constitution are being made and I'll just remind you that I am currently their reigning undisputed champion of constitutional law uhm as provided by tribal courts as well as the Ogema so anyway Larry the other question that I have for you uhm as it relates to the tribe and in the enterprises of the tribe is going into this current year what are your plans for economic development for diversification of the tribes portfolio? Ah what is the short-term goal? What is the long-term goal? How are we investigating the revenues allocation plan monies back into the tribe? Back into the community to stimulate uh enterprises whether that be tribal tribal member owned enterprises or a stimulating other business that create tribal job opportunities for citizens and I would just like to kind of hear from you what your plans is on that

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Romanelli if you care to respond

Ogema Romanelli: my apologies I didn't realize that question was pointed to me uh there are several things that I can answer in my again my apologies I'm doing two different things here but uhm we have a lot of ideas for what we're going to do to stimulate the economy going forward as you know we keep a close eye on what our competition is doing for example for our number one economic development of vehicle which is the resort at this time there is also an EDC uh which is the economic Development Corporation that has uh looked at very various ideas as we move forward currently there's some concerns with the EDC and who oversees the EDC as was noted with the court documents but we have many things that we go into and that we're trying to do as you know it's it's continually trying to keep up with what's going on within the gaming commit committee or the gaming community but also what's going on with COVID that directs where we go and how we go forward for example we had a buffet and now we have three different hopefully in area for three different restaurants so there's many

different changes that are going on and uh we just keep on top of it I don't know that that answered everything that you were asking but hopefully it can give you a start

Israel Stone: it does I I may I ask a clarifying question though Mr. Ogema? The tribe used to have a Department of Commerce

Ogema Romanelli: That's correct

Israel Stone: At some point the Department of Commerce change to an EDC the EDC is an economic enterprise of the tribe right that's how it's all set up as an LLC

Ogema Romanelli: Yes, it is

Israel Stone: And Mr. Ogema according to the Stone Ogema v Council and the Constitution who oversees the enterprise and manages the enterprises of the tribe?

Ogema Romanelli: Per the court ruling the Ogema and defined as does the Constitution uh that the Ogema does

Israel Stone: OK so my my my question is going to uh and I apologize for putting you on the spot uh does the does the structure of the EDC support uh an incubator system? And are you getting the support financially uh through the revenue allocation plan that's necessary in order to grow uh economic development for the tribe are you getting the necessary resources for that

Ogema Romanelli: yeah that's not an easy question to answer do I believe I am no I do not and again because of the court ruling and because of the structure of the EDC that has been put in place there are some changes that need to happen we have a uhm Commerce Department as we know we had a commerce director who passed away unexpectedly there's been some numerous changes but that all has to be re looked at and structured as we go forward because so much time is spent on a lot of things that have happened due to COVID and due to some things that are going on within council in in some of the resolutions passed we've kept very busy with many things so as we go forward I'd like to see more money invested towards the EDC and towards economic development thank you

Israel Stone: OK and thank you for that Mr. Ogema and the only reason why I'm pointing this out is we're fighting so many battles internally right now that we're losing sight of things that are going to secure other tribes future and for future generations and

Councilor Champagne: Mr. Speaker I would like to do a call to order

Israel Stone: I guess I

Speaker Champagne: Councilmember Champagne has raised a called to order



Israel Stone: Ok could you help me sir I'm I'm on topic it's business status update, right?

Speaker Champagne: It probably was going for the five minutes

Israel Stone: Uh oh ok can I wrap up then? I'll wrap up by saying Mr. Speaker uh Mr. uh Ogema and esteem council members that uh the the things that we are facing right now internally are hindering this tribe's ability to grow for the future and those that growth is a necessity and we're taking our eye off the ball and we're gonna pay it price for that long term and so I'll close with that thank you

Speaker Champagne: Citizen Miss Laura Echelbarger your next in queue then citizen Miss Sara Agosa

Laura Echelbarger: Uh thank you Mr. Speaker. Uhm I just had a quick question for the Ogema uhm in light of Saturday's meeting uhm going forward and thinking about the membership meeting in April are we assuming that it will be in person this year oh I'm sorry Laura Echelbarger 2276 thank you

Ogema Romanelli: yes it is our intention to go back to in person membership meeting starting with the spring one I've had some discussion with the resort part of the problem was not only the COVID but the ability to handle a large crowd such as a membership meeting so we have to make sure that we have some rooms available that are the area is available etc. but yes in short the we are planning on going back to in person meeting starting in the April meeting there is a little bit of question regarding which day that will be now because there was a problem with uh uh some activities going on at the resort so I will keep you posted you know there's always room for some kind of change but we're doing the best we can so thank you

Laura Echelbarger: Thank you so much

Speaker Champagne: Citizen Miss Sara Agosa

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 I just wanted to share that in the constitution it says that tribal council governs, and the position of Ogema as chief executive oversees manages and forces etc. and to me that is a significant difference thank you that is my comment

Speaker Champagne: thank you any other uh questions for business status update at this time from citizens? Any other? Seeing none. Thank you for the business status update we move on to the next order of business

### **C. Legislative Affairs Update**

Council member DiPiazza is first in queue

Councilor DiPiazza: yeah I didn't want to impose upon that last section because that's really not me but uhm I've been hearing some concerns on this on the budgetary process as far as combining the budget together uhm which makes it difficult if you want to you're OK with one budget but you're not OK with the other you've got no choice to vote

yes or no they used to be separated uhm the other problem I'm having is and I've aired some concerns now you know at every start of every great disaster there's usually some council members that are being ignored so but I'm going to speak my peace and I don't expect an answer and I'm OK with no answer but I'm gonna speak my peace uhm constitutionally uhm when the budget submitted wherever the council votes there's seven days at the Ogema can veto that now within that timeframe within that seven days right it means well it needs to be reconsidered uhm that veto the problem is the last budget that was vetoed had a stay on it and then we or whoever I guess I'm we I'm in that vote uhm rescinded the last resolution for the last budget but there's a stay on the budget from the courts uhm to me and I never really got a clarification as far as I remember on what that really meant to put a stay on that budget uh to me a stay means stay the hell away from it now I could be wrong on that and I have then quite a few times that's OK but uh we never council as a whole never voted to reconsider the first veto which presents a another fine I don't even know what to call it but yeah like I said everybody's deciphering the constitution one way or a different way I read it a certain way you know I guess how's that go uhm once I set it down and turn it over does it change I don't know if I flip it back over does it change I don't believe so uhm I don't know as far as my consideration I would think first budget that was vetoed still needs to come up for reconsideration constitutionally that's in the constitution I don't know if people don't read this thing or it just sits on the shelf and collects dust I don't know like I said I'm not a constitutional expert on it that would be the courts and the courts have had some rulings come out of there like them or not I don't know I've got a lot of concerns happening that are not being addressed let alone there you know I believe there's something happening Friday at 4:15 you know and that would have to do with something to do with that stay that was put on by the courts how do I get an answer but I've got a lot of concerns I'm done right this minute thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you councilor DiPiazza for your Legislative update. Next in queue myself. uhm where to begin there's there's been so much a spinning of realities uhm it almost sounded like a campaign speech if you would say in in one aspect uhm I think you know going to the fact and looking at where we're at on the facts when we look at the budgeting process which is what this is all about is two different branches not agreeing on a budget you know Section 7 I is really clear it says council is to exercise the following fiscal powers subject to veto the tribal Ogema to adopt the proof or amend emphasis on amend annual budget presented by tribal Ogema uhm you know Mr. Stone he knows that he sat on council he amended those budgets while he was on council this is not something new many people here can see here have went through the budgeting process they also know that you know when we look at this we can think and say OK this is not new this is not new to council uhm having a budget in the closed session because of proprietary information from Little River Casino Resort has always been done and it actually was recommended I was opposed to it on philosophy of having anything closed session uh but I was recommended by you know the Ogema and I think that's important to note because today we hear differently

Ogema Romanelli: That is incorrect Mr. Speaker

Speaker Champagne: Thank you for your objection to that but it was on the record I think that's really important because that's something that uhm uhm we look at it's just what it's been done in the tribe because it's proprietary information I think you know getting information out to citizens you know right away is important I also look through and there's just so many things that are are spun I think we got to be clear as that ah processes are difficult there's council you can see from open records of the budget that they did propose that was originally vetoed and stayed that is a public record you can see where their investments were going to go investment into education and to higher ed into workforce make our people be able to be self-sufficient to allow for greater opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and generational poverty huge investment in the language and culture because that's a rut of who are you can see those investments were in and everything from their investments would be able to start put our people first I think you know it's pretty last one now this new one is in closed session so I cannot talk about that I do

Ogema Romanelli: Calling to order

Speaker Champagne: I'm in a legislative update at this time Sir I'm given a legislative update of where we're at uhm thank you though, but I can put you in queue if you have a question. I think

Ogema Romanelli: Yeah, I'll do that during the uh public comment thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you sir. So, when we look at you know where we're at and legislatively we're working diligently to to pass budgets and to move things forward you know I think you know Mr. DiPiazza raised his concerns and uh you know as a council member that's what you're supposed to do is raise your concerns and be able to move forward and to be able to collaborate I also like to look and there's been so much ah let's say the member it wasn't a membership meeting there was it was an informational meeting by the executive with no consultation with the other branches nothing on the agenda nothing on questions being asked or timeframes it was his informational meeting and he has every right to communicate with citizens that's not a tribal council meeting this is a tribal council meeting this is where army and to be able to pass legislation and communicate so I think that's a stark difference because you can't say you didn't show up when there was no collaboration and no communication to say let's hold an informational meeting for our citizens let's come up with ideas of where we can move them on topics to discuss that's not was his intent uhm so I look at that as legislative wise and I think you know it's the right of one branch to have those informational meetings I also have to look and think you know everything that has stemmed from it from certain individuals who were impacted by budgets you know I have to I have to state on the record I find it a little disheartening to see you know a citizen executive in our casino resort posting pictures of councilmembers minor children that's really concerning to me some pictures of little girls on the internet by a casino resort executive and someone who's very vocal a pass councilmember is concerning to me I have to say that's not normal and uh you can take that however it goes fit you know I think there's some things that are have to be off limits I think posting pictures of other people children it's just creepy to say the least now on to

matters to affect our tribe so let's say how can we move forward legislatively to have a better path I think you know we look at this and we say budget is needed investment into our people are needed where are we going to get the funds and look at the open records budget and you can see uh how much more distribution was able to come up to citizens when we look at historically saying there's a budget shortfall and 22 citizens lost their or 22 employees lost their jobs many of them citizens where was that outrage I was not on council then I was outraged by it I wasn't on council so that was proposed by the executive and adopted by that selected time I think created over a dozen jobs and the previous budget that was spinning that's open record show this council dedication to employing our people I also have to bring up you know uh there's always citizens have the right to ask for removal of any official that is their constitutional right I implore them to do so when they see it fit you know it was brought up uh I have a pending legal matter for a petty misdemeanor something that's not required by law to disclose but I disclose it here anyways because I think it's it's necessary I'm gonna actually share the story because I think there's no one anyone who actually knows me knows my personality when you threaten myself my property or my family I will defend myself my property and my family and that's exactly what occurred in this instance new nonnatives who were intoxicated previously on properties that I own into Sugar island came forth said we're squatting and trespassing on our own land that we own threatening my mother my alien father my children, were intoxicated and they came with guns they said they're going to shoot us why are those individuals so upset about the natives on their property as a fishing right so it all comes down to fishing again because we go up spearing it's concerning to me incident occurred again to be able to have at that time a connected law enforcement I did not press charges against these individuals but fear they're intoxicated I just let it be again individuals came on my property and were threatening called the police and law enforcement again at that point in time law enforcement takes a while to get to the island individual came and I had my trailer parked went and parked us in right into mine threatened me threaten my family threatened to damage my property and also hit me I defended myself I have every right to do so and you know there's no there's no he said she said the matter of record and fact you know get how you wish but it will never be a time that I will not defend the safety of my loved ones and myself when someone threatens. So, citizens Mr. Stone who are hellbent on making a bigger scene versus concentrating on moving the tribe forward feel free to do so it's no harm please Mr. Stone I beg of you please don't because my children out

Israel Stone: listen you dirty bastard you're the one that posted that picture it was shared with me don't even try

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Stone!!!

Israel Stone: you're a sick individual let's talk about it

Speaker Champagne: I will have to you know citizens have a right to go through you go through the election board to be able to ask for any removal of any official I encourage you to do so that's your constitutional right. I have to also say there is a lot of questions apparently brought up by Mr. Stone and Mr. Romanelli in regard to businesses I'm an

entrepreneur always made that known as an entrepreneur have made a accusations on different businesses attempting to harm the businesses that appears in my uhm reading of it you know I'm not quite sure how my business dealings affects my job here on council but I've never voted it proposed anything where I've ever had a personal interest or benefit from I've only abstained one time it wasn't it was a for a matter not of that resort uh but I have to make that known on the record as well and so alleged things like me propose a purchasing of funds that were going to be losed through CARES Act because the Ogema failed since April of 2020 to come up with a plan and expenses funds to be able to help those with

Ogema Romanelli: That's incorrect we can deal with it later

Speaker Champagne: shelter for COVID shelter homeless transitional housing and low income housing I think that's a little appalling to me I think that I allege that someone can personal benefit because uh you're wanting to set up a services and programs and for the record I don't ever notice a homeless shelter uhm that is going to bring up property values but I guess that's another topic so I hope I answered all the great questions that you may have had Mr. Romanelli uhm but that will conclude my legislative update today and I appreciate giving me the opportunity to have such. Other councilors for legislative update at this time? Other councilors for legislative update at this time? OK I will go to what do we have in queue citizen Miss Sara Agosa

Ogema Romanelli: And can you please put me in queue this is the Ogema

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my question is regarding the website in rapid river news which has been down for several weeks my understanding is that tribal council has taken over the communications function and I believe Julie stated that it was transitioned with the IT contractor on December 12th and it's already been a month and I would really like access to the website and so I just wanted an update what can be done at this point to expedite and get these broken links fixed thank you that is my comment

Speaker Champagne: Thank you madam recorder you care to respond?

Recorder Wolfe: I believe that's why Drew was in attendance to the meeting I'll defer to him for comments

Sara Agosa: I'm sorry I could not hear anything you just said there

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Jeurink you care to respond?

Sara Agosa: OK thanks

Andrew Jeurink: yes I can respond to this uhm First off I cannot seem to locate those broken links I've asked for links or URLs or something to show me the broken links so I can assist the best we can do as the IT department but we also have an expired contract with Thrive pop and with the budget being on hold and thrive pop and the

communications now on legislative a new contract needs to be applied for those block hours and so it's literally at a standstill until a new contract gets approved through thrive pop there's not we're limited on what we're capable of doing because it's controlled through a third party and it is not hosted on our network and it cannot be hosted on our network it just there no way we can do it with the HIPAA and uh with the staff levels we have at this moment

Speaker Champagne: Thank you sir. Next in queue

Sara Agosa: You want me to wait Ryan I just had one follow-up

Speaker Champagne: No go ahead, no go ahead you still have the floor ma'am

Sara Agosa: Ill just announce my name again my name is Sara Agosa 4478, so I just want to be sure I understand so when you go to rapid river news internally, you're not seeing a 404 error? I guess that's posed to Andrew

Andrew Jeurink: I do not see a 404 error

Sara Agosa: well, I'm definitely seeing a 404 error externally down here in southwest Michigan I have for several weeks so yeah, I would greatly appreciate if the budget could be approved so we can get this back up and running thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Miss Agosa. Next in queue for legislative affairs update 2315648435

Shannon Crampton: Uhm thank you Mr. Speaker this is Shannon Crampton number 1747 can you hear me?

Speaker Champagne: Yes, sir please proceed

Shannon Crampton: uhm I would just like to thank the speaker for his honesty and divulging that to us I had followed it and it was exactly what he just said uh two people came on your property ha-ha they're asking for it now I would like to also thank this council and the speaker for this level immaturity that I haven't heard in a long time because that will be absolutely what brings us through this hard time professionalism getting away from all the stuff that you just heard Mr. Stone display by interrupting again with vulgarity the constant interruptions from Mr. Romanelli and I would like I I would like to congratulate you on how astute you were you caught that little slip up I also caught that slip up and I would like to remind the speaker and the council Mr. Romanelli took four council members to court in that court case he was also caught releasing closed session information that's a fact that's on record so this is the second time you might want to have a discussion about this thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Mr. Crampton. Next in queue uh regards to legislative update Mr. citizen Mr. Israel Stone

Israel Stone: yes I do apologize for my vulgarity that was out of line but uh be honest with you you got under my skin Sir I simply re shared a post that was shared with me of yours showing the willful disregard towards the citizens of this tribe and calling citizens wanting information a circus shame on you you posted the picture I should be disturbed that you posted the picture and you're using your children as a political ploy that's disgusting that's disturbing now I'm not going to defend any of the facts that I put out there they are what they are and I put them out there all I will say is this one thing on this Mr. Champagne there will come a day when you're going to stand accountable before the people and you're not going to be able to duck and dive and slip and slide and try to twist stuff you're going to be standing right in front of your citizens looking them in the face and they are going to be holding you accountable for your misdeeds it's coming now I can assure you that being a former officer in the Department of Corrections that you don't get arrested for defending yourself on your own property that does not happen I don't care what you say or what world you're trying to live in that does not happen that said it's not my job to hold you accountable it's not any other citizens job to hold you accountable our responsibility to make sure our tribe is taken care of people like you that come into this tribe and do the things that you are doing and the manipulation you know what the tribe does have an interest in your business Sir and there are going to be things that come out in the very near future that have been discovered uh that the rest of the rest of citizens want to know about we haven't shared anything but facts we haven't closed down our page until now because uh one individual it's going to be closed a couple days to a closed group because one individual but anyway that said you had every opportunity to come on there and respond correct the information if you're saying it's wrong let me ask you Mr. Champagne are there any other court appointing or pending's or cases that you've been hiding from us and I'm asking that on record right now because we had to dig to find this one are there more see the citizens of this tribe are tired of getting what they've always always got you talk about all the program increases talk about the \$4 million you guys increase councils budget talk about that talk about some of these other things see you can go on and on and say what you want to say uh but you know what the fact of the matter is yeah you ticked me off that's cheap shot you posted that it was re shared with me and re shared to illustrate the fact that you have no regard for the citizens of this tribe you think it's all a game right now and you think that you're you know you're winning and you can have your little supporters like Shannon and everybody else standing behind you but when the truth comes out the day the truth comes out I want to put on record today for all those people that are standing behind you and doing what they're doing right now I told you it was coming and some of the things you've done Sir are a willful disregard for the citizens of this tribe including leaving the state of Michigan and being out of the state of Michigan for months when the constitution says you're required to reside in the state of Michigan and leaving the state is an automatic automatic forfeiture it doesn't require removal you're gone and so the reason

Speaker Champagne: you'd like me to respond to that question

Israel Stone: For the rest of council sitting there

Speaker Champagne: are you going to

Israel Stone: I'm not done I'm not done I didn't interrupt I did interrupt you sorry but I'm not done for the rest of council sitting there and allowing these things to continue on believe me there's more to all this and there's more behind the scenes where sharing facts but we have facts that we haven't released to the public for public consumption because those things are being sent on for further investigation so at the end of the day you can say what you will about us exercising our constitutional rights as citizens to empower ourselves with knowledge and power citizens with knowledge and to get the truth out there criticizing condemning all you want because the fact of the matter is when the truth comes out Sir the people will know I don't need to defend myself when the truth comes out the people who know the man that you are or aren't thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you for that very passionate speaking, Mr. Stone

Councilor Champagne: Excuse me I'd like to get in, I'd like to get in

Speaker Champagne: thank you for that very passionate speech, Mr. Stone

Councilor Champagne: well Israel I find it interesting that you spend so much time trying to dare my son and myself our reputation down when you're supposed to be working and you're on uhm conference calls with the uhm council all the time when are you doing your job when are we getting the money we're paying you for there you want to talk about us not being ethical what about you Israel what about the other full time job you had when do you actually work for the people and give them but we pay you for uhm you can say what you want you treat people disrespectfully and you expect us to bow down to you I'm sorry I'm tired of bowing down to Mr. stone uhm you talk about what we got we got nothing from the tribe but I seem to recall a big fishing boat, trailers, trucks uhm a motorcycle business all that stuff coming from the tribe you had your hat you had your family had your hands out take your money from this tribe

Speaker Champagne: I'll make a call to order

Councilor Champagne: We never had our hands out

Speaker Champagne: call to order Miss councilor Champagne. Call to order

Councilor Champagne: OK I'm sorry

Israel Stone: So, Mr. Champ Mr. Speaker

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Stone. Mr. Stone

Israel Stone: Wait, Wait, Wait time out

Speaker Champagne: Please



Israel Stone: I get it I get it you allowed that tirade to go on Ryan

Speaker Champagne: I called to order Mr. Stone

Israel Stone: Yeah, after it went on and after

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Stone

Israel Stone: There's a few facts

Speaker Champagne: You're not in queue right now

Staci Cheney: Ryan can you please shut him up I'm tired of it he spent over 45 minutes talking

Shannon Crampton: yeah, please shut him up

Speaker Champagne: Ok thank you I'm making a request Mr. Stone to a call to order I mentioned it two times that is ah three times that is uh one more than uhm I'd have to. Thank you and thank you councilor Champagne for recognizing a call to order. uh we do have legislative affairs update which is about the benefit of the tribe uh you know I gave a lot of latitude because I didn't want to seem impersonal about many false accusations and statements by Mr. Stone, but you know sometimes people just need to air off there you know they're upset the budgets affect people's positions and for that I'm truly sorry. next in queue ah patiently waiting citizen Miss Lee Ivinson

Lee Ivinson: thank you I'd like to make a comment to citizen Sara Agosa 4478, Sara I did experience this error on a website this 404 error and reaching out to get some assistance from the IT at tribal government as well as our IT for me it was a simple fix it happened to be going to your cookies on your web browser and deleting all your cookies will in essence bring those pages back because as you bring them up it goes back to the original one that you had initially tried to get into so go ahead and try to do that thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Miss Ivinson for your your assistance for citizens who may be struggling with that. Citizen Miss Staci Cheney you're next in queue for legislative affairs update if you have questions in your council or if you

Staci Cheney: uhm thank you and Miss Ivinson thank you for that too because I've been having a difficult time so I will try that as well uhm as far as what just took place uhm speaker Champagne I apologize on behalf of the citizens because you were forthcoming with whatever you wanted to share with us and there's no reason for us to be attacking each other I'm frankly tired of it and Mr. Stone and I'm really a neutral person I see good and bad in everybody but I am tired of people creating Facebook pages and bashing each other and putting uhm pictures of people and putting their criminal records up from 2000 and I think it's ridiculous we all talk about how we want our tribe to enhance and move

forward but this is definitely not the way to make that happen and I think that when people start to get out of line the way like he just did that

Chelsae Densmore: We still on legislative affair or are we on public comment

Staci Cheney: Chelsea you're not in the you're not in the queue please

Chelsae Densmore: Can citizens call to order?

Sandy Mezeske: Please Please do not apologize for me

Staci Cheney: I'm actually getting somewhere and I'm

Speaker Champagne: One second Miss... The floor is with Miss Staci Cheney please uh uh respect our citizens to be able to voice their opinions

Staci Cheney: Thank you and and it was in regards to the comment that you made during the legislative affairs so what I was going to ask is uhm that I'm thankful for you sharing what you did share during the legislative affairs but nobody is on trial here so that was just something that you chose to do but it certainly isn't necessary and I don't think it's uhm appropriate that people are threatening and saying you know this is just the beginning and things like that because that's not what this council meeting is about and uhm I think it's ridiculous that's all I have to say

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Miss Cheney. Citizen Mr. Matthew Chandler you're next in queue

Matthew Chandler: Thank you uhm can you hear me Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Champagne: yes sir

Matthew Chandler: OK uh inside but I just would like you to caution

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Chandler your uhm went muted

Matthew Chandler: I went muted?

Speaker Champagne: Yep, you can try again sir

Matthew Chandler: Ok can you hear me now?

Speaker Champagne: yes, sir go ahead

Matthew Chandler: OK there is two court cases that's dealing with all this and uhm even though I am not a lawyer I would think that you are trying to both sides are trying to play out in court of public opinion and actually there's a court case going on so these

comments and everything is going back and forth might have a bearing on the court case and so I would caution each side to kind of dial it back and say OK let's let the court cases play out uhm for example you know right now I'm under subpoena about a certain case I choose because ethically I don't think it's right for me to have conversation with one the plaintiff and not have a conversation with the defendant so whenever I get a phone call I usually just hang up the phone because I understand that there is a court case going on I think it would be the benefit of this meeting and the benefit of the tribe too let's let it play out in court thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Mr. Chandler. Mr. Crampton your next in queue

Shannon Crampton: Thank you Mr. Speaker this is Shannon Crampton 1747 and uhm before we get into my comment my suggestion, we move this into public comment because that seems to be where everything is going

Speaker Champagne: I think you're correct about that any legislators have any other updates? There was raised a question of the legislator uhm myself and councilor Champagne of residency we are both residents of Michigan as per the constitution requires in the laws that uh establish residency has never changed uhm I've been a resident there for a long time so uh I'd like to just clarify that as a record uhm obviously I travel for business uh extensively and uh that's been made aware prior to me ever holding office so thank you. I would move on to

**D. Public Comment Period**

At this time Mr. Crampton your first in queue

Shannon Crampton: alright thank you Shannon Crampton 1747 I would just like to point out the obvious to the members with all this talk about uhm elected officials that don't listen to members and talk bad about the members I have never heard Ryan talk bad about one of you guys even if you're yelling at him I am no longer on council I am a citizen and I've been attacked twice today by Mr. Stone and the Ogema are you guys is anybody opening your eyes there's talk and then there's reality I'm a citizen and you got somebody out here blabbing about oh you got respect this I things this council is fine so does my family were citizens too I'm not gonna act like I speak for you because I don't I speak for myself I'm proud of myself thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you. Public comment uh Mr. Stone. Oh, thank you for public comment just error on the side of caution Sir

Israel Stone: Ok but public comment doesn't have a defined topic, right?

Speaker Champagne: No sir

Israel Stone: It's free form I just want to respond as well to some of the claims made ah one I wasn't in the motorcycle business two I was in the fishing business broke my neck and sold the boat gave the money back to the tribe that can be verified with the chief financial officer three I don't have a second job my second job full time job is raising my

children that's my second job so nice try on that one and so again uh just throwing dirt at the wall uhm but the fact of the matter is uh we have a constitutional right of citizens to uh hold our government officials accountable that's all we're doing is holding people accountable I appreciate your explanation on residency uh however interesting that is uhm as it relates to how these meetings typically work it's typically and it always has been this way where you line up certain constituents to come in and speak on your behalf like certain individuals that have spoken now the fact of the matter is there's two different uh opinions in this matter as an employee of the Little River Casino resort I'm entitled to use PTO at any time I want to so if I want to come to this meeting and spend 8 hours PTO to do that or two hours or four hours that's my choice and that's actually being a responsible citizen to be involved so whether you like me being here or not is one thing whether I have the right to be here or not is completely separate issue and so I'll just point that out uh the other thing they'll say is is you know what for years and years and years this has been ongoing I had to endure attacks last night on my deceased uncle I continue to be attacked about being Jewish and white and all kinds of stuff ah you know what that stuff doesn't faze me does it anger me yes doesn't make me upset yes but nothing makes people as uncomfortable as getting next to the truth people start getting really uncomfortable so I expect the backlash and I expect everything I heard today I expect everything that's been going on uhm if you don't like the page don't come on their we're sharing information with people and we're not making it up we're is printed fact so you have a choice not to come on there you know if you truly want to move towards unity uhm the steps that you're taken when I have a former council member using the 100% enrollment audit to attack my children who are tribal citizens who exceed the criteria to be a tribal citizen uhm but that's what you guys are creating and so you talk about unity on one side of your mouth and you're creating division out on the other side uhm I will leave it at this I don't need to defend it the facts are the facts look them up for yourself do your own investigation at the end of the day there's only one truth there is only one truth and that truth's going to come out to the surface I firmly believe that and so my apologies for calling you out of your name Mr. Speaker that's not typically how I function I do apologize for that but again there's one truth guys get out there do some work find it for yourself get informed it's the citizens' rights and your responsibilities thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Stone for your public comment always look forward to hearing from citizen Mr. Lee McCaslin Sir you're next in queue

Ogema Romanelli: Can you uh I asked to be put in queue to. Please put me in

Speaker Champagne: oh, you my apologize Mr. Romanelli I will definitely put you in queue right after ah Mr. Lee McCaslin if that's ok

Ogema Romanelli: Ok thank you

Lee McCaslin: Ah ani *starts speaking Anishinaabe* and I'm a Little River Band citizen and uh I've been thinking about this quite a bit and uh I like I like every branch we have but I endure in the maintenance of fostering our culture and in fostering our culture we have to work together but still we have three branches of main government and I was just

wondering if \_\_\_\_ was on did I hear his name mentioned I'm not sure but uh for for one of those who know me and uh not to single out anybody because uh Tom you know you have more information on all our people and \_\_\_\_ give me this \_\_\_\_ back before we're starting out and you know in the North we are having some problems up there and those guys I have a lot of respect for and they're sharing and uh the reason why we put if you're a conductor of a ceremony you really don't understand it until the full year goes around and I'm glad that this meeting that just took place and uh and now we have something to compare it to for you former councils and and you know we shouldn't use anybody for an example just the lessons that are involved and right now if you look back put together because some of us are in security some of us has policies against drugs and alcohol and and the thing about it is if you watch the tape from last year I couldn't even get in this year there's probably a reason but if you took the footage from last year and compare it to here our ah our cultures ah way in danger by you know another setting so I just wanted to bring that up a little bit and uh and and some of you, you know we're proud of who we are and right now you know I'm number 13, 13 on the senators list to call she's to call and I'm to explain the oil field two or for a better understanding and that's quite an accomplishment of where we were and uh I just wanted you know this this isn't getting any better this isn't getting any better with uhm uhm you know mentioning of 500 and that's all I'll say about that because saying the 500 actually they are there's uhm by the federal level I think it was 13,000 or 16,206 Ottawa Indians in 2016 and these people that are taking this a pandemic lightly you know you better think I got neighbors around me and they're not here with me right now and I just lost one the other day and ah sometimes think before you speak a Tommy I know that there's two sides to the story now there's two years to compile so if you would uhm during this next membership the general membership I would like to see both of those put together in some of our cultural people held accountable for what just took place last year not to go back in the past but to learn from and that's all I have right now uhm I apologize in advance uhm and I'm thinking about all that so Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen McCaslin. Citizen Mr. Corey Wells you have the floor

Corey Wells: Thank you Mr. Speaker

Ogema Romanelli: Excuse me I thought I was in the mix this is the Ogema

Speaker Champagne: I'm sorry Mr. Romanelli because you don't have your hand raised I forgot it. Mr. Romanelli your next in queue

Corey Wells: Mr. Romanelli can go first if you

Ogema Romanelli: No, I think Corey Wells you can go first and then I'll go after you thank you

Corey Wells: Is that ok Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Champagne: yeah, if he's seen in his spot but otherwise Mr. Romanelli is next in queue

Corey Wells: uhm and this is on my lunch break just in case anybody was wondering uhm I had a couple questions/comments I heard the budget appropriation act brought up so I wanted to ask a couple questions according to the budget appropriation act in section 5.13 that's on page 9 if anybody wants a quick reference as it's the enactment and execution of tribal budget tribal it says the tribal budget for the next fiscal year shall be approved by council no later than November I'm guessing that that means that the Ogema provided that uhm which I am guessing that he did it says tribal council shall provide the Ogema with a digital electronic copy of the approved budget along with a report detailing any line item increases reductions deletions or additions to the budget proposal submitted by the Ogema and the justifications for those changes my first question would be did tribal council provide the Ogema with the approved budget or the budget that they would approve along with all the uh the report detailing all the changes deletions additions and what not to the Ogema for approval or disapproval

Speaker Champagne: if I may respond Mr. Wells

Corey Wells: Yes please

Speaker Champagne: the tribal council did follow that so for the record the Ogema's office brought the budget incredibly untimely against the budget appropriations act uhm nor was it filed the format as laid out nor did was there's goals and objectives as laid out in the budget appropriations act nor was it a detailed budgeted as it's required the budget appropriations act those are all the things that the executive side did not do they did present you know a budget and council did present their comments back and they did have follow up meetings and when presented back and forth and it went to the point where as our final budget presented at that point in time tribal council according to the constitution and to the budget appropriations act as ability to adopt approve and amend the budget as presented the tribal Ogema as you notice in the resolutions headings it says amended so it's uh these budgets were amended uhm in various different areas I hope that's helpful for yours you are question

Corey Wells: it is the reason I was asking the question is that I believe myself and a bunch of other tribal members are all confused that as to what is going on with the budget where is it at uhm I believe the next part I guess this is a question for the Ogema is that within X amount of days of the budget being submitted to the Ogema he can either approve I won't go into that because he did not approve it and if the Ogema disapproves of the tribal budget presented by tribal council he or she shall return it to recorder with seven days specifically the line item modifications that he or she objected to and the reason I'm asking the question is the overall budget I'm assuming there's an agreement somewhere on some of the budget and we're disagreeing to line item modifications and or additions or subtractions from the budget I mean I don't want to get into what's in closed session if that's going to violate that but I guess I mentioned for myself and I know other

tribe members are wondering you know what is the holdup is it just addition subtractions and additional line items to that if that makes any sense

Ogema Romanelli: ok I can answer that and if you want to put me in the queue next anyway, I'll go right from there to my concerns

Speaker Champagne: Definitely sir

Ogema Romanelli: and

Corey Wells: I just had one more comment before we switch to the uh Ogema if I may

Ogema Romanelli: ok

Corey Wells: uh I called you Mr. Romanelli previous I apologize for that I believe that everybody should be addressed by the rank and you sir are the Ogema and I apologize for that I should have addressed you as Ogema and uh please accept my apology I addressed the speaker as speaker and the recorder as recorder and the Ogema as Ogema

Ogema Romanelli: thanks for that I appreciate it and uh apology accepted not a problem uh and then we go onto the budget and the budget was if the budget coordinator did an excellent job and it's on our website now and people can go to it the budget coordinator uh had COVID at the time of some of this decision making and was unable to get to what he needed to end that two week period so it was two weeks late he apologized for it he gave an explanation as to why but also at the other end the tribal council was extremely late in their responses and we don't have to go into a large detail here I did veto the action again today and I don't know if you were on when I did that when I explained that uh there's a lot of going back and forth the reason I did this last one is there were some things that were very concerning in there again that when we talk about the Ogema moving uh giving the budget to the council and they can amend it there were amendments in there that weren't part of the going back and forth area they completely changed some things in there so right at this time the budget is again uh vetoed and it's the second time I've had to veto and you know it's very scrambled right now but hopefully we get through it I wanted to also mention some things you know Mr. Speaker you said that uh I did nothing with the CARES act money and brought nothing forward since April that was not correct at all we had a full thing that was voted down by the tribal council for air exchangers in that amount of money that would have covered all the CARES act because it was air exchange for our resort a council passed put it down and then we also had other information that we could have used the money for instead the the uhm council did decide to buy homes in Milwaukee which again I vetoed which again I had problems with because once again I had no information on that there was you know again nothing was brought forward as far as negotiating a contract the houses there were so many things wrong with it that I vetoed that as well and I make no apologies for that uh I go back to the uh councilor Cindy Champagne family calling out family I don't think we went there you know and in Israel's case he made some mistakes on this phone call and he apologized I really think that councilor Champagne should apologize to as I

always say I count people by their first name not their last name and I don't think that he should have to apologize which I don't even know that he has to apologize for his family but I think it that was a low blow and I think she should apologize uh just my opinion we talk about a couple other things here and you said that you know in your job and you also mention that I done something with your businesses I'm not sure what that was but you say that you travel extensively and I'm I'm not trying to go too low here but why aren't you here why are you calling in you know this is the seat of government you are they head of one of the branches of this government it makes no sense if you're traveling extensively you're up in the U.P you're at you know wherever you are obviously you're uh in contact with other people drunk people or whatever and you're saying they're nonnatives I'm not sure how you know that but maybe you do maybe there was some exchanges there I'm not going to go too far in there but if you travel extensively why is it we always have to have you on by phone or by a by the computer why aren't you here I know one's asked me I mean no one has answered why you are not in the lodge room and I say you I mean council as a whole it's a large room it has it's equipped for meetings and I just don't understand that and I I would hope you could answer that question uh and then finally I think it was Mr. Crampton said that you don't say bad things about other people that you know you've been attacked he's been attacked or whatever I disagree with that as well you know you've made this statement chairman Renya that's not a positive connotation that wasn't meant to be polite that was rude you knew it you've talked about the swamp I've asked you about the swamp and what it means and who it is and that's not positive you won't answer the question because you know how un uh it's rude so when you say you know you've never said a bad thing I disagree with that you talk about in your a Facebook post that I'm going to the white media that the executive branch goes to the white media you define the white media as anybody that's not native media you've never defined that how that works because I don't know it in that context there's many statements that you've made so I just wanted to clear that up you know and you've talked about the spin and Mr. Crampton has talked about the spin and I just I'd like to know some of these things first again and I'll ask you for probably the fifth time what is the swamp what do you mean by that what did you mean by chairman Renya uhm what do you mean by white media what why are you not in the lodge room working out of the lodge room and why are you not here and again I would like to ask Cindy Champagne councilor Champagne to please apologize for going into someone's family. Thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Romanelli for your passionate speech uhm madam recorder Wolfe for response or a comment

Recorder Wolfe: so I do have a response Larry keeps saying that the council voted down or not allowed for those air handlers when he brought it forward it was brought forward in October and on Wednesday I think we asked for a work session on it we scheduled the work session during the initial work session two days had lapsed it would have been brought forward on possibly a Monday through a special meeting and the Ogema and his staff removed the item before tribal council had a vote so I think that's an inaccurate statement and I would like to that clarified for the membership it was not brought to vote to council and we did not extend those funds it was removed before council had time to even have a discussion on it thank you



Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder for that clarification of the record uhm

Ogema Romanelli: I will send the information that I have to clarify this thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Mr. Romanelli. Any other council, not councilors any other citizens wish for public comment at this time?

Israel Stone: Mr. Speaker I have my hand up I don't know if you can see it

Speaker Champagne: You, you did Mr. Stone go well over your five minutes at this time

Ogema Romanelli: Excuse me Mr. Speaker I I had asked some questions. I don't know we would go on in the mix and yes and and that's not an answer and you realize you do that every week. No, you do not answer, and you deflect from answering

Speaker Champagne: I do a call to order Mr. Romanelli

Ogema Romanelli: you deflect from answering the questions, questions that are opposed to you from the leader of the executive branch to the leader of the legislative branch and you refuse to answer, and you continually deflect by saying thank you Mr. Romanelli thank you Mr. Romanelli or whoever that is you are not answering

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Mr. Romanelli at this time I did call a point of order sir uhm you are not in queue any other citizens wish to have a public comment at this time?

Israel Stone: Mr. Speaker can I say one last thing

Speaker Champagne: Sir you did utilize all your five minutes and then some uhm I am going to bring this meeting to a close if there's no other citizens who wish to communicate at this time as this has went on, I gave a lot of latitude because I know people are passionate so with that that does conclude public comment period we will be entering 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.***

I would entertain at this time if a council member wishes to adjourn this meeting or adjourned first session enter into closed session I'm sorry entertain the motion at this time to enter into closed session madam or recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe:

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE FIRST OPEN SESSION;** by Wolfe;  
supported by Lewis.

Councilor Lewis: Support

Speaker Champagne: we have a motion by madame recorder Wolfe support by councilor Lewis. I seen a hand raised and then it went away miss Miranda Blanton would you care to make a comment on the motion on the floor? Ok hearing none any discussion on the motion on the floor? Any discussion on the motion on the floor seeing no discussion on the floor Madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #5**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor we're adjourned at 12:32p.m.

Speaker Champagne: Thank you council

**VIII. Open Session**

Speaker Champagne: At this point in time, we'd I'd entertain a motion to enter into a second open

Councilor Guenthardt: I'll make that motion

**MOTION TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION AT;** by Guenthardt;  
supported by Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Champagne: Thank you sir. Support by council Wittenberg discussion on the motion? discussion on the motion? Seeing no discussion on the motion, madam recorder roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #6**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor we're in second open at 2:03 p.m.

Speaker Champagne: Thank you madam recorder we only have one item at the second open

**A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session**

There were no items to be moved from Closed to Open Session. I'd entertain a motion to adjourn at this time

Ogema Romanelli: Mr. Speaker *can't hear clearly in the ZOOM what was said*

Speaker Champagne: We're at the item for motion to adjourn at this time

Ogema Romanelli: you're going to ignore my request? Recorder Wolfe did you mute me in the first open?

Recorder Wolfe: I do not believe I muted you Mr. Ogema

Ogema Romanelli: I was muted

## IX. Adjourn

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. Speaker I'll make

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING;** by Wolfe; supported by Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Champagne: sorry I think I have Internet connectivity issues madam recorder Wolfe we're out of motion to adjourn uh I think we heard from councilor Guenthardt with a support by was it councilor Wittenberg?

Recorder Wolfe: I made the motion support by councilor Wittenberg

Speaker Champagne: oh, thank you any discussion on the motion on the floor? any discussion on the motion on the floor? Madam recorder you have your hand raised

Recorder Wolfe: that was to make the motion

Speaker Champagne: oh, thank you with that being said madam recorder roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

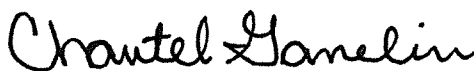
### Roll Call #7

T. Guenthardt -No	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	No
N. Champagne - Yes	G. DiPiazza - No	S. Wever -	Absent
R. Wittenberg-Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

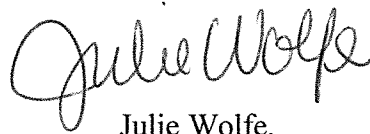
Motion carried (5-3-1-0)

Five in favor three against one absent. We have ended second open at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chantel Gamelin,  
Transcribing Assistant



Julie Wolfe,  
Tribal Council Recorder