



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016  
LITTLE RIVER BAND  
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on January 20, 2016. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

**I. Opening Prayer**

Lee Mc Caslin, Tribal Elder, offered the opening prayer in Anishinaabemowin.

In God’s Garden as we are walking on this new day in the Great Mystery, look over our Tribal Leaders, look over the ones who are travelling, the sick, and the lame.

As I walk this earth let our Spirits always be connected in a good way.  
Miigwech.

Speaker Johnson said he apologize to Lee Mc Caslin because what he should have shared with him also prior to the prayer was the fact that they have approximately 29 households in the Genesee area which is down in Flint that are involved with that water crisis or are potentially involved with that water crisis. Johnson said he asks everybody to take them into their prayers and hope that they can get through this crisis in a good way.

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

**B. Roll Call**

J. Riley - Present	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Present
S. Crampton - Present	G. DiPiazza- Present	M. Wabindato –Present
R. Wittenberg-Present	V. Johnson – Present	S. Lewis – Present

Quorum established.

Others Present: Grace Hendler, Darleen Martin, Helen Green, Jennifer Crampton, Jason Cross, Dave Corey, Glenn Zaring, Michelle Lucas, Bill Willis, Tom St. Dennis, Gary Lewis, Boo Battice, Julie Wolfe, Steve Wheeler.

Others Present That Did Not Sign In: George Le Vasseur, Mary Thomas, Ogema Romanelli, Officer Patrick Gilles, Shayne Machen, Rebecca Liebing, Lee Mc Caslin, Chuck Fisher, Kenny Pheasant.

Speaker Johnson said before they approve the agenda they had a few late adds and if they will remember last week he asked that they stay away from it but the crisis in Flint that just surfaced and that they have been exposed to they had to do some things to help out in a very timely fashion. Johnson said he apologizes to their membership for these late adds but this is very important to help out the community.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF III C.1, AND X C.2; THE ADDITION OF III B.3, IV A.1, V G, VIII F AND G; by Riley; supported by Di Piazza.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #1**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Speaker Johnson said he went quickly from the agenda to the roll call and he just wanted to let everybody know that Councilor Burger is attending a conference in Maryland which is the SGEC, and is a Systems Information Advisory Committee Meeting. Johnson said she will be back next week hopefully to give them a report on her findings from that meeting.

**D. Tribal Council Minutes  1/13/16**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT TRIBAL COUNCIL OPEN SESSION MINUTES DATED 1/13/16 FOR FILING; by Medacco; supported by Riley.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #2**

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Burger-	Absent	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

- 1. Approval to submit a Letter of Interest to the Kellogg Foundation requesting financial assistance (in an approximate amount of \$600,000) for the renovation of the original Little River Casino Resort Building to accommodate a new Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Child and Family Development Center**

Tribal Council’s approval to submit a Letter of Interest to request funding to support construction costs involved with planning/implementing Childcare and Family Services through a new LRBOI Child and Family Development Center.

Chuck Fisher from the Grants Department and Jason Cross, Director of Family Services, represented this agenda item. Cross explained this agenda item is asking for approval to submit a Letter of Interest to the Kellogg Foundation requesting a grant for the Child Care Center that they have been working on since April 2014. Cross said this will also to give them permission to submit the full grant application if the Letter of Interest is accepted by Kellogg for \$600,000.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0120-010; APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A LETTER OF INTEREST TO THE KELLOGG FOUNDATION FOR FUNDING CONSIDERATION (IN AN APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$600,000) FOR THE RENOVATION (CONSTRUCTION) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CREATION OF A TRIBALLY OWNED CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER; by Medacco; supported by Lewis.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #3**

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Burger-	Absent	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**B. Budget Modifications**

**1. Acceptance of grant funds from the State of Michigan Department of Human Services and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2016-\_\_ in the amount of \$44,500**

The Tribe has received a modification from the State of Michigan for the DHS Tribal Community Block Grant of an additional year of funding and has extended the grant for another year from 3/1/16 to 2/28/17.

Jason Cross, Director of Family Services, represented this agenda item. Cross said this is the third year of funding for a grant through the Department of Health and Human Services to help fund their Zingozuwin Self-Sufficiency Program. Cross said the original grant was for two years and they extended that by one year. Cross said this is to accept the funds, \$44,500.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0120-011; ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE OPERATING BUDGET MB-2016-02 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,500; by Medacco; supported by Riley.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #4**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**2. Acceptance of grant funds from the Wexford-Missaukee-Manistee Great Start Collaborative and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2016-\_\_ in the amount of \$8,000**

This agenda item is associated with New Business, Item B, Authorizing Tribal Ogema’s Execution of Letter of Agreement with WMMGSC.

Jason Cross, Director of Family Services, represented this agenda item. Cross said this item is to accept into Family Service’s Operating Budget \$8,000 as a sub-grantee from the Manistee Intermediate School District and Great Start of Manistee to begin a Home Visiting Program with preference given to Tribal Members and Descendants.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0120-012;  
ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM WEXFORD-  
MISSAUKEE-MANISTEE GREAT START COLLABORATIVE  
(WMMGSC) AND APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE  
OPERATING BUDGET MB-2016-03 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,000;**  
by Medacco; supported by Lewis.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said they are on budget modification one for the acceptance of.....

Speaker Johnson replied that they are on number two.

Julie Wolfe reiterated two and said one was already passed. Wolfe said she was following along and got confused when Jason Cross said the amount was \$8,000. Wolfe said her comment to that is Wexford-Missaukee and Missaukee is not in their service area so Wexford is the only county that this Memorandum of Agreement clients that they could serve.

Jason Cross said this is a grant for Manistee County and the Great Start Collaborative covers Wexford, Missaukee, and Manistee so this grant would cover home visiting in Manistee County. Cross reiterated that those other counties are covered by this organization.

Julie Wolfe said some data that she looked at and she didn't get to attend work session they have an age group for Great Start Collaborative 0-5, from her understanding, in Manistee County they have 2 children, she believed, that are in that age group for Cadillac so that would be Wexford and they have 11 children that are in Manistee County that would be eligible for these services in that age group 0-5. Wolfe said the 11 children they have in Manistee County are families that have multiples so one family has two children, another family has two children, and another family has three children so this is only benefitting possibility 8-10 Tribal members. Wolfe said she still thinks it is a good initiative and asked if there were matching dollars that the Tribe is putting forward to this \$8,000.

Jason Cross said they don't have any matching.....they don't have to put any matching dollars and he has an employee that is going to already exist that is going to do this program and it covers Descendants also which would stand to reason that their parents are Tribal members. Cross that means a lot of people who live in Manistee County so their children may not be Tribal members but their parents are and this program helps with not only helping parents become teachers to those children but it helps reduce poverty, child abuse, and a lot of the

things they are dealing with as well so it is for the children but is also for the parents too.

**Roll Call #5**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**3. Approval of Supplemental Appropriation 2015-01-1<sup>st</sup> QTR to fund relief efforts to Tribal Member Households in Genesee County in the amount of \$5,000**

Tribal Council has received a Certification of Availability of Funds #2016-01 from the Accounting Department signed by the Chief Financial Officer.

Jason Cross, Director of Family Services, represented this agenda item. Cross said number three is approval of supplemental appropriation to fund relief efforts to Tribal member households in Genesee County in the amount of \$5,000. Cross said he was called to Council earlier this week to discuss that they have a list of 29 households or homes in Genesee County that may be affected as Speaker Johnson mentioned earlier. Cross said he has staff right now currently trying to ascertain which of those households are affected and which are not. Cross said they created a letter to send to those individuals and creating a special intake protocol to find out what their needs would be so they can service them. Cross said they plan on acting on that yet this week if Council approves this item.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, asked if this was in addition to and separate than the press release of the \$10,000 donation that has been made.

Speaker Johnson said this is in addition to.

Julie Wolfe said so they are investing a dollar amount of \$15,000 in Genesee County.

Speaker Johnson said no in addition to means that there is 20 for Genesee.....yes and apologized that Julie Wolfe is absolutely correct there is \$10,000 and \$5,000, yes.

Julie Wolfe said this program supplemental funding will stay in their Tribe and will be at the control of their Leadership to do whatever.

Recorder Riley said yes.

Speaker Johnson said correct.

Councilor Crampton said they did a similar type of donation also to their members in Texas and Louisiana when Katrina hit. Crampton said so this is just being responsible and looking out for their members.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0120-013;  
 APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION 2016-01-1<sup>st</sup>  
 QTR TO FUND RELIEF EFFORTS TO TRIBAL MEMBER  
 HOUSEHOLDS IN GENESEE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF  
 \$5,000; by Medacco; supported by Di Piazza.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #6**

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Burger-	Absent	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

**1. Authorization for Councilor Burger to travel and attend 2016 Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Annual Conference & Exhibition**

The meeting takes place in Las Vegas, NV on February 29, 2016 to March 4, 2016 at the Venetian-Palazzo-Sands Conference Center.

Councilor Medacco reminded the Speaker that this item was removed during approval of the agenda.

Speaker Johnson noted this item was removed.

**2. Authorization of Expenditure to pay 2016 Dues for membership in the National Indian Gaming Association**

Tribal Council & Ogema have determined that Membership in the NIGA has been beneficial to the Tribe and will continue to be beneficial in providing information, resources and training.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, is there a dollar amount that can be given that is public knowledge for members to know what the dues for membership are and the membership dues cover for the Tribal Council and the Ogema what Tribal Council is their Liaison that will be going and do they both go to the travel for these meetings or do they alternate if the Ogema can't be the Council member going. Wolfe asked if they can get that information please.

Councilor Medacco said in the resolution itself it states the payment is \$25,000 and the Delegate is the Ogema and the Alternates are Councilor Riley, Councilor Lewis and himself.

Speaker Johnson said he believed in most cases.....yes Ogema.....go ahead.

Ogema Romanelli said he was just going to say even though there are Alternates there is a possibility of both the Ogema and a Council member going. Romanelli said a lot of times they jammed up one way or the other so they want to make sure they are covered but the possibility would exist because he thinks there had been times where he had gone to a national conference in Gaming or whatever it is or other and they also had a Council member go also. Romanelli said if that answers the question.

Recorder Riley said he just wanted to say when they go to these things they will have several meetings for Legislators and Leaders, trainings, and things like that all going on simultaneously so sometimes it is necessary to bring more than one person.

Councilor Crampton said he would just like to add to that he doesn't know how it got started but somewhere here at Little River they have been programmed to think it is a bad thing to have their Leadership at these things when usually they go to these functions they find other Tribes going in force. Crampton said he knows Pokhagen sends almost their whole Tribal Council. Crampton said the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe is probably the most active with the most highest amount of members and they find that what happens is they get the lion's share and benefit of anything that goes on. Crampton said here at Little River they have been taught that or programmed to think that it is a bad thing to send their Leadership but it's not because it benefits the Tribe.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0120-014;  
AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURE TO PAY 2016 DUES FOR  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING  
ASSOCIATION; by Medacco; supported by Lewis.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, just for clarification is it a Conflict of Interest to have the three Alternates vote on this resolution being that they are named in there and possibility having the benefit.

Speaker Johnson answered absolutely not.

Julie Wolfe said okay.



Speaker Johnson reiterated any more questions or comments on this one.

Helen Green, Tribal #3578, said she thinks it is a good idea but what about when because they have all these training classes go.....because she knows when she went to some training classes they went in a group and took like five or six of them and they have three people with the Ogema why don't all of them go because they can all attend the different things that are going on and they can have the full knowledge instead of just partial.

Councilor Crampton said he agrees.

Helen Green said that is what she would...would be all for that.

Speaker Johnson said they will take that into consideration especially when they do their travel planning coming up because that is coming up shortly in the meeting.

**Roll Call #7**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**IV. Acceptance of Reports**

**A. Report of the Tribal Ogema**

**1. Operations Report  December 2015**

Speaker Johnson said they did receive, he believed, the Operations Report and it circulated to everybody and they will have it on the agenda for approval for next week.

Recorder Riley said it got added. Riley said they threw it on there because they went over it.

Speaker Johnson said so at this point he is looking at the.....oh yeah.....he has two copies and he is looking on.....alright.....with that said because this is added he will entertain a motion.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE OPERATIONS REPORT DATED  
DECEMBER 2015 FOR FILING; by Riley; supported by Medacco.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #8**

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Burger-	Absent	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**2. Financial Report**  None Submitted

**V. Acceptance of Commission Reports**

- A. **Binojeeuk Commission**  None Submitted
- B. **Enrollment Commission**  None Submitted
- C. **Gaming Commission**  December 2015
- D. **Health Commission**  December 2015
- E. **Housing Commission**  None Submitted
- F. **Natural Resource Commission**  None Submitted
- G. **Commerce Commission**  December 2015

Speaker Johnson said he is going to treat these items as a group, the next items, on Acceptance of Commission Reports. Johnson said they have not received the Binojeeuk, Enrollment, Natural Resource or Commission.....

Recorder Riley said they have received the Commerce.

Speaker Johnson reiterated that they have received the Commerce, so with that said he is prepared to accept the Gaming Commission, Health Commission, and Commerce Report either individually or all three combined.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE GAMING COMMISSION, HEALTH COMMISSION AND COMMERCE COMMISSION FOR DECEMBER 2015 FOR FILING;** by Medacco; supported by Lewis.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #9**

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Burger-	Absent	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**VI. Acceptance of Committee Minutes and Other Entities**

Speaker Johnson said they do have Committee Reports to accept at this point and he is going to separate these because they are from different entities and are different types of reports.

**A. Elders Committee Minutes □ December 2015**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ELDERS COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2015 FOR FILING;** by Medacco; supported by Lewis.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #10**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**B. Little River Casino Resort Preference Report □ December 2015**

**MOVE TO APPROVE THE LITTLE RIVER CASINO RESORT PREFERENCE REPORT FOR DECEMBER;** by Lewis; supported by Wabindato.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #11**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**C. LRBOI Tribal Government Preference Report □ December 2015**

**MOVE TO APPROVE THE LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PREFERENCE REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2015;** by Lewis; supported by Wabindato.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain. Johnson apologized to Councilor Wabindato. Johnson said that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #12**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**VII. Old Business**

- A. **Financial Report**  **None Submitted**
- B. **Health Commission**  **None Submitted**
- C. **Housing Commission**  **None Submitted**
- D. **Natural Resource Commission**  **None Submitted**

Speaker Johnson said they have not received the Financial Report, Health Commission Report, Housing Commission and Natural Resources Commission. Johnson said they are waiting on that.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Approval of modification to Utilities Department Organizational Chart**

The Human Resource Department in conjunction with the Utility Supervisor has reviewed the job description in accordance with Valliant guidelines and has approved a change of title of the Administrative Assistant to Operations Coordinator.

Gary Lewis, Utility Supervisor, represented this agenda item. Lewis said this is a request for approval for the modification to the Organizational Chart to the Utilities. Lewis said Sally Bell has retired and they are replacing that position and there is a title change in that position so that it is in keeping with the Valliant Report on the job description itself. Lewis reiterated his request is to approve the Organizational Chart change.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0120-015;  
 APPROVAL OF MODIFICATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL  
 CHART FOR THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT;** by Di Piazza;  
 supported by Wabindato.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Councilor Lewis asked if it was proper that she abstain. Lewis said it is not really a benefit to her but it is her brother.

Speaker Johnson said no.

**Roll Call #13**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**B. Authorizing Tribal Ogema’s Execution of a Letter of Agreement with Wexford Missaukee Manistee Great Start Collaborative and the Wexford Missaukee Intermediate School District to act as a sub-grantee to provide home visiting services to families in Manistee County**

This agreement will allow Family Services staff to conduct home visits to families with children birth to age five who are at risk. Priority will be given to Tribal Members and Descendants. This agreement will cover the costs of training one Case Manager and one Supervisor in the Family Services Department as well as costs of materials up to \$8,000.

Speaker Johnson said unfortunately the way they are structured this probably should have be addressed first in the real world but the way they are structured they did this second.

Jason Cross, Family Services Director, represented this agenda item. Cross said this is the Letter of Agreement that goes along with the \$8,000 accepted earlier by Council for the Home Visiting Program. Cross said this letter authorizes them to attend training paid for by the grant and supplies to do the home visiting. Cross said their goal is to visit/serve 48 families in Manistee County over the next two years. Cross said it is \$8,000 from earlier.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0120-016;  
 AUTHORIZING TRIBAL OGEMA’S EXECUTION OF A LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH WEXFORD-MISSAUKEE-MANISTEE GREAT START COLLABORATIVE AND THE WEXFORD MISSAUKEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ACT AS A SUB-GRANTEE TO PROVIDE HOME VISITING SERVICES TO FAMILIES IN MANISTEE COUNTY;** by Riley; supported by Medacco.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #14**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson – Yes	S. Lewis – Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**C. Approving Adoption of Amendment to the Budget & Appropriations Regulations, Chapter 2-Travel Regulation**

Creating a more efficient process for travel that does not include overnight stay.

Michelle Lucas, from the Purchasing Department, and Steve Wheeler, Tribal CFO, represented this agenda item. Lucas said the change would omit any travel advances for travel that did not contain an overnight stay. Lucas said travelers would still be reimbursed for travel where there is no overnight stay but reimbursement would sought on close-out rather than in advance.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0120-017;  
 APPROVING ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET &  
 APPROPRIATIONS REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 2-TRAVEL  
 REGULATIONS; by Medacco; supported by Di Piazza.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #15**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**D. Authorization for Councilor Joseph Riley II to serve as the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Representative on the Chi Ishobak’s Board of Directors**

Approval is required from Tribal Council.

Speaker Johnson explained this is a unit set up, he believed, by their friends down south for a Lending Agency to help people out and they will have a representative from Little River sitting on that Board if it gets passed.

Councilor Medacco asked if this is two separate motions.

Tribal Council noted yes.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, asked is this part of Councilor Riley’s regular work duties so it would be time away from their business and avenue for him to sit on the Board.

Recorder Riley said it is one day a month and he would, as the next item, travelling down to Dowagiac and their meetings are at the Pokhagen Band Community Center. Riley said it is a CDFI Community Development Financial Institution and they are working together with them to get personal loans or small business loans and things like that for their Tribal members. Riley stated they wanted to have a Representative sitting on there so it is in addition to his job responsibilities.

Julie Wolfe asked so it is like a volunteer position or he will be compensated from his time away from the office.

Recorder Riley said there isn't a compensation for it but he does get reimbursed for travel expenses by them and not the Tribe so there is no cost to the Tribe or their Tribe on this one.

Julie Wolfe said only one funny, humorous thing on what they can call Councilor Riley now is the Big Cabbage.

**MOTION FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR JOSEPH RILEY II TO SERVE AS THE LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CHI ISHOBAK'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS; by Medacco; supported by Wabindato.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain. Johnson said Councilor Riley is going to abstain and that he understands. Johnson said that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #16**

J. Riley - Abstain	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-1-1)

**D.1. Authorization for Joseph Riley II to travel to Dowagiac, Michigan to attend Chi Ishobak's Board Meeting on January 21, 2016**  
No expenses are incurred for this travel.

**MOTION FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR JOSEPH RILEY II TO TRAVEL TO DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN TO ATTEND CHI ISHOBAK'S BOARD MEETING ON JANUARY 21, 2016; by Medacco; supported by Lewis.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain from this.

Recorder Riley said he was going to abstain from this also.

Speaker Johnson said that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #17**

J. Riley - Abstain	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-1-1)

**E. Approval of Manistee Township Residential Sewer Rates**  
Rates need to be approved for this upcoming 2016 year for Manistee Township Residential Customers.

Gary Lewis, Utility Supervisor, represented this agenda item. Lewis said this request is to approve the Manistee Township Residential Rate and is a flat rate of 31.75 per month for the residential customers in the township.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, asked if they can give an estimate of how many Manistee Township residential customers they have since the tie-in of the project.

Speaker Johnson asked Gary Lewis if he wanted to respond to that.

Councilor Di Piazza said oh, the other one.

Gary Lewis said it is 0 right now and they have to present that to the township residents yet. Lewis said there are, he believed, 44 residential customers on that stretch though.

Helen Green said.....

Speaker Johnson asked Helen Green if she could please come forward and the reason they do that is because it gets on the recording and it helps the Secretary get the minutes.

Helen Green asked if that will affect anybody up on Aki.

Speaker Johnson said no.

Recorder Riley said he guessed this question is for Gary Lewis. Riley asked if any new construction of residential properties or commercial properties are going to be required to hook up to this.

Gary Lewis said when their Septic Tanks fail then they are required to.....

Recorder Riley said new construction in Septic Tank failures.

Gary Lewis said correct.

Speaker Johnson said he would like to add onto it and Gary Lewis can confirm it with him. Johnson said it is his understanding that is a decision that the Township Council would have to decide.

Recorder Riley said he was just asking if they decided it or not yet.



Speaker Johnson said he is not sure on that one.

Gary Lewis said State Law says that they have to if they Septic Tanks fail and there is a Community Sewer within 200 feet of that sewer line then they have to connect to that. Lewis said they do have one that is waiting right now, a commercial customer, that is waiting to connect to them but they just got to finish the start-up phase of the project.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any more discussion on this item and they have a motion right.

Recorder Riley said no.

Speaker Johnson reiterated that they do not have a motion on this one.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0120-018;  
 APPROVAL OF MANISTEE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTIAL SEWER  
 RATE FOR 2016; by Medacco; supported by Riley.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion. Johnson said the only thing that he would like to add to it was there was a lot of hard work between the.....both the township and Tribal Council on working on these rates in coming to an agreement on this. Johnson said it appears that they are quite satisfied with this. Johnson asked if there was any more discussion on this item.

**Roll Call #18**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**F. Approval of Resolution to Support Michigan Senate Bill #588**

This resolution will support proposed legislation that will give Tribal Law Enforcement Officers, when on duty, the authorization to demand identification from any person who appears to be engaged in hunting, fishing, or trapping. This is by request and with the support of the Natural Resource Commission.

Councilor Di Piazza said he will explain a little bit on it. Di Piazza said 588 Bill is for their Tribal Officers to, if they are in uniform, also on duty with the right credentials, in the 1836 area to check non-tribal members licenses and Tribal members licenses off.....he believed off reservation. Di Piazza said if this is approved then a copy of the resolution will be sent to Governor Snyder and Geoff Hansen so it can be voted on in the House he believed.

Tribal Council said Senate.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0120-019;  
 APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN  
 SENATE BILL 588; by Riley; supported by Medacco.**

Tribal Council corrected Councilor Riley’s motion of Resolution #16-0120-019.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #19**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato –Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson – Yes	S. Lewis – Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**G. Authorizing Donation of \$10,000 to the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department for Disaster Relief in Flint, Michigan**

The Tribal Leadership has a commitment to addressing the importance of water quality as a historical teaching of the Anishinaabek people and has determined that a contribution will assist in the recovery work that is needed.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0120-020;  
 AUTHORIZING DONATION OF \$10,000.00 TO THE GENESEE  
 COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT FOR DISASTER RELIEF  
 IN FLINT, MICHIGAN; by Medacco; supported by Di Piazza.**

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said her question is two-part. Wolfe asked why was this publically announced on the news and everything yesterday if them guys hadn’t voted on it or it has been pre-decided because it is all over social media, MI-LIVE, and if it got voted down, no today, how would they retract all the publicity. Wolfe said so it is just an oversight on dispersing information. Wolfe said also can she get an explanation of why it is going to Genesee County Sheriff’s Department being that in the news the way it was reported it is for them to recover work so she doesn’t understand what they are giving to the Sheriff’s Department’s to recover work.

Speaker Johnson said there are two questions and he can answer the first question. Johnson said then he will ask, if it is okay with the Ogema, have Glenn Zaring to respond to the second part. Johnson said on the first question in regards to the approval of the money after it was announced that this was a crisis and it was important to get this information out as soon as possible before the State of the State speech was made to let the community know that they were going to do this.

Johnson said before they did this in the work session most of Council, and there was eight Council members present, were all agreeable to this action so that was the risk that they took on approving it the day after. Johnson said they were all shaking their heads because this was an emergency and it had to help the community and the timeline was very important to get this out, communicated, to the Flint area and to the State that they are supporting. Johnson said this is a cultural issue with water and the importance of having clean water for their children so that is the reason why they did it. Johnson said on the second part Glenn Zaring is going to respond to why it went to Genesee Sheriff's Department.

Glenn Zaring, Public Affairs Director, said the Emergency Management System here in the State of Michigan is based on the National Incident Management System and this is a structure that is utilized to respond to these types of incidents or like the 2008 Microbursts that they had here. Zaring said it is a way for them to marshal the best resources in the best places at the best time to assist and that is the whole thing and has a long history behind it which he will not go into at this time. Zaring said in contacting the authorities who are handling this is through something called MICIMS or MYSEEMIS which is Michigan Critical Incident Management System and they identified two authorities that are MSP, Michigan State Police. Zaring said he has been talking to a Lt. De Castro there and they also contacted the Genesee County Sheriff and at this point and time they are a critical part of the response to this disaster so the funds, after he believed discussion here with Council, was decided to go to them to assist them in the response because they are right now there in Genesee County, in the Flint area, handling the issue. Zaring said it does take a while and again President Obama did approve a Federal Declaration over the weekend for this entire thing. Zaring said it takes a while unfortunately to get the FEMA forces and resources all going the right direction to get in there and help but that has been done so it is just part of the way this whole thing is laying out. Zaring said it is to get the assistance to the people who are actually helping their people at this point and time so it is the most expeditious use of the money.

Speaker Johnson thanked Glenn Zaring, and said he has Lee Mc Caslin and then Helen Green.

Recorder Riley said Julie Wolfe also.

Lee Mc Caslin, Tribal #0748, said it is not about the money when the Speaker was talking about the culture and he was wondering how it was going to be delivered. Mc Caslin asked if they are going to have their people deliver it personally or is it going to be electronically fed because the wires sends two different messages here. Mc Caslin said so are they going to have a representative that is small delivering it or are they just going to electronic feed the system.

Speaker Johnson said to Lee Mc Caslin that has not been discussed at this point and is something they can take into consideration because he thinks be honest with him it is more personal if they could hand deliver it to the agency but.....

Ogema Romanelli thanked Lee Mc Caslin for bringing it up. Romanelli said his hopes would be that it would be delivered by the people rather than electronically because he thinks that the wire, the media, the electronic version cannot speak from the heart and he believed this is a very serious issue.

Helen Green, Tribal #3578, said she would just like to say that she is very proud of them for doing this. Green said they really made her heart soar when she heard what was going on and said "Wow, they really stepping up to the plate when a lot of people don't" and she is just proud of them for doing that. Green said she just wanted to thank them.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said she hopes her comments aren't directed or anyone thinks she is shedding a negative light but just asking for clarification and better understanding. Wolfe said Glenn Zaring's explanation was really good but what actually is recovery work and are they just paying salary & wages so there is more Genesee County staff available. Wolfe said that was the second part of her question and she is still not clear on what recovery work is. Wolfe said then also Glenn Zaring mentioned about Obama and federal.....on her way to work the news reporting was the President released \$5 million for the Flint crisis and he also has a EPA Environmentalist that will be arriving there on she is thinking it was today but it maybe tomorrow to help resolve the situation so that was just an update that she doesn't know if Glenn Zaring has knowledge of that because she knew that there was a proposal. Wolfe said what the President ended coming back with was \$5 million for the Flint water crisis. Wolfe said if she could just get this recover work and what does that boil down to.

Speaker Johnson said he has Glenn Zaring raising his hand and also Councilors Di Piazza and Crampton in the cue. Johnson said he is going to have Glenn Zaring come forward because he raised his hand on the question about the spending of the money and if it was going to go towards wages & salaries. Johnson said he is hoping he can respond to that question and concern.

Glenn Zaring said again, in a crisis situation like they are having right now it is always very fluid and there is no pun intended being a water crisis. Zaring said the prime thing at this point is the purchasing and the distribution of water to the affected residents and that is the main thing they are looking at. Zaring said there is also a program that has been set up to deliver some water filtration and water testing. Zaring said they are looking at several different aspects here to make sure that people have the clean water then how do they determine if they are actually affected so it a multi-prone approach there. Zaring said he is not aware of the fact that it would be used for salaries or things of that nature. Zaring said he would like to point out too that something that he is working on now with Region 7

which is their Emergency Management District and has been working with Mike Hoss that he believed that some of them knew on this entire thing. Zaring said with the Disaster Declaration by President Obama there is.....if they do this properly and things are recorded properly there is a very good chance that they will be getting the \$10,000 reimbursed to them by FEMA because it fits in this whole national emergency structure. Zaring said this is part of why they do this type of thing.

Speaker Johnson reminded everyone that Councilors Di Piazza and Crampton are in the cue and thanked them for being patient.

Councilor Di Piazza said this is not a knee jerk reaction to donate. Di Piazza said they had quite a lengthy work session on this trying to research where some of the homes were and who to donate it and who would be their best investment. Di Piazza said he knows there is a lot of them like Red Cross and United Way but a lot of that doesn't filter to where it actually needs to go. Di Piazza said nothing against them but they know they have a lot of Administrative. Di Piazza said they also looked at that they already had 835,000 cases of water and 117,000 filtration systems already that they were trying to distribute so for them to load a trailer full of water to them would have been kind of futile because they still need water but somebody has to distribute that and also do it. Di Piazza said there was quite a bit of discussion on it and how to go about this so if anybody thinks it was a knee jerk just to get.....they have almost 29 families that live there and this will eventually trickle down to help them along with the other 5,000 that they set aside to help them with their filtration systems. Di Piazza said they had to do a lot of kind of research on filtration systems even and what would take the lead out along with the heavy metal.

Councilor Crampton said in these situations most of the money that gets donated to these.....the emergencies is cumulative and it goes into a pot. Crampton said as Councilor Di Piazza said somebody has to deliver that and there has to be gas, time and it all goes to help people. Crampton said he is really proud of this Council and this government for doing something like this. Crampton said he thinks they sorely missed out whether Tribes have capitalized on advertising. Crampton said he thinks it was Up North Live that has almost 109 likes on it right now and they have done something good for the community.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any more discussion on this.

**Roll Call #20**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Speaker Johnson said he will look forward.....they will be having this discussion with the Ogema in regards to this item about how they are going to make this presentation to them. Johnson said he wanted to thank Lee Mc Caslin for bringing that to their attention.

**IX. Concluding Business**

**A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, January 27, 2016**

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

Speaker Johnson encouraged anybody who has any questions about business concerns to bring it up now rather than in Public Comments.

Ogema Romanelli said they continue to work on different businesses. Romanelli said Tom St. Dennis and he are attending meetings and he knows that the Council is aware and supportive of their Shoreline Meetings are very productive. Romanelli said he cannot say a whole lot there. Romanelli said he did want to speak a little bit on this Flint Water problem as well. Romanelli said he wanted to thank the Council for voting on this while it may seem a bit odd but if they look at the Flint Water Crisis this didn't start this year, didn't start last year, or it didn't start the year before. Romanelli said the problems of water, and anybody that should be concerned with water, Native Americans should absolutely know the importance of it and they have a service area of nine counties and within that nine counties two of their biggest this would include cities that have similar water problems. Romanelli said the only reason that Flint has come to mind is because of the aggravation to the old pipes. Romanelli said they have centuries old homes here and these homes have these old lead pipes and those are very dangerous. Romanelli said the fact that, and he can't get into the whole chemistry of it, but they put chemicals into those pipes in Flint which aggravated those old pipes and caused the lead to leach out. Romanelli said he thinks it is very important that right now Flint where it wasn't too long ago within the last few months that there was a World Conference on water obviously there was Tribal representation by their own Frank Ettawageshik. Romanelli said the fact is this Flint Water Crisis is getting more attention than that World Conference and he is not saying its similarities are not of importance because it is. Romanelli said he thinks that the Flint Water Crisis will continue to get national attention for months to come and he thinks it is only right and the right thing to do and it is a good time when there is national attention to focus on their teachings. Romanelli asked when they will get national attention like this again. Romanelli said it is for Little River Tribe within Michigan to stand up and say they are going to take some action he thinks is the right thing to do. Romanelli said the \$10,000, again, it is not about the money and \$10,000 is a lot of money and they could say it could be used for other things as well. Romanelli said they donate to various things, different causes, and they have done it again as Councilor Crampton said down in Texas. Romanelli said they have in the past questioned whether they represent the five counties and they know the old, Manistee 500 notion, then they talk about the nine counties and they talk whether they are a Michigan Tribe or whether they represent all of

their people, all of their Tribal Members. Romanelli said he really believes that their ethnocentric teachings or thinking could leave them in a very vulnerable position and thinks they need to realize that they have to rely on the 11 Tribes of Michigan or the other 500 Tribes in the United States if they are going to make a difference. Romanelli said with that said he will get off of his soapbox. Romanelli said he really does supports what the Council has done here. Romanelli said with that he doesn't have any other business but that is it.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said she thinks this still fits here and would be a question to the Ogema and it is already approved item under Grants & Contracts, the \$600,000 request for funding for the Childcare proposal and venture Development Center. Wolfe asked if this was a matched grant and how much is the Tribe having to bring forward for be eligible to receive the \$600,000.

Speaker Johnson said to Julie Wolfe that was very good because normally when they close an item out on the agenda they don't go back to it but she found a way that she could reach back. Johnson said Julie Wolfe was not here during the discussion and this is very good. Johnson asked Chuck Fisher if he wanted to please respond to that.

Chuck Fisher said this is a Letter of Interest on their part and are soliciting an interest to Kellogg in the whole proposal. Fisher said it is not a grant application at this time so there is no obligation, no financial obligation on the part of the Tribe in any way, shape or form.

Julie Wolfe said okay and thanked Chuck Fisher. Wolfe said her second question for the Ogema and his business update. Wolfe asked the Ogema if he could give them an update of what is happening with the Ellis Road property that they recently purchased. Wolfe explained that she was travelling through the area and they can see it from the road and it was pretty well lit up along with being well maintained and taken care of. Wolfe asked if they had taken over ownership of that and has it been rented and just basic information like that.

Ogema Romanelli said yes they have taken over ownership and continue to maintain it along with doing a weekly check on the place. Romanelli said they also are in negotiations right now to, and he can't go too far, but to either lease or sell the property.

Julie Wolfe asked the housing part of the property.

Ogema Romanelli said the farmhouse, the big yellow farmhouse with barns as well, yes.

Julie Wolfe said she had another general question but she needs to find where it is at in her notes. Wolfe asked if they are going to be taking down the Little River

Band of Ottawa Indians sign on their River Street property now that it has been leased to Westshore.

Ogema Romanelli answered to his knowledge, no.

Julie Wolfe said because they are still owners of the building.

Ogema Romanelli replied right.

Julie Wolfe said then she has a question about ADP Time Implementing System. Wolfe said they have a policy that says, to her understanding, no unpaid time. Wolfe said so for example Tuesday when there was that big storm and they ended up closing at noon due to travel and because of children and family obligations she got into work at 8:20 a.m. and there no adjustment or variation in the schedule. Wolfe said when it came to the time of approving her time card she had to go back and submit a request for 15 minutes personal time. Wolfe said she doesn't think that should be forced on their employees to not be able to elect to have a paid time off under a certain amount because other situations happen in their families and they need their PTO to be there and take care of. Wolfe said if she was comfortable with getting paid for 39.75 hours she thinks it would be fair that leadership allows them to get paid that. Wolfe said she understands there has to be a common ground there because people would take advantage of the paid time or the 40 hour minimum requirement for hourly employees. Wolfe said she is just wondering if they are working on a policy or some kind of obligation with that because from understanding of the Ogema's Memorandum no varied work schedules she left at five or she means at noon but she couldn't have stayed until noon or 12:30 to make up that late time coming in but if she has a crisis with her family and she needs her personal time there are other measures in place but she just thinks it was.....how are they looking at that situation or dealing with it.

Ogema Romanelli said right, and thanked Julie Wolfe. Romanelli said well the ADP System that would have been put in place and he was just asked to give them another....till the end of January to work out some bugs. Romanelli said among the bugs is the closure time when the....for whatever reason like if the heat went out that they have another line item put in there to justify the time off and in this case they had to identify something that said closure because it was directly affected to weather or the heating system here. Romanelli said the other thing that they have a problem with is the fact that if the heat system goes out here and they have to send people home that doesn't mean that the Muskegon Office then closes as well. Romanelli said this isn't a....a need to protect their workers either they are too cold to work or whatever so they are implementing those policies and they are looking at some other changes as well. Romanelli said he thinks if he heard Julie Wolfe say right is she wanted to use PTO for the first 15 minutes that she was late coming in and she thought that she should be able to use even a quarter hour or a half hour if need be.



Julie Wolfe said no she was forced to use PTO to compensate for those 15 minutes that she was late and she thinks that is a disservice as an employee because if she needed a whole day for an appointment with her child and she only has 7.75 hours she has to come in for 15 minutes. Wolfe said she was comfortable with her Supervisor paying for the 39.75 hours but the policy was explained to her that they don't have unpaid time and there was not an opportunity for say on Tuesday to take a shorter lunch or to stay after and make the time up because those adjustments could be made and approved. Wolfe said there wasn't that time on Tuesday and she was forced to use PTO so she just wanted to make sure that was addressed and being looked at that way because some people do need to build it up for other appointments or sports season or pow wow season and if they are having to use it so they can maintain 40 hours....they know it could have been for anything. Wolfe said that was an extreme case because of the weather so just \_\_\_\_\_ it can be looked at and incorporated in as they move forward.

Ogema Romanelli said yes, and to answer her question, it is being looked at. Romanelli said there are a few other bugs that need to be worked out as well.

Councilor Crampton said not to beat a dead horse but has anything been done with the paper and asked if Glenn Zaring was still there. Crampton reiterated has anything been done with the paper yet to retract the statements made by the Enrollment Officer that were so erroneously wrong.

Ogema Romanelli replied yeah and to answer his question he did send the report from the attorney that they engaged to handle it and he sent it to Council but he has not sent it to the employee yet because the person involved with this is off right now so he is waiting until that person comes back off of leave and that will be passed on both that person and the.....

Shayne Mache, Attorney, said maybe because it is a personnel issue they should wait and discuss it not here.....

Councilor Crampton said no they are going in the wrong direction here. Crampton said his concern is that it has been out in their main communication tool which is under the Offices of the Ogema to outlying members who will not have the benefit of coming to an Informational Meeting at Aki Maadiziwin so shouldn't they put something in the paper to correct those statements because it is not a disciplinary action in the paper it is just correcting statements that they know were wrong. Crampton said they are not going to be extinct if 40 people die over the next ten years each year that equals 400 people and doesn't equal 4,300 and that is wrong. Crampton said the statements about the changes that were made in the Constitution are wrong everything about the article is wrong.

Ogema Romanelli said there will be.....there should be re-tractive statements made to those things that are wrong. Romanelli said the whole article was not wrong but there were statements in there that.....

Councilor Crampton said the number of people that they have in the Tribe.... was the only thing that was right.

Ogema Romanelli the number of people that.....yes he believed was an incorrect statement which was identified but the whole article was not wrong and that is where they have to get into.....they know they can't go all the way this way and say it was all wrong or it was all right. Romanelli said obviously it was not and he thinks that...yes the retraction needs to be put into the.....same place that they were put in the first place to retract them and to correct any misstatements.

Councilor Crampton said it is important that their outlying members like he said are not going to have the benefit of coming to Aki for that meeting to understand, just to be fair and balanced, before an election.

Ogema Romanelli said yes, agreed.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said that was one of her comments that she couldn't find in her notes. Wolfe said on the approved government check in place for the Tribe, Little River Band, that operated by the Executive Branch there is no notice or notification of the February 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting that she brought to the last Council Meeting. Wolfe said she means it is in the Rapid River News but a lot of people go to that site to look for information and she knows it was updated when they had the closure and things, but on that official site of their government nation there is no notice of it.

Ogema Romanelli said okay and thanked Julie Wolfe. Romanelli said that will be corrected.

## **B. Legislative Affairs Update**

No Legislative updates were offered at this point.

Speaker Johnson said he has a couple of quick ones and it follows-up a little bit with the Ogema's Business Report especially on the water in Flint. Johnson said what he has learned from all this was the water, not so much the water quality, but the lead issue that they have in Manistee County. Johnson said there is a public document on the website that he got from that meeting or from all of this discussion that Manistee and Mason County both have issues with lead within their children. Johnson said it identifies their county as one of the high level ones so what he has done on behalf of Little River is he has taken that public document and sent it to the Commissioner Allen Marshall because he is part of the Units of Government plus he is on the commission to let him know his concerns about this

stuff with the children in Manistee County. Johnson said this is front and center and he wants to know what the commission is looking at to improve this situation so he sent that to them. Johnson said they did have a meeting with the Units of Government last week and in that meeting one of the things that came about was the US-31 Corridor. Johnson said there is the south part and the north part. Johnson said in the north part Manistee Township elected to not use a “yes” to do the development of the US-31 Corridor but they invited Little River to sit in with them and they are going to do it themselves. Johnson reiterated they have been invited to sit down with the Township and have some healthy discussions on how they want to develop the US-31 North however Flier Township has elected to take on a “yes” or a company that they brought forward to do their development but with that said from the Township Meeting at Manistee Township he asked what would be appropriate to invited Flier Township to the Units of Government Meeting to talk about the development of US-31 on the south side so the north side would be aware of what is going on so they can make some sound decisions that would benefit both areas and they said yes. Johnson said so at the next Units of Government Meeting he is going to ask the people to invite Flier Township in the future about the development of US-31 South and also US-31 North. Johnson said that will be brought forward. Johnson said also at the Units of Government and what they are quite aware of is their process of moving forward with this Daycare Center that Little River is moving forward and they are in full support of this and thinks it is a great idea. Johnson said the only thing they are concerned about that was brought to this attention was the loss of jobs because they don’t want the small places that are having daycares losing their jobs or people. Johnson said he made it quite clear to them at that meeting the fact that this.....if they are successful this will offer more than just from 7:00-5:00 this will be from early in the morning to late in the evening till 11:00 p.m. which is what the scope of when they wanted to have coverage so they can cover more than one shift for employees through-out the entire community. Johnson said this does serve more than the casino and will serve the entire community. Johnson said again they are in complete support of this and they think it is a great idea. Johnson said in the Township Meeting that was pretty much all they had because they also talked about the development of US-31 North and he will be happy at some point and time with the passing of the Sewer Rates to go down to the Manistee Township with Gary Lewis and anybody else that the Ogema may want to go down and give them their approval that they passed these rates and pass it onto them so they know what it is. Johnson said again, it is high bred between business and legislative because they are dealing with the Elected Officials in Manistee Township but there was a lot of hard work done by the Little River staff.....Ogema staff and Council and the Township which is major win, win for them for the future of the quality of water that they have in Manistee County.

Darleen Martin, Tribal #0575, said she noticed after their meeting in February.....on February 6<sup>th</sup> that the Council.....is it the Council that is going to update the membership on the amendments.....what is that.....what is going on.

Speaker Johnson asked Darleen Martin is she was saying January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Darleen Martin said she meant February 6<sup>th</sup> that they are supposed one of them guys or all of them guys she doesn't know what it is but it is at 2:00 in the afternoon.

Speaker Johnson asked Recorder Riley if he wanted to respond to that please.

Recorder Riley said yeah they actually just had a work session on this the other day. Riley said what they are doing is having the Unified Legal Department draft up something that answers any technical questions on these issues and then they are going to present them but they really can't get into a whole lot of discussion because a lot of the stuff involves opinions and they don't know how some of these things are going to shake out. Riley said these were put on there for membership feedback so they are not exactly sure how these things are going to impact or if they even will.....

Darleen Martin said it is like everything they give ten Elders something to read and everyone is going to have a different opinion on it so.....

Recorder Riley said all of them could be right.

Darleen Martin interrupted to say it doesn't.....fall the same with everyone so.....

Speaker Johnson said he has Councilor Crampton to answer the question and he also want to respond to everybody here in the audience. Johnson said what Darleen Martin is talking about February 6<sup>th</sup> after the Elder's Meeting the general public is invited to sit in there and ask questions in regards to what does the Constitutional changes mean. Johnson said they will have that after that and about 2:00 it will start so everybody is aware of that and they are all invited to that.

Councilor Crampton said he just wanted to expound on that and that is exactly why they are having the election because like she said one person's opinion could be this and one person's opinion could be that. Crampton said that is the purpose of a democratic vote because then the majority votes.

### **C. Public Comment Period**

Boo Battice, Tribal #2644, said to Speaker Johnson that he would just like to thank him for the immediate response because their water around here because he also seen that and that made him concerned right here on their own ground. Battice said an extra special "thank you" for moving on that project and he just wanted to thank them guys again because Flint is his birthplace and was born in Flint. Battice said he has brothers and sisters still down there and lots of family

and it helps out a lot just to know that. Battice said they are trying and also to make an impact as Tribal people to support their water system.

Councilor Di Piazza said he was just going to mention like he said it wasn't a knee jerk because they did a lot of thought and process on it to make sure whatever they did or donation or however they did it was going to get the best benefit for even their Tribal members who do live there so.....

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said she just wanted to remind everybody they are nearing and approaching to their Sugar Bush Season and they are going to be asking for volunteers to help so they can get a wood supply instead of purchasing it for the boiling down of the sap and making of the syrup. Wolfe said that will be at some time also wanted to mention the fundraiser that is going on that she doesn't know if a lot of people are aware and Darleen Martin may have more information but the Elders are fundraising for an event so they can take a group trip for \$7.00 at Aki Maadiziwin. Wolfe asked Darleen Martin if she knew the date. Wolfe said she thinks it is at the end of January.

Darleen Martin replied that the meal is on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Julie Wolfe said so the meal is January 30<sup>th</sup> which is a fundraising activity and event so she thinks they have limited disbursements so she would like all membership to know so they can support. Wolfe asked if that was the right date.

Speaker Johnson said that is right January 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Julie Wolfe said she thinks that is just awesome and that shows our community working together and also extend her round of applause that she had yesterday on the Flint Water Crisis thing. Wolfe said it was just looking for clarification and it was in the media before member information and it is just lack of communication. Wolfe said they have been up there several times that members need to be informed of what is going on so their reactions are positive.

Helen Green, Tribal #3578, said she wanted to address this issue that she was talking about earlier about now they are all salaried punch in and out whenever they want to because they are always on trips or doing something and probably put in 60-70 hours a week or more. Green said she means for like her who is an hourly salaried person and the day that they closed at noon and she was late and they forced her to use that time. Green asked why she couldn't come in the next day when they were open and make up that time like take a 45 minute lunch or something like that or even missed a break. Green asked why are they trying to hinder people from working because this is like they earn something then are forced them to use it for something else. Green said inclement weather it was horrible out that day because she came over here and did two interviews and the weather was atrocious and she only lives at Aki and she knows she lives down in

town but it was like they know but she made it to work then she is going to penalized. Green said she thinks they need to reimburse her for that time.

Councilor Crampton said they are not in charge of the employees.

Helen Green said they need to get on board and get with personnel and find out why they are doing this, they know, this should be addressed like she could have made up those fifteen minutes later on. Green said she knows the casino does it. Green said they know they can make it up later or take a shorter lunch or do whatever to make it up. Green said she doesn't see what the big deal is. Green said that is just her thoughts.

Speaker Johnson said he has two hands so he will do the Ogema then Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton said he just wanted to say that the employees here don't fall under the.....and thinks they have three employees under Council and the other employees don't fall under the Offices of the Council. Crampton believed that is in the direction of the Ogema.

Ogema Romanelli said that is why he raised his hand. Romanelli said that is an Executive function and through the Human Resource Department and in conjunction with ADP. Romanelli said he is not completely familiar but understands what she is saying and he thinks that is one of those things that has to be looked at and they are trying still to get through this whole ADP change. Romanelli said some of it just doesn't make sense and there is a problem also with connecting to their other computer service so the bugs are being worked out and they did ask him to allow them through January 31<sup>st</sup> but were hoping to have them done by the end of the year but that didn't happen for a number of reasons. Romanelli said Helen Green's concerns and thoughts are being taken into consideration.

Speaker Johnson said he just wanted to build onto what was brought to their attention about the sugaring process. Johnson said there is a couple of things in place coming down the line. Johnson said one of them is they are going to do things to improve the road there for parking area that will happen after the sugar this year because of the frost laws but they have a strategy in place to improve....so they have a nice place to park and so forth to improve that situation. Johnson said that will all be grant funded so it won't be coming out of their account system, if they will, out of their own money. Johnson said to Julie Wolfe also, he normally don't say names because he doesn't like to do that, but he was involved a little bit with the sugaring process last year and it was a huge learning experience for him and a wonderful experience to hear stories around that fire and around that process or table and they had a real good time. Johnson encouraged any Tribal member if they get some time to help out and be there. Johnson said

there are things to be learned especially with the children and that to share stories. Johnson said he will do his best to provide some wood this year.

*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.*

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

**Roll Call #21**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

**XI. Open Session**

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 2:33 p.m.

**MOTION TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION;** by Medacco;  
supported by Riley.

**Roll Call #22**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

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

**MOTION TO MOVE CLOSED SESSION C.1; MOTION, ROLL CALL AND VOTE TO OPEN SESSION;** by Riley; supported by Medacco.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #23**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Absent	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

*The following item was moved from Closed Session to Open Session.*

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 16-0120-023,  
APPROVING TRIBAL OGEMA'S EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT  
WITH PNC; by Medacco; supported by Riley.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

**Roll Call #C-7**

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes
V. Johnson - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Yes
J. Burger - Absent	M. Wabindato - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

*This concludes the items moved from Closed Session to Open Session.*

**XII. Adjourn**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING;** by Riley; supported by Wabindato.

**Roll Call #24**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger - Absent	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - No	M. Wabindato - Yes
R. Wittenberg - Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-1-0-1)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace A. Hendler  
Transcribing Assistant

Joseph Riley II,  
Tribal Council Recorder