

Approved  
04/06/2022



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022  
LITTLE RIVER BAND  
VIA ZOOM  
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on January 26, 2022. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder we're here for a regular scheduled tribal council Meeting via zoom agenda has been posted. First order I'll go through to make sure that everyone here is uh eligible here there's myself the Nitumigaabow Champagne, citizen Howell, citizen Chantel Gamelin uh elder and citizen miss Grace Hendler uh citizen miss McClellan, councilor Champagne, citizen Stone, citizen Mezeske, citizen Wells uh citizen miss Valerie McDonald, councilor Lewis, citizen Chandler citizen miss Laura Echelbarger, citizen miss Susan Thull, citizen miss Sara Agosa, citizen miss Thressa LaHaye um budget finance um individual with Little River Casino Resort miss Shelly Memberto, citizen miss Tina McClellan uh citizen miss Waitner, citizen miss Densmore uh director Beaver with uh natural resources assistant miss Bogue, citizen Mr. Mark Saugie we also have um going down the list I believe it's uh citizen miss Rebecca Liebing I just want to make sure that it says Rebecca but that's only Rebecca I know

Recorder Wolfe: Rebecca Groh

Speaker Champagne: Oh, it's Rebecca Groh

Recorder Wolfe: I have no idea they haven't responded they need to identify themselves

Speaker Champagne: Op it comes up now as Rebecca Groh all right. We also have citizen miss Steinberg um user handler Teresa she's still connecting so I'll give her a minute. 23160 6701050 can you please identify yourself? 2316701050 can you please identify yourself? 2316701050 can you please identify yourself?

Recorder Wolfe: How do you hit the unmute Gary?

Councilor DiPiazza: star 7 it tells ya right

Recorder Wolfe: Star 7 to unmute yourself on just the phone line

Councilor Wever: Yep star 7

Kristy Fowler: Sorry Kristy Fowler 4701

Speaker Champagne: 231-398-6823 can you please identify yourself? I believe that's Mr. Brad Pringle

Ogema Romanelli: no that would be the Ogema

Speaker Champagne: oh, thank you Mr. Romanelli. We also have IT Andrew Jeurink a present is there an I.T item on the agenda today?

Recorder Wolfe: I do not believe so

Ogema Romanelli: the IT the IT person has a right to be on this call

Speaker Champagne: okay and the reason or justification for it sir?

Ogema Romanelli: sure, because I believe that you Ryan Champagne sitting in as council member is inappropriate, I cannot recognize you as a speaker. I believe this meeting is out of compliance and I'm hoping that no one is you are not using government equipment.

Speaker Champagne: okay sir that wasn't the question um Mr. Jeurink do you have an official business here today if not we would have to escort you to the waiting room sir

Ogema Romanelli: he does have official business I want him on this call to monitor the situation thank you very much do not take him out of the meeting

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Jeurink do you have official item on the agenda today? if not we will have to escort you out.

Ogema Romanelli: Ryan you are out of compliance you are not even the speaker

Speaker Champagne: Sir you've been warned

*Ogema Romanelli and Speaker Champagne was both speaking at the same time in the ZOOM and transcribed what was caught between the two communicating.*

Ogema Romanelli: In my opinion you are not even a councilor

Speaker Champagne: This is your second warning. will you cease to

Ogema Romanelli: are you warning me now? Council I hope you're paying attention to what's going on here

Speaker Champagne: Madam Recorder please escort out Mr. Romanelli. Please escort him to the waiting room

Ogema Romanelli: do not kick me out Julie I am not out of compliance and Julie do not do that

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Jeurink has not responded we can move him to the waiting room as well. all right starting off with a fun morning we continue on here. Eligible party is madame recorder have I missed anyone? oh I see a citizen Mr. Corey Wells I'm not sure if I've missed anyone else

Recorder Wolfe: The Teresa did not respond

Karen Love: Karen Love

Recorder Wolfe: and Karen Love

Karen Love: 2152739

Speaker Champagne: thank you miss Love

Recorder Wolfe: We have a new phone number and then user handler Vicki and Theresa I don't think have finished

Speaker Champagne: okay you as a handler Vicki can you please identify yourself for the record?

Ron Pete: My name is um Ron Pete and I'm 4158

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir. User handler Theresa can you please identify yourself for the record?

Theresa McCreedy 4681

Speaker Champagne: thank you. Madam recorder did you mention there was a phone number that was online?

Recorder Wolfe: I believe it's 2313292168

Speaker Champagne: 2313292168 can you please identify yourself for the record? 2313292168 can you please identify yourself for the record? and last call for 2313292168 can you please identify yourself for the record? Madam Recorder please escort that um phone number out um and I think I may call this but if not miss Linda Cardona can you please identify yourself for record just because I'm not familiar with that user handler. User handler miss Linda Cardona can you please identify your affiliation with the tribe?

Nothing came through on my end miss user handler Linda Cardona can you please identify yourself affiliation with the tribe?

Israel Stone: can somebody repeat the instructions to unmute if you're calling in by phone, I know she is a tribal citizen

Councilor Wever: star six

Speaker Champagne: okay did that work miss uh Linda Cardona.

Recorder Wolfe: it appears that she has herself unmuted but there's no voice coming through

Councilor Johnson: she's right under underneath Ryan

Recorder Wolfe: yeah, I just moved that up. I'm just saying, you want to turn on your camera. We do not hear any audio coming from your user handler even though we see you're unmuted

Speaker Champagne: okay we do require some identification to ensure the integrity of our meetings. With that I will do one last call miss Linda Cardona either you have to give some type of identification to identify that you're a tribal citizen or you have business at the meeting here today otherwise we will have to escort you out.

Recorder Wolfe: possibly she could edit her user handler name she could include her tribal ID if that's acceptable. Pam said she's a tribal member from Tennessee I don't know if the rest of people heard that

Speaker Champagne: okay yeah, we usually when we recognize the user handlers, we, we continue on um with that. Mr. Andrew Jeurink I see is still with us do you have official business here otherwise we would escort him out

Ogema Romanelli: yes, he does the Ogema has requested as his supervisor that he stay on he has every right to be on this meeting

Speaker Champagne: is there an item listed

Ogema Romanelli: I will not take him off

Speaker Champagne: okay

Ogema Romanelli: it will be uh violation if he's kicked off

Speaker Champagne: Well clearable justification sir. You've already been warned sir and I think I escorted you already out to the waiting room um you are now

Ogema Romanelli: I better not be escorted out in the waiting room, you are not in control of this meeting

Speaker Champagne: madam Recorder please escort Mr. Romanelli

Ogema Romanelli: Madam Recorder do not remove me from this meeting and

Speaker Champagne: Okay and please escort off um Mr. Andrew Jeurink he has no official business on this meeting it is limited to tribal citizens. All right

Recorder Wolfe: We still need identification; Theresa did but um there was an iPad pro that joined or something

Speaker Champagne: I just seen that um user handler iPad pro can you please identify yourself for the record? User handler iPad pro can you identify yourself for the record I don't see the username anymore

Recorder Wolfe: Yeah, I think they left the call

Speaker Champagne: all right its they left. All right did we have the 2316701050 did they identify themselves for the record?

Kristy Fowler: yes, Kristy Fowler

Speaker Champagne: oh, thank you ma'am sorry you did identify yourself. I also see citizen Mr. Al Metzger and I'm going to go, madam recorder I do see Mr. Andrew Jeurink still with us

Recorder Wolfe: he has the ability as IT to join back and forth I can keep putting him in the waiting room, I don't know what you want me to do

Speaker Champagne: oh, that's interesting so the IT is continuing to do

Recorder Wolfe: well, if you post it on this site, you can automatically join without being added

Speaker Champagne: Oh, wonderful

Recorder Wolfe: and there's other commissioners and the same

Ogema Romanelli: he has the right to be on

Recorder Wolfe: different people

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Romanelli, we did escort you for disturbing the legislative meeting

Ogema Romanelli: Now physically

Speaker Champagne: we are asking you to please leave the chambers and leave online

Ogema Romanelli: I will not

Speaker Champagne: okay well, I see this meeting's got already started off to a wonderful day Mr. Romanelli you could have not been able to gain yourself we haven't even called this me an order I'll call meaning to order if we have disruptions uh you will be escorted

Ogema Romanelli: uh go ahead

Speaker Champagne: all right we are here for Wednesday January 26, 2022, um a meeting we do have Mr. Jeurink in present Mr. Jeurink this is tribal council chambers you are not eligible to be here we are asking you to please leave the meeting

Ogema Romanelli: this is an open meeting and I'm supervisor

Speaker Champagne: open to tribal citizen sir

Ogema Romanelli: Pardon me

Speaker Champagne: it's open to tribal citizens

Ogema Romanelli: He is an employee; he has a right to be here

Speaker Champagne: A employee that does not have an agenda item

Ogema Romanelli: I asked him to

Speaker Champagne: okay Mr. Pringle can we please um ask law enforcement to please join us in the meeting today I'll go through, and we'll start off the meeting just please contact law enforcement to have them join us in the meeting today. You can see misuse of power continuing on we're in regular schedule tribal council meeting Wednesday January 26, 2022, that is now at 10:13 a.m. um this has been posted uh the first order of business is an

**I. Opening Prayer**

um I think uh it'll be wise words to pray for our people today as the negative behaviors that we see are very present and clearly the need to move our people forward in a good way is is there and I know I offered my asema this morning just on that and I feel that um more more people off their prayers I have our people move forward in a good way would be appreciated because people are struggling and it's apparent take a moment of silence at this time

**II. General Business**

okay thank you for that moment of silence uh we are on to do a calling this

**A. Call to Order**

meeting to order madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

**B. Roll Call**

Recorder Wolfe:

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

Quorum established.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'm going to have to abstain

Councilor Johnson: Abstain

Recorder Wolfe: We don't have abstain on the roll call we have present or absent

Councilor Johnson: ok present

Speaker Champagne: Yeah, there is no such thing as abstain madam recorder. You're either present or absent your correct.

Councilor DiPiazza: Mark it anyway you want.

*Back to roll call*

Councilor Guenthardt: Abstain

Recorder Wolfe: Nine present quorum established at 10:15 am

Speaker Champagne: thank you, madam, recorder I'm going on to next thing

**C. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda has been posted there is one modification with updated C acceptance operations report December 2021 with that being said I'd entertain a motion at this time for approval

Recorder Wolfe: Also New Business Item A

Speaker Champagne: oh, I'm sorry and there's also new business item A approval continuation reforecast an amended fiscal year 2021 annual budget for the month of February. That being said I would entertain a motion at this time to approve the agenda?

Councilor Wittenberg: I'll make a

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR UH**

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26,2022 AT 10 AM VIA ZOOM WITH  
UPDATED ACCEPTANCE OF OPERATIONS REPORT AND ADD  
V A APPROVAL OF CONTINUATION TO REFORECASTED AND  
AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2021 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE  
MONTH OF FEBRUARY; By Wittenberg; support by Champagne**

That's it

Speaker Champagne: okay we have a motion

Councilor Champagne: Support

Speaker Champagne: motion on the floor by councilor Wittenberg support by councilor Champagne discussion on the motion of the floor? discussion on the motion on the floor? seeing no discussion on motion on the floor madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #**

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

Motion carried (6-1-2-0)

Councilor Johnson: No not until things are settled and finalized as far as what's going on

Recorder Wolfe: What's your official vote? In favor, against or absent? Against? No ok perfect. Six in favor one against two abstain agenda has been approved.

Speaker Champagne: okay the next order of business council is

**D. Tribal Council Minutes December 1, 2021 & January 5, 2022**

discussion on the agenda item at this time? Citizen miss Sara Agosa

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 the meeting minutes are missing for September, October, November and most of December 2021 and these meeting minutes being approved are more recent so I just wondered when all of them will be caught up and why there's been a skip thank you that is my question

Speaker Champagne: yes, thank you I can attempt to respond to citizen miss Agosa um when we came on the council we did not have our legislative assistance uh we have since then we started to work on to be able to process them all we prioritize the newer one minutes to go out first so that you have that while we continue to work to work backwards to get all the minutes caught up while we had planned for with a passing of a 2022 budget to be able to contract out to help us catch up that budget has not been passed so we're stuck with the mechanisms that we do have thank you. Any other discussion on tribal council minutes? Seeing none I'd entertain a motion to approve or accept these tribal council minutes.



Councilor Lewis: I'll make a

**MOTION TO ACCEPT TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR  
DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022;** By Lewis; support by  
Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: support

Speaker Champagne: We have a motion by councilor Lewis, support by madam recorder Wolfe. discussion on the motion on the floor? discussion on the motion on the floor? um citizen Mr. Stone you're in queue the floor is yours.

Israel Stone: Sorry I was having issues on meeting Israel Stone 1735 I'm here today on PTO so, I'm here on my own time uh just have a question in regard to these uh meeting minutes uh giving recent actions uh and determinations about residency I am calling into question every action that has been taken by this tribal council uh since the new council was swearing sworn in uh given the fact that uh there are documents that demonstrate that a uh registered agent was filed on March 5th 2020-21 in Milwaukee Wisconsin by Mr. Speaker Ryan Champagne

Speaker Champagne: yeah, you should do the unredacted version Mr. Stone which actually, has actually the whole thing

Israel Stone: That's also verified. It's my turn in the queue

Speaker Champagne: The agenda item is on tribal council minutes

Israel Stone: yes, and I am calling into question unconstitutionality and that I didn't put a redacted version out there I put uh our actual

Speaker Champagne: Photoshop version I should say a photoshop version

Israel Stone: oh it's photoshop

Speaker Champagne: so, because

Israel Stone: you're saying that

Speaker Champagne: you somehow forgot to put registered agent off it

Recorder Wolfe: Call to order

Speaker Champagne: Thank you a call to order it's been issued Mr. Stone, myself. It is the item of tribal council minutes sir your objection is noted. Citizen miss Sara Agosa you have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 I was going to save this for public comment but since it keeps coming up what law is the Ogema referencing to make his allegations because article 10 resignation recall removal doesn't state the Ogema can remove a council member there is a formal process which requires a resolution thank you that is my question

Speaker Champagne: I respectfully ask Miss Agosa to if we can put that question back into public comment period or on his business updates um, we are um on council minutes so if there's discussion around tribal council minutes at this time uh feel free to uh have that discussion. okay seeing none madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #1**

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

Motion carried (6-0-3-0)

Six in favor three abstentions. The minutes have been accepted.

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder Wolfe we can move on to the next one

**III. Continuing Business**

- A. Grants & Contracts- None submitted**
- B. Budget Modifications- None submitted**
- C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure- None submitted**

For

**IV. Old Business**

- A. Payment of 2022 dues to the National Indian Gaming Association**

Payment of 2022 dues- Postponed until budget is approved

- B. Approve ARPA fund use toward the completion of the Food Distribution Center Construction Project**

This item has been postponed until 2022 budget is approved. This benchmark has not been met. We shall move on to the next area of one we have

- C. Acceptance of Operations Report  Dec 2021**

It was postponed until requested information is available in a complete thing this is being brought forth by the Ogema office. Um we have received the completed version of that I do believe. I'll defer to madam recorder Wolfe. I'll open up for discussion at this time.

Recorder Wolfe: We did receive the reports that were requested the only thing that was not addressed was um the new format for the um VSP program instead of them doing how they normally did their program they did not um they lumped it all into one stack instead of by each uh program so we can no longer see what clients are being served by which staff member but that was not submitted but they did have their reported in a new format they just didn't change it so I think it's acceptable

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder Wolfe any other discussion on the operations report dated December 2021? seeing none I'd entertain a motion at this time for acceptance of that report

Councilor Lewis: I'll make a

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE OPERATIONS REPORT FOR  
DECEMBER 2021; By Lewis; support by Wittenberg**

Councilor Wittenberg: support

Speaker Champagne: all right we have a motion made by councilor Lewis support by councilor Wittenberg. Discussion on the motion on the floor? discussion on the motion of the floor? Seeing no discussion madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #2**

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

Motion carried (6-0-3-0)

six in favor three abstentions the report has been accepted

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder we are on to

**D. Authorizing the Ogema's Execution of the Tribe's  
Master Service Agreement with the Conservation  
Resource Alliance for Pere Marquette River Habitat  
Restoration and Protection**

This was postponed until budget approval for 2022. We are into the next item.

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. Speaker did you want to recognize the attendance of public safety?

Speaker Champagne: yes, thank you madam recorder we do have our gentleman from public safety with the tribe president thank you for coming we had an earlier issue ah the meeting wasn't called to order at that point in time it has since been called to order and have not had any other issues since then um but thank you for being present and always in assistance when available

Ogema Romanelli: okay I'm not I'm not sure what this all means I want to thank our public safety for being prompt

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Romanelli you don't have the floor sir in the next meeting of business

Ogema Romanelli: Pardon me

Speaker Champagne: you don't have the floor sir this is an official tribal council legislative Meeting

Ogema Romanelli: I'm making a statement

Speaker Champagne: you don't have the option to make it

Ogema Romanelli: You called for public safety they did their job, and they're here are you excusing them now?

Speaker Champagne: no sir we obviously this is exactly the behavior that we called them is because you're disrupting a legislative process of the tribe you don't have that authority to do such you've been warned sir one more outburst, we'll ask you to be removed

Ogema Romanelli: okay is this another outburst?

Speaker Champagne: sir we're moving on the next item thank you

Ogema Romanelli: (*Talking to public safety*) you're welcome to stay or have a seat whatever you want to do, leave

Speaker Champagne: we're in the next order of business that item was postponed pending uh approval of the 2022 budget. The budget has not been approved so we move on to the area of business that we are on

**E. Acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Internal audit report for Housing Department**

This item was postponed until accompanying resolution was available. Mr. Pringle has made that available to tribal council it was a clerical mistake on my part my sincere apologies tribal council and citizens present discussion on this item? Madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: make a

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21 I MEAN #22-0126-005  
ACCEPTANCE OF LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA  
INDIANS INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR THE HOUSING  
DEPARTMENT;** by Wolfe; support by Lewis

Speaker Champagne: thank you.

Councilor Lewis: Support

Speaker Champagne: We have a motion made by madam recorded Wolfe support by uh councilor Lewis. uh discussion with citizens and councilors at this time? Citizen Miss Sara Agosa, you have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 I was just wondering it's just a housekeeping matter to slow down a little bit, if at all possible, um I did have a question about why the budget is being delayed because people it's causing hardship because a lot of people my family included are waiting for the

Recorder Wolfe: Call to order

Speaker Champagne: thank you uh madame recorder Wolfe has called to order uh Miss Agosa, I think you have a valid question um I would ask you to direct those on the legislative affairs update or public comment period. The order of business that we have right now is on regards to the audit report for housing department the presentation was made presentation previously last week it's the same aspect information we do have the resolutions accompany any discussion on this item? any discussion on this item? seeing no discussion on this item madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #3**

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

Motion carried (6-1-2-0)

six in favor one against two abstentions the resolution has been accepted is passed

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder we move on to the next item

**F. Acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Internal audit report for Tribal Court Budget**

this is the same identical situation before it was a clerical mistake, we have had the resolutions in place for today it's the same presentation that was given last week. any discussion on this item? Any discussion on this item? this time I'd entertain uh motion to accept this report madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: make a

**MOTION TO APPROVR RESOLUTION # 22-0126- 006  
ACCEPTANCE OF THE LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA  
INDIANS INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR TRIBAL COURT  
BUDGET; By Wolfe; support by Wittenberg**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Champagne: We have a motion on the floor by madam recorded Wolfe support by councilor Wittenberg. Discussion on the motion on the floor? discussion citizen Miss Susan Thull you have the floor ma'am

Susan Thull: thank you um I was just wondering if this would have would this cover any um attorneys that we have on retainer in this budget outside attorneys

Speaker Champagne: the tribal court budget um does not have the outside attorney retainers they do have a line item for professional services which they use for guardian ad litem and child welfare matters

Susan Thull: Okay thank you very much and also will these audits be attached to the resolutions?

Speaker Champagne: yes, these are public documents

Susan Thull: thank you so much I appreciate it

Speaker Champagne: thank you any other discussion of the motion of the floor? seeing no other discussion on the motion on the floor madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #4**

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

Motion carried (6-1-2-0)

six in favor one against two abstentions. Can you two please refrain from comments we are in an official meeting.

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder Wolfe we're on to the next item of business

**G. Acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Internal audit report for Natural Resource Department  
Budget**

this says was a clerical mistake we did not have a resolution same area as before this item was presented before citizens last week um nothing has changed it does have the resolutions present uh with that being said discussion on the item uh here today? discussion on the item here today? seeing none I would entertain a motion to accept the report madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: Make a motion to accept

**MAKE A MOTION TO PASS RESOLUTION # 22-0126-007  
ACCEPTANCE OF THE LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA  
INDIANS INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR NATURAL  
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT; By Wolfe; support by Wittenberg**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Champagne: all right we do have a motion on the floor um on this item any discussion on this item? any discussion? seeing no discussion from citizens or councilors at this time madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #5**

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

Motion carried (6-1-2-0)

six in favor one against two abstentions resolution is passed

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder next

**H. Acceptance of the Little River band of Ottawa Indians  
Internal Audit Report for Health Clinic Operations Budget**

this um is the same as other three items before it did not have a resolution it does today it was postponed council put in that resolution it has been presented before the body last week with that being said um any discussion on this item presented today? I'd entertain a motion at this time for acceptance of this report. Madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: make a

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 22-0126-008  
ACCEPTANCE OF THE LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA  
INDIANS INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR HEALTH CLINIC  
OPERATION BUDGET; By Wolfe; support by Wittenberg**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Champagne: A motion made by madam recorder Wolfe support by councilor Wittenberg, discussion on the motion of the floor? discussion on the motion on the floor? seeing no discussion on the motion on the floor madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #6**

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

Motion carried (6-1-2-0)

six in favor one against two abstentions resolution is passed

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder we are onto the next order of business

**V. New Business**

**ADD: A. Approval of the Continuation of Re-forecasted and Amended Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Budget for the**

**month of February**

Continuation of the budget of the re-forecasted and amended fiscal year 2021 annual budget for the month of February 2022 it is an introduction of an item; this item is being brought forth by councilor Johnson. I'll turn it over to her for formal presentation of this item

Councilor Johnson: so, I brought this forward just because uh with everything not being settled yet with our our budgets the st well um and I just feel that we need to do this at the end of January uh things still are not set so I brought it forward to make sure that everything can still function um until we're settled

Speaker Champagne: does that conclude your presentation of this item?

Councilor Johnson: yes

Speaker Champagne: thank you at this point time do any tribal councilors wish to abstain from this item? madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: I will be abstaining

Councilor Wever: I will too

Speaker Champagne: okay I also have my hand raised I'll be abstaining from this item.

Councilor Champagne: I will to, I can't get my hand up

Speaker Champagne: Councilor Champagne also mentioned she will be abstaining; can you please stay louder for the record ma'am.

Councilor Guenthardt: They're abstaining. Abstain

Councilor Wittenberg: Why?

Councilor Guenthardt: You follow in their footsteps

Councilor Wittenberg: Why? Aint, you following?

Councilor Guenthardt: I haven't been

Councilor Lewis: I'll abstain

Recorder Wolfe: No side comments councilors while we are in session, please

Councilor Wever: Thank you Julie



Speaker Champagne: we have councilor Lewis um also abstain. Councilor Champagne, you have your hand raised

Councilor Wittenberg: Abstain

Speaker Champagne: Councilor Wittenberg abstained so

Councilor Champagne: And I abstained

Speaker Champagne: okay, all right so we do you have on the record all the councilors who have abstained.

Recorder Wolfe: Yes, we do have

Speaker Champagne: Councilor DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: I will be abstaining on this also

Speaker Champagne: all right

Recorder Wolfe: we do have a tribal member that wishes to join Melissa Medacco, I'm joining her if you can confirm

Speaker Champagne: sure

Recorder Wolfe: should be available

Speaker Champagne: okay, so that is the for the record noted abstentions are myself the Nitumigaabow Champagne, councilor Lewis, councilor Wittenberg uh councilor Wever madame recorder Wolfe and councilor DiPiazza did I miss anyone?

Councilor Champagne: yes me

Speaker Champagne: and councilor Champagne, okay seeing I did not miss anyone from there madam recorder Wolfe that would be the record

Recorder Wolfe: tribal members connected fully

Speaker Champagne: user handler Melissa Medacco can you please identify yourself for the record

Melissa Medacco: Melissa Medacco 2427.

Speaker Champagne: thank you ma'am all right so, with that being said councilors who abstained are not allowed to participate in discussion um please uh remember those rules with that at this time open this item up for discussion. any discussion at this time from

councilors or citizens? all right I'm going to take it how I see it citizen miss Chelsea Densmore, citizen miss Sara Agosa citizen miss Janine Sam

Chelsea Densmore: Thank you Mr. Speaker Chelsea Densmore 3225 um I guess I'm directing this question at Pam and Tom because I think they're the only ones that can answer at this point um I am trying to figure out how many meetings you guys have actually had related to the budget. I feel that it's crazy that it's the end of January and we still haven't approved a 2022 budget. Um so can I ask how frequently are you guys actually meeting on the budget and could you comment as to how many meetings have happened over the last week? over the last month can you give any details about that?

Sandy Mezeske: council is muted

Councilor Johnson: so, over the past week we have not had any meetings in regard to the budget Um

Chelsea Densmore: how many would you say over the last month?

Councilor Johnson: um that's what I'm thinking on right now uh less than five if any. We may have had one or two

Chelsea Densmore: so, can uh someone comment as to what the justification is for extending the budget another month when you've had less than five meetings for the entire month of January, and we still don't have a budget for this year. How long do you guys' plan to go into 2022 with no budget? When you're not even meeting to discuss the budget, I remember at the very end of December having this huge push to do the budget and then once you guys extended it what you just stopped meeting?

Councilor Johnson: Well, we were having uh those emergency meetings so since uh the 19<sup>th</sup>? Last emergency meeting. I think since the last emergency meeting on the 19th we haven't had anything outside of that um it you know we need a budget to keep our our government open and if that happens in with court cases this needs to happen to keep us function to keep us going.

Chelsea Densmore: I completely agree you need a budget but why aren't you guys meeting to actually work on a budget? There haven't been hardly any work sessions over the last couple of weeks right you have certainly plenty of time to be having this meeting, you should be having meetings every single day to discuss the budget you guys should be working together and meeting in the middle and figuring it out somebody needs to give something needs to happen you guys just can't have some ridiculous competition to figure out who's the bigger man no one cares. We need to move forward you guys need to put your feelings aside and do something. I think it's absolutely a disservice and every single one of you the Ogema and all of council are doing a disservice if you guys are not meeting to work on the budget. This is ridiculous I understand if the Ogema needs to be a part of it if you're just going to keep vetoing it but where are the work sessions? where are the meetings? why are you guys not meeting to discuss the budget? I absolutely do

not think that the budget should be approved today to extend it into February because if it's so important then why haven't there been a single meeting to discuss the January budget since what mid or the 2022 budgets in mid-January? that's crazy this is absolutely nuts you guys should not be voting on this today, you should not be approving a budget to go into February 2022 because you guys should be approving the February or the 2022 budget in general

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. Speaker for housekeeping we did have two tribal members join, user handler Leigh Young and then Kim Hinmon connection coordinator user handler

Speaker Champagne: Okay citizen miss Leigh Young I'm unfamiliar with that user handler can you please identify yourself for the record?

Leigh Young: Hi good morning, Leigh Young uh tribal id 3698 nice to see everyone

Speaker Champagne: Thank you ma'am thank you for joining uh thank you citizen Densmore you do have the floor, is there any other comments you wish to make?

Chelsea Densmore: yes, I'm sorry I was just looking for a response from Pam or Tom why it is so important to approve this budget today? but it's not important to actually have meetings about the 2022 budget to compromise and approve it in general.

Councilor Guenthardt: because there's a stay on the budget that's why we are not

Councilor Johnson: this is very much still in court yet, so I think it's how those come to some sort um but we still need a function we still need to have our government open and as long as there's still in court, I'm not real comfortable with touching it due to do until we actually get a decision but we still need to stay open and still handle our services to to our members if they need them

Chelsea Densmore: there's been a stay since December 31<sup>st</sup> or whatever right and and that nothing has happened via the courts over the last almost four weeks that's what you're saying?

Councilor Johnson: it is so tied up yes

Chelsea Densmore: well then frankly that's a disservice on all three departments the legislative, executive and the courts like that is this is ridiculous it is 2022 it is actively 2022 and there should not be a like you guys need to be working together and figuring it out this is crazy this is ridiculous. I don't know how things are getting done you're not able to approve anything I will yield my time I'm sure I've gone over five minutes, but I am as a tribal citizen I am absolutely disgusted that we're still here pushing forward two months into 2022 with no budget. Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Densmore for your good words

Recorder Wolfe: Tribal member joined James Steele is the user handler

Speaker Champagne: uh user handler Mr. James Steele can you please identify yourself for the record?

James Steele: James Steele tribal member 5127

Speaker Champagne: thank you. Next in queue citizen miss Sara Agosa you have the floor ma'am

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 I am really sorry I stepped away for a second earlier I might have been in the wrong spot I thought this is what had been announced on the agenda and I did want to make a comment Julie did call a point of order so I'm a bit confused but

Speaker Champagne: you can raise your question now ma'am this would be appropriate

Sara Agosa: okay so my comment is that postponing the budget is causing me hardship as a tribal family because the educational grants are being delayed and as far as I know the education department is not issuing grants even with this monthly allocation and I've heard this from other tribal members as well even those in college, so I just want to convey I absolutely agree with Chelsea that this is impacting our tribal families and it's really serious especially in a pandemic and I think that it should be resolved as quickly as possible, and my final question is I thought the budget was in closed and I asked for access so I would like to know how it was divulged in order to file a legal complaint and when all members will have access to this budget is it still currently in closed? thank you that is my question

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Agosa. Councilors who can respond who are not abstained from this vote um I encourage you to do so.

Councilor Johnson: Currently yes, it is still in Closed

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. Speaker we do have a new phone number that did join again

Speaker Champagne: is that 1568?

Recorder Wolfe: 2313291568 correct

Speaker Champagne: User handler 231291 or 3291568 can you please identify yourself for the record

Shawna Gonzalez: Shawna Gonzalez tribal id 4700

Speaker Champagne: thank you Ms. Gonzalez, thank you for joining us. Next in queue is citizen Miss Janine Sam

Janine Sam: Miigwech tribal council Speaker Janine Sam tribal number 150. The abstention from voting um I did join the meeting late so I apologize if these comments were already made prior to and then you can just ignore my comment, um under the tribal council meeting procedures ordinance tribal council members actually can't just abstain they have a duty to vote on each matter and the abstention is only valid for reasons of a conflict of interest and the nature or circumstances of that conflict must be declared for the record. That would be in your tribal council meeting procedures ordinance abstention from voting uh numbers one and two so it's not more of a question I'm going to ask that moving forward each tribal council member that is alleging an abstention please declare your conflict or the circumstances so that tribal citizens can have that documented for the record why people were abstaining on issues that should be requiring a vote thank you very much

Speaker Champagne: thank you for your comment, Miss Sam. Next citizen in queue is citizen Mr. Stone

Israel Stone: so, I just want to uh raise a concern I was not being untactful or disrespectful the last time I was ruled to be out of order the Speaker stepped over me and started engaging in uh exchanges of of conversation which in my opinion was out of order

Speaker Champagne: Sir are you having a comment on this item?

Israel Stone: I I absolutely do

Speaker Champagne: thank you please directed towards that

Israel Stone: Um yep uh so for all the people that are throwing these questions out there like uh how's how did people know to file a lawsuit well when you write people out of the budget guess what you have to inform those people that they are going to no longer have a job once the new budget cycle exists, so it was no secret. When people came to employees and said Hey you've been written out of the budget sorry don't know what to do blah blah blah so there is no violation there, you have to inform people what do you do have to show up on the first and then go oh you don't have a job uh somebody has to make that notification so to even be throwing that out there is is crazy to me. Uh the other thing I'll say is uh that there's currently a court order on this budget and nothing's supposed to happen with it until such a time that the courts hear that that case and so I have some concerns with that and I don't want to get into the legalities or the arguments on it because I don't want to compromise council or or my my standing either uh the last thing I would say is any actions that were passed under current circumstances uh in my opinion are illegal actions and that's that shouldn't just be a concern to me that should be a concern for every citizen. Uh we have some some questions and some questions that I think uh with this budgetary process uh especially are do some answers and so I will stop there thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you for your restraint and your comment and keep it on point sir. I appreciate your comment. Next in queue citizen Miss Agosa then citizen Miss Densmore

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my question is posed to tribal council I'd like to know the rule on sharing confidential information because based on prior meetings I thought the Ogema needed approval in order to share that information that's in Closed so can I please get clarification on the rules surrounding that thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you Miss Agosa any of the ones who are able to comment choose to comment at this time otherwise uh council members may be able to comment on a different section of the agenda

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. Speaker I was just going to add that Sara said she was not in attendance when we abstained um, she said she stepped away so she wasn't sure about it so if you can um clarification to her why no one else is responding I would appreciate it thank you

Speaker Champagne: sure, there's two councilors who can respond the rest because the agenda item they have abstained we're not allowed to take any discussion um on the item, so that's the reason why councilor Guenthardt councilor Johnson who have not abstained are able to respond to you because um they are the only councilors who have discussion at this time councilor Johnson or councilor Guenthardt do you care to answer citizen Agosa question? Councilor Guenthardt councilor Johnson do you care to answer citizen Agosa question?

Councilor Guenthardt: No, I'm good

Councilor Johnson: and honestly, I'm not sure what information she's actually talking about that has been leaked um from what I have seen that the information that was put out there as far as the emergency meetings stuff that was posted out that's the only information, I've seen that's been attached to these actual budgets so there's that

Speaker Champagne: Citizen Miss Sara Agosa you do still have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my question is why can't unified legal department answer these questions they're on the call, aren't they? I would like to see more support from unified legal in these meetings. Thank you that is my comment

Speaker Champagne: thank you ma'am. Citizen uh Chelsea Densmore your next in queue

Chelsea Densmore: Miigwech Mr. Speaker Chelsea Densmore 3225. I stand by my previous statement and my disappointment. I did want to ask as there are um 43 citizens on the call and this budget obviously affects the entire um tribal citizenship I am and if you guys aren't able to move forward because of the courts. What process do the citizens have to try and hurry this along? is there contact information that you can give for

someone at the court that we can be emailing or contacting to request that they move this along? is this being heard in front of Sherigan where we could be emailing Sherigan, or um is there someone that we can contact to say this budget is very important and we are requesting that they be hearing this as soon as possible as this stay is causing detrimental harm to the entire membership?

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Densmore for your comment um councilor Guenthardt or councilor Johnson do you care to respond to citizen Densmore? Okay thank you for that next in queue uh citizen Stone you have the floor sir

Israel Stone: Chelsea this issue uh is in front of uh judge Sherigan um if you have concerns like that, I would suggest you send them to her. The the other thing is uh as as it relates to the budget process and how that process occurred uh those items aren't to remain in closed session forever in fact, typically, what happens is after you move on something the parts that you can move out of closed session into open session you do immediately following in the second open session. That's the way the meeting procedure procedures ordinance is set up even uh I won't get into that whole thing because there's another argument as to whether it was legal for the budget to even be passed in Closed session um that's before the courts right now that a tribal citizen brought a different citizen and so uh I think that again there are a lot of issues surrounding not just this issue uh but but many issues and so I think they all need to be looked at and considered carefully thank you, Mr. Speaker,

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Stone for your comment. Citizen Miss Chelsea Densmore and then um if there's no other discussion madam recorder roll call

Chelsea Densmore: thank you, Mr. speaker I promise this is, the last thing I wanted to say um for all the citizens that are in attendance that do want to reach out that do think that this is really important and needs to be moved forward with the court if that is what is stopping council and the Ogema from moving forward the contact information that I have found on the website is for Spring Medacco the court administrator, so the email is s p r i n g m e d a c c o at lrboi.nsn.gov the phone number is 231-398-3406. I would urge all citizens to be calling and emailing and requesting that the courts move forward on this if the stay is what's stopping this then we need to be doing something, we need to actually prioritize what's really important and, in my opinion, the fact that we're at the end of January and we still don't have a 2022 budget is absolutely insane um if there is any way that Miss Johnson, Mr. Guenthardt or Mr. Stone or Mr. Romanelli if somebody could provide the uh court number um that we can reference in the email I would really appreciate it. Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: okay thank you. Councilor Guenthardt or councilor Johnson care to respond? Councilor Guenthardt or councilor Johnson care to respond

Councilor Johnson: um I don't have that I don't have that number handy as far as like what the court case is um, I'm sure it's probably listed online underneath the courts but

I'm not sure um so, it I know I can't give it right here because I have that particular case number handy

Speaker Champagne: thank you, ma'am madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe: we don't have a motion

Israel Stone: Mr. Speaker I can give you that if you would like me to, I can give you the case number

Speaker Champagne: sure, sir you have the floor

Israel Stone: okay uh that's gonna be 21639gc

Chelsea Densmore: Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: um at this point in time entertain a motion if one of the two council members are so moved

Councilor Guenthardt: Make a motion

Councilor Johnson: Go ahead

Councilor Guenthardt: **TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 22-0126- 009 APPROVING THE CONTINUATION OF REFORECASTED AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2021 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY ; Support by: Johnson**

Councilor Johnson: Support

Speaker Champagne: we have a motion made by councilor Guenthardt support by councilor Johnson um just for housekeeping aspects I'm going to ask our attorney to weigh in just to ensure that a vote can occur with only two council members

Attorney McGowan-Cuellar: can you hear me now?

Speaker Champagne: yes ma'am

Attorney McGowan-Cuellar: in um

Speaker Champagne: it's a unique situation I haven't occurred I haven't seen

Attorney McGowan-Cuellar: yeah

Speaker Champagne: I would want to just ensure that two council members a vote can occur



Attorney McGowan-Cuellar: so, in this instance um Jesus because tribal council asked for this and requested it um in light of past abstentions and the procedures that tribal council has done in the past the individuals vote um how they're going to vote, and the abstentions count as a quorum being established. So, the vote the vote can happen um in the abstention that abstending people count as being there for quorum I I haven't I would have to take I would have to take a couple of minutes and maybe discuss it in closed session on whether or not the two votes would satisfy a yes or no depending on how they vote so I'll defer that to closed session

Speaker Champagne: yeah, because abstentions usually go with majority so thank you on that but with that being said there is um any discussion in the motion of the floor? Citizen Miss Chelsea Densmore

Chelsea Densmore: I apologize Chelsea Densmore 3225. I know I said it was going to be my last time um I just had a question for councilor Guenthardt as you have abstained from every single vote until this one. I was just wondering if you could justify why you have abstained from everything including um the agenda and just establishing your presence but you're not abstaining from this?

Councilor Guenthardt: because I think it's a conflict of interest in it in the Constitution

Chelsea Densmore: can you clarify what you mean by that please

Councilor Guenthardt: I just did

Speaker Champagne: madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. Speaker in light of the advisement of the attorney I want to make a motion to move new business item a approval continuation of reforecasted an amended fiscal year 2021 annual budget for the month of February to second open

Councilor Guenthardt: You can't

Councilor Johnson: You abstained

Israel Stone: point of order there's a motion on the floor already

Speaker Champagne: yeah Mr. Stone thank you for for that I was just going to call you gotta give it one second. um there is a motion the floor. In order for another motion to occur uh Mr. Guenthardt uh who made the motion or miss Johnson made the motion um would you be willing to um retract your motion?

Councilor Guenthardt: no

Councilor Johnson: nope

Speaker Champagne: okay so the motion of the floor does have to get voted on and so moving on to the discussion citizen miss Connie Waitner you have the floor

Connie Waitner: thank you Connie Waitner 0022. My question is for the other councilors that abstained on this vote can you state for the record why you abstain for the vote and the reason why thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Miss Waitner. Citizen Miss Sara Agosa, you do have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478. I also have questions about this process because on page six it says failure to disclose a potential conflict of interest is caused for removal and where a matter of potential conflict has been disclosed the council shall determine by majority vote whether a member shall abstain from voting although no members shall be compelled to vote regarding an issue as to which he or she believes a conflict exists and I I just I don't recall the vote taking place so I just wanted to um share that piece of information thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Miss Sara Agosa. We're going to do one last call out citizen Stone uh you have the floor and then we're going to move on to roll call

Israel Stone: yes Mr. Speaker uh we do and have used Robert Roberts rules of orders for years uh out of Robert's rules abstentions do not count in tailing the vote negatively or positively positively when members abstain, they are in effect only contributing to the quorum so uh in fact if if seven people abstain and two vote to the affirmative uh that's a past motion and that's according to Robert's rules which we've always followed I believe they're in the meeting procedures ordinance

Ogema Romanelli: That's correct

Speaker Champagne: okay thank you Mr. Stone for your uh your interpretation. Any other discussion? seeing none madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #7**

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

Motion carried (2-0-7-0)

two in favor seven abstentions

Speaker Champagne: all right thank you madam recorder. I don't report I don't know how to record it if it passed, or it does not pass um that's that's the issue I guess

Recorder Wolfe: I'm not sure either I did want to have the discussion in closed session why I suggested the removal but so for the record at this resolution it's two in favor and seven extensions

Speaker Champagne: moving on to the next order of business uh we are on

**IX. Concluding Business**

**A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, February 02, 2022**

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

Mr. Romanelli you have the floor at this time

Ogema Romanelli: thank you. I just want to say uh I appreciate the vote uh to approve the uh continuing resolution for the budget. I think it's very important that we continue to move on and that don't handicap the tribe uh further as we know there are several things in court regarding the budget um so hopefully, we can get through that process. I want to say that I really believe as an update that there's a huge cost to this tribe whether it be for the morale by trying to remove certain positions and we can go back and forth on it this is my time to speak uh the finance financial portion of this these lawsuits are outstanding they're high hundreds of thousands of dollars if you look at the results of those court battles that happened even this year it went for four and a half to five years that took probably well over three hundred thousand dollars in the executive branch prevailed on almost every account there we then had to go back to court again mid-year and tens of thousands of dollars again were spent again mostly the uh the executive branch prevailed one I think was dropped out of three issues that we brought forward we're now in court again on multiple fronts. I think this is a huge, huge detriment to our tribe financially in every other way the financially you can look at the numbers I guess that's why I bring that up if this is if this meeting is found to be out of order. I believe we need to hold the tribal councilors accountable not only for the inappropriate action that and and the cost that will be derived from this because again the council is still going to each uh attorneys, I think they should be held individually accountable financially as well they've been told we've been through the courts and I think that at this time there is nothing to stop them from continuing to spend the tribe's money on courts and attorneys over and over and over again and so I the last thing I want to say is that I really believe that all councilors and the Ogema should be here in person at least one day a week that being on Wednesdays it's not too much to ask. We ask it of our employees over at the resort we asked it of our government employees, and I see no reason you have one 1-2-3-4-5-6 councilors here today and those two or three that continue not to be here is an insult to our tribe and a disrespect to our tribal members and to our government as a whole. There is no reason to not be here. I'm sitting in a room here masked up for the most part except now that I'm speaking and we are sitting as as far apart as we can you have a room right next door that is huge, and we could sit 20 feet apart almost throughout there there is no reason no reason whatsoever to not be getting their butts here. The only one that I think I excuse on that would be Ryan because I don't believe he's any longer a council member. I'm done and I will not be answering any other questions at this time um

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Romanelli we're going on next item of business which is **C. Legislative Affairs Update**

Ogema Romanelli: You're cutting me off Ryan

Speaker Champagne: you said you're done Larry so we're good

Ogema Romanelli: Rude

Speaker Champagne: um any councilors at this time wish to give a legislative affairs update? any councilors at this time madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: um I did see Chelsea Densmore in queue I don't know if she wanted to make a comment, I know Ogema said he was not going to respond

Speaker Champagne: yeah, he's miss, and I was thinking sir Romanelli mentioned he's refusing to respond to anything so we can move on and there's public comment period

Recorder Wolfe: sure, so my legislative affairs update is

Ogema Romanelli: Thanks for allowing me to stay in here

Recorder Wolfe: census of the agricultural seeking native Americans involved in agriculture is now um up for participation every five years the center for agriculture counts the number of U.S farm branches as well as people who operate them that data for the census of agriculture collects is absolutely vital to Indian country this year the U.S department of agriculture the USDA wants as many as our native American farmers, ranchers, gatherers, fishers and foresters to participate as possible the threshold is low and considered to be a part of the agricultural industry those who have raised or sold a thousand dollars or more of fruits, vegetables, live stocks can be counted the census looked at land use ownership operator characteristics production practices income and expenditures there is a website where you can go to if you wish to participate and that's why I'm sharing the information so that we can be counted and more information can be gathered the website is [www.agcounts.usdagov](http://www.agcounts.usdagov) I just sharing the information for any tribal members that may fit that category and eligible to participate. thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder any other tribal councilors uh have a legislative affair. Any tribal councilors have legislative affairs update that they wish to give at this time? I'll raise my hand okay so, there's obviously been a lot of uh fumes that are going on here uh with our tribe the budget being the most important one. I feel that this council worked diligently throughout the entire Christmas break meeting on a daily basis uh continues on to get a budget that we believe was a compromise unfortunately that did not work. Budgets are hard to move forward we continue to move forward fortunately, at the point in time the people who say that they're in favor of compromises it did not go through again. We asked those individuals who feel that compromises needed to bring forth your ideas to lead the discussion to have that compromise because I think that's imperative for our tribe to move forward disrespect that we see here from citizens, specifically executive branch leader of the executive branch is noticeable. We should

never have to call law enforcement maintain order in our meetings it is reprehensible. The more reprehensible is that there's a leader of another branch who believes they can willfully remove other leaders of the tribe elected leaders. We have a specific process for that the process is vested in our constitution our laws something that anyone on him or his party could do. Why go the one way and not the other way cause division in the tribe. This is strategic to cause division the tribe and to play our citizens against each other and it's just not appropriate. I don't believe that any of you council members took this job to sign up for this. I believe we took this job because we wanted to move our people for each and every one of you council members. I believe that wholeheartedly move our people forward and that's what I ask you to do is to put aside our differences to move things forward the best interest to our people, it's something that I feel we are struggling with to do a second will conclude my legislative affairs update at that time in regard to the budget allegations about residency is ridiculous. We won't even address it especially photoshopped items on Facebook I don't address Facebook posts. I do have to say is from one branch to another branch collaboration needs to occur. We have seen the executive branch fail to implement the loss of this tribe time and time again and due to restraints wanting to spend on running wisely we choose not to litigate it and have done that time and time again as a body chose not to litigate it. I think it's at the time Mr. Romanelli has misstated in his update of prevailing in fact, the matters were dismissed why because we repealed anything a conflict to save money it's not tribal council who's filing lawsuits it's the executive and his executive leadership who is I think that should be noted this is done strategically and I think Chris I think there's the citizens mentioned specifically, why elimination of a few positions it happens in budget process it happened on the reforecasted budget with 22 positions eliminated by the executive side even though disbursements were not dried up in fact, they were over on disbursements it's a difficult process and I think the council is working through that. I pray that the executive side can come to reason to be able to also move forward that way. Any other legislative affairs updates at this time from other legislators? any other legislative affairs update from any other legislators? We will move on

**D. Public Comment Period**

I do see it and call-in order citizen miss Chelsea Densmore citizen miss Sara Agosa citizen Mr. Ron Pete citizen miss Laura Echelbarger citizen Mr. Israel Stone I believe that's all we have to hand raise at this time.

Ogema Romanelli: uh the Ogema has his hand raised

Speaker Champagne: I believe you said you weren't responding to anything sir but if you're in public comment period you of course have that legal right to be there, so I'll put you on the queue

Ogema Romanelli: no, I was going to be lying about when I walked out of the room

Speaker Champagne: sir we are calling to order again you are disrupting the legislative process once again

Ogema Romanelli: you want to try and kick me out again like you did before?

Speaker Champagne: okay we're in public comment period at this time

Chelsea Densmore: thank you Mr. Speaker. Chelsea Densmore 3225. Um thank you Ogema Romanelli for joining. I did have a question when you were speaking earlier you did mention people being in the room is the executive order still in effect that has got the government center closed down and only opened to appointment only?

Ogema Romanelli: by appointment only yes

Chelsea Densmore: okay so I I

Ogema Romanelli: excuse me Chelsea I'm not going to keep answering those questions when I asked why

Speaker Champagne: now citizen Densmore has a floor sir

Ogema Romanelli: I will not answer so but

Speaker Champagne: Citizen Densmore has the floor sir

Ogema Romanelli: it is still closed down except for by appointment only

Chelsea Densmore: Miigwech Ogema Romanelli. I guess I just want to make that comment because you talked about people being into the government chambers for the Wednesday meeting and in my opinion you guys should be in there when citizens are able to come in there as well so if you guys are talking about opening up the building then I definitely think we should be going back into the chambers and having citizens have the availability to be in person however if you're not then I guess that isn't a conversation. Um what my question was for you previously however was about a commission application I had sent in a commission application to be appointed to the Binojeeuk commission and I was told that the only way that I could be considered for appointment um is to come in person and physically sign the background check information uh be fingerprinted only by tribal police that I could not use my local police department and have that sent to tribal police and I was told that I had to submit a drug screen I wanted to know on the record if that was something that you made all the commissioners do um is that the standard practice or if you could comment? I'm really discouraged as a tribal citizen that I would have to drive four hours just to be in person for that.

Ogema Romanelli: okay I'm not completely familiar what the process is I know that there are different processes depending on which committee or commission you're trying to be on uh on the one that you're talking about there is a background check that is in place that needs to be needs to happen from there I don't know what the process is ah so I'm assuming that they're following the process that's always happened within those that group thank you

Chelsea Densmore: absolutely and I definitely know that the Binojeeuk commission requires a background check. I was not aware they need to be fingerprinted I have been fingerprinted and I absolutely can be fingerprinted I just want to make sure that I'm being treated the same as everybody else. I don't understand the justification for a drug screen as those are normally for employees and not for commissioners and the justification for a drug screen is usually for a liability could you comment on that?

Ogema Romanelli: yeah, I think that actually I think anybody in in that committee or commission is a very important committee as you should know. I personally think that every elected official and people in those committees should all be drug screened and background uh a huge background check much like they do at the resort uh PMO which is a primary management official we deal with a lot of money we deal with a lot of people's uh family matters etc. I think everyone should be background checked to the fullest thank you

Chelsea Densmore: absolutely so were you and all of council then given a background check that included fingerprinting and drug screen?

Ogema Romanelli: I was. I I was and I do yearly

Chelsea Densmore: you submitted to a drug screen as the Ogema?

Ogema Romanelli: I did yes multiple times

Chelsea Densmore: okay I will state on the record that I don't think that's uh necessarily required I'm happy to complete a drug screen because I have no problem passing one however, I do think it's inappropriate my last comment is

*(Someone in the ZOOM: Oh my gosh)*

Chelsea Densmore: I have heard you say multiple times that council

*(Someone in the ZOOM: sighs)*

Chelsea Densmore: if I could have the floor, please. I've heard you say multiple times before

Speaker Champagne: that is a warning for Vicki, Vicki one more we'll have to escort you out. Thank you

Chelsea Densmore: I've heard you say multiple times that council is too hard on commissioners because they are offering their time and they're asking too many questions and all of that do you think that asking me to drive four hours just to do it in person and not use my local police department, my local courthouse and have that sent. Do you think that that's appropriate as an outlying citizen? do you think that's asking the same of me

that you are of people in Manistee? I'm I'm being I'm having to pay the \$70 in gas the \$80 per night per room um I feel that that's excessive and your departments are not allowing any sort of leeway. I'm hoping for a comment on that as an outlying citizen with a bachelor's degree and experience in foster care in licensing of foster homes with ICWA specifically, I know that I could be a benefit to this tribe and I'm feeling very discouraged at having to jump through so many more hoops just because I'm an outlying citizen.

Ogema Romanelli: okay and the answer to that and here again I'm being asked to answer question after question after question. You have a person that's sitting in a speaker's role that refuses to answer the questions of the Ogema

Chelsea Densmore: so

Ogema Romanelli: in this case I'm going to answer this again but I don't want to keep being asked this when there are issues that are before us today uh the answer to that is the the commission itself has some some responsibility and oversight of those things so it would be good to to write to the commission you also have liaisons that sit on the commission from the tribal council you also have the tribal council these are all played

Chelsea Densmore: I

Ogema Romanelli: if you really believe that you're being treated

Chelsea Densmore: Just

Ogema Romanelli: or should be differently then please

Chelsea Densmore: for clarification Mr. or Ogema Romanelli, I did contact the liaison uh councilor Champagne yesterday. When I spoke to the HR department, and he had said that appointments are through the executive side so there's not much you can do. I um have reached out to one of the um commissioners already, I have not reached out about this but I'm absolutely going to reach out again um I am just asking that the executive branch consider outlying citizens' time and money and to be open to the fact that we could be sending it from our local to police department and just be open to utilizing non-Manistee opportunity that's all I'm saying and just I'm just looking to give back to my tribe and to serve my tribe in a good way and I'm just hoping to not have to jump through so many extra hoops just because of my location I will yield the floor Miigwech for the time

Ogema Romanelli: thank you very much

Speaker Champagne: Miss Densmore I will take a chance to respond on yours as well. I think you raise valid concerns that the point of getting more outlying people onto our committee's commissions to balance it out to bring those content expertise there would be valuable. I do believe that you can do your FBI background check and have the fingerprints scanned and emailed completely in uh with the OPI number. That is no



problem as a social worker you know that you've done these FBI background checks and carried over background checks of the past and so you know that the process. They're in asking our citizens to come in I think is a purposely designed to create an unnecessary benchmark. There is nothing in legislation that requires you to have a drug screening as referenced um by human resources to you so that's not a kind of that's not criteria that this council has put forth um, so I think that is something the executive has added on as its own additional area to have for appointments, appointments do come from the executive side they make their nominations and they're they're ratified or rejected by tribal council. You know and and having the paperwork all completed. I know I would be very supportive of yours as you have content expertise in this area and to fill a commission that has long standing um struggled with getting commissioners on to volunteer. We've heard from numerous citizens who have been social workers who wanted to fill that commission that they've struggled the same nearly identical issues that you face and so your concerns are duly noted. One of the things that we've always encouraged is for citizens to put it in and cc a courtesy copy over to tribal council so that way we also have the information so we can also inquire with the executive side um so I do wish you the best of luck on on that and I hope to see a paper come through for appointment if the executive source determines it's all warranted. Mr. DiPiazza for response uh miss Densmore her question

Councilor DiPiazza: I've been here a few days I I have never sat on the Binojeeuk commission I've had to deal with some of it. Fingerprinting is done through our local enforcement that's actually a nationwide FBI. Um the background check and even a drug screen do we not want to do drug screening on people listed on the Binojeeuk that are dealing with children I don't know, to me absolutely oh by the way I've been drug tested and I had a gaming license went through that whole PMO stuff so anybody cares about Gary DiPiazza but they're and plus your name can't be brought forward unfortunately until um that background is done you can't be appointed if the background check form in (in audible) that's what I remember after being here so long

Speaker Champagne: Thank you councilor DiPiazza. We will continue on and Miss Densmore if those are the responses uh next in queue citizen Miss Sara Agosa

Chelsea Densmore: I'm sorry can I just respond really quick to councilor DiPiazza. I am so sorry

Speaker Champagne: Yes, ma'am no right go ahead

Chelsea Densmore: I thought I was on mute, or I was unmuted, and I had re muted myself um just for clarification I don't have a problem with doing the background check. I absolutely think those are very important um I think the drug test is silly as it's a commission especially a commission that means virtually but if everyone is asked to do that, I have no problem doing it. My problem is not being it is having to drive the four hours to Manistee and having to do it in house that's what I think is silly if it's a nationwide uh screening if it is a nationwide background check I should be able to get that done at my local law enforcement or courthouse where I can drive 10 minutes

instead of having to drive the four hours and have it done by tribal police that is all I'm saying that is the the excessive burden that I feel is being put on um outlying citizens that's what I'm asking to be changed to be allowed to have it done and sent straight from the police department to tribal police instead of having to drive up there or frankly if you guys want to uh reimburse hotel and mileage that would be an option for outlying citizens as well but frankly, I think it would be much easier to just have it done at the police department that was all I needed. thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Densmore on next in queue councilor Champagne do you care for a response?

Councilor Champagne: yes, I would just like to say I think part of this issue is that it's been recently changed for the commission and um the commission board has not looked at their regulations to adjust them to accommodate the outlying personnel. I think we can request that they do that and maybe this issue will go away that's how I'm thinking thank you

Speaker Champagne: okay thank you. Next commissioner Mr. Wells do you care to respond?

Corey Wells: yeah, I'm sorry if you can't hear me too well, I have COVID and it's in my lungs but um (*Phone was going in and out translate what was heard*) uh this has been since I'm I am

Recorder Wolfe: Your calls not clear in the chambers for us

Corey Wells: Say what?

Recorder Wolfe: we cannot hear what you're saying. I heard you said you have COVID so it may be a dishonor, but I just don't want you to waste your talking

Corey Wells: I'll try to speak up can you hear me now?

Recorder Wolfe: it's better yes

Corey Wells: um I did have to do a drug test and background check and fingerprints and again, I didn't have any issues for multiple commissions. I will say we are having a slightly signatures as I have to sign most of the Binojeeuk documents because one of our other commissioners (*Phone going in and out*) That would be very helpful for the commission, but I can look at your documents for.

Speaker Champagne: thank you commissioner Wells. Uh councilor Wittenberg for response

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, concerning that uh that check on there and I believe all states because it turned around and they changed that to prevent people getting all

licenses in multiple states and so they went uh where it went all the way across a personally myself whether it be your uh city police or the and I'd even think more so on the state police but or county were basically, to my understanding that's why they did that on the license, so it goes all the way across the nation and so that way it can pick up uh something from another state that was my understanding on on it and personally myself whether it be anybody whether you live in Muskegon or the next county over that if you want to go get a check and then they turn around and transfer it uh over to our uh our tribal station here well that is my thought on that okay let Miigwech I could be wrong it wouldn't be the first time but that was my understanding on the license though

Speaker Champagne: okay thank you council member Wittenberg um going next in queue citizen Sara Agosa you have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478. I'm sorry which section are we in because I do have a couple questions

Speaker Champagne: We are in public comment

Sara Agosa: oh, okay so first of all um I wanted to go back to the Ogema's letter posted on the website and the constitution article 10 has procedures surrounding resignation recall and removals and it doesn't state that the Ogema can remove a council member there is a formal process which requires a resolution, and I just wanted a response from the Ogema and if he posts a letter to at least reference what law he's using so that is my question what law is he using to post this letter and my second question is regarding the Speaker's residency and my question really is because a lot of um misinformation is swirling around and that's why I come to council meeting to verify information and I believe that the speaker's residency has already been ruled in court, so this also is a question for the Ogema what was he referencing or grounds to make these allegations thank you that is my first comment, but I have another one so do you want me to continue or wait?

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Romanelli do you care to respond?

Ogema Romanelli: sure, I use the wording in the tribal constitution regarding addresses of elected officials that's what I use. I did not remove him it calls for that person to forfeit their position and that's what I'm relying on, and I'd like to tribal uh I'd like Ryan to answer questions pose to him as well thank you

Speaker Champagne: sure, I'll respond Miss Agosa because I think it's valid um Mr. Romanelli apparently cut off email access uh and sent it through an email and then after uh some questions were been then posted online. I think you know he knows the residency status of what Michigan residents are I meet those legal requirements uh if in his um appeared interpretation he sort of reside and be a resident of the nine counties but he doesn't use residency he says reside that's a big difference in his mind I believe and so in his interpretation is he probably if he left and went to Detroit, he had to forfeit his position because he no longer was a resident in the nine county um obviously, that's

ridiculous just like his uh allegations are ridiculous uh the residency requirements in the state of Michigan and with that being said is that uh court has ruled me all this residence requirements that have been brought up numerous times to say the first time um Mr. Romanelli has questioned or uh councilor DiPiazza has questioned and so I think you know that's uh that's all undocumented um records so I they meet all the requirements to be a Michigan resident have and always will and you know you'll be able to bring up forth uh documents I have not seen them because no formal petition for removal has occurred. I encourage those to bring forth the formal process which is recall or removal as outlined in our constitution Mr. Romanelli has no authority to do any of that unless he goes a citizen for a recall which I encourage him to take those measures as a citizen if he so chooses to misuse his powers his gross malfeasance in office you have seen the misuse of powers here and he continues to do so because he believes that this is a dictatorship not actually a government that has elected officials in my opinion thank you Miss Agosa

Sara Agosa: can I get back in the queue?

Speaker Champagne: the floor is still yours just responded

Sara Agosa: okay thank you very much. That also concerns me the blocking of access because my understanding is that can only be done through an official order, and this is more of a question more of a court order and I'm just not seeing anything in our laws that gives the Ogema the independent right or authority to block a tribal councilor's access without some sort of official process. So, I agree this is really stressful because um as an outlying member the speaker is an outlying representative and I would like to request that the Ogema's stays within his constitutional authority because it's just extremely stressful as a member um to have to navigate through all of this misinformation, and my final comment is regarding the budget, and I'll just keep it very quick. I would like to convey to council those who support the proposed changes of increasing funding for member services and programs to please stand strong in your decision and thank you so much and also for representing the needs of outlying members I feel that's often left out of the dialogue and decisions um and once again I just like to emphasize that organizational assessments have been done which has been discussed in work sessions there are multiple ways to decrease ways and increase efficiencies primarily they have not been done and with the pandemic those are additional stressors on our tribe and we have to think long term as well I would like to see the Ogema do what is best for the tribe and conduct himself within his constitutional power and also too I just like to emphasize to tribal council that you do have the fiscal authority and you also represent the concerns of members you have been elected as the connection the conduit for our needs and to always keep that in mind when making decisions. So, in closing I just like to say that I really appreciate those on council who are trying to provide more member services thank you that is my comment

Speaker Champagne: thank you ma'am uh it does not appear that you asked any questions uh you want being in queue or do you have a response Mr. DiPiazza?

Councilor DiPiazza: more of a response keep in mind that there there's a stay on on the budget that was issued on December 31st and in that in that in that stay order it does state that the budget that was passed changed the structure of the organization which I'm not sticking up for nobody but that's what the court the court said in that stay it changed the structure. So, when you're changing the structure of any organization, I don't know maybe I'm not reading the rulings right or the constitution proper but

Speaker Champagne: Mr. DiPiazza just because it's ongoing litigation I do provide you know um

Councilor DiPiazza: yeah, yeah

Speaker Champagne: you should, you shouldn't be commenting publicly about specifics such as that because you don't have access to

Councilor DiPiazza: my apologies then

Speaker Champagne: no, you I think you're still in line. I was saying because it's really riding on the level with the information you have from in legal counsel so commenting your right on the line but I'm just giving the warning that you know please use restraint understanding that um you do represent the tribal council

Council DiPiazza: that came from the court not many legal accounts

Kristy Fowler: well, listen to the tribal council fight

Councilor DiPiazza: Thank you I'm done

Kristy Fowler: Doctor Wever commenting on that one to

Speaker Champagne: who's making those comments madam recorder can you tell?

Recorder Wolfe: 2316701050

Kristy Fowler: sorry I thought I was muted how do you mute?

Speaker Champagne: so that is uh official warning on that please um please uh let councilor DiPiazza did have the floor

Councilor DiPiazza: I'm good I don't want to let have people listen to us argue over logistics so. I got my state of mind you have your state of mind everybody got a state of mind

Speaker Champagne: thank you councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: That's the end of it

Speaker Champagne: Going back in I did see if still wanted to be in queue citizen miss Laura Echelbarger

Laura Echelbarger: yes, thank you um I just wanted to um point out that because it was just recently announced um and I just wanted to put it out there for the record that the um spring membership meeting is scheduled for April 1st or I'm sorry I think it's April 1st or April 2<sup>nd</sup> that Saturday um so, it's a week ahead of schedule and it's sorry it's April 2<sup>nd</sup> um and I just wanted to make sure that the membership was aware of that so that they could make arrangements and also since um since we're talking about the membership meeting um, I'm hoping that the uh council will consider having their usual meet and greet like they used to have um and that's it thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you miss Echelbarger. I also seen citizen miss Susan Thull, I seen you put down your hand. I'm not sure if that once you still want to be in queue before I go on to user handler Vicki. okay I'll come back to citizen Thull if you did want to be still in queue. User handler Vicki you have the floor

Ron Pete: okay um thank you. uh this is uh Ron Pete 4158 and I'm going to be very short. First of all, I want to say my apologies um for um interrupting oh let's see once in a while my memory isn't exactly good, anyway I didn't mean to interrupt and secondly, I also wanted to say um and I'm in queue. I do not recognize this council meeting because I do not, I do believe that um that councilor Champagne or Ryan Champagne is a member is an address in Wisconsin so, with that you won't have to warn me again, because you warned me the last time when I wanted to speak and my hand was raised and you didn't call on me so right now, I'm getting off because I don't recognize this meeting thank you very much

Speaker Champagne: thank you for your public comment period, sir and put it in the right area. Citizen Stone, you have the floor sir

Israel Stone: thank you Ryan uh Ogema earlier in this meeting I was accused of photoshopping state documents which in my opinion, I was accused of committing a crime. I would ask you to have public safety investigate that thoroughly uh please uh I take that very seriously interestingly enough if you refer to uh Wisconsin statute 181.1622 as it relates to registering as an agent in the state of Wisconsin and the documents earlier, I was said to have photoshopped, I have in front of me right now that the registered agent on that business Mino Aki Corp changed on 1/25 of 22, it was changed yesterday. I will be submitting that document to you as well as public safety along with all the other documents that I have if residency truly wasn't an issue here why suspiciously was the residency was the registered agent changed yesterday and we have the official documents from the state of Wisconsin showing that the registered agent on 3/25 of 2021 was Mr. Ryan Champagne now for the rest of you council members that are sitting here and watching this go on I will let you know the BIA has been contacted. The BIA has been contacted because you have a responsibility to the citizens of this tribe to do your due diligence as a citizen, we are out here finding these documents as a citizen we're looking

into the things that are going on with within this tribe you all sitting there no it's not right if residency wasn't an issue why was it changed yesterday? why was that form and document and that agent changed yesterday?

Councilor DiPiazza: Where's the agent?

Israel Stone: Now the registered agent is Monica Verdugo Vertigo and it changed from Ryan Champagne to Monica Verdugo yesterday 1/25/2022 and it was changed by an e-filing form 1-3 fm13e-form that was filed electronically on 1/25/2022. Now if this was done as an attempt to get around the fact that the registered agent which requires you to reside in the state of Wisconsin and be there daily for operations uh then uh you know what that's trying to conceal evidence that's kind of trying to conceal the the record here and so my question to you guys is uh what are we doing about this stuff? and and for the Ogema you know I I hear these very loose translations again of the constitution this Mr. Ryan tried to and uh Miss Sara Agosa say that this was a removal process no it wasn't the constitution clearly states it's an automatic forfeiture. Who enforces the laws of the tribe? it's the executive branch so you guys can play coy but when the BIA is in here and they're they're looking at this and they start looking at your fiduciary responsibility to this tribe you can answer to them you can try to put on the front for the citizens all you want but

Speaker Champagne: Your five minutes sir is close appearing

Israel Stone: uh what about Sara Agosa 20 minutes that you just gave her?

Speaker Champagne: Sir I'm just uh following the rule here

Israel Stone: You didn't follow it before you're following the rule when it suits you well guess what Ryan champagne

Recorder Wolfe: I'm keeping official time Mr. Stone and she did not go over; it was paused when it was responses you have about 45 seconds left

Israel Stone: okay well guess what I have the documents Mr. Ogema I will be delivering those documents to you um you guys have fun with this and have fun playing the games with the citizens and twisting this uh for your benefit but at the end of the day the shirt's gonna come out and this ain't gonna be good so all you council members that are duly elected by the citizens to sit there and represent us and they're allowing this to go on your culpable that's what that's called under law you're just as guilty

Recorder Wolfe: You're at your five minutes Mr. Stone

Israel Stone: Thank you, bye

Speaker Champagne: I'm glad to see we have our dollars well spent in executive leadership at the casino. Ah citizen Thull you have the floor ma'am

Susan Thull: thank you very much um I too have called the BIA. I have called the department of justice DOI, and I have talked to several different people um so, I I agree with Mr. Stone that we do need to have some other eyes and ears here in our government um there's been problems for many years um I actually have uh called quite a while ago and I have called recently so um you can make note of that if you like um, so I do feel that we do need to have some intervention here though because I think that there's many, many laws that are being broken. I do support this new council. I do support the budget that they came up with um I believe that there are positions that need to be um looked at in the casino. I believe that the budget was seen by those um that shouldn't have been until it was brought out and to open. I remember that we had a former GM that a lot of these people that are complaining now supported. That GM went to another tribe within six months he was fired. He essentially was doing the same thing in our tribe prior. I know that we called meetings. I know that we had all of those people from the casino rally around and support this man, now this person was not a good person. This person was taking advantage of our tribe and when I look at those people that supported him, I knew that they really weren't interested in the best interests of our tribe and now those people are raising a lot of issues up so be wary of who you follow.

Speaker Champagne: Thank you citizen Thull.

Susan Thull: Thank you

Speaker Champagne: Miss. Champagne next in queue

Councilor Champagne: yes, um Miss Thull I would say that you have every right to do what you did and um you know I know that you look at things with an open mind to see what your elected officials are doing for the people and I find it interesting that when we try to pass things that's going to benefit the majority of the people that we run into this kind of conflict and hitting the cement walls all the way around and that certain individuals on the elected body is targeted and they look into every aspect of the life their businesses. I mean we all know that council doesn't pay that much money and if we have businesses, we're not going to throw our businesses away just to try and help our people. So yes, they looked into um the Speakers' businesses and found out this information, there's no law against him having businesses or appointing other people to head up his business or sit on the boards of the businesses. Uh it sounds like jealousy to me that they have to go that deep now if you're going to go into the things that we're doing as council members and show us where we're doing it wrong and when we're not benefiting the people that's all well and good. I encourage that but unless you have something that's directly related to the tribe in the council and how it's going to affect the membership why are you bringing on personal businesses? Um you don't know anything about our businesses, and I guess that's what bothers me is that you think you have the right to dig into all our personal issues and use our children. I I'm just flabbergasted. I have never been so embarrassed to belong to a tribe and I know they've done a lot of nasty things but when you use my grandchildren for your own sick purposes then I am upset. um I would never do something like that and so, anyone sitting on this council that backs that shame



on you just hope that they don't decide you're not their friend tomorrow and do the same thing to you. Thank you

Speaker Champagne: okay councilor Champagne. Any other discussion for public comment? Any other discussion for public comment? Seeing no other discussion for public comment that will conclude this portion of the meeting. uh we will propose a motion to enter 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.* at this moment in time and entertain such motion.

Councilor Wever: you've been very distracting the whole time of this meeting and I'm I'm surprised the Ogema can even hear what's going on. I can't

Councilor DiPiazza: Okay

Councilor Wever: very childish

Councilor DiPiazza: sorry for your inconvenience

Councilor Wever: well, I can't hear

Councilor Guenthardt: Go sit in your office

Chelsea Densmore: oh, we can all hear you

Councilor Wever: then I might as well go home then

Speaker Champagne: yeah, our rules do say, rules do say that if you you can't discuss anything or have side matter on a vote um but with that being said any councilor have a motion at this time? Madame recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: make a

**MOTION TO END FIRST OPEN SESSION;** by Wolfe; supported by Wittenberg.

Speaker Champagne: thank you

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Champagne: We have motioned by madame recorder Wolfe support by councilor Wittenberg. Discussion of motion at hand? discussion of motion at hand? seeing no discussion madame recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #8**

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

Motion carried (6-1-2-0)

six in favor one against two abstentions. We have ended first open at 11:53 a.m.

Speaker Champagne: thank you, council thank, you citizens for your participation today always appreciate it

**XI. Open Session**

Speaker Champagne: thank you welcome back um just to check in. I do recognize that we have three council members madam recorder Wolfe councilmember Wittenberg

Recorder Wolfe: your voice went out. Mr. Speaker, we lost audio

Councilor Champagne: can you hear me?

Councilor Wever: yes

Councilor Wittenberg: yes

Recorder Wolfe: Still, nothing's coming through

Councilor Champagne: give him a minute he's going to log out and log back in and see if he can get audio then

Recorder Wolfe: okay

Speaker Champagne: okay all right. I do recognize that there's three council members in our chamber's council member Wever councilmember Wittenberg madam recorder Wolfe online there's myself Nitumigaabow uh Champagne, councilmember Lewis, councilmember Champagne um we have citizen Martha Howell and citizen uh miss Laura Echelbarger along with citizen miss Chelsea Densmore thank you uh ladies for continuing to join us. I'm sorry meeting uh has taken so long um at that we're at the stage where I entertain a motion at this time to enter into second open

Councilor Wittenberg: Make a

**MOTION TO GO INTO SECOND OPEN AT 4:49 p.m.** by  
Wittenberg; supported by Wever.

Councilor Wever: support

Speaker Champagne: We have a motion by councilman Wittenberg support by council member Wever um discussion with the motion on the floor? discussion on the motion on

the floor? Seeing no discussion on the motion on the floor madame recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #9**

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

Motion carried (6-0-3-0)

Six in favor three absent we are in the second open

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder Wolfe. um we are in the second open we only have one item on this uh second open uh the second open does

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

uh at this time it'll open any discussion if any uh council member wishes to have discussion at this time any discussion? seeing no discussion

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

um we're at the adjournment time I'd entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting at this time

**XII. Adjourn**

Councilor Wittenberg: make a

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 4:51p.m;** by Wittenberg; supported by Wever.

Speaker Champagne: we have a motion to adjourn support by councilor Wever. Did I hear that correctly?

Recorder Wolfe: yes, that was correct

Speaker Champagne: okay any discussion on the motion on the floor? this is an appropriate place to add in discussion motion on adjournment I just want to thank this council again for having the great dialogue that we did today in a professional way even with different opinions us six were able to sit and come to terms and reach agreements and resolve matters and I believe that's the intent of how council should be in the future. I commend each and every one of you as my colleagues we don't always agree but each one of you are always professional and I thank you for that. um with that being said that's my only discussion on the motion to adjourn. Any other discussion on the motion to adjourn? citizen Miss Chelsea Densmore

Chelsea Densmore: I apologize I'm not sure if this is the place to ask. I was just wondering if the budget had been extended or I know that you guys it had been voted and open and you were possibly gonna get some um legal advice in closed but I just didn't

know if the budget had been extended via the vote in open or if that had been if you had any update on that

Speaker Champagne: thank you for discussion on adjournment I can read that the record of that vote was seven abstentions two voted yes and that the motion resolution passed. I hope that helps for clarification of the record

Chelsea Densmore: It does Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: thank you any other discussions for motion to adjourn? any other discussions motion to adjourn? seeing no other discussion madam recorder Wolfe call please

Recorder Wolfe:

**Roll Call #10**

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

Motion carried (6-0-0-3)

Six in favor three absent we are adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chantel Gamelin,  
Transcribing Assistant

Julie Wolfe,  
Tribal Council Recorder