



Approved 02/26/2025

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2025
LITTLE RIVER BAND
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on February 05, 2025. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning, everyone. We are here this morning for our regular scheduled tribal council meeting for Wednesday, February 05, 2025.

I. Opening Prayer

I have asked Councilor DiPiazza to say the prayer. So, if you're able to stand, please stand. Thank you.

Councilor DiPiazza: *Prayer in Anishinaabemowin.* and what I said is I pray to all creation; we can work together for the betterment of our citizens and to give them a better way of life. With that being said, Miigwech, Miigwech, Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Moving down on the agenda to

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

I will call this meeting to order at 10:01am. Next, the Zoom users. If you are a Tribal citizen, please list your name, your Tribal ID. If you are an employee, please list your name and the department that you work in. Thank you. Annie Perry, please identify yourself.

Annie Perry: Good morning, Annie Perry, Legislative Council.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning, thank you. Beth McClellan, please identify yourself.

Beth McClellan: Beth McClellan, 2915.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Chris, 2916, please identify yourself.

Chris McClellan: Chris McClellan, 2916.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Delia Ross, please identify yourself.

Delia Ross: 2446

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Jolene O'Signac, please identify yourself.

Jolene O'Signac: Jolene O'Signac, 3866.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Kathleen Bowers, please identify yourself.

Kathleen Bowers: Kathleen Bowers, Budget Coordinator.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Kimberly McClellan, please identify yourself.

Kimberly McClellan: Kimberly McClellan, 2918.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Lee McCaslin, please identify yourself.

Lee McCaslin: *Anishinaabemowin*. Lee McCaslin, 0748.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. LeeAnn A please identify yourself. LeeAnn A please identify yourself. LeeAnn A please identify yourself.

LeeAnn Austin: LeeAnn Austin, 3878.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Legi Assistant is Chantel Gamelin. Venus, please identify yourself.

Venus Battaglia: *Anishinaabemowin*. Venus Battaglia, Staff and Tribal Member, 1102.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sandy Mezeske, please identify yourself.

Sandy Mezeske: Sandy Mezeske, 0018.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sara Agosa, please identify yourself.

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa, 4478.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Shannon Crampton, please identify yourself.

Councilor Crampton: Shannon Paul Crampton, Outlying Tribal Council Rep, 1747.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Susan Thull, please identify yourself.

Susan Thull: 3727.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Phone number 1906-458-4757 Guest, please identify yourself.

Vicki LaPorte: Vicki LaPorte, 3384.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Roy Vanas, please identify yourself

Roy Vanas: Roy Vanas, 4906.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay. Thank you, everybody. Moving down to

B. Roll Call

Recorder Johnson, can you please do roll call?

Recorder Johnson:

T. Burmeister -Present	G. DiPiazza - Present	M. Silvis - Present
R. Wittenberg- Present	J. Wolfe - Present	A. Metzger - Present
S. Crampton - Present	P. Johnson - Present	S. Wever - Present

We do have quorum.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

C. Approval of Agenda

Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from the item? Any councilors with questions? Any citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council. With no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: I like to make a **motion to approve the agenda for Wednesday, February 5th, 2025, with the following edits. Under IV, old business C, housing commission report that's been removed. We didn't receive an updated report. Under new business B, C, D, E, and F, we got corrected resolutions. There was a spelling error in each of those, so it was corrected at agenda review. And that's it.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Okay will there be any councilors that have any questions? Any citizens? Back to Tribal Council. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 1

R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever - Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. We have two citizens that have joined us, so I'd like to have them identify themselves. Sky Gonzalez, please identify yourself.

Sky Gonzalez: Sky Gonzalez, 1042.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Shawna Gonzalez, please identify yourself.

Shawna Gonzalez: Shawna Gonzalez, 4700.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down on the agenda under General Business

**D. Tribal Council Minutes □ 01/15/2025 □ 01/22/25 □
01/28/2025 Emergency**

Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from these minutes? Councilors with questions? Councilor Metzger, go ahead, please.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Are we going to be accepting them as a group or individually? Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other councilors with questions? Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? Okay, with no further questions or any questions, um will there, I would like to entertain a motion, please, for the minutes. Councilor Metzger, go ahead, please.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. This time, I'd like to make a **motion to accept Tribal Council Minutes for 1/15/25, 1/22/25, 1/28/25 an emergency meeting.**

Speaker Burmeister: Any councilors with questions? Any citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 2

S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever - Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes
J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger - Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. They've all been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts

**1. Approval for the NRD to submit an application
For State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG)
Funding For the FY25/26 federal fiscal years.**

**Tribal Ogema
J. Vaquera**

So, Jasmine, the floor is yours.

Jasmine Vaquera: Uh good morning. My name is Jasmine Vaquera, and I'm the air quality specialist over at Natural Resources. Uh we request tribal council approval to submit a grant application for the EPA state and tribal indoor radon grant for fiscal year...fiscal years 25 and 26. Uh this grant is going to allow our department to incorporate radon testing and outreach into our current indoor air program.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Jasmine. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Councilor DiPiazza, go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: How many radon kits will that be?

Jasmine Vaquera: Uh we're planning on purchasing 300 in total for the two-year project period.

Councilor DiPiazza: And then they like give them back to you and you send them in, or they send them in?

Jasmine Vaquera: Yeah, the plan is...

Councilor DiPiazza: Or department.

Jasmine Vaquera: it's going to be a part of our uh healthy home check. So pretty much tribal members are going to sign up uh to do the healthy home check. And we will go there and teach them how to use the test kit. But they will be administering the test kit, and they will be responsible for mailing it out as well.

Councilor DiPiazza: Hmm Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: What is the um service area or delivery where the program is going to be ran?

Jasmine Vaquera: Uh we're planning on doing the nine-county service area. Our original plan was to do uh stick to the two reservation boundaries. But after deliberating with EPA, uh they're not really expecting us to get a whole lot of interest at first because this is a pilot project. Um so we decided to expand it from the reservation boundaries to the nine counties.

Councilor Wolfe: So, with this amount of funding, will there be enough travel? You said you're going to go to their house individually. Will there be enough travel funds allocated in this? To do them...

Jasmine Vaquera: Yes, we did.

Councilor Wolfe: Or are you going to do them or are you going to do outreaches in those areas?

Jasmine Vaquera: Yes, uh the outreach will mostly be uh here uh at events like um membership meetings. And then for travel, we're only, and this is probably, this is an overshot, but uh we're planning on doing like two to three tests per week maximum.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, thank you

Councilor Metzger: She had asked the question. Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Any other councilors with questions? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: And just to explain a little bit for what Radon is and then what this achieves on that, because I know some people may not be familiar with it. I know it was uh...

Jasmine Vaquera: Yeah, uh Radon is an odorless, uh colorless, tasteless gas. Um and it occurs with the natural breakdown of uranium in the soil. What happens is it can slip through cracks in the foundation of buildings and homes. There are no like symptoms that pop up. There are no, the symptoms are severe, but they show up...don't pop up. They're delayed. Um and it can take years for these health problems to develop. Uh it's the leading cause of lung cancer uh in America for nonsmokers so.

Councilor Wolfe: And then my final question is, the um part of this grant does cover the government building, so testing kits will be installed by Natural Resource and those um results would be available. Is it going to be a published uh report for tribal membership at the end of the project?

Jasmine Vaquera: Yes, yeah, we're planning on doing a summary report, which will be uploaded to the Natural Resource page on the website.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, I was going to say the only real cure for it is ventilation. So, make sure your crawl space and basements are ventilated. What doesn't build up? I'm good.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Uh I know you said you're going to service the nine-county area.

Jasmine Vaquera: Mm hmm

Councilor Metzger: We do have a population outside of Michigan. You did mention your rate. Alright. We do have tribal members, I believe, in the western states. If they contacted you, could you maybe send them to somebody for a radon kit? Or

Jasmine Vaquera: Yes, yeah. In most counties, uh their health department should have a radon test kit. I'd be more than happy to assist them and find those resources, um but we wouldn't be able to send them a test kit. But yeah, I'd be more than happy to help them find the resources to find the test kit.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you very much. I'm good.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other Councilors with questions? Tribal citizens? Mike.

Mike Ceplina: Mike Ceplina, 0692. Um up at housing, I would hope that they get tested every year up there because you've got people living in the basements up there. And I tested my house there that I rent, and uh it had radon. And so, for housing and that, that should be tested all the time because that does cause cancer and that. So, I hope this program would address that. Thank you very much.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other citizens with questions or comments? Go ahead, Shirley. Go ahead, Councilor Wever.

Councilor Wever: Yes Mike, um what do you do for it? What have you been doing for it?

Mike Ceplina: Well, there's an acceptable level and then there isn't. Our house didn't have the acceptable level. So, they had to come in there and they had to do, like Gary said, you had to drill a hole through the concrete, and you had to ventilate that air and that out of there for them gases.

Councilor Wever: And do you still test it? Are you testing it on a regular basis? Because you.

Mike Ceplina: No because they set it up and you can see the little mark on there. And if it goes above a certain mark, then you get a hold of them to come back in. So

Councilor Wever: Thank you.

Mike Ceplina: Yep

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other citizens? Back to Tribal Council. Councilor Wolfe, go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: And on this grant application, there's no tribal match?

Jasmine Vaquera: No.

Councilor Wolfe: And there's no indirect costs for the tribe because EPA doesn't allow for that.

Jasmine: No, yeah

Councilor Wolfe: So, the whole total is for staffing and supplies.

Jasmine Vaquera: Yes

Councilor Wolfe: And what is the amount that we're applying for?

Jasmine Vaquera: Um it is \$71,098. We did a pre-application, which was just um over email. It wasn't an official application. And that was the amount we did get approved for the exact amount that we asked for.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other Councilors? Any citizens with questions or comments? Back to Tribal Council. With no further questions or comments, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: No further questions. I'll make a motion to approve resolution 25-0205-012, approval of NRD to submit an application for state and tribal indoor radon grant, SIRG funding for the FY25, FY26 federal fiscal years.

Councilor Wever: Su..

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wolfe had her hand up.

Councilor Wolfe: Well, I just wanted.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: To mention, there was that edit that was um made at agenda review. You have a therefore it be resolved with nothing on the paragraph on the last page.

Jasmine Vaquera: Yes

Councilor Wolfe: We didn't receive an update.

Jasmine Vaquera: Yeah, uh I emailed it to um Tammy and Pam uh yesterday.

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah, we didn't receive an update. So, I don't know how that impacts the motion Gary just made.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, then now the one I'm looking at still adds, but she sent it, then I'll make that included in the resolution to remove that therefore be it resolved from the resolution.

Councilor Wolfe: For clarification, can we have the whole motion restated before we vote?

Councilor DiPiazza: Anything. What are you looking for? Well, I'll restate it then. **Motion to approve resolution 25-0205-012, approval of approval for the NRD to submit an application for state and tribal indoor radon grant SIRC funding for FY25, FY26 federal fiscal years with removing the last therefore be it resolved from the resolution. Page two.**

Councilor Wolfe: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, any further comments or questions from council? Tribal citizens? Back to council. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 3

G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes
J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger - Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes
P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever- Yes	S. Crampton- Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor, it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Thank you, Jasmine.

Jasmine Vaquera: Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Before we move on to item two, we have several people, uh tribal citizens that have joined us. Martha Howell, can you please identify yourself? Martha Howell, can you please identify yourself?

Mark Huddleston: Her emoji's back and forth and whoops.

Speaker Burmeister: Martha Howell, can you please identify yourself? I'll come back to her. Chelsea Densmore, please identify yourself.

Recorder Johnson: Chelsea dropped off.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh she off. Okay. Moving down. Staci Chaney, please identify yourself.

Staci Cheney: 992.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Mark Huddleston, please identify yourself.

Mark Huddleston: Mark Huddleston, 3230. Good morning.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. Thank you. Um we have Alicia Goff on the line, but she does not have a mic and she's from HR. I'll go back to Martha Howell. Please identify yourself. Martha Howell, please identify yourself. Martha Howell. Martha, since you haven't identified yourself, we have to put you in the waiting room. Thank you. Go ahead, Staci. You have a question?

Staci Cheney: Um yeah, it's just a real quick question. Um, since we haven't gotten the financials in multiple months, um, how is it legal that we're having a Tribal Council meeting and, um, accepting funds and taking votes?

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wolfe, were you going to answer, Staci? Okay. You had your hand, something else. Okay. Um we still have to continue business, Staci, and I acknowledge that, no, we haven't had the financials, but we still have to move on with our business and keep, um, keep moving forward.

Staci Cheney: And have you addressed the Ogema regarding this topic?

Speaker Burmeister: Um, yes. And what you're asking, too, is, I believe, public comment. We need to move.

Staci Cheney: I just thought...

Speaker Burmeister: Forward on the agenda.

Staci Cheney: I just thought it was pertinent because we're going over business but thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Yes, Sara, do you have a question about the agenda or is this a public comment question?

Sara Agosa: I'll save that for public comment, but Staci is absolutely correct. Business should not move forward unless you receive those financial reports.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate your comment. So, moving down to two, Vicki's in there. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Well, I see that you let Martha Howell return, but I don't think she falls in any other situation um of identifying and not us not knowing who we are than Alicia and HR with no microphone. She's very active and participates. So, I would request she's allowed to attend.

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah. Yeah. Um we have, well, two citizens. One, I've been asking for her to identify herself. Martha Howell, can you identify yourself, please?

Staci Cheney: Tammy?

Speaker Burmeister: Yes, Staci.

Staci Cheney: This is Staci. Martha just messaged me and said that she can hear you calling her name, but she can't um, but she can't answer. For some reason, she's not able to answer you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Um she did have her picture on.

Staci Cheney: Yeah

Speaker Burmeister: So, can you do that, Staci? Or Martha can hear me. So, Martha, could you do that, please? I don't see. Is it up there? Now? I don't see it. She has her hand up, too. Okay. Vicki um Vicki Sam, please identify yourself.

Vicki Sam: Vicki Sam, Tribal Member 4841 and Elders Meal Coordinator.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay. Alicia, go ahead, please. Can you uh show us a picture? I meant; she lowered her hand. Councilor Crampton, go ahead.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, uh what Councilor Wolfe is trying to bring to your attention, Speaker, is something that brought to your attention in the past. The um rules have to be applied evenly across the board. This can't be happening just because you know who they are or are related to them. They have to be applied equally. So, if you have one person who can identify themselves, but we all know who they are, and you're saying, hey, that's okay, because we all know who they are. And that goes for Martha as well, because we all know who she is. And now the other topic that Mrs. Cheney was bringing up, and Ms. Agosa tried to stress to you, um if we're accepting funds, yes, that is a topic. If we're on the point of the agenda, we're accepting funds, and you haven't received um financials, and I think I've asked you this question uh repeatedly. How is council proceeding? I know you don't want to make waves for your buddy on the executive, but um this is a council. This is a professional body. There's no way we can be operating with nine, or are we going to go for 10? I said this when we were at seven. I said this when we were at eight. Now we're at nine. Are we going for 10? This is ridiculous and very unprofessional, but this is the most unprofessional speaker I've ever seen in Little River. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, I'm just going to give you a warning, Councilor Crampton, if you keep um degrading.

Councilor Crampton: Speaking my mind. I'm not degrading you.

Speaker Burmeister: You will be muted. So just so you know that we can have a decent meeting without all the derogatory comments from you.

Councilor Crampton: They're not derogatory. They're just something you don't like.

Speaker Burmeister: Yes, they are. Please, you're not in the queue, please. Um Mark Huddleston, you are in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Mark Huddleston: I would suggest that Martha sign out and sign back in. Uh

Speaker Burmeister: She is in.

Mark Huddleston: Oh, I didn't. I thought she couldn't speak. So, alright.

Speaker Burmeister: She does have her picture up. Okay, uh let's see. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Oh, yes, speaker, before you get out of the hand with what I've said before is the um this little game that you play. Um no, you're not going to be lowering this to the level of these are my buddies. I don't like what people say, so I'm going to stop.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay we are moving along on the agenda because we're not listening to that. Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Crampton: Pop, Mom and Pop

Councilor Wolfe: Are you going to make the citizen identify herself that joined outside of Martha?

Speaker Burmeister: Which citizen are you talking about, Councilor Wolfe? Because I've been writing. She already identified herself. She dropped off and she came back in, but I had already... I asked her to identify herself. So, that has already been done. Okay, go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Well, no, it's not okay because she didn't identify herself. She's in the same place as Martha. I think you're either mixing thing that aren't.

Speaker Burmeister: Shawna did identify herself.

Councilor Crampton: Absolutely delusional.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, mm hmm. Okay we are moving along. We are on to item two um under grants and contract

2. Ratification of addendum to Grand Traverse

Tribal Ogema

**Engineering & Construction (GTEC) Contract for
Demolition of Jockey Quarters on Tribal Parcel in
Fruitport Township.**

S. Parsons

So, Steve, the floor is yours.

Steve Parsons: Uh good morning and thank you. Uh this um agenda item is uh requesting a ratification of an addendum to a contract that we have with Grand Traverse Engineering and Construction um for their project management services for the demolition of the Jockey Quarters uh down uh on what used to be the Great Lakes Downs parcel but is now a Tribal Parcel in Fruitport Township. Um and basically, what this entails is uh essentially one change and that we change the end date of the contract to February 15th, 2025. The original um end date on the contract was October 31st, 2024. Um there were a number of things that happened in the fall that were unfortunate uh but delayed this project um from being completed during that time period. Um and there really was not um the proper clearances we needed to proceed with the project until roughly December of last year. Um and so, we covered this in agenda review, so not to repeat myself, but just so everyone's up to speed. Uh the three things that needed to happen before the demolition could actually begin was...

Speaker Burmeister: No sidebars, please. Go... I'm sorry about that, Steve.

Steve Parsons: Oh, that's fine.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead.

Steve Parsons: I'll keep going. But basically, the three things that needed to happen, there were more, but these were essential that needed to be done, uh was there had to be an asbestos inspection of the building to make sure there was no asbestos there, uh because it uh poses a health risk if there is, and they begin demolition because it flies all over the place and etc. The other two had to do with connections from utilities in the area to the building that needed to be disconnected and then verified by the two uh the two companies. Uh the electrical connection was Consumers Energy, and the gas line connection was uh Detroit uh Detroit Edison. Um they also go by DTE. Um when this contract was approved, um those were things that, uh given their past experience, they thought they could get done um first couple weeks of October, and they could begin the demolition shortly after that. Unfortunately, that didn't happen because everything was late. The asbestos report didn't come in until November 7th. The uh consumers uh verification of the disconnection of the power didn't come in until November 7th. And most importantly, and what really dragged this out, was the um verification and report from DTE of the gas line that it was disconnected uh didn't was not made available until December 15th. Um the contractor was essentially waiting uh for this clearance to be... to be turned in before they could get started. And unfortunately, that didn't happen until December 18th of last year. Um they assured uh Ken Ockert, the president of GTEC and myself, that they could do the demolition uh in two to four weeks, and so we told them to go ahead. Uh only from the standpoint that they were mobilized fully, they had everything there they needed, they just needed to perform that uh demolition. Um and so

in order to make the contract correct in terms of you know what happened when, in terms of and why it happened was the delays, um we're asking, or I'm asking, that we amend the agreement of two with a contract ending date of February 15th, uh 2025. Uh in that way, everything is as it should be, um and that's why this is before you today. I know we talked about this during agenda review. It was a kind of a confusing situation, and I apologize for that, um but it was something that needed to be done. We were in a position to get it done, and we did. Uh the demo actually uh was finished by January 10th, and the restoration of the site occurred on January 27th, so this new date will encompass both of those activities um as services that we contracted for in the original contract, and hopefully I didn't confuse folks along the way, but I'm happy to take any questions that anyone has on this, knowing that it's very unorthodox. I acknowledge that.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Steve. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Councilor Metzger, go ahead, please.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Hi, Steve. How's it going? Uh I'm looking at your letter from you to the Ogema, and in the third paragraph was the original contract was ratified by Tribal Council Resolution 24098

Steve Parsons: right

Councilor Metzger: -161. I believe that's uh should have been 0918, because a couple of words right after that, it said on September 18th.

Steve Parsons: Okay, yeah, that's a that's a typo. That's my fault. That is...It was the 18th of September of last year, yeah.

Councilor Metzger: And then I've also noticed that in the resolution, uh on the certificate adoption, there's uh 2024.

Steve Parsons: Oh,

Councilor Metzger: Should be updated 2025.

Seve Parsons: Yeah, that's my typo also, and I'll get that taken care of. But thank you.

Councilor Metzger: I'm good, thank you. Just wanted to point those out

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other questions from Tribal Councilors? Councilor Wolfe, go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: Um Steve, what you're bringing forward is an amendment to the Master Service Agreement. Um just extending the date to February 15th, 2025. But in your resolution, it doesn't say, um your title is a ratification of amendment, but typically in whereas it says, um venue for disputes arising out of the amendment to this contract,

and then also now therefore it's resolved, Tribal Council and Little River Band authorizes the Ogema to execute the agreement. It usually says execute the amendment to the agreement.

Steve Parsons: Okay.

Councilor Wolfe: So, I think we missed those in agenda review. So, I would like to see if we can postpone this and get it added as a typical resolution that we adopt for amendments to contracts and bring it back in second open.

Steve Parsons: Okay.

Councilor Wolfe: If you're agreeable to that, because I just see that being inconsistent with our past practices, and then it can lead to some confusion. We do have a pending lawsuit case over an amended contract. So.

Steve Parsons: Okay.

Councilor Wolfe: I think it's important for our resolution to be correct.

Steve Parsons: Okay. And thank you for pointing that out.

Councilor Wolfe: If you're comfortable with that, um

Steve Parsons: Yeah

Councilor Wolfe: Bringing it back in second open, I'll make that motion.

Steve Parsons: Um is it possible that I can get the proper wording from Chantel or Venus? Or I don't want to, you know, take up you guys' time today. You got a lot going on. Uh but is it possible to make, just to make sure that the wording is consistent uh and it's correct um in the authorizing resolution?

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah. Since this is an open item, I would ask Chantel to help you with that. Yes.

Steve Parsons: Okay. Will do. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: That comment, I'll make a **motion to append to postpone this agenda item, addendum to agreement with Grand Traverse Engineering and Construction until second open.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Does Tribal Council have any further questions? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, um I'll support the postponement, but I'm not going to support the action itself. To say it's unorthodox is um being generous. This is an after-the-fact fix-it. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Just let me know when you're ready, Pam. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 4

S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson – Yes	S. Wever - No
G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes
J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger- Absent	R. Wittenberg- Yes

Motion carried (7-1-0-1)

Seven in favor, one against, one absent. It's been postponed.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Steve.

Steve Parsons: Yeah, is there a certain time you'd like me to come back? Um or should I just wait to hear from someone, or?

Speaker Burmeister: How about if you wait to hear from someone because it's hard to put a time on that?

Steve Parsons: and I understand.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Steve Parsons: Oh, okay, great. I appreciate that. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Alright thank you, Steve.

Steve Parsons: Thank you for your time.

Speaker Burmeister: Moving down to

B. Budget Modifications

There's nothing listed under that

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

Nothing listed under that.

IV. Old Business

A. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S Department of Interior- Bureau of Indian Affairs- And approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB2025-__ in the amount of \$244,371.00

Tribal Ogema
K. Bowers

So, Kathleen, the floor is yours.

Kathleen Bowers: Thank you. Um this is accepting funds from the Self-Governance BIA. My contact, um we are accepting \$69,608 into public safety, 4036. And then the TPA base is broken down um as family services receiving \$25,637.73, education receiving \$43,341.22, National Resource Department receiving \$58,394, and public safety um under the TPA receiving \$47,483.11 uh for a total acceptance of funds of \$244,371.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. So, in the resolution, the contract funds are awarded as a part of the 2025 Self-Governance Compact. Are the. Is the tribe under sanctions? And were these affected by it?

Kathleen Bowers: Um affected by sanctions. The only thing they asked us to do was um do the... the \$174,763 draw for the TPA base, just in three... three distribution withdraws. And that was it. There was no holding back funds or anything like that.

Councilor Wolfe: So, we are in sanctions. And this first award that we got for January 6, 2025, was affected by sanctions in the way that we draw down and expend funding?

Kathleen Bowers: Uh just for the TPA base, yes.

Councilor Wolfe: Well, the other award was received on January, I mean, on December 30, 2024, correct?

Kathleen Bowers: Yeah, but those are, from my understanding, those do not um fall out. It's just the TPA base and the contract support costs.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, then can you explain TPA base? Because I see that the law enforcement's non-TPA.

Kathleen Bowers: TPA base is um it's distributed evenly um among those four areas. Um I'm not trying to think what TPA stands for. Of course, you put me on the spot, so I can't think. Of course. See if I can look it up while I'm on the phone with ya. It's coming up readily. Yeah, I can't think of um a word I'm looking for that.

Councilor Wolfe: Well, a follow-up question. Those awards that we received on December 30, 2024, they're a part of fiscal year 2024 program-based funding levels. Is this going in the open books for 2024? Because this budget mod has it all going into 2025.

Kathleen Bowers: It's going into 2025.

Councilor Wolfe: Is there a timeline and expenditures of those?

Kathleen Bowers: Uh no, not with self-governance, no.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay.

Speaker Burmeister: Kathleen, are you still looking up that definition?

Kathleen Bowers: I'm trying to but go ahead.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, well, I just I didn't want to move forward or anything if you're still trying to look that up.

Kathleen Bowers: I'll let you know when I find it.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, any other councilors with questions or comments? Citizens, Staci, I see you have your hand up. Go ahead, please.

Staci Cheney: Yeah, TPA is third party administration.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Kathleen.

Kathleen Bowers: It's actually tribal priority allocations. Um It's a collection of programs that provide federal funding for basic tribal services.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: So then, Kathleen, I'm going to go back to the three drawdowns because of the sanctions. So, the \$174 that we're doing, \$174,000 that we're doing by budget modification, that would be broken down differently and go to the budget. How would it be impacted? Or how are those drawdowns proposed to be happening?

Kathleen Bowers: Um I would just do the drawdowns each month. I can do one for January, February, March uh for those drawdowns. And it is as follows. For that \$174,000, I could draw down \$65,631.29 in January. I drew down \$65,631.29 in February. And then the last of it um comes out in March of \$43,542. I'm not sure exactly how they come up with those numbers, but those were the numbers I was given.

Councilor Wolfe: So how do you complete a drawdown in January when we're just now accepting the funding, and putting it into the budget?

Kathleen Bowers: Well, with the um President Trump's issue, I hurried up and did as much as I could to get down. Um, with the pending loom that we may not be able to draw down any funds.

Councilor Wolfe: So right now, we have \$65,000 that's not accepted by Tribal Council, but in the 2025 budget.

Kathleen Bowers: It's been drawn down and it has not gone into the budget yet until we do that resolution.

Councilor Wolfe: So, if this fails, you send it back?

Kathleen Bowers: I haven't done it this way. Just, I mean, I was trying to hurry up and do drawdowns for that President Trump's order. Um I would guess that would be what we'd have to do.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, thank you.

Kathleen Bowers: You're welcome.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other questions from Council? Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Not really a question. This is just for the membership's consumption and speaking long lines. Yeah, Mrs. Bowers is right on the um Trump administration is... is worrisome. Let's just put it that way. But right now, it's under DOJ, which is headed up by Elon Musk. And if you've read what they're going through and they're reviewing everything, they're going back and looking at people who play by the rules and don't have any marks. They're gonna get the funding. The people who do have marks are not gonna get any. So, I suggest you guys start reading the DOJ pamphlets. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Alright, um I'd like to entertain a motion for this item. Councilor Silvis, go ahead, please.

Councilor Silvis: I'd like to make a **motion to accept resolution number 25-0205-013, acceptance of contract funds from the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and approving a modification to the operating budget, MB 2025-03 in the amount of \$244,371.**

Councilor Wever: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: You. Pam. Okay, will there be any further comments or questions from Tribal Council? Tribal Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do a roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 5

G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes
J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger - No	R. Wittenberg- Yes
P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever- Yes	S. Crampton- No

Motion carried (7-2-0-0)
Seven in favor to against, it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

B. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S Department of Interior- Bureau of Indian Affairs- And approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB2025-__ in the amount of \$404,984.00 Tribal Ogema K. Bowers

So, Kathleen, the floor is yours.

Kathleen Bowers: Thank you. Um this is receiving funds um between the 2025 budget. It's for 2024 self-governance contract. Um CSC Support Plus uh Family Services receives \$53,651.27. Education receives \$90,698.80. Natural Resource Department, \$122,004.53. Public Safety receives \$99,366.40. Uh Tribal Court receives \$8,928. Um we have a new program, the Monarch Habitat Establishment, and that is receiving \$14,688.35. And Autumn Olive Removal is receiving \$15,646.65 for a total of \$404,984.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: So, we received these awards in 2024 and they're part of the 2024 self-governance compact. Are these being backdated to 2024?

Kathleen Bowers: No, they're going into the 2025.

Councilor Wolfe: And we received them in October and November. Why are they just moving forward now? We didn't accept it.

Kathleen Bowers: Because I did not get the final paperwork from the BIA until after the first of the year. They put a... they put this notice out there, but they just say it's not ready. I have to wait for them to tell me it's ready to be um drawn down.

Councilor Wolfe: So, the notice came in October, but the funds weren't ready to be drawn down until after the federal Trump administration and all the freezes?

Kathleen Bowers: At...no, it was after the first of the year. Not, it was before Trump, but we've been um had this on the agenda in January. So, it was postponed.

Councilor Wolfe: So, the funds aren't affected by the sanctions, and these are a complete drawdown?

Kathleen Bowers: Correct, correct.

Councilor Wolfe: Have any notice or issues and these are TPA funds?

Kathleen Bowers: They're not TPA funds. So, we are good to draw down.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay. And then I just want to move over to, you have Natural Resource Department getting um in their account the 4031 and then you have two new accounts for the monarch habitat and autumn olive removal. I'm just wondering why those are broken out and not just under Natural Resource Department dollars.

Kathleen Bowers: Because they are their own program under self-governance. So, there are two new programs that will be monitored um by Sean Hollowell.

Councilor Wolfe: Are these funds expected to continue? We would receive them from now again, possibly in 2025, or these are just annual programs, one-time funding?

Kathleen Bowers: It just says one-time distribution. So, you just really don't know. They don't give us that much information.

Frank Beavers: If I might answer why they're separate.

Speaker Burmeister: Sure, go ahead.

Frank Beavers: So, these are GLRI, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds and the Bureau uses the OSG mechanism to distribute those funds. And so, it comes through on these notices like Kathleen's speaking about. Let me. My motioning to the ether. But yeah, um so that's how that comes down to us through these awards and notices. But it's a discussion that we have with the Bureau through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding. So that's why those are separate. Even though they come through on an OSG notice, the Bureau uses that mechanism because that's how they distribute funds to tribes. But they're um programs that we have requested specifically from BIA funding for to do those projects. And Sean can tell us you know more if we want to know about the specifics of those projects.

Councilor Wolfe: Thanks for that.

Frank Beavers: You bet.

Councilor Wolfe: Um what I did want to ask is if Sean can give a quick overview of each of the new programs and projects and how they benefit membership.

Sean Hollowell: Uh yeah, so I'm Sean Hollowell. I'm Wildlife Division Manager. Um and the Monarch Pollinator Habitat Project um is for 6.5 acres of additional monarch habitat. Um the majority of that approximately \$15,000, \$12,000 will go towards um native uh seed for uh native prairie species. Um there's also a few hundred dollars to plant uh milkweed plugs. Um and we're hoping to... Before uh applying for this funding, we discussed it with the Education Department. And we're hoping to get um community members the opportunity to plant milkweed on some of the tribal properties um and continue that um work that the Education Department has been doing with uh monarchs and milkweed and um allow tribal members to uh connect with nature in that way. Um

and then the autumn olive removal is for uh removing an invasive shrub called autumn olive, um which is very aggressive, grows very densely and uh creates these thorny thickets that exclude uh native species. Um and it makes it difficult for tribal members um to traverse properties if they want to go uh hunt or gather or just hike the tribal properties. Um and it also uh alters uh soil nutrient levels and doesn't provide much nutrition for native wildlife. So, um removing that is uh going to help ecosystems and people um on tribal parcels.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, I have some follow-up questions. On the Monarch Habitat, it's to establish them all over on um tribal properties, some of those tribal properties specific where they're gonna be um establishing that habitat. And then on the Monarch Watch Program, are any of this including so we can expand the program to um purchase more caterpillars and do more with monitoring, weighing and tagging them as they're released?

Sean Hollowell: Uh so, some of the tribal properties, I wanna make sure that at least some of the um project takes place on um public facing properties where people spend a lot of time like um outside the Gov Center or outside the community center by Aki. Um and then the remainder will be uh used on various other tribal parcels um that are more naturalized. Um and it will not be used directly um on monarchs themselves. It will be used um for habitat purposes. Um but the education department does, they've done in the past um projects with uh milkweed and milkweed fluff and seed and things like that. And um those plants can be used for those purposes.

Councilor Wolfe: So, these new habitats that we create, are they gonna be designated for monarch habitat? And you can document that one release by our tribe visited one of our newly established habitats because of the tracking and tagging?

Sean Hollowell: Uh I think we could do that, yeah. Um it's not uh specifically written into the grant, but I don't see why we couldn't just do that ourselves.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, thank you. And on the autumn olive, what is the properties for that? And then how does this autumn olive spread? And what are we using to um assist in the removal?

Sean Hollowell: Um

Councilor Wolfe: So, it's not causing further damage or how it's protecting?

Sean Hollowell: Yeah, so its um it's most of the removal will take place on the Griffith Road parcel. Um and there will also be some done on the Rainbow Bend parcel. Um and we'll be uh cutting the autumn olive and applying herbicide to the stumps. And that's how we'll, uh yeah, move a little bit.

Councilor Wolfe: So, what kind of treatment or chemicals are you specific for treatment of this to kill off that plant? And what is the eco impact of that?

Sean Hollowell: Uh so, it's a triclopyr is the one name of the herbicide that we're planning to use. Um it's designed for uh woody plants. And um the method that we're using uh is designed to minimize the amount of herbicide that we put out into the environment, um rather than spraying all the leaves um of the plant, which could uh allow for non-target impacts. Um we're applying the herbicide with a sponge directly to the stump uh so that we're not uh impacting the surrounding area.

Councilor Wolfe: And so, this application and process is just a pass-through grant you're contracting out for that actual treatment. The department itself is not going to purchase chemicals and do that.

Sean Hollowell: Uh so, the ma... about \$10,000 um is for uh hiring a contractor and that's for the extremely dense areas of autumn olive. The areas where it's uh sparser and um easier to do with a crew of our size, uh we'll be doing that ourselves. Um and uh everyone who applies herbicide with the uh NRD, I make sure that they're fully licensed and um they go through a training program on using herbicides.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay. And then so you named those parcels where the um removal or the treatment process is going to happen. And the benefit to the membership, that's what I had asked about, is important because they exercise treaty rights, there's hunting and gathering that goes on... on those parcels by this autumn olive is important to eradicate.

Sean Hollowell: Yeah. Um yeah, I know uh people go hunting out at Griffith and um obviously all of the tribal parcels are open to hunting and gathering for tribal members and any other kind of recreation that they want to do out there. Um and these autumn olive has a lot of thorns, it grows very densely in thickets, so it reduces people's ability to move through um those parcels. And um it can make uh hunting more difficult by reducing sight lines, um gathering more difficult by excluding native plants. So yeah, that's what I would say the benefits are.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you, I appreciate all those comments and your work that you're doing for the tribe. Thank you.

Sean Hollowell: Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any citizens with questions or comments? Mike?

Mike Ceplina: Mike Ceplina, 0692. Yeah, I got a problem with uh putting all the pesticides on our land, just like our farmer over here with the corn. Um we don't want it polluted; we want it cleaned up. There's other ways that you can do it without the pesticides. You know, you can cut it. We got a machine that, I don't know, it's over 300 some thousand dollars. It grinds it up in that. And then after they start growing again, you go through there and you pull them up, the little shoots to keep them down. Yeah, that's a pest, that Russian olive. It's a hassle. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor DiPiazza, you had your hand up. Go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, I'm just going to say that that invasive species was handed out years ago to state hunters. When you got your deer tags, they gave you a bag of seeds and said, sprinkle these. So that's where they came from. So, the monarchs, that's, you know, they migrate every year. And I'm glad you guys are doing this for that. I don't know. I've got a lot of milkweed and monarchs when they come in all over the property. So sometimes they're more of a pest than a brilliance. But... that and I don't cut any of the milkweed. So doing my part. That's it.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you, Councilor Metzger. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Uh, Sean, I want to say thank you for... for bringing this forward and uh for what you're proposing. Uh sounds like that uh autumn olive might be a problem that we might have to look at in the years to come. You know, keep following up on it. Uh and it sounds like a real awesome program that you got going on. Like I said earlier, due to the fact that we're nine months behind in finances, I can't support this. But that's just me. Thank you

Sean Hollowell: Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other Councilors with comments or questions? Okay. With no further comments or questions, I'd like to entertain. Oh, go ahead, Councilor Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, thinking about these things. And um it's a 50-50 for me. Uh the one is we turn around, we got the monarchs, but now we're poisoning the land. And to me, it don't add up. No, just wanted to let you know. Uh we're trying to cover up what the beauty of the monarchs of everything else, when uh to me more of getting rid of those evasive things it would be the number one. Because it is, it grows wild, and it grows all over. But then we turn around and we talk about uh long time ago of our orchards that goes on and on and on of uh poisoning our land. And that's where I'm at. The land is just like the water, poisoning our water. And then uh while we did that, let's poison our uh land. And uh I don't have a very good view. Yes, I do like the monarch, but the big thing is on that is uh the poisoning of the land. And I did bring that up before on and my view hasn't changed on it. So, I thought, Miigwech

Sean Hollowell: Uh so, to kind of clarify, um the pesticides that were used in the past on some of the um on some of the orchards that are presenting problems now um had active ingredients like arsenic and cyanide and um and lead. And those are um not legal today. Those are not what we would be using. Um these, uh triclopyr is not, it's not based on um metals that persist for a long time in the soil. Um it binds to organic molecules and um is, uh is we can plant uh native species without worrying about them being harmed within a matter of months. Um so, we're not, uh there won't be the same long-term impacts as the herbicides that are used, um that have been used previously, um just because of uh really

EPA regulations have come a long way. Um it came into being in the 70s, which those um previous herbicides were applied before then. Um and we do um want to uh rehabilitate the landscape. And I'm hoping to plant native species after we remove these um invasive autumn olive shrubs as well. And we are um planning on you know using as little as possible, both um for the sake of the environment and for our personal safety as well. I mentioned that we're applying directly to the stumps um to try and avoid personal contact um and off-target impacts. Um and uh yeah sorry.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um go ahead, Councilor Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, Miigwech for that. Uh listening and as we go back uh to yesterday's of uh using all these different pesticides, and then uh even back then, they had the people as yourself turn around. It's nothing against you or anything, but it turned around and this is the safe way to do it. And then we find out 10 years later that, uh oops, and I just heard you say, well, we're going to try to do this, so we don't hurt ourselves and protect the environment. And there you go, goes right back to what we're trying to inject into those things. And so, 10 years from now or so turn around, well, we uh made a mistake again. And so that's what I'm looking at because history seems like it keeps repeating itself. We're destroying ourselves. And understand we're trying to make things good, but sometimes when we really look at the past, we're doing the same thing. And you turn around and sharing what I try and do or put those chemicals in those things. But then in the same token, in the same breath, you're saying, well, we have to be careful. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Metzger, go ahead, please.

Councilor Metzger: Yes, I'd just like to make a motion if possible. Thank you, ma'am. This time I'd like to make a **motion to accept resolution 25-0205-014. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs and approving a modification to the operating budget MB2025-04 in the amount of \$404,984.**

Councilor Wever: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any further questions from tribal councilors, tribal citizens? Back to tribal council with no further questions. Oh, go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Um it's not really a question. It's just back at what um Councilor Metzger, not Metzger, but um Wittenberg was saying, and that's any analysis is based on the um scientific knowledge of the day. In fact, I think forever chemicals were discovered in the 30s and EPA wasn't even notified of PFAS until the 90s. Or did something about it in the 90s, but they were identified in the 30s from chemicals. And what happens is the science of the day and the information that's out there is based on the big companies who use these. If there's a big company that's making money and millions of dollars off these, there's not gonna be science out there that just discredits them. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 6

M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes
A. Metzger - No	R. Wittenberg- No	J. Wolfe- Yes
S. Wever - Yes	S. Crampton- No	P. Johnson- Yes

Motion carried (6-3-0-0)

Seven or six in favor, three against. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay. um

Removed C. Housing Commission Reports ☐ **December 2024**

V. New Business

**A. Ratification of Master Agreement for Services
With Van Dyken Mechanical Inc.**

**Tribal Ogema
D. Underwood
T. Bailey**

So De-Ahna the floor is yours

De-Ahna Underwood: The government center has a complex and highly automated HVAC system, including a glycol-based geothermal system that requires trained and skilled technicians to maintain. Um Van Dyken Inc designed and installed the HVAC system and has maintained the system ever since. Uh this agreement covers calendar year 2025-2026 and will begin on 2/5/25. Uh Van Dyken Mechanical will perform two inspections per year, once in the fall and once on the 18 units listed on the proposal. These inspections are preventative in nature, designed to extend the operation life of the HVAC equipment and include lubrication, adjustment, replacement filters, and yearly belt change. There are a total of 132 filters changed during each inspection. Additional work outside the scope of this service will be billed separately. The cost of this contract is \$11,270. This is a fiscal year 2025 building budgeted expense, and there was a work session held on 1-28. This Michigan-based firm has provided satisfactory service, and the recommendation is to approve the two-year service agreement. Uh Miigwech, and I turn it back to council.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, De-Ahna. Um will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Councilors with questions, go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: And the cost of the filters are included in this?

De-Ahna Underwood: Yes, and the cost of the filters are included.

Councilor DiPiazza: Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: So, it's a two-year contract?

De-Ahna Underwood: Yes.

Councilor Wolfe: So, the \$11,278 is per year, so actually we're approving a \$22,000 contract with Van Dyken?

De-Ahna Underwood: Yes.

Councilor Wolfe: But the way that our fiscal year runs with expenditures for January, and then so in 2026, you won't bring the contract forward, you'll just make the purchase order and go through 2078 to come back for us for reapproval.

De-Ahna Underwood: Yes, correct.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Other questions from councilors? Tribal citizens? Back to councilors? With no further questions, um I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: I'd like to make a motion to approve Resolution 25-0205-015, ratification of Master Service Agreement with Van Dyken Mechanical, Inc.

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Are there any further questions from councilors? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council? Councilor Silvis?

Councilor Silvis: I just want to make a clarification. You stated ratification of Master Service Agreement. It should be ratification of Master Agreement for Services. Thank you.

Councilor Wolfe: The resolution title clearly says ratification of Master Agreement for Services. Thank you for your point. I'll restate my motion. **Motion to approve Resolution 25-0205-015, ratification of Master Service Agreement for Services with Van Dyken Mechanical, Inc.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Okay um Councilor DiPiazza, you did have your hand up. Do you have a question?

Councilor DiPiazza: Ms. Silvis took care of that.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Any other further questions from councilors? Tribal citizens? Back to Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 7

A. Metzger - No	R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe- Yes
S. Wever - Yes	S. Crampton – No	P. Johnson- Yes
T. Burmeister - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis- Yes

Motion carried (7-2-0-0)

Seven in favor. Two against. It's been accepted. Oops.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, De-Ahna.

De-Ahna Underwood: Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, moving down to be under new business.

Corrected B. Resolution **Acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Internal Audit Report for the Government Building 2000-459 Department Budget.** **B. Pringle**

So, Brad, the floor is yours.

Brad Pringle: Sure. Welcome once again, Membership and Tribal Council via um. This resolution is for the acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians audit summary for the Government Buildings which is 2000-459 Department Budget, whereas the Comptroller General has performed the internal audit of the 2022 Government Buildings 2000-459 Department Budget, whereas the Comptroller General has prepared and presented the audit summary and necessary supporting documents to Tribal Council and the Ogema on January 31st of 2024 and in a work session on January 16th of 2025. Now, it therefore resolved that the Tribal Council Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby accepts the internal audit summary for the Government Buildings, which is 2000-459 Department Budget, dated January 31st of 2024.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any Councilors with questions? Councilor Wolfe, go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: Brad just for a refresher, since this is the first ones being brought forward for the year, um this is a 2022 audit. Um can you explain the process and then why it's so late being brought forward to Tribal Council?

Brad Pringle: Uh sure. Uh the 2023, when I do schedule the audit in 2024, 2023 isn't closed yet. So, all these audits are only on closed books for the uh departments. So, when I when this was scheduled in uh January, um the 2023 was not closed yet. So, I audited the 2022. That's correct.

Councilor Wolfe: And then why is it so late? Because these were January audits and we're not receiving them.

Brad Pringle: Because five of the six that were scheduled, one of the uh audits have not been able to get the accounts payable records from the accounting department.

Councilor Wolfe: So, the records that you requested for your job were requested and never given to you. So

Brad Pringle: that's correct.

Councilor Wolfe: By the executive side, why your report is so late.

Brad Pringle: That's correct. For this quarter, I try to close these in quarters. That's correct.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you.

Brad Pringle: To date, I still haven't received it. So, we're only doing, we're only going to discuss five of those six.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. Any other councilors with questions or comments? Tribal citizens? Um oh, go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Well, this is not derogatory. This is actually real. What you've just stated there the first correct thing I've heard today, because that would apply to everything. Uh can anybody substantiate the where all the money is that you just voted through? You haven't seen financials in nine months. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sara, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please. I have two questions.

Sara Agosa: My first question is, which report wasn't completed? I just need clarification on that. And then also, did the speaker issue a subpoena? Those are my questions. Thanks.

Speaker Burmeister: I did not issue a subpoena. Brad does the original request. And then if he doesn't hear anything from them, then him and I work together and I send a request as a follow-up.

Brad Pringle: That's correct. Yeah, so it's just an accounts payable records request. Um let's see here. I don't have that file with me, but it was like a dozen accounts payable records for that particular audit.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay um Mike, I have you next in the queue.

Mike Ceplina: Mike Ceplina, 0692. Any findings? Could you uh report that to the Tribal citizens?

Brad Pringle: Yeah

Mike Ceplina: Thank you.

Brad Pringle: Sure, I can do that here if you wish. Um we did do a work session on it on January 16th as well. All of these internal audits have their own hour designated work sessions to have that kind of discussion. Would you like to go through the findings again as requested?

Speaker Burmeister: Sure. Thank you, Brad.

Brad Pringle: On this particular audit, I reviewed the budget for overspending and found phones and beepers overspent. Um the original budget was for \$125,000. It was later revised to \$175,000. And then the total costs were \$213,718. So that's still \$28,718 over budget. Under recommendations, the recommendation was said that the phones and beepers in the 6,003 over-expense budgetary line items should be re-evaluated to determine if grant-funded department expenses related to this cost can be expensed to a grant-funded department to cover uh the revenues. The revenues for these expense.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I withdraw.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you. So, this is a close out on 2022.

Brad Pringle: It's close out for the 2024 audits.

Councilor Metzger: Oh, for the 2024?

Brad Pringle: Yeah, but they are audits of older closed books. (1:22:07) It's a 2024 audit.

Councilor Metzger: Okay.

Brad Pringle: Auditing this, in this case, 2024, because at that time, 2023 wasn't closed yet. 2023 doesn't close till the end of February. And this was a January audit.

Councilor Metzger: Alright, I thank you for that clarification.

Brad Pringle: Appreciate it, thank you.

Councilor Metzger: And like to make a motion if possible.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Yes, at this time, I'd like to make a **motion to accept Resolution 25-0205-016. Acceptance of Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Internal Audit Summary for the Government Building 2000-459 Department Budget.**

Councilor Wever: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any other Councilors that have questions or comments? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 8

S. Wever - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson – Yes
T. Burmeister- Yes	G. DiPiazza – No	M. Silvis - Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe – Yes	A. Metzger - Yes

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor, one against. They've been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Moving down to

Corrected C. Acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Internal Audit Report for the Clinic Operations 4104 Department Budget. **B. Pringle**
Resolution

so, Brad, the floor is yours.

Brad Pringle: That's correct. This resolution is for the acceptance Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Audit Summary for Clinic Operations, which is 4104 Department Budget. Whereas the Comptroller General has performed the internal audit on the 2023 Clinic Operations, uh which is 4104. Whereas Comptroller General has prepared and presented the Audit Summary and necessary supporting documents to Tribal Council and the Ogema on June 24th and in a work session on January 16th. Now it therefore resolved that the Tribal Council Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby accepts the Internal Audit Summary for the 2023 Clinic Operations 4104 Department Budget dated January 16th, 2025.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Brad Pringle: Yep

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any Councilors that abstain from this item? Any Councilors with questions? Any Tribal Citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council. With no questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. At this moment, I'd like to make a motion to accept. At this time, I'd like to make a **motion to accept Resolution 25-0205-017 Acceptance Little River Band Ottawa Indians Internal Audit Summary for the Clinic Operation 4104 Department Budget.**

Councilor Wever: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wolfe, you did have your hand up.

Councilor Wolfe: I just wanted to know if the um Comptroller can read those findings as requested by membership.

Brad Pringle: Sure.

Councilor Wolfe: And if that would happen on all that are being voted on today.

Brad Pringle: Sure. Uh I reviewed the budget for overspending in 6003 phones and beepers and capital outlays were overspent. Audited the 2023 phones and beepers. The original budget was for \$3,000. Actual cost was \$5,207. Um so, in a result of a \$2,207 overspend. Um audited the 2003 capital outlays. The original budget for capital outlays was \$0 and uh it was later revised to \$89, and the costs were actually \$344 resulting in a \$255 overspend. Um under recommendations, clinic managers should review the 20 should review the 6003 phone and beepers and adjust accordingly. Tribal Accounting Clinic Management need to separate the Muskegon Clinic and the Manistee Clinic, both on separate budgets.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad. Any other Councilors with questions or comments? Tribal Citizens. Back to Tribal Council. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 9

T. Burmeister – Yes	G. DiPiazza - No	M. Silvis - Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	A. Metzger - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson - Yes	S. Wever - Yes

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor, one against. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

**Corrected D. Acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa
Resolution Indians Internal Audit Report for the Manistee
Pharmacy 1010-172 Department Budget.**

B. Pringle

So, Brad, the floor is yours.

Brad Pringle: Sure. Once again, looking to approve a resolution for the acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Internal Audit Summary for the Manistee Pharmacy,

which is 1010-172. Whereas the Comptroller General has confirmed the internal audits for the 2023 Manistee Pharmacy, which is 1010-172 Department Budget. Whereas the Comptroller General has prepared and presented the audit summary and any necessary supporting documents to Tribal Council and the Ogema on April 11th of 2024, and any work session on January 16th of 2025. Now therefore resolved that the Tribal Council Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby accepts the internal audit summary for the 2023 Manistee Pharmacy, which is 1010-172, dated April 11th of 2024. And under findings, we found that salaries and wages, workman's comp, uh let's try it again, found that salaries and wages, which is 5,000, uh workers comp, which is 51,110, licenses and fees, which is 5,303, uh sponsorships, which is 5,304, and uh supplies, which is 5,602, all were overspent.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any Councilors with questions? Councilor Metzger, go ahead, please.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, Brad, for the information that you're giving me. Uh but can you give me a total on the overspent on-

Brad Pringle: Sure, absolutely. Uh the salaries and wages was \$305,885, and the budget was 301,392. That's an overspend of \$4,493. There was an overspend in workman's comp. The expenses were \$1,504. The budget was 1,327, resulting in \$177 overspend. Licenses and fees, uh the expenses were \$688. The budget was \$360 for an overspend of 328. The sponsorships and donations, uh there was \$120 worth of spend, and there was \$0 in the budget for \$120 overspend. Uh the reason for that is uh that particular dollar amount actually belonged under postage and freight. That's why um that particular number was there, that \$120. After I reviewed the accounts payable records, it was actually a postage and freight, not a donation. Uh under supplies, 5602, uh there was spend of \$947,580. The budget was \$566,688. So that's a \$380,892 overspend. Under uh recommendations, whomever reviews the pharmacy budget should take action to ensure over expensed line items, like the ones identified above, are reconciled accordingly.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad.

Brad Pringle: Yep

Speaker Burmeister: Any other questions from Tribal Council? Tribal citizens? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: You have an overspend on the supplies at uh \$380,892, but the actual overspend for the department, you have \$350,408. Can you explain that?

Brad Pringle: Uh the \$380,000 overspend is all directly related to um the purchase, basically the cost of goods sold, buying the pharmacy drugs. So that's where the \$380,000 overspend was. Let's see here. Your next question is \$350,000 in overspend. That would be the accumulation of all these in overspend, not just the \$380,000.

Councilor Wolfe: So that little over \$30,000 was budgeted elsewhere and just went to cover

Brad Pringle: Correct. Yep

Councilor Wolfe: these over expenditures. So

Brad Pringle: that's correct.

Councilor Wolfe: One part of the department was overbudgeted and one department under budgeted.

Brad Pringle: That's correct. Yep

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you.

Brad Pringle: Yep you bet.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Is there any further questions from Councilors? With no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: And then again, in your corrective action plan, it has Muskegon Pharmacy. Um I thought this was for Manistee Pharmacy. They're separated or together?

Brad Pringle: Oh, yep, you're right. They're not. They're actually, this is Manistee Pharmacy is actually ran together. So, you're absolutely correct. The overspend is just the Manistee Pharmacy, not the Muskegon. It's the clinic that has the two of the operations together, not the pharmacy.

Councilor Wolfe: So, should we postpone this a second open for corrections before we accept the report?

Brad Pringle: Let's see. Where do you see that?

Councilor Wolfe: Corrective action plan on the last page.

Brad Pringle: No, the corrective action plan on mine says whomever reviews the pharmacy should take action to ensure overspend on over expense items like the ones identified above are reconciled appropriately.

Councilor Wolfe: That was recommendation. The next line.

Brad Pringle: Oh, yeah, there is uh mixed expenses in there. That's a true statement. At the time of this particular internal audit and currently, because I was asked to look at it again after January 16th, all the cost of goods sold for the Muskegon clinic is coming out of Manistee operations. So that's a correct statement.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, thank you.

Brad Pringle: Yep.

Speaker Burmeister: Brad, and that's due because the budgets aren't separated is correct.

Brad Pringle: They have their own separate budget.

Speaker Burmeister: They just, okay

Brad Pringle: I don't know if they haven't negotiated separate contracts for each location. Maybe there's an issue where the delivery of where the items are. Yep, maybe accounting never, maybe accounting never actually switched it over.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Brad Pringle: Yep. All the invoices are addressed to this location though.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you, Brad.

Brad Pringle: Yep

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: So that just really made it all confusing to me. We're taking Muskegon expenses, Muskegon pharmacy expenses and categorizing them to Manistee expenses

Brad Pringle: It's not all of them in this case, just the supplies, just the cost of goods sold.

Councilor Wolfe: Expenses are going under to the Manistee account, but Muskegon has their own budget.

Brad Pringle: Yep. The Muskegon pharmacy has its own budget.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you. Are there two different directors for each pharmacy?

Brad Pringle: I couldn't tell you how they operate as far as who, what personnel are where.

Councilor Metzger: Alright, thank you.

Brad Pringle: Yep, because it changes. So, they just hired some new pharmacists not long ago. And once again, that's how, like I said, once again, that's how it was. The last time I

checked the 2020-24, the 2024 expenses, they were still receiving uh cost of goods sold into the Manistee pharmacy.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you, Brad.

Brad Pringle: Yep

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Leave the main licenses here in uh this pharmacy because we're on the reservation and we get our uh pharmaceuticals through the government, so.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay thank you. Are there any further questions? Okay, with no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor Metzger, go ahead.

Councilor Metzger: At this time, I'd like to make a motion to accept resolution 25-0205-019. Acceptance of Little River Band 18 or 19? Oh, yeah. I got all my numbers here. Sorry about that. At this time, I'd like to uh make a **motion to accept resolution 25-0205-018. Acceptance of Little River Band, Ottawa Indians internal audit summary for the Manistee pharmacy 1010-172 department budget.**

Councilor Wever: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any councilors that have further questions? Tribal citizens? Back to council. Oh, go ahead, Mike.

Mike Ceplina: I was just wondering; uh we've had our clinic and pharmacy for a long time in that and we're supposed to be charging and making money. I was just wondering if we make enough money to cover both places, the pharmacy and the clinic. Thank you.

Brad Pringle: I'm just checking to see if I have a revenue information from the audit.

Speaker Burmeister: Um go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you, speaker. Well, I'd be kind of interested hearing Mr. Pringle's analysis too, since nobody's seen the financials for nine months. Thank you.

Brad Pringle: Yeah, in the audit on the uh second page, uh it says 2023 pharmacy revenues was \$3,449,341. And in 2022 revenue was \$3,794,728. This represents a slight increase in revenue since last year. Pharmacy revenues are up considerable in the last five years.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad.

Brad Pringle: Yep

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, with no further... Oh, go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I was going to say this audit is from 2023, so.

Brad Pringle: That's correct

Councilor DiPiazza: And I know we make we make really good money on our pharmaceuticals extremely well.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, with no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 10

R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever - Yes
G. DiPiazza - No	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor. One against. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um we have a Tribal Citizen 4689 Guest. If you could please identify yourself.

Scott Wahr: Scott Wahr.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, moving down to

**Corrected E. Acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa
Resolution Indians Internal Audit Report for the Utilities Water
7500-701 Department Budget.**

B. Pringle

So, Brad, the floor is yours.

Brad Pringle: Once again, thank you. This resolution is for the acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Audit Summary for Utilities Water, which is 7000 which is 7500-701, whereas the Comptroller General has performed the internal audit on the 2023 Utilities Water Department, whereas the Comptroller General has prepared and presented the audit summary and necessary documents supporting the Tribal Council and the Ogema on April 2nd of 2024 and in a work session on January 16th of 2025. Now, therefore, resolved that the Tribal Council of Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby accepts the internal audit summary for the 2023 Utilities Water Department Budget dated January 16th of 2025. See what we can find here under findings. Um reviewed the budget for overspending and found workman's comp premiums overspent. Um the budget was \$4,331. A spend was \$4,572, resulting in a \$241 overspend. Reviewed the budget for over uh budgeting. Uh found that property taxes, I'm sorry, property repairs and maintenance um was overbudgeted. The 2023 budget shows \$90,000. They spent \$2,355. In 2022, the budget was \$70,000 and they spent \$7,294. The 2021 budget was \$27,000 with \$11,824 in spend. And the recommendation, Department of Budget

Coordinator should take uh action to ensure the identified items above are reconciled appropriately. That's it.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Councilors with questions. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, Bradley. Uh did I just hear you say that there is roughly a \$40,000 that didn't do that weren't spent in that project?

Brad Pringle: Say that again.

Councilor Metzger: Was it roughly \$40,000 that wasn't spent?

Brad Pringle: Uh more than that. Let's see, \$90,000 minus \$2,000 would have been \$87,645 in 2023.

Councilor Metzger: So, it's closer to \$100,000.

Brad Pringle: Yep.

Councilor Metzger: Alright, thank you.

Brad Pringle: Yep

Councilor Metzger: That went unspent.

Brad Pringle: Yep, that's correct. Yeah, and it did, like I said, kind of increased funnily, you know, kind of funny. It was \$27,000 in 2021 and then it went to \$70,000 then it's up to \$90,000 and there's very little spend in that particular line item.

Councilor Metzger: Where did those funds go to?

Brad Pringle: Error back to the general... Let's see here. Let me confirm that. Uh it goes back to the general fund.

Councilor Metzger: Alright, thank you, sir.

Brad Pringle: Yep

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I would venture to say some of these property repairs and maintenance, um that funding that was unexpended is because we put a lot of ARPA dollars into the utilities program that offset their original um budget expenses. So that's what I would venture to say on that line item.

Brad Pringle: Yep, I can agree with that statement.

Councilor Wolfe: And then with us updating and supplying with them new equipment through ARPA dollars, they had less repairs that they needed.

Brad Pringle: Yep

Speaker Burmeister: Any other Councilors with questions or comments? Al, did you, Councilor Metzger?

Councilor Metzger: Clarification. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Brad Pringle: Tell you what the numbers say.

Speaker Burmeister: Um any citizens with questions or comments? Back to Tribal Council. Okay, with no further questions or comment, I'd like to entertain a motion. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. At this moment, I'd like to make a **motion to accept resolution 25-0205-019**.

Councilor Weaver: Support.

Councilor Metzger: Accepted, solved.

Councilor Weaver: I'm sorry.

Councilor Metzger: **Little River Band Ottawa, Indians Internal Audit Report Summary for Utilities Water 7500-701 Department Budget.**

Councilor Weaver: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any further comments from um Tribal Council? Any comments from citizens? Back to Tribal Council. With no further comments, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 11

S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson- Yes	S. Weaver - Yes
G. DiPiazza - No	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes
J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger - Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor, one against. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Moving down to, um let's see here

**Corrected F. Acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa
Resolution Indians Internal Audit Report for the Election Board
1010-106 Department Budget.**

B. Pringle

So, Brad, the floor is yours.

Brad Pringle: Sure, I'll take a quick second to explain that all five of these had summary spelled incorrectly and that's why they were updated. I was spelling summary with an E-R-Y and I've been recently told that summary in this case would be S-U-M-M-A-R-Y. Fought it all the way, but so I ended up making that change. So, you'll see all future uh internal audits being spelled with the A instead of the E. So that's the only reason why it's corrected. Once again, this resolution is for the acceptance Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Internal Audit Summary for the Election Board, which is 1010-106, whereas Comptroller General has performed the internal audit on the 2022 Election Board, which is 1010-106, Department Budget, whereas Comptroller General has prepared and presented the audit summary and necessary supporting documents to the Tribal Council an Ogema on September 2nd of 2024 and in a work session on January 16th of 2025. Now it therefore resolved that the Tribal Council of Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby accepts the internal audit summary for the 2022 Election Board, Department Budget dated March 29th of 2024. Under uh findings, I have reviewed the budget for overspending and found payroll taxes, which is 5100, workman's comp, which is 5110, retirement, which is 5120, uh employee insurance, which is 5130, uh postage, which is 5307, uh which is postage and freight, I'm sorry, which is 5307. Those were all overspent. Let's see here. The overspend in payroll taxes was, uh there was a payroll service charge of \$5,843 on a zero budget. There was a payroll service charge of \$218 on a zero budget. There was a payroll charge of \$1,190 on a zero budget. Uh there was no, uh there was, on the payroll service charges under employee insurance, there was a \$239 charge on a zero budget. On the postage and freight, uh there was \$6,631 on a 600, I'm sorry, overspend, the expenses were \$631 on a \$6,624 budget. So, it's just \$7. I have a note on here in 2022, the auditor met with the CFO to discuss the employee expenses, not budgeted. The department does not have employees, and all personnel are paid by a stipend. The CFO explained that all stipends are paid out of tribal payroll and there are charges associated with using the payroll department to pay these stipends. All future budgets need to reflect the applicable charges that are noted for the stipend employee costs.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad.

Brad Pringle: Yep

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any tribal councilors gonna abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you. Uh thank you, Brad, for clarifying that about the employment situation. I was wondering how they could acquire such funds on a stipend,

you know, concerning the taxes and the unemployment and everything else. And uh thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other councilors with a comment or question? Any tribal citizen with comments or questions? Back to tribal council. With no questions or comments, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. This time I'd like to make a **motion to accept resolution 25, to accept resolution 25-0205-020. Acceptance of the Little River Band Ottawa Indians Internal Audit Summary for the Election Board 1010-106 Department Budget.**

Speaker Burmeister: Who would like to second that?

Councilor Wittenberg: Support. Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Do any tribal councilors have any further questions or comments? Tribal citizens? Back to tribal council. With no further questions or comments, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 12

G. DiPiazza - No	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes
J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger - Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes
P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever- Yes	S. Crampton- Yes

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor, one against.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad.

Brad Pringle: Thank you, Council Membership.

Speaker Burmeister: Moving down to

**G. Approval for Councilor Al Metzger to attend NCAI
Executive Council Winter Session, February 10th-13th 2025.**

A. Metzger

So, the floor is yours.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Uh at this time, I mean, uh...uh what I'm asking for is approval to attend the NCAI Executive Council Winter Session 2025. The 2025 Executive Council Winter Session is the annual meeting of National Congress American Indians Executive Council, one of NCAI's three main governing body. This meeting presents an opportunity for tribal delegates to hear from members of Congress and the administration and to help further government-to-government relationships between tribal nations and the federal government. I found this very interesting. Uh I mean, I'm always seeking to better myself knowledge-wise, always looking for more education. Uh that's never stopped. And what I see here is an opportunity to come back with information for

the tribe from other tribal leaders from around the country and also Congress. And that's why I'm interested in attending this session. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any tribal councilors abstaining from this item? Any councilors with questions or comments? Councilor Silvis, go ahead, please.

Councilor Silvis: Um I'm just noticing that it's not included in here, your um the whole expense with airfare and mileage. I don't see the budgeted total, I guess.

Councilor Metzger: Well, there is no airfare. I'm driving out there. Let's see. Yeah, I do have that. Uh It's 450 for the conference. Uh 107 \$1,700 for mileage. That's from uh Bear Lake to Traverse City or uh Washington. The rooms, which would be five nights total.

Councilor Wolfe: Your total travel advance amount.

Councilor Metzger: \$1,700.

Councilor Wolfe: That's your total trip included.

Councilor Metzger: Yep.

Councilor Wolfe: Because that's your travel advance amount.

Councilor Metzger: Yeah, \$1,700.

Councilor Wever: Yep, yep. It's not enough.

Councilor Metzger: 20 uh It's for... That's just for travel for the gas per diem. Uh the lodging is... I just saw it here. Where'd I see it?

Councilor Wolfe: 1,000

Councilor Metzger: 1,000 no, \$23.94. \$2,094.38 for lodging. Uh midweek, it was Tuesday and Wednesday. They jacked up the prices like \$400, no \$500. Monday, Thursday, they dropped prices back down to a lower rate. So, there's five different five different rates in there.

Councilor Wolfe: And your mileage is only 460 versus airfare.

Councilor Metzger: And my mileage is only 460.

Councilor Silvis: Thank you.

Councilor Wolfe: \$1,000 includes your mileage and incidentals.

Councilor Metzger: Yes. Now, this is all new to me too, so thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. Um Ogema Romanelli, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Ogema Romanelli: Yeah, I think it's good that we participate in these types of situations, which I've always supported. My problem here, my concern here is that I don't believe we've paid the dues for NCAI, did we? We haven't paid... Every year we pay dues to NCAI. Uh this is the first year that I believe we haven't paid them. So, I know one time I went to a conference, and when I got to the conference, they didn't have the information. They were going to stop me from attending. It was just a snafu. Uh we got it settled, but they weren't going to let me into the conference unless we were a member, and I had to prove that. So just wanted to bring that to your attention. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Recorder Johnson, you are next in the queue.

Recorder Johnson: um so... I didn't notice it the other day, but... Well, I did. I guess I... Anyway. So, your agenda, was this updated to start on the 10th? Because the agenda says February 9th, but your agenda request has February 10th.

Councilor Metzger: It should have been the 8th.

Recorder Johnson: So, it's...

Councilor Metzger: I'm leaving on the 8th.

Recorder Johnson: Right, but just saying your information um doesn't exactly match, um because you asked for five nights, but there's only four nights. Of um so um I'm curious. I don't have a problem with you going by any means. Um It's good that we have somebody go. I got to agree with that. But you pointed out earlier that we don't have the funds so, or we don't know our uh status and stuff. So how does that fit into this?

Councilor Metzger: This is a budgeted item. We're all budgeted travel uh.

Recorder Johnson: Right but.

Councilor Metzger: This is my second year. I've done two years. Within those two years, I took one trip, and I was down uh the firekeepers.

Recorder Jonson: I get that. But earlier

Councilor Metzger: I got two more years

Recorder Johnson: you said that you wanted to, because of the um our reports not being up to date and whatnot. You didn't agree to accept the funds, because of not knowing where our budget and stuff is, even though it's budgeted, and we don't know exactly what

we have. That's my concern, is where this comes into place. Not that I don't think you should go. Somebody should go. But that's kind of a concern.

Councilor Metzger: Well, my concern about the budget and how I voted was how I felt. Now we haven't seen, we haven't had financial statements in over nine months. I would have loved to accepted those on my part. But I'm just voicing that I am disappointed at where we're at with our financials, at least the reporting aspect. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Scott, you are you just lowered your hand. Do you still have a question?

Scott Wahr: Nope, you covered it. Thanks.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. Councilor Crampton, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Well, in response to what the recorder was saying, um this is a council's budget. This isn't the executive budget that we have to wait for. We know it was there. And we know because we created it. We also know that each individual member, a council member, has a um limit in their own travel. So, this should be just a formality. And I'd just like to note, um hindsight is 20-20. Um look back, the recorder just voted yes on two things where she didn't know where the money was at. Now she's questioning this one. Just kind of ironic. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Kimberly, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Kimberly McClellan: Yeah. Um the groups that you join and pay the dues for, they're the ones also that help you to get clearance to be up on Capitol Hill and to talk to the congressional staff. So, it um would be hard if they don't know that we are still currently a member for him to submit his name to get a clearance, I would assume. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Well, I would definitely check on um what the Ogema was talking about because that could possibly absolutely be true. Um I don't believe we did. Um but at each of these seminars, there is a registration and credential process, which is probably what happened to the Ogema when he went and didn't have that. And they went to the registration credential process and then fixed it there. So, I would check in and possibly take care of it beforehand. But if we don't, there's always the process there where it can be rectified. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other comments or questions from Council? Okay, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: I apologize, Speaker. I forgot about this. Yeah, this is kind of important because uh what I keep preaching to the membership is here that we have to if you want professional results, you have to act professional. We have a whole bunch of people here that go, oh, the Council's going out on vacation. Um when you go to these seminars, they don't let you leave the room. They will bring you food. If they could bring you a port-a-potty to your chair, they would. They don't let you leave these seminars. So, your when you're there, you come back, and you tell me how your butt feels. Well, you're going to be sitting in that chair for about 8, 10 hours of the day. And you're not going to be going on anything vacation-wise. But those people that put that out there, that's what keeps our tribe in this continual pattern of non-professionalism because you'll notice that the other tribes have full delegations there. And none of their members are back home going, oh, look at they're on vacation. They understand what the process is. And if you want professionalism and professional results, that's how you conduct yourself. And Little River, up until now, has not. So, thank you Al.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Yeah, I'm not opposed to him going down and representing us. I believe they'll do a great job. I don't believe I've ever said somebody was going there on a vacation or yeehaw. Eons some time ago, yeah, I might have. From some of the pictures some people used to post. But and as far as getting up and having to do what you got to do, yeah, you're not handcuffed to the chair. I assure you, I've been to quite a few. I just kind of quit because the last time I went, the elevator dropped three floors. So that was enough for me and old buildings for a bit. So, um because I've been down there many times. They broke out into sessions. And Frank was the leading us around, all the congressmen so. And they heard what we had to say. So, the best part was one congressman went in there. He had one of our little bottles of maple syrup, a little oak leaf, in his showcase. Now that's exciting.

Councilor Wolfe: What are you talking about.

Councilor DiPiazza: What's that? Is that directed towards me or what?

Councilor Wolfe: No

Speaker Burmeister: I have Shannon. Shannon in the queue. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you, Speaker. Well, for the record, nobody was mentioning Councilor DiPiazza. And he keeps trying to turn every issue into something about him. But it's not. And you just chastised two um members of our tribal members for doing such things. So, if you could please remind them to stick to the agenda. And not everything's about him. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Metzger, you had your hand up.

Councilor Metzger: uh yes. I don't know if uh you asked if anybody was going to abstain.

Speaker Burmeister: I did.

Councilor Metzger: But I will be abstaining from this.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um Councilor Silvis, go ahead, please.

Councilor Silvis: Thank you. Um yeah, I'm not against Councilor Metzger from going. I think we need representation there. But because the dues were not paid, I do not support this item. But um I was in Washington, D.C. last year. Um no, you can come and go as you please. We I've seen so many other tribes coming in for the food, leaving, not staying for any of the conferences. So, you're not strapped like Councilor Crampton states. But you want to get out of it what you put into it. I was there the whole time. I did not leave. Um but like I said, it's nothing against him going. You know, I just don't think that at this time with the dues not being paid, it might be a wasted trip. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um next in the queue, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Um being in light of the conversation, I would just like to uh get confirmation from Councilor Metzger that he will reach out to NCIA and make that sure that he's eligible to attend. I know the registration fee, um that's what we're voting on to pay that and the confirmation of that. But just reaching out from someone to that agency being that our dues aren't current. So, we may no longer be a member just before he attends because that's a long drive for him and he plans on driving. And, you know, it would be a waste of time for him personally to get there and the tribe's um finances. So um just if he can reach out to them and make sure that, you know, everything is in order being that Little River is not a member of NCIA at this time.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead council. Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: And then I do support it moving forward because we are on a short timeline here. It was sent late to Tribal Council, and he does need to start traveling on Saturday. So, I support the motion.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you, Speaker. Well, despite what Councilor Silvis keeps saying or did say, um no, it wasn't a literal speech. That they chain you to the chair. They do everything to try and keep you there. Maybe they try to keep some people there more than others. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Metzger, you are next in the queue.

Councilor Metzger: Uh yes, thank you. I do have clarification of uh funding for \$450 for the ECWS convention pass as a member, but it's a \$50 increase for non-members. If I am deemed to be a non-member, I personally will pay that \$50 out of my own pocket.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay and you did. Councilor Metzger, did they send you like uh acceptance?

Councilor Metzger: Yes, they did.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, so then we're...

Councilor Metzger: I do have an acceptance

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Just take that with you.

Councilor Metzger: Yep.

Speaker Burmeister: Uh let's see here. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I was going to make a motion on the item because it's so sidetracked and chained down.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay

Councilor Wittenberg: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, I'm gunna. Mark has his hand up. So once Mark speaks, then we'll move forward. Go ahead, Mark.

Mark Huddleston: I was under the impression that if someone abstained, there should be no more discussion from that person.

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah, that's... Okay, Councilor DiPiazza, go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: Oh, I'll make a **motion approval for Councilor Al Metzger to attend NCAI Executive Council Winter Session, February 10th-13th, 2025.**

Councilor Wever & Councilor Wittenberg: Support.

Councilor DiPiazza: Who

Recorder Johnson: Shirley

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, any further questions from Tribal Councilors? Back to Tribal Citizens? Councilors? With no further questions or comments, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 13

J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger - Abstain	R. Wittenberg- Yes
P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever- Yes	S. Crampton- Yes
M. Silvis- No	T. Burmeister- Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes

Motion carried (8-1-1-0)

Seven in favor, one against, one abstain. Have fun.

Councilor Metzger: Chi Miigwech fellow council members.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

VI. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, February 12, 2025

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

Go ahead Ogema.

Ogema Romanelli: Good afternoon, Council, Tribal members. I have about three items that I want to kind of talk about. Uh the one is the grant funding uh issue that's going throughout the United States. I know that uh Speaker Burmeister and I signed a joint statement that's on the website now. Uh we've been trying to keep ahead of what's going on with the funding. Everybody's uh unsure of where we're at, but I can assure you that I know, I believe on the legislative side, and I know on the executive side that we're continually uh trying to follow what's going on. Uh obviously, this doesn't just affect Tribal grants, but uh all grants. But we uh were, I was on a call the other night and they're just saying to kind of tamp it down. To I mean, the concern should be there and that we should be uh ever watching what's going on, but to not get too excited right now until we have uh more information. Once we do, we will be working with other tribes across the United States to...to offset whatever uh comes forward. But right now, we're in a holding pattern and I know people keep wanting more information and there just isn't much more than that. So, I just wanted to give you an update on that as well. Uh there was discussion regarding, and I'll have to get my phone, excuse me. There was discussion earlier regarding the financial statements and I did get a couple updates here and also with the uh audit. The audit is not done. A letter was sent, an appeals letter was sent, and we've been assigned a number. Um but the audit is not done and at this point we haven't had sanctions. Uh that doesn't, isn't to say that we may. Of during the financial reports, and this is an update, uh this comes from the CFO and that she's still reviewing the 2023 draft financial statements. She should be done with them sometime today. As soon as she's done with the 2023 draft financials, she's going to start working on a June 2024 financial reports for tribal council. June should be done next week unless I'm asked by the auditors to pull three months of pharmacy receipts again um for the July through December. I need to get these done one right after another as part of the closing of financial year 2024. So, I want those done by the end of February and then January 2025 financial

reports will by beginning of March, which will put us back on schedule. So that's the schedule that we have for financial reports. Uh I've kind of updated you a little bit on the audit. The other problem that we have, we have several problems and oops...some of the problems that we have is we're going back and what we're finding is that she has to go back to 2021 for some information that the auditors keep asking for. What we're finding is there may be some things that didn't happen properly, and I'll be careful there, but some things that didn't happen back as far as 2021 and we're trying to make those corrections as we go forward. Uh there was some information that just came through that possibly some past employees of the department may not have done some things uh completely appropriately and, you know, not to get too excited about it, but we're looking at everything and making sure those files are proper as we go forward. So, once we get through this audit, it should be cleaned up going four or five years back even because we have to trace back. So, with that, uh it's caused a longer uh process. So, we're answering the questions. I think uh the speaker and recorder should be uh informed of where we're at with most of that and we will try and uh take care of the problems as they come forward. The other issue that we have, and I believe council's aware of this as well, is that the uh one of the findings also is, I think is 2023-005 and that's regarding the tribal council meeting minutes and they're still uh behind as we know. And they show that as a constitutional violation as well. Uh Constitutional violation and uh violation of council ordinances. So, were both we both have some work to do. We know that. We knew it before, even before the hearing when this came about. We knew that both...both sides had some work to do. And I understand that council has provided a schedule for those minutes to be uh brought forward as well and up to date and I believe it was like mid-May is where the council is hoping to catch up all their minutes. So that's where we're at when people are asking. Uh that's about the best I can give uh at this time. Uh I also, what's come to our attention is that the uh tribal council put together the government business and accounting act of 20 or 2010, ordinance 10-100-06 in which the comptroller uh you know has a responsibility for internal audits and possibly external audits. And my understanding is that the comptroller is the liaison to external audits. What we understand is that in prior years, it was the comptroller that did much of the work with these audits. When the comptroller left from tribal council, the comptroller is under tribal council. When the comptroller left, the C...CFO at the time uh said that he would take care of doing the audits. But it wasn't uh it wasn't supposed to be long-term as I understand it. So, I guess we need some clarity on that as well. Uh but our CFO and our staff is doing everything they can to get uh these things rectified. But I just wanted to bring that to people's attention. The last thing that I have is the informational meeting that I mentioned I think last week. I still would like to have the informational meeting uh go forward. And you know, council and I met yesterday. Um It's really very simple. There's a lot of misinformation out there which happens, and it happens more around election time uh of just misinformation. And I think we owe it to the members as the elected officials to give proper answers to those questions. Uh they keep going on for quite a while. So, I'd ask the council to join me. I haven't set a date. I would like to set a date in the very near future. And it was even mentioned that maybe at or after the elders meeting could be a potential time. I don't know if that works best or not. Uh but I'm still going forward. What I believe it does is it gives answers to the membership hopefully from both branches with documents. For example, uh it was recently posted somewhere that the

tribe or I had bought two campgrounds and sold two campgrounds. I have no idea where that stuff comes from. So, I can't answer unless I have information. If somebody makes a statement like that, they should have to present some documentation. And that's what's frustrating. Anybody can make a statement on Facebook, and it becomes reality to some people. If they make a statement like that, that we bought two campgrounds and we sold two campgrounds, please give documentation. Was it done through the EDC? Because I'm not aware of what the statement is. And it lingers out there. So, I would like to be able to address that. And right here I'm addressing that statement that in fact I'm not aware of buying and selling two campgrounds. Uh there's other lingering ones that have gone on forever. For example, the Muskegon Casino is dead or not. And you know, we've been approached by the media. And those are the types of things. And there's probably good gosh, there could be 20 lingering questions. So, all I'm asking is that we have a meeting, and it can be Zoomed for the members anywhere to ask questions. However, if they submit their questions beforehand, say a week beforehand, both sides could present documents, so they give a clearer, uh more reasonable answer. That's what it was. There's no intent to keep it from anybody. Matter of fact, it's just the opposite. It's to allow people to come in, people to call in uh and ask questions. And but the big thing is to do it ahead of time so that we can get the proper uh answers. Because a lot of times people ask questions even here. And it's hard to know what they're going to ask and come up with a good answer. So that's all I'm asking for. Uh I think we should do it sooner than later. And I think that's it. I am currently supposed to be meeting with the Arctic IT, as you know, because uh Council, I believe, met with Arctic yesterday. I appreciate that. And uh I think we're just trying to get things straightened around. So, I will be uh leaving the meeting shortly because I have to get back to the Arctic meeting. Thank you very much.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Crampton, you have the queue.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Um when we're talking about misinformation, we just had a perfect example right there. Um I want the members to look, because I've said this over and over and the Ogema keeps trying to say, well, Council and I both have a share in the blame because of the minutes. The um Constitution, and this is let's get this over with because you can all look at it right now, puts that at it the minutes as a duty of the recorder. The Meeting Procedures Ordinance, the Council went even further to claim that the recorder shall be responsible. No, the Tribal Council is not in this with Mr. Romanelli. If he wants to blame the recorder, that's fine. But to keep putting that out there when that's incorrect information, you have that in your hand, that's... that's just something you can look at for yourself. Secondly, he did come in and mention the meeting yesterday. No, there was no agreement to have a meeting with him. In fact, I said, you're going to solve nothing at your dog and pony showing you do this every election. What has been solved by any of your informational meetings other than to create more division? That's all it is. And here it comes at election time. So, when you're talking about election, take a look back at what's happened in the past. No, if there's a question that I have, I have a work session tomorrow that's going to answer my question, and that won't be a he said, she said. That's all that's going to come out of his meeting. It's just the bash political opponents, and it was stated yesterday. So no, he keeps saying, and

when you listen back to the tape, listen to what he's saying, the way he talks, and we know, and we know, who is we? Do you have a peanut in your pocket? I haven't. I don't know who we is. But own your statements. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead Ogema.

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you. Uh and I never said we came to an agreement. I said we had a meeting regarding giving information. I don't believe we did come to an agreement to hold the meeting. Matter of fact, I think Councilor Crampton said he would not be a part of that dog and pony show if it happened. Um so just for the clarification, the other thing is he cites the tribal recorder as uh having the full responsibility of minutes and not the tribal council as a whole. I beg to differ with that because while it is a recorder's responsibility, uh I was just at a here held a hearing where I was cited for not doing uh certain things and violating the government, and I'm responsible, and I claimed responsibility for anybody that works under the Ogema. I have 170 employees under me, but I took that responsibility, but they didn't mind um attaching that, but uh Councilor Crampton doesn't appear to want to be attached to the council that has responsibility as a whole. And I don't know if there's anything else to say other than, you know, we have this uh it is clear, and I was, by the way, you know, I am a little frustrated is it was very clear that I was called up because I violated the constitution. I violated our laws, and I was held to the membership. And as the report says here, it says, and I'll repeat it again since we're going back to being a little more clarity. Uh a significant portion of the Tribal Council's meeting minutes were not created, maintained, or available for us during the audit process. The summary of actions taken were eventually made available to us before the audit was finalized. As a result, the tribe is not in compliance with its constitution, and a council ordinance and key internal control processes are not documented in a timely fashion. So that's the same thing that I was brought up on a hearing. Now, one last thing that I want to say is that we...we keep going back and forth, and that's all the more reason we want to have a meeting before the members so we could sit roundtable, bring our documentation rather than going back and forth as we're doing now. So, I think that we need to uh give information. And the reason this comes out, and some of this stuff, and people go back badgering everybody, it's not me bringing it out because it's election time. It's that on Facebook, the things progress because people are trying to campaign on Facebook is my belief. And therein lies where the misinformation comes, and the misinformation is what causes the disruption in this tribe. It is not the reverse. So, I think we owe it to the members to give as much information. And I've been called many names, and I continue to do so. And uh if I'm called a liar, then so be it. If I'm called a thief, which I have been, uh even by tribal councilors, uh then you know let's get to the bottom of it and not keep going back and forth. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Recorder Johnson, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Recorder Johnson: Um Ogema so before you walk away, I do have a question for you. Um so you mentioned what our finding was as 05. What's the first four findings?

Ogema Romanelli: Sure, the first four findings are within the executive branch.

Recorder Johnson: Correct.

Ogema Romanelli: Yes.

Recorder Johnson: We don't know what those are. You know what our finding was.

Ogema Romanelli: Sure.

Recorder Johnson: So, what's yours?

Ogema Romanelli: You should be. I can read through them if you'd like. However, that there's even more than that. And here's part of the problem. And, you know, we're going back and forth. All I'm asking, all I'm saying is that the problem with our audit resides in both branches. Correct?

Recorder Johnson: Correct.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay so

Councilor Crampton: No, no

Councilor Wolfe: No, it doesn't

Ogema Romanelli: It doesn't?

Recorder Johnson: A very small part not all of it

Councilor Crampton: No, the Constitution is clear.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay

Speaker Burmeister: One person at a time, please. Go ahead.

Ogema Romanelli: Yeah.

Recorder Johnson: But I just want to know, because you seem to have seen what all the findings are. We just got notice of what ours is.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay.

Recorder Johnson: We have not we just got notice of what ours is.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay

Recorder Johnson: What is the rest of it?

Ogema Romanelli: And the...And the auditors

Recorder Johnson: What's the other findings?

Ogema Romanelli: Yes, and the auditors are hired.

Councilor Crampton: No excuses. Read it.

Ogema Romanelli: Can we stop him from

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Crampton, please.

Ogema Romanelli: Interrupting. He does it every time. Just like a little kid at a

Speaker Burmeister: Continue, please.

Ogema Romanelli: So.

Recorder Johnson: Stop it.

Ogema Romanelli: Yeah. So anyway, um but the Tribal Council hires these auditors, not the Ogema. And they are responsible. If the auditors are not giving you this information, then you need to respond to the auditors to give you the information now...

Recorder Johnson: I have

Ogema Romanelli: you have? Have they given it to you?

Recorder Johnson: No.

Ogema Romanelli: Then that's a problem between the Tribal Council and the auditors. You hire them. You hire them. And the other problem we have is, you know, I mean, all I was trying to say is that there is, there are issues. It says clearly in the audit that this is the Tribal Council. And yes, we have our problems. And I have apologized multiple times. I've admitted. And I have not heard that from this council. Not one time that they have a part in this and they apologize to the membership. I have not heard that one time. Now, another problem that we may have goes back to the comptroller. Now, the comptroller at one time.

Councilor Crampton: He's not going to read them.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Crampton, please

Ogema Romanelli: Okay

Speaker Burmeister: be respectful.

Ogema Romanelli: He never is. He never is. Okay. So, I'm going to say one more thing. Excuse me. Okay. I'm going to say one more thing. The comptroller general shall be certified internal auditor and shall achieve a certification internal audit within one year. Did that happen?

Recorder Johnson: He does have a certificate.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay. Then he, and I believe, and here's the other problem. The...the comptroller, as long as we're going down that road. The comptroller general has to do audits of each department every year. At least for the...the accounting department, correct? They do. Now, we're going back four years. And we're finding some issues that have come up. And might that have been caught in an internal audit? That's why we have internal audits. So, we can assure ourselves that we have uh we have things in order internally. And then when we do the bigger audit, the external audit, then they can go through it again. But some of these things weren't caught. So, I'm looking as we're going through it. And I'm getting concerned that possibly past employees uh didn't weren't doing their job. And then I question our internal audits. So, I'll leave it at that. I keep getting interrupted again. My apologies. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wolfe, go ahead, please. And then I have Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Wolfe: So just a couple points of clarification. Facebook is a social network. To me and my point of view, it's for entertainment. Everyone has the freedom of speech and right to express themselves on there. It's not official government business. So, to bring Facebook postings or comments or any of that drama to this table at a government function for government business is irrelevant. Facebook is not that. All the pages that are managed by individual tribal members are not official communication of the tribe.

Recorder Johnson: Mm-hmm

Councilor Wolfe: There's 5, 7, 8, 10 pages where that's for members to interact and communicate. We don't have to approve or defend member statements on there. When they want to talk to us, they do just like the citizens that are sitting here and approach that podium in public comment. So at least Facebook, whatever said on there. And we know where a lot of it comes. It comes from Councilor DiPiazza's Facebook page that 5,000 members are on there. That's where a lot of it comes from. And I bring up two years ago, all this was discussed on monday to put a resolution forward, put some rulings on elected officials monitoring those pages and being admins. The other councilors that sit here or currently sitting here or past councilors, they put on there. This is not official documentation of the government. Don't believe he did. Blocked from it, so I can't tell you 100%. So, whatever the comments are, anyways, at the end of the day, Facebook is

irrelevant to government business. We have a Facebook page that puts out the business of the government with postings that's monitored by the communications department. We have a website that puts out our press releases and official communications. We have a newsletter that goes out digitally for official communications. So, whatever on Facebook needs to be addressed, not for government business, not here at our meetings. When he's talking about this financial audit, he started the statements and said the 2024 audit is still not complete. How does he have record and documentation of findings if the audit hasn't been completed? What audit was he talking about? I believe he was talking about 2023 audit, where it is a finding against Tribal Council about the minutes.

Recorder Johnson: Mm-hmm

Councilor Wolfe: We have. And we are working diligently on getting those done. There was a lot of things that happened that they weren't. So that's getting updated. But on the second point to that, minutes aren't something the Office of Self-Governance reviews. They review the audit. So that's an internal problem. And the problem why the tribe is facing sanctions and why the Ogema was brought up for removal is because he didn't complete that annual audit. That's what brought the problems to the tribe, not Tribal Council minutes. It's a finding. That's why you have audits, to find out where you need to improve, what you need to do. From 2023, we've diligently been looking forward and correcting the problem. So, I don't know where he's bringing that there's a finding on Tribal Council and we're not owning our responsibility. A finding isn't the same as sanctions. The Office of Self-Governance doesn't look at Tribal Council minutes. The Office of Self-Governance is financial. And they look at what the tribe is doing with the federal dollars they spent. He said we're not in sanctions. The budget coordinator presented today and said, yes, as a result of the sanctions, I had to modify my work. So, there's that. When he talks about Tribal Council and the... the comptroller having ultimate control. Did you hear him talk about his internal reports? They're late by a year because he couldn't get the information from the executive side to complete those. Now, for him to manage an audit of the whole executive side, where is he going to get the information from? It's not even provided to us. We're nine months behind. So why do we want to say that? And then he says Tribal Council hires the auditors. That's an executive function. And the CFO picked those auditors, had a work session, brought it to Tribal Council. He negotiated the contract. Tribal Council ratifies the contract.

Recorder Johnson: Mm-hmm

Councilor Wolfe: We didn't pick the vendor. And for one other point, 2023 auditors are not the same auditors for 2024 because we legislated, they change every three years.

Recorder Johnson: (off mic) No, they're the same they have a contract.

Councilor Wolfe: right. But 2024, 2023 and 2024, it was changed.

Recorder Johnson: No

Councilor Wolfe: We had DNG and now. Okay, so we're in our second year with this audit firm, but they're going to change every three years so.

Recorder Johnson: Mm-hmm

Councilor Wolfe: And then I don't believe, I do believe it was the CFO that took over the duties of completing the audit when Tribal Council in 20, prior to 2016, the employee left. And then we hired a comptroller in 2018, and that duty was never resumed or given back to him. And then there was a change of CFOs, and she maintained the audit reporting and filing. So, I don't believe all these things that are going on in comments. That's what I have to say about that.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Crampton, you're next in the queue.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. I agree with everything Councilor Wolfe just said, and I want members to go back and watch this tape because what you just seen from the Ogema was authentic frontier gibberish. He started about 15 uh discussions and never ended a single one of them. I was sitting here trying to follow the logic on it. None of them answered anything. And that's what's going to happen in his informational meeting. That's why I'm not going to the Dog and Pony Show. But I'm going to provide a script like I did last time to everybody so they can see how it's going to go prior. Who's going to get up and read the pre-written statement? Who's going to do the filibuster? Who's going to sit in the back of the room and bang on the cans when Mr. Romanelli makes a statement? All that's going to happen. Yeah, it's going to be a Dog and Pony Show and you're going to get uh an extended view, which you just had today. I'm not going back and forth with him. I'm being very, very distinct. I'm saying that Article 4, Section 5 of the Constitution says duties of tribal council officers. So, when he keeps trying to put the minutes on us, which are nondescript to an audit anyway, not part of it, not going to cause an audit because your minutes are late. He's trying to hang the council, which is not even their responsibility. And it should go over to the recorder. But that doesn't even matter. That's not going to cause an audit. And the recorder asked him, go back and watch your tape. Did he answer any of those? Did he read any of those four? No, he didn't. He went into the shuck and jive. Watch it. At least Lee Sprague took accountability like a man. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um did Nicki

Recorder Johnson: Yeah, right there

Speaker Burmeister: I think that's Nicki Ward, isn't it?

Recorder Johnson: I think so to

Speaker Burmeister: Nicki Ward could you please identify yourself? Nick Ward-Guest, could you identify yourself, please?

Nicole Ward: Nick Ward, 0156.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: Oh

Speaker Burmeister: I have you on the queue.

Councilor DiPiazza: I was going to say, I uh it's interesting you say how one thing, Facebook, doesn't mean nothing. But then want to drag me over the coals. That was inherited to me the queeth eons ago. By a gentleman. And then things that are put on there usually put on some other site that you got a different councilor that does that stuff. So yeah, my apologies if you block me and you can't be on there and you can't see me. Sucks to be you. I don't know what to tell you. If you want to chase me around because I got a pork chop hanging out of my pocket, good luck with that. I got better things to do than to worry about what you're up to anyways. But everybody wants to know what I'm up to. And I did put out there this is not an official site. So, the other one, that was a Crampton, Mr. Crampton posted that on his whatever it was. People screenshot all that stuff. So, when you're out there saying dumb stuff, doing dumb stuff, people see it. So, most time I could care less. You know, Crampton doesn't get a pony to ride on. Who cares? He doesn't have a dog. Who cares? Go buy one. He can with all the money you save on gas. But who cares? Just saying. Why worry about me? Worry about yourself. You'd be much better off. I'm good. Are we in public comment or?

Speaker Burmeister: We are not.

Councilor DiPiazza: And the Ogema is not even here.

Councilor Crampton: Speaker don't let him cut people off in the queue like he tries to all the time. I'm next

Councilor DiPiazza: I have the floor. Excuse me, Mr. Ponyboy.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, both of you stop. I have three people in the queue. And I'm going to let them speak. And then we are going to move down to legislative affairs updates. So, Councilor Silvis, you're next in the queue.

Councilor Silvis: I honestly was just going to try to figure out if we were in personal or public comment or not. That's all I was going to ask. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Crampton, go ahead.

Councilor Crampton: No, we were at the Ogema's weekly status and business update. And for the record, I never I don't think anything of Councilor DiPiazza. And I wish he would just quit talking. He's the most undereducated councilor I've ever worked with in my life.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Um

Sandy Mezeske: Look who's talking.

Councilor Wolfe: You let councilor DiPiazza

Speaker Burmeister: I know but let me finish. Please state what you're going to state. No derogatory remarks from anybody. Go ahead Councilor Metzger

Councilor Wolfe: I thought it was Wittenberg in the queue.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead councilor Wittenberg sorry about that.

Councilor Wittenberg: Oh Miigwech. And I'm just going back to and listen to the many different things that uh Mr. Romanelli said. And yes, we talked in there in the meeting. And uh as many people were out there, and I thought, oh, wow, this would be a perfect opportunity. Just what I thought. I can say I thought wrong. He told everybody in the press about the casino has come to an end. He started to elaborate on it and then kept on going. To me, that would have been a perfect time that you're on the subject, turn around and put it out there to hear right directly. From I see 22 people that are participants here on Zoom to let them know. Or turn around and his special recordings or turn around and letting the members know they're still haven't heard it. He started, but still haven't heard it. So, it's different things uh on that, that turn around and you want to have a talk with everybody. That don't look too good on that because it's going to be just like it is. And uh I'm surprised he's not here. But I you know I get to hear the comments because. But uh that's him, not me. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Councilor Wittenberg: Perfect opportunity.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving on to

C. Legislative Affairs Update

1. Tammy Burmeister

And what I was going to state is the Ogema had already stated, stated it. Um a joint statement from the executive and legislative branch regarding the current actions of the federal government is posted on our website. So, I encourage everybody to read that. And that's my update for today. Thank you. Next in the queue is. You don't okay, Recorder

2. Pam Johnson

Next is Councilor

3. Julie Wolfe

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you, Speaker. Um so I want to ensure our my favo, my fellow tribal members that the recent executive actions of the federal administration do not undermine the unique sovereign political status of tribal nations. As sovereign nations

with the federal government as trust and treaty obligations and disrupt federal funding that flows from those relationships for essential tribal programs. I've been following the issuance of the multiple executive orders from the Office of Management and Budget Directives. I understand the concern that arises over the freezes on federal funding that our nation relies on to provide critical health care, education and governmental service to our tribal members. While the OMB has since rescinded the initial memorandum, questions still remain about how federal agencies will interpret and implement the administration's executive orders and policies moving forward. I want to assure you, my stance. We are a sovereign government with unique legal and political relationship with the United States. The trust and treaty obligations of the federal government are political and debt-based in nature. Federal funding to our tribe is not discretionary, but a mandate owed to tribe under treaty obligations. So therefore, I commit, and I stand ready to prioritize, advocate and work to safeguard all the policies and decisions to uphold our government-to-government relationship between our nation and the U.S. government, along with the fulfillment of trust and treaty obligations in the implementation of executive orders issued by the federal administration for that protection to our tribe and our tribal programs from unnecessary disruption. Um so I wanted to share that. Then I also want to share there's uh a family event happening, and this one I wanted to highlight is happening in the Muskegon office. That's on Thursday, February 27th from 5 to 7 p.m. It's called a Family Fun Night, um and that's going to be at the Little River Health Center of Ellis. And then it has the questions or person to contact would be at phone number 231-398-6707. It doesn't require registration. And that's all I have to share in my legislative update. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

4. Gary DiPiazza

you are next in the queue.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, all of us are watching what's happening with the budget and our treaty rights and everything. So, it's not a singular because we do need to work together to keep an eye on the things because I watch it all the time. Excuse me.

Councilor Wolfe: It was time for my legislative update. No, it didn't say anything about being singular.

Councilor DiPiazza: How was that directed towards you? Wasn't directed towards you at all. This is my statement. You might not like my statement because you never do. Yeah, there you go. Ha ha, hee hee. That's where that's where we have the problem set. This is where it starts.

Councilor Wittenberg: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Please no side comments. Continue, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Are they finished?

Speaker Burmeister: No side comments, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll wait till they're finished because I still have the queue. Let me know when you're done.

Councilor Wittenberg: Okay

Councilor DiPiazza: I got all day.

Councilor Wittenberg: Me too.

Speaker Burmeister: Hmm okay. No, he's still in the queue. Let's just be respectful of one another and listen to what each have to have or what we each have to say. So please, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Is again. I do keep an eye on what's going on. Right now, Canada and Mexico are sending their own troops to the border to contain the drug trafficking. You best keep an eye on that. I can assure you of that. Because when these countries start cutting it off at the border, there's going to be more problems. That cartel has billions upon billions of dollars. And they don't want that to end. So, I want it to end. I don't like to see our community taken up with drugs. Because where do you think everybody thinks they come from? Grand Rapids? Lansing? No, they come across the border. Whether it's fentanyl or whatever that may be. So, there's a lot going on and people need to be keeping an eye on all of it. From our sovereignty, which a lot of that, he can't touch that. He can try. We'll end up in court or worse, worse. But you know, a lot of it's a scare tactic to get people wound up. So, I don't really care to do that. So, with that, I'm all set. Miigwech, everybody. Love you all.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um Councilor

5. Shirley Wever

Is not in the room. So, we'll move down. Wever. So, we'll move down to councilor

6. Al Metzger

Councilor Metzger: I only have one word. Resilient. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

7. Ron Wittenberg

you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wittenberg: I'm good for now.

Speaker Burmeister: Alright, thank you. Councilor

8. Misty Silvis

you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Silvis: So, um

Speaker Burmeister: please, you guys, please. No side comments.

Councilor Silvis: I just wanted to state that William Billy Kirtland III citizen of the Navajo Nation, has been nominated for U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs by President Donald Trump. His nomination was received by the Senate on Monday, February 3rd, and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for review. So, if confirmed by the Senate, Kirtland will replace Brian Newland from the Bay Mills Indian community, who left the position at the end of the Biden-Harris administration. So that's all. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um Councilor

9. Shannon Crampton

you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Oh, thank you. That kind of feeds right into what I was going to talk about, because he would be the secretary. Um uh the interior head is now Doug Burgum. So, I don't think any um Native American underneath him is going to fare very well. So, I wish that person well in their next tenure, because it's going to be hell. Um if you look at what Mr. Burgum's doing, he's looking at eminent domain to start um going into federal lands for mineral rights and on to federal reservations. So, I don't think we're going to get any more property for gaming anywhere during his tenure. And I don't think that anybody put in those positions are going to be stonewalled and basically sitting there. Um so that was part of my update. Uh the other part of my update is I want to make people very aware of uh if you're not aware of what's going on with the federal government right now. And we have a uh billionaire who has more money given to him by his father than Trump did. You have a guy who is the son of a South African, which was absolutely Nazi. That's where they all kind of went after the World War II. And they established the little land down in Pretoria. And what Elon Musk has done right now is he's making Trump cut up \$400 million in aid to South Africa because they instituted apartheid laws. So now he's taking his revenge back and wants his Nazi land back in South Africa. This is the guy that we're going to have to deal with. He got all of his money from his dad owning a diamond mine. When you hear about the blood mines, that's where his money came from. And not making things, little cars or anything like that. That's what he bought with the money his daddy gave him. He knows nothing about business. He's absolutely an idiot. But we have to deal with him for the next four years. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down

D. Public Comment Period

Yeah. Mark, you had your hand up prior. Do you have a comment? Mark, go ahead.

Mark Huddleston: I had a comment about um the work session for the uh American Council of American Indians. Um there was a work session. And I was told that it was uh presented by the Ogema, and he wasn't there. So, it didn't happen. And I've attended other work sessions where a quick phone call was made to people to see if they wanted to

attend. And I thought maybe that courtesy might be extended to the Ogema the next time. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sara, you are next in the queue.

Sara Agosa: My comment is about the financial reports. I Googled when government does not receive financial reports to get an objective view. And this is what came back. Explanation, when a government doesn't receive financial reports, it can impact decision making and the ability to evaluate the government's stability. Why financial reports are important. Decision making financial reports help decision makers understand the government's financial health and stability. Budgeting financial reports help governments plan budgets and allocate resources and compliance. Financial reports are required for tax and accounting compliance. So, my question is, when is the last time council has received a quarterly report pursuant to the Budget and Appropriations Act 603. That's my question. Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Sara, we have we have not received a quarterly report.

Councilor Wolfe: *Speaking but not heard in mic*

Speaker Burmeister: Well, I can just speak on what as long as I've been here, which is about for probably eight, eight quarters. So, I don't know prior to that. Okay, um next in the queue is Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Alright. Um this is public comment. So, I just want to get this out there. When members are watching back the tape, please go back and look at when Mr. Romanelli said we're not under sanctions right now. And I just want to ask the logical um question. Um what are you appealing? If you're not in sanctions, you're not. I mean, the guy can't even talk for five seconds without lying. It's a shame. But that's... that's not me. That's him caught right on tape, telling you that we're not in sanctions. That's a lie. I don't know. I know he doesn't like the word lie. Well, if you don't like the word lie, quit lying. Um I'd also like to point out the fact that um the audit is the only problem we've got. And I am extremely upset with the speaker as Mr. Romanelli has been operating the casino illegally since we adopted the Oversight um Act. What was that? Two, three months ago. So, he's been acting. We have financials that are behind uh nine months. He's illegally operating the casino. We have a casino up the street. He hid a contract to bring 600 machines into our um casino that's going to start floating that money out to Oklahoma. He hid that from the membership and didn't want them to see it. And now he's going to hold an informational meeting to lie to everybody about something else. If you want to know what's wrong with this tribe, there's one person's name on it. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Stephanie, you're next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Stephanie West: Stephanie West, 3919. Um Round Dance still on? Somebody's talking like it got canceled or something. Is the Round Dance still for March?

Unclear who: Yeah.

Stephanie West: Okay, because somebody posted that uh

Councilor Wolfe: That's incorrect.

Stephanie West: Huh

Councilor Wolfe: Pam was chair spearheaded it and wanted to work on the Round Dance.

Stephanie West: Okay

Councilor Wolfe: She stepped back yesterday. Tribal Council hasn't had a meeting to decide if it's going to continue. It may potentially be canceled because she decides she no longer wants to participate when it was an item she brought forward to Council.

Councilor Wever: Wow

Stephanie West: Okay. Alright. Um Al, good luck on your journey to Washington. Learn some good stuff. And Miigwech, *Anishinaabemowin*, to all my relatives.
Anishinaabemowin

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, Stephanie.

Speaker Burmeister: Um go ahead, Jolene. You're in the queue.

Jolene O'Signac: Yes, Um I just wanted to bring up once again the point that Council has um a sworn oath to oversight. Clearly, that's not being done with our financials. The Ogema has been allowed to get away with this time after time. He stood up, I think it was two months ago and promised that the audit would be done by the 28th. Clearly, that didn't happen. Shannon's point is well made. What is he appealing? He hasn't put in the paperwork to appeal anything. And Council sits back and allows this to continue. He should be put up for removal once again, and it should continue to happen until we have three Councilors that will do their job and adhere to our laws and vote that man out of office. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Vicki, go ahead, please.

Vicki Sam: Good morning, Vicki, Sam. Um I just wanted to say that I'm grateful you guys put that letter out there in regard to what's going on. That was very unnerving. And my grant is still silenced. It's a lot like I think everybody's grant is now under a hush order. They can't talk to us currently. And there is some concern with mine in particular. I am 100% grant funded. I do not have a dime of tribal money. So, I just want to put it out there that I hope you continue to think about programs like mine in case of my grant went under. I don't think I would not fight for tribal money because that's a real concern I have. I've been worried sick about it because I have elders, I'm taking care of. Medicare

costs are going up. Prices on prescriptions are going up. My own my own insurance doesn't want to pay for my medication anymore because the cost jumps so high. And that's just I think we're going to start seeing more elders attend the program and hopefully they do because we can still feed them for now. But that is just something I really, really would like Council to keep in consideration because right now my grant is fighting that they fund tribes. So, it's not a DEI program because as of right now they're classified as one and they're trying to get rid of it. So, I just want to bring that to the table just to have you guys think about that because the anxiety over this is real, especially...especially right now. It just...I think you can kind of hear it. I'm... I'm just worried. So, if you guys can keep that in your minds and maybe even have an emergency contingency plan in case if my program goes under, please. That's all. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Wittenberg, you're next in the queue.

Councilor Wittenberg: Oh wow, that's quick. I uh usually have to wait for a few people. This uh this last weekend I had the joy of uh going up to Grand Traverse Resort. Uh GTB up there had their uh round dance, and I'll tell you what, it was pretty, pretty awesome. Uh I truly enjoyed it, and I got to see some uh really good people that I haven't seen in a long time. I noticed this coming weekend or if one wanted to go a little bit further, I'm uh planning on it. Uh thinking about it myself up at the Ottawa Resort, they're having their Valentine's uh round dance. And so, another one that I'm looking forward to and then seeing the different ones uh and leaders that I knew from GTB now get to go up there and see what LTB uh leaders that are up there. But it's always a joy for myself. They even had some singers from across the border north of us and uh I thought that was pretty awesome for them to come down to uh GTB. So, I just want to let everybody know that this coming weekend we have a round dance up there at the Ottawa Casino up there. So Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Well, I wanted to take care of my elder councilman Wittenberg and the one at Little Traverse Bay Band is not this weekend. I think this weekend, nothing's happening because Super Bowl, but it is actually the 15th that they're having their 7th Annual Sweetheart round dance in um Little Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa. So just clarification on that.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Councilor Wittenberg: Miigwech, Councilor Wolfe. I would have been uh going up there waiting for a long time. I've been out there. Well, they got, I think, three uh flag poles out there. I've been doing a round dance around them. I'd be the only one out there. Oh, well, thank you, though.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Um uh thank you, Speaker. I wanted to um jump back to uh Vicki's statements because uh those words should not be lost and fall on deaf ears as a council when they're talking to you, because we all know that the executive has nothing in plan to deal with this other than to make excuses and point fingers, which is what his that's not even an appeal he sent in. It's... It's pointing figures and blaming people. So, it's not going to be read as an appeal. We're not going to get an appeal because it's not an appeal. But what we should be doing, and we should hear what Miss Sam said. That's very important. We need to do a whole reassessment right now and find out what we have, what's wasteful spending and what we actually have. You guys know that we haven't seen the financials in nine months, and we have a guy who sets there and lies to the membership. Bold face like that. Today, he just I mean, I couldn't even count the lies as they flew out of his mouth. Now we're trusting that he has our finance. What comes back when he got an IOU and hands you an IOU? This is scary. This is seriously scary. And if we're going to go make arguments to the government, we better be a tribe that's in line with our own laws. Because if you stick your head up to the federal government and you look like Little River does, we're going to be the first to get it cut off. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Susan.

Susan Thull: Miigwech. Uh oh, I would just like to say um Miigwech to um recorder Johnson for um asking that question of the Ogema. And I'm sorry that she didn't get an answer. I'm sorry that he didn't just uh run a copy off of that um letter when she asked about the first three uh counts. Um and he said to go to the uh auditors and get it. Um I don't understand why he has it, why he just doesn't give her a copy. But I would like to see you pursue that um recorder uh and the rest of council. You should be aware of what um was cited in that letter. Thank you for asking that question. Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Susan, I'm not sure the exact documents he had in his hand because he didn't share them with us. But what he's talking about is an audit finding from the audit that is closed out in 2023. No documentation has been presented. And I'm unaware that the audit is complete for 2024. What is the big discussion which didn't get filed? So that finding that he's talking about in those four previous findings for him is on 2023. And Tribal Council has a copy of that audit because before it's filed, Tribal Council accepts that report. But

Susan Thull: so

Councilor Wolfe: It could be a little different because he did not share what was in his hand. But he clearly the audit he did state the audit is not complete or submitted.

Susan Thull: Thank you for the clarification.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Campton.

Councilor Crampton: Yes, it was very astute for the recorder to ask that question. So, I think the recorder as well. But I'd like to point out that uh Mr. Romanelli, when you're talking about um. Well, he has a tendency when he's talking about those audits, he tried to make the whole membership think that that was a complaint in the current audit. Go back and watch the tape. That's what I'm talking about the shuck and jive. He never says anything plain and states it plain. He starts about four or five sentences and runs them all together. That wasn't in the current audit. But he tried to make everybody think like it was. Well, you know that we're both responsible because it says here. He didn't say that's from 2023, did he? Go back and watch the tape. You're talking about a grifter who's got a lot of years of experience grifting. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, um Mark. I can't take a question from you because you have already um spoken. So, I just wanted to let you know that.

Mark Huddleston: Then why does Crampton get to come on here five times?

Speaker Burmeister: He's a tribal councilor.

Mark Huddleston: That's what I wanted to ask.

Councilor Crampton: Excuse me, Huddleston.

Mark Huddleston: Oh, I'm sorry.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, let's not go back and forth. Councilor...

Councilor Crampton: Yes, you are.

Speaker Burmeister: Stop. Go ahead, Councilor Silvis.

Councilor Silvis: With no...

Mark Huddleston: Mute him

Councilor Silvis: I'd like to make a **motion to end first open**.

Councilor Wever/ Wolfe: Support

Councilor Wolfe: Even she said it

Recorder Johnson: Who do we have?

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah, who actually support?

Councilor Metzger: Shirley

Councilor Wever: Big mouth.

Councilor Wolfe: Shirley?

Speaker Burmeister: Yes. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 14

P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever- Yes	S. Crampton- Yes
M. Silvis- Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes
A. Metzger- Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe- No

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor, one against. We are done with first at 1:09.

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.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor restate.

Councilor Metzger: uh yes uh at this moment I'd like to make a motion to end Closed at 2:47.

Recorder Johnson: Support

Councilor Wittenberg: We already did that.

Councilor Silvis: Second open

Speaker Burmeister: Who seconded that?

Recorder Johnson: Me

Speaker Burmeister: Pam Okay.

Councilor Wolfe: Shirley gone

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah. She's probably going down to get Steve. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call to establish quorum.

Recorder Johnson:

M. Silvis -Present	T. Burmeister - Present	G. DiPiazza- Present
A. Metzger- Present	R. Wittenberg - Present	J. Wolfe- Present
S. Wever - Absent	S. Crampton - Present	P. Johnson - Present

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight here and one absent. At 2:48.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. So, we are on

VIII. Open Session

A. Items from Closed to Open Session- Minutes and Materials shall remain Confidential.

Moved from first	1.	Ratification of addendum to Traverse City	Tribal Ogema
To second open		Engineering & Construction (GTEC) Contract for	S. Parsons
		Demolition of Jockey Quarters on Tribal Parcel in	
		Fruitport Township.	

Councilor Metzger: ma'am

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah.

Councilor Metzger: It's Grand Traverse not Traverse city.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, Grand Traverse sorry about that. Whoops, I'll reread it.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: And I did realize when I was saying that I said Traverse City. Sorry about that

Moved from first	1.	Ratification of addendum to Grand Traverse	Tribal Ogema
To second open		Engineering & Construction (GTEC) Contract for	S. Parsons
		Demolition of Jockey Quarters on Tribal Parcel in	
		Fruitport Township.	

So

Councilor Wittenberg: support

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor to DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make a motion since don't really need to...Anyways, I'll **make a motion resolution 25-02-021 ratification of amendment to Grand Traverse engineering and construction GTEC contract for demolition of the jockey quarters on tribal parcel in Fruitport Township.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Will there be anybody um any Tribal councilors that are going to abstain from this item. No abstentions. Any questions from councilors, because I can ask that went from to second open.

Recorder Johnson: Mm-hmm

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wolfe go ahead please.

Councilor Wolfe: Again, I just want to thank um Steve Parsons for getting the updates in there and bringing that forward and accepting postponement

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Any comments from citizens. Back to Council. Okay, recorder Johnson Can you do roll call for this item please

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 14

P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever- Absent	S. Crampton- No
M. Silvis- Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes
A. Metzger- Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe- Yes

Motion carried (7-1-0-1)

Seven in favor, one against one absent it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Steve. Thank you, Steve.

Steve Parsons: Um thank you. I appreciate it. Um, actually I had my mic muted so hopefully you can hear me now. So,

Recorder Johnson: Yep, we can hear you

Steve Parsons: But yeah, thank you thank you all very much.

Speaker Burmeister: You're welcome. Thank you. Go ahead councilor Metzger.

IX. Adjourn

Councilor Metzger: Uh yes at this time I'd like to make a **motion to adjourn**

Councilor Wittenberg: 2:51

Councilor Metzger: Uh February 5, 2025. Also meeting at 2:51

Recorder Johnson: support

Speaker Burmeister: Recorder Johnson Can you do roll call for this item please.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

A. Metzger - Yes	R. Wittenberg- No	J. Wolfe- Yes
S. Wever - Absent	S. Crampton – Yes	P. Johnson- Yes
T. Burmeister - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis- Yes

Motion carried (7-1-0-1)

Seven in favor, one against one absent we are closed at 2:52.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chantel Gamelin,
Transcribing Assistant



Pam Johnson,
Tribal Council Recorder