

Approved
04/20/22



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 09, 2022
LITTLE RIVER BAND
VIA ZOOM
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on February 09, 2022. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Speaker Champagne: We are here for our regular scheduled tribal council meeting I'm going to go through very quickly and go through all the individuals on as they're joining right now so just give one moment, please as I pull up the agenda. okay we're here for is Wednesday February 9th it seems to be 10:07 a.m. um here for uh regular scheduled tribal council meeting uh via zoom um there's myself Nitumigaabow Champaign director Wilson uh legal counsel Ms. McGowan 231-398-6868 can you please identify yourself the record?

Steve Wheeler: Steve Wheeler

Speaker Champagne: thank you, Mr. Wheeler we also have, citizen Davis, 231-215-2739 can you please identify yourself for the record?

Karen Love: Karen Love 2494

Speaker Champagne: thank you miss Love we also have councilor Champagne, councilor Lewis, councilor Guenthardt uh citizen Mr. Larry Olsen uh citizen miss Waitner citizen miss Howell citizen and commissioner Mr. Corey Wells and I'm sorry also assistant commissioner miss Martha Howell um citizen and committee member miss Nikki Nelson um Mr. Steve Wheeler who counts it appears uh citizen and tax officer miss Valerie Chandler director Bailey citizen miss Mezeske citizen miss Staci Cheney um this legislative assistant uh miss Chantel Gamelin citizen uh miss Groh citizen miss Chelsea Densmore uh elder and citizen miss Grace Hendler and legislative assistant citizen Mr. Mark Sougie citizen uh Sara Agosa Director Beaver uh citizen miss Laura Echelbarger citizen Mr. Al Metzger citizen miss payment citizen Mrs. LaHaye citizen Mrs. Thull citizen and chair for election board miss Valerie McDonnell user handler Vicki can you please identify yourself for the record?

Ron Pete: Ron Pete 4158

Speaker Champagne: thank you we also have citizen miss Jessica Steinberg, 231-398-6823 is that Mr. Romanelli?

Ogema Romanelli: That is the Ogema

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir 2317940066 can you please identify yourself for the record?

Michael Burmiester: Michael Burmiester 0945

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Burmiester, 2316701050 can please identify yourself for the record

Christy Fowler: Christy Fowler

Speaker Champagne: thank you 2317945382 can you please identify yourself for the record? 2317945382 can you please identify yourself for the record? last call you're still muted 2317945382 can you please identify yourself for the record? Okay 2317945382 you did not respond we will escort you to the waiting room. All right madame recorder I do believe I caught everybody who who is uh listed on here with that being said uh the first order of business

Recorder Wolfe: I just believe Christy Fowler needs to state a tribal id number for the record

Speaker Champagne: oh, thank you

Christy Fowler: 4701

Speaker Champagne: thank you ma'am okay

Recorder Wolfe: and then if those individuals appearing by phone can mute themselves

Speaker Champagne: so, the first order of business is at this point in time in

I. Opening Prayer

we'll do a moment of silence for everything that is occurring on in our community and maybe have some retrospect at this point in time thank you a moment of silence. all right thank you for that moment of silence uh

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

I'll call this meeting to order madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

B. Roll Call

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

Quorum established.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'm here but I still object to the meeting.

Recorder Wolfe: (Pam Johnson) I thought she joined virtually but I don't see her on there.

Councilor Wever: Yea I don't see her on there

Councilor Guenthardt: I object to this now

Recorder Wolfe: Here or not here Tom?

Councilor Guenthardt: Not here

Recorder Wolfe: Elise how do we proceed with that? He is responding but he's saying a absent vote

Speaker Champagne: Madam recorder I recognize that is account for Mr. Guenthardt, he did confirm it and say he's present at the meeting today virtually

Recorder Wolfe: eight are present one absent we have a quorum established at 10:12 a.m.

Speaker Champagne: Thank you madam recorder we do have

Ogema Romanelli: for the record

Speaker Champagne: **C. Approval of Agenda**

Ogema Romanelli: for the record the Ogema does not recognize this as a legitimate meeting thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir you are interrupting that is your first warning at two you'll be escorted out thank you sir. We're at approval of agenda

Ogema Romanelli: let's not go there Ryan let's not go there

Speaker Champagne: At this point in time, I would entertain a motion to approve the modified agenda

Councilor Wittenberg: I'd like to make a

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 9TH 2022 AT 10AM WITH THE ADD V NEW
BUSINESS A ACCEPTANCE OF THE LITTLE RIVER BAND OF
OTTAWA INDIANS INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR CHARITY
& DONATIONS 8600 BUDGET, ADD B #1 LIMITED SCOPE
INVESTIGATION ONE TIME HAZARD PAY 7/30/2, ADD C #2
LIMITED SCOPE INVESTIGATION 2021 HIRING 10/05/21
FINDINGS OF INVESTIGATION ADUIT LINV 10/5/21, ADD D #3
LIMITED SCOPE INVESTIGATION GOVERNMENT
FINANCIAL REPORTING 10/8/21, ADD E #4 LIMITED SCOPE
INVESTIGATION LHR-LLC PROPERTY SALES 10/28/21, ADD F
#5 LIMITED SCOPE INVESTIGATION LAMAR CONTRACT
10/29/21, ADD G #6 LIMITED SCOPE INVESTIGATION ONE IT
EXPENSES 12/2/21 AND LITIGATION 7 LARRY B ROMANELLI
V LRBOI TRIBAL COUNCIL ; by Wittenberg; supported by
Champagne.**

Councilor Wever: Wow

Councilor Wittenberg: Took the breath out of me

Speaker Champagne: we have a motion made on the floor do we have support for the motion?

Councilor Champagne: Support

Speaker Champagne: okay we have a support by councilor Champagne discussion on the motion? Discussion on the motion? Mr. DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: did uh any of these adds under new business have any work sessions at all?

Speaker Champagne: okay any other discussion on the motion?

Councilor DiPiazza: that's a simple yes or no

Speaker Champagne: any other discussion on the motion

Councilor DiPiazza: that's a simple yes or no

Speaker Champagne: mister DiPiazza I didn't think I thought you were objecting to this meeting today

Councilor DiPiazza: I am

Speaker Champagne: Ok

Councilor DiPiazza: that doesn't, oh so I can't speak?

Speaker Champagne: You can definitely speak you have the right you're a council member the floor is yours

Councilor DiPiazza: I asked a question do any of these under new business have they had a work session?

Councilor Guenthardt: Afraid to answer

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Guenthardt would you like to be in queue sir?

Councilor Guenthardt: yeah, yes sir I would, I would like to know why you won't answer those questions why there wasn't a work session? you always you guys always wanted to have work sessions on everything well was there any work sessions on them didn't see any

Speaker Champagne: okay thank you for comment, any other discussion?

Councilor Guenthardt: Just cramming it down everybody's throat

Speaker Champagne: thank you for your discussion any other comments at this point in time from any citizens or councilors? Seeing

Ogema Romanelli: Yea as a citizen Larry Romanelli would like to ask

Speaker Champagne: Go ahead Mr. Romanelli

Ogema Romanelli: yeah, I'd like to ask the same question uh that councilor DiPiazza asked

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Romanelli yes council did meet on each and every one of these previously, they are now up for to be able to uh be accepted at official capacity, so every single councilor here is well versed in these documents thank you for asking that though

Ogema Romanelli: that was answer to the other councilors thank you

Speaker Champagne: any other discussion. No other discussion madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #1

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

Motion carried (6-2-0-1)

Councilor DiPiazza: No because we didn't have a work session on it so (*Back to roll Call*)

Recorder Wolfe: six in favor two against one absent agenda's been approved

Councilor Guenthardt: Well, you bobble heads won again

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Guenthardt we do have

Councilor Guenthardt: Yes sir

Speaker Champagne: you have professional decorum today if you can

Councilor Guenthardt: okay

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir

Councilor Guenthardt: you betcha. How's things in Milwaukee pretty good?

Speaker Champagne: We are under continuing business we're on A grants and contracts there is none present B budget modification none is present C approval

Recorder Wolfe: We forgot tribal approval of tribal council minutes

Speaker Champagne: Oh

Recorder Wolfe: and we have one citizen with their hand

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder next area of business is

D. Tribal Council Minutes 11/04/21 & 12/08/21 & 01/12/22

its acceptance of these minutes at this point time I would entertain a motion to accept those tribal council minutes

Councilor Lewis: I'll make a

**MOTION TO ACCEPT TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR
11/04/21, 12/08/21 AND 01/12/22; by Lewis; supported by Wittenberg.**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Champagne: all right we have a motion made by councilor Lewis support by councilor Wittenberg. Discussion on the motion I seen citizen uh Metzger with his hand raised. Mr. Metzger discussion for the tribal council minutes

Al Metzger: oh yeah Boozhoo now this is just going to be an open statement. We need to find positive ground and balance in order to continue to exist as a tribe so please try to work together for the good of all people Chi Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Metzger. Any discussion on tribal council minutes 11/4, 12/8, 1/12/22? any discussion? seeing no discussion madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #2

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

Motion carried (6-1-1-1)

six in favor one against one abstain and one absent, minutes have been accepted

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

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts- None Submitted

B. Budget Modifications- None Submitted

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

1. Approval of Expenditure for 2021 State of Michigan Unemployment Compensation Benefit Charges

Amount due to the State of Michigan for Unemployment Compensation benefit charges for 2021 relating to our reimbursable status with the State of Michigan. The total amount due is \$27,646.57.

this item is being presented by the tribal Ogema with the CFO present as designee gentlemen the floor is yours that's the introduction of your item

Steve Wheeler: okay this is CFO Steve Wheeler can everybody hear me okay

Speaker Champagne: yes, sir thank you

Steve Wheeler: okay thank you um so what this is this is an annual invoice for our state of Michigan unemployment benefit charges um the amount as noted as \$27,646.57 and so annually the tribe is billed from the state of Michigan for for basically all of the unemployment charges our former employees have been paid throughout the calendar year of 2021 uhm the tribe has a reimbursable status with the state of Michigan which

means just that basically that we we reimburse them for the dollars paid out for former employees unemployment benefits this was started many years ago probably around the year 2000 2001 by one of the tribe's attorneys and the reimbursable status is something that is supported pretty much only to government units counties cities tribal governments with an agreement with the state of Michigan it allows us to just pay for the benefits actually charged rather than the percentage rate system the state uses for virtually most private employers and this way we are saving money and not paying off an unemployment rate that it's basically calculated on how much usage there is in unemployment so this is something we've been doing for many years and it's an annual invoice all the backup is in your packets the the actual invoice from the state of Michigan email from Farm management who is the tribe's third-party unemployment processor explaining different problems with the state of Michigan and the unemployment agency and what a challenge they've had, and they are also recommending that we pay this invoice as presented and then the four quarterly statements showing the recipients of the unemployment charges are also in the packet so basically, we're looking for approval to make this payment to the state of Michigan for unemployment benefit charges thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir does that conclude your presentation of the item

Steve Wheeler: yes, sir it does

Speaker Champagne: thank you and so then uh at this point in time any discussion for tribal councilors on this agenda item? madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: so, this agenda item does appear without a work session because that's how it was requested by Mr. Wheeler he did not feel a work session was necessary he was not present for agenda review due to all the technical difficulties it was scheduled to be removed but in the benefit in the best interest of the tribe to retain the reimbursable status and not add extra expense to this item I allowed for it to continue on and be on the agenda and vote on today and then secondly just for the benefit of membership this is an expenditure of fiscal year 2021 and it will be coming out of the annual budget for 2021. that's correct Mr. Wheeler?

Steve Wheeler: yep, very well said that is correct um thank you miss recorder

Speaker Champagne: Thank you madam recorder any other discussion from tribal councilors I'd entertain a motion at this time

Councilor Lewis: I'll make motion

**MOVE FOR THE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 22-0202-010
APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES FOR 2021 STATE OF
MICHIGAN UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
BENEFIT CHARGES; by Lewis; supported by Wittenberg.**

Recorder Wolfe: We just have to correct the resolution number 22-0209-010

Councilor Lewis: Okay 22 did you say 2209? Repeat that please

Recorder Wolfe: 22-0209-010

Councilor Lewis: Okay because all right that's not what's on oh oh because you had the updated agenda all right thank you the resolution number, I want to amend to **22-020209-010**

Recorder Wolfe: You got to many twos in there

Councilor Lewis: Oh, do I

Recorder Wolfe: 22-0209

Councilor Lewis: Oh, okay all right apologies okay **22-0209-010 amended**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Champagne: we have a motion made by councilor Lewis support by council Wittenberg discussion on the motion on the floor? discussion on the motion on floor from councilors or citizens? any discussion of the motion on the floor? seeing no discussion on the motion on the floor madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #3

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

Motion carried (6-0-2-1)

six in favor two abstentions one absent resolution is passed. Mr. Speaker, we do you have someone in the waiting room that needs to be identified two 1231233 and they should be at the bottom of the list

Speaker Champagne: 2312333255 can you please identify yourself for the record

Samantha Shoup: Samantha Shoup 3989

Speaker Champagne: thank you for joining us, ma'am

Recorder Wolfe: we just have one number that just signed on as soon as they I think it's just 2313885081

Speaker Champagne: looks like citizen Kim Hinmon is present

Recorder Wolfe: correct she just joined. 231398

Speaker Champagne: 5081 can you please identify yourself for the record? 2313885081
can you please identify yourself for the record

Marcella Leusby: Marcella Leusby 0133

Speaker Champagne: Thank you for joining us ma'am appreciate you joining us. All right moving on to the next order of business we have

IV. Old Business

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

Payment of 2022 dues- Postponed until budget is approved

That item is still postponed as that item has not been met next item uh theses as these items are just naturally postponed its not a action on council so we'll just be moving right through

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

Previously approved CARES funds cannot be used because the project will not be completed until later in 2022. ARPA funds are also eligible to be used on the project and can be used through 2024. Postponed until budget is approved.

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

Collaborative project between LRBOI Natural Resources and Conservation Resource Alliance to restore and protect Pere Marquette River habitat. Postponed until budget is approved

D. Biskaabiiyang Committee Sept-Dec 2021

Uhm this item is before for their reports uhm I see Miss Nikki Nelson would you like to present this item, or would council just like to accept uh entertain a motion to accept this report? I wanted to give the I think Miss Nelson you're on the culture committee I want to give you the opportunity if you want to say anything? Miss Chelsea Densmore has her hand raised go ahead ma'am

Chelsea Densmore: thank you Mr. Speaker I these are just our minutes we had um some secretary changes so we're just uh had to catch up on our minutes and we were just submitting them for the remainder of last year but they're just our minutes

Speaker Champagne: thank you ma'am all right with that being said uh tribal council I'd entertain a motion at this time? Madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: make a

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BISKAABIYANG COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOURTH QUARTER REPORT AND CALANDER THE MEETING MINUTES ARE FOR SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER OF 2021; by Wolfe; supported by Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Champagne: We have a motion by madam recorder Wolfe support by councilor Wittenberg discussion on the motion from councilors and citizens at this time? discussion from councilors or citizens at this time? seeing no discussion madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #4

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

Motion carried (6-0-2-1)

six in favor two abstained one absent the minutes have been accepted

Speaker Champagne: thank you we're moving on to the next item in business I do recognize that there's someone has their hand, but that item has now been voted on we're moving on to

E. Approval of Big Fire Law Invoice Totaling \$39,506.03 for October and November of 2021

Tribal Purchasing Regulations require all \$25,001 and up invoices must be authorized by Tribal Council Resolution. October and November Big Fire invoice #2218 and 2268 total invoices are \$39,506.03

um that does conclude my introduction on the item madam recorder Wolfe is the sponsor of this item

Recorder Wolfe: and I'll refer to Brad for explanation

Comptroller Pringle: hello tribal council and tribal members this is for the uh Big Fire billing for October November of 2021 this particular like the Speaker said any any uh dollar amount over twenty-five thousand dollars has to be done by resolution um these there are uh budgeted dollar amounts in the uh tribal council budget to cover these expenses for 2021. These expenses were actually uh derived in 2021 and they will be paid out of the 2021 budget as long as we can get this approved um, we did have a work

session on this on January 13th so once again the uh it's for October and November of 2021 totaling \$39,506.03 any questions?

Speaker Champagne: thank you, um, does that that concludes the presentation um at this point in time does any tribal councilors wish to abstain from this item? any tribal councilors wish to abstain from this item? Any tribal councilors wish to abstain from this item? Mr. DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: That would be me because I still have the same objection to the meeting how it's being orchestrated. Whose orchestrating it so. I'm done you can note that

Speaker Champagne: It's not abstention due to conflict-of-interest sir?

Councilor DiPiazza: I would think so would you

Speaker Champagne: okay I just wanted to make sure that we recognize your abstention any other abstentions seeing none

Councilor Guenthardt: yep, I abstain

Speaker Champagne: okay thank you Mr. Guenthardt. Any discussion from tribal councilors at this time? any discussion from tribal citizens at this time? Citizen Miss Sara Agosa, you have the floor ma'am

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 I have four questions. One is Big Fire the only legal representation of tribal council? two do councilors individually have the right to sue council? three if councilors individually can sue council does the tribe cover those legal costs and four if tribal council uses Big Fire and the Ogema uses Donna Swain what is the role of the ULD? thank you those are my questions

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Sara Agosa all of them are good questions in-house legal counsel for the tribe is through contract with Big Fire against the one question. I guess anybody can sue anyone as present these days um but in regard to your question you know can a councilor specifically sue the body um, I believe that that does violate their oath um and we've had a print council member be removed from office for that same thing you can proprietary information and things of that nature for their own events and uh they got removed

Councilor DiPiazza: I object to them comments

Speaker Champagne: that there's this isn't court sir you can save it for court

Councilor DiPiazza: Welp exactly

Speaker Champagne: this is a response responsive question

Councilor DiPiazza: You can save that for whatever you're going to do

Speaker Champagne: Mr. DiPiazza you are being warned to please had to decorum in this meeting sir

Councilor DiPiazza: I'm still objecting to your comments

Councilor Wever: But you can't

Speaker Champagne: I can put you in queue thank you. So that's a little history on, on that aspect uh in regard to um ULD uh ULD is found through ordinance to what their role is and so their outline is uh defined in such legislation. I hope I answered your questions Miss citizen Agosa. Now Mr. DiPiazza would you like to be in queue?

Sara Agosa: actually, I had another question just want a clarification

Speaker Champagne: go ahead citizen Agosa

Sara Agosa: um it was if councilors individually can sue council does a tribe cover legal costs for them?

Councilor DiPiazza: no

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Mr. DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll answer that one... NO

Speaker Champagne: all right any other discussion on the approval Big Fire law invoice totaling \$39,506?

Councilor Guenthardt: I I I object to that uh bill anyway because

Councilor Wever: How can they all abstained?

Speaker Champagne: call to order I heard that uh council member Wever has brought up a good thing two councilors have officially abstained meaning they are not allowed to have discussion may their records show that councilor DiPiazza and councilor Guenthardt have taken active participation in this um uh discussion on this item that they previously have stated they abstained they are barred from having such discussions on the item they know this this is a standard practice and so please let the record denote that both those councilors please go back into the line you have abstained if you wish not to abstain on this item you know you can ask for reconsideration on that but at this point in

time we are trying to follow the rules that this tribe has passed thank you councilor Wever will be back in

Councilor DiPiazza: yeah, following any rules because you're directing them comments towards me and then want to pull a squeaky mickey at everybody so

Speaker Champagne: Mr. DiPiazza are you changing your abstention?

Councilor DiPiazza: continue on what you're doing

Speaker Champagne: Mr. DiPiazza are you changing your vote for call of abstention?

Councilor DiPiazza: No no

Speaker Champagne: so, you can actually participate

Councilor DiPiazza: You can threaten to remove me again go ahead you already did it once saying shit and everything else in the kitchen sink thrown at me that day, that's okay good thing I ducked shoo. I'm done

Speaker Champagne: I don't believe you can it can be acknowledged Mr. DiPiazza you have an abstention

Councilor DiPiazza: that's fine don't acknowledge me I don't care

Speaker Champagne: citizen Agosa you have the floor ma'am and then citizen Miss Staci Cheney

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 that was my question I don't understand why there's been abstentions, I think I would like an explanation thank you

Speaker Champagne: okay citizen Miss Staci Cheney your next in queue

Staci Cheney: um yes, I'm having a problem with my phone can you hear me?

Speaker Champagne: Yes ma'am

Staci Cheney: okay thank you um I'm just wondering why um why councilor um DiPiazza and Guenthardt are yelling at us um I'm finding it upsetting we're not doing anything to him to them but um and I know you're doing the best you can Speaker Champagne but um not only are they abstaining from their from the topic at hand but they're yelling at us and um they're very defensive so either stop talking if you're gonna abstain or stop yelling at us it's offensive and I'm tired of it

Councilor DiPiazza: I don't believe I was yelling

Staci Cheney: you are yelling

Speaker Champagne: thank you ma'am I'm going to call to order Mr. DiPiazza you have now gotten to the point of disrupting this meeting can you please control your emotions today sir thank you

Staci Cheney: and he even stood up

Councilor DiPiazza: that's not emotions

Speaker Champagne: Staci Miss Staci Cheney thank you for your comment we are at this point in time and entertain a motion for approval of Big Fire law invoice totaling \$39,506.03 if the council member is so moved

Councilor Wever: Go ahead

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, if there are no other questions, I'd like to make a
**MOTION FOR RESOLUTION # 22-0209-011 APPROVAL OF BIG FIRE
LAW INVOICE TOTALING \$39,506.03 FOR OCTOBER AND
NOVEMBER OF 2021;** by Wittenberg; supported by Wever

Councilor Wever: support

Speaker Champagne: we have a motion on the floor by council member Wittenberg supported by council member Wever discussion the motion on the floor? discussion on the motion and floor? seeing no discussion madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #5

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

Motion carried (6-0-2-1)

six in favor two abstained one absent resolution has been approved

Speaker Champagne: Thank you madam recorder next order of business

**F. Approval of Amendments to the Housing Regulations
Chapter 3 Occupancy Procedures for Low Income and
Tribally Owned Homes for Final Adoption**

The Housing Commission made changes to Housing Regulations Chapter 3, Occupancy Produces for Low Income & Tribally Owned Homes. The final work session was held on December 21, 2021

um with that being said uh that's introduction item this item is being sponsored by council member Wittenberg um I turn the floor over to you sir for presentation on this item

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, what this uh has been added that uh for no reason to be required for elders that are residing in the Aki maadiziwin community to request a transfer into an elder's designated home and then there's different uh things throughout where they struck out resident and put tenant but uh what I seen that is the main focus on this it was up for a 30-day comment and I haven't seen anything but uh there's other things for like uh recreational vehicles storage parking boats on and on and on, on any street or home site within the community is allowed and then uh only those vehicles with better license plate registration are running the notice shall be allowed on housing department property both the license and registration must be current and it's uh things of that nature that are concerned in chapter three. thank you Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Wittenberg any councilors which to abstain at this time? Any councilors wish to abstain at this time? last call for any councilors wishing to abstain

Councilor DiPiazza: sure

Speaker Champagne: councilor DiPiazza wishing to abstain

Councilor DiPiazza: would anybody like to hear my explanation why? I don't want to yell at anybody, so I'll just be back here. I don't agree with the meeting how it's proceeding and who's overseeing it. That is why I'm abstaining

Speaker Champagne: Council member Guenthardt

Councilor Guenthardt: I abstain also

Speaker Champagne: Thank you sir all right with that being said we move on to discussion. I'd entertain a motion at this time by a councilor to approve amendments the housing regulation Chapter 3.

Councilor Wittenberg: there are no other questions I'd like to make a
**MOTION RESOLUTION# 22-0209-012 APPROVAL OF
AMENDMENTS TO THE HOUSING REGULATIONS CHAPTER 3
OCCUPANCY PROCEDURES FOR LOW INCOME AND
TRIBALLY OWNED HOMES FOR FINAL ADOPTION;** by
Wittenberg; supported by Wever

Councilor Wever: support

Speaker Champagne: support by council member Wever with a motion on the floor by council member uh Wittenberg with that being said any discussion from councilors or

citizens at this time the motion on the floor? any discussion from councilors or citizens at this time? Seeing no further discussion from councilors or citizens at this time madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #6

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

Motion carried (6-0-2-1)

I would like to take one second to note for the record Pam Johnson is present in the lodge sitting in distance hearing and listening to the meeting through what Tom Guenthardt is presenting she's just choosing not to participate in the meeting. *(Back to Rollcall)*
Six in favor two abstained one absent resolution is passed.

Speaker Champagne: thank you very madam recorder moving on to the next area of business

**G. Approval of amendments to the Housing Regulations
Chapter 6 Pet and Animal Control Regulations for
Tribal Rental Units for final adoption**

Tribal Council made changes to Housing Regulations
Chapter 6, Pet and Animal Control Regulations for
Tribal Rental Units. The final work session was held

this uh does conclude the introduction to item this item is being uh authored and sponsored by council member Wittenberg. Council member Wittenberg the floor is your sir

Councilor Wittenberg: yes, this uh concerns uh the pets basically, and what uh we're doing is striking out two pets to three pets or service animals and then also striking out the 50 pounds uh it is uh also that uh if you have one pet is \$150 two pets \$250 three pets \$350 if the tenant has three pets then it's \$500 and then also it turns around and strikes out uh tenants and uh or residents and uh they put tenants in there. Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: thank you council member Wittenberg um any councilors wish you abstain at this time? Any councilors wish to abstain at this time? last call for any councilors wishing to abstain. Council member DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: It's me again would like to give my definition again I don't believe this meeting is orchestrated proper whose orchestrating this meeting. I don't believe any of it's legal at this time but continue on and I'll be abstaining

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir

Councilor Guenthardt: so, will I

Speaker Champagne: okay we got council member Guenthardt does abstention with that being said open for discussion at this time? Citizen Sara Agosa has her hand raised the floor is yours ma'am

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 I just want to make sure I'm clear so has the weight limit increased and the number of pets increased, and I also have a comment thank you

Councilor Wittenberg: yes, uh pets have increased uh for the three it goes up to \$500.

Recorder Wolfe: Sara it did change in the scope from three pets to two pets the written authorization and the fees have increased for the amount of pets you have per unit and then they have stricken the language that all dogs must be under 50 pounds when fully grown

Sara Agosa: so, the number of pets have decreased but the weight limit has increased

Recorder Wolfe: the number of pets have increased previously it was do you want to speak on it Tara? I thought I heard somebody else making comments

Tara Bailey: uh the practice has increased to three pets and there's no there will no longer be any size limit or breed limit with this new regulation

Sara Agosa: Can I please make a comment

Speaker Champagne: you still have the floor citizen Agosa

Sara Agosa: thank you Sara Agosa 4478. I just want to say that I have concerns with the loosening of these rules. I've been a long-term renter and I think it's important in a community setting when it comes to pets that there are market standard rules especially because youth live on the property. I mean I would just suggest if people want to house several pets and not have a weight restriction that maybe community living is not for them and to seek housing independent housing but I've had some experiences in my life and even being on other reservations to me is just really important that we do have strong rules around the occupancy of pets thank you that is my comment

Speaker Champagne: yeah, I would entertain a motion

Marcella Leusby: I would like to speak please Marcella Leusby

Speaker Champagne: yep, go ahead um miss Leusby and then I want to recognize council member Wittenberg and madame recorder Wolfe

Marcella Leusby: okay I am on the housing commission we had set the rule at two pets under 55 or under 50 pounds for a reason because of the occupancy of the people up there and we also had on there a certain breed could not be up there for the safety of the children and the people that are living up there um two, two pets per house we thought were plenty because of the size of the houses there wasn't much room for more than two pets and the weight limit is for safety reasons for again the children and the adults because there has been a child and several adults up there that have been attacked by the dogs already up there. Um so we figured it would be safer to put these rules on because of the percentage of the people living up there and there are dogs that do run up there and there are dogs that have attacked and so that's why we made the rule for no more than two dogs and under 50 pounds and I also would like to put on that councilman Ron Wittenberg should not be able to vote because according to our constitution a councilor should not be able to vote if they have a personal interest in the agenda and that there would be under a personal interest for Ron Wittenberg because he lives up there and he has pets. Thank you

Speaker Champagne: okay so how housekeeping one instance um the personal interest is personal financial interest um you know that not interest that covers governance and rules for all the tribe which is anyone who would house in there that would eliminate many of the council members like council member DiPiazza even though he limited himself you know as there's others

Councilor DiPiazza: May I ask a question. Why would that exclude me?

Marcella Leusby: He does not let that Aki sir

Speaker Champagne: Well, it goes for all housing units so

Marcella Leusby: This is for Aki only

Councilor DiPiazza: Please get your facts straight before you

Speaker Champagne: Mr. DiPiazza the floor is mine at this time for housekeeping purposes I will allow for Mr. Wittenberg council member Wittenberg um to determine if he has any conflict of interest as raised by Miss Leusby you don't have to respond at all sir um

Councilor Wittenberg: I don't mind at all and no I don't have uh no conflict of uh interest

Marcella Leusby: well of course you wouldn't

Speaker Champagne: Miss Leusby you do not have the floor anymore

Councilor Wittenberg: right and what one doesn't uh I know of different people that even have more pets than I do think and feel and then that this would be respectable uh doing

in doing so and I also just because it was put up now and depending on how it's getting voted and say if it does get voted yes or it gets voted no but if it gets no speaks for itself but it voted yes that can turn around and be also brought back up and so it's not like uh it's gonna be forever uh there are a lot of things as far as uh people voting on different things that say uh per cap goes on and on and on well then all kinds of wouldn't be able to vote on it because they're going to be getting it you know it goes on and on and on but no I don't have no financial or anything like that so Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: thank you we're going to go into the queue um next in queue on this uh madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: so, I just want to say for the record I won't be supporting the changes in the ordinance um I had said that in all the work sessions and discussions we had did hear from the housing director and other residents at Aki and other business owners that pets do cause a lot of damage the two-pet limit seems perfectly acceptable when we do change it to three with the amount of housing that we have up there um we have about 87 units we're completing five more that means that there's an additional 100 animals or pets that potentially can come into that housing develop so I think it's just too much so I will not be in support of these changes thank you that's my comment

Speaker Champagne: thank you for explaining that too madam recorder much appreciate it um citizen uh miss Laura Echelbarger

Laura Echelbarger: I'm sorry I accidentally put my hand up but since I did that I can I just mentioned that a golden retriever weighs over 50 pounds we used to have a basset hound that was a 90-pound basset hound and that's not somebody that's gonna go after your kids so I I would question the 50-pound limit um that's it thank you oh I'm sorry
Laura Echelbarger 2276

Speaker Champagne: ma'am citizen miss Kim Hinmon floors yours ma'am

Kim Hinmon: good morning um I am member 3445 five um I just wanted to say as a resident of Aki I'm not in support of um adding the extra amount of animals. I think that right now the amount of animals that live in the housing development is appropriate um and what we allow I think is appropriate. I do appreciate the fact that you know there is an increase in the um in the fees because there is such a uh the likelihood of damage um in the housing costs to upkeep them um and so I guess I appreciate that but in terms of you know the sizes of animals I think that you know maybe specifically not like a 50-pound weight limit maybe like you know do we want to look at breed restrictions I don't love that either because I feel like any dog can be um vicious if it's not trained properly and that goes all the way down from a chihuahua you know up to you know. I living on the Sag chip reservation they do have breed restrictions you're not allowed to have pit bulls you're not allowed to have um some of those more traditionally um uh I can't think today aggressive dogs um and so I just think that it's you know it's nicer to not have to worry you know and the thing is is we're a child friendly community and hopefully we'll

look out for those um and like I said I understand that not all big dogs are vicious and it has to do with temperament of how they're trained and how their caretakers take care of them um but I think that adding an additional as Julie said hundred animals in that community in our community with how small it is I don't think it's appropriate um you know and I think that I think keeping it the way that it is is fine um with that um and that's my my take on it thank you for listening

Speaker Champagne: citizen Sara Agosa next in queue then myself Nitumigaabow Champagne

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my comment is regarding conflicts of interest, and I would have to disagree I don't think that conflicts of interest is just defined by a financial interest. I think it can be an invested interest and that's why I feel we need an ethics ordinance that clearly states and defines the numerous conflicts of interest my final comment is regarding the restrictions on dog breeds. I do support restrictions. I've lived in apartment complexes that have restricted 15 dog breeds thank you that is my comment

Speaker Champagne: thank you there's myself I you know I think this legislation is is warranted res ah legislation we keep saying dogs but it says pets actually pets is defined in the ordinance it's not just dogs so you could have a cat or two cats and a dog and be out of compliance you could have a small animal you know three hamsters and you'd be out of compliance you know things of that nature and so I think you know that's you have to either have to be a lot more specific if you don't want three dogs or if you you know don't define everything as pets I put that up in the work session but what the language is I do trust in our housing department um to be able to adequately maintain and protect our units and if someone is damaging units taking the appropriate protocols to have them vacate and so with that I do support this um madam recorder Wolfe I can't ask I can't remember I believe we're in uh motion on the floor?

Recorder Wolfe: we don't have a motion we're still in discussion

Speaker Champagne: okay I I'd entertain a motion um for approval at this time

Councilor Wittenberg: if there's no other question, I'll make a
**MOTION THE RESOLUTION NUMBER 22-0209-013 CHAPTER 6
PET AND ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATION FOR TRIBAL
UNIT RENTAL UNITS FOR FINAL ADOPTION;** by Wittenberg;
supported by Wever

Councilor Wever: support

Speaker Champagne: we got a motion by council member Wittenberg supported by council member Wever any discussion the motion on the floor? any discussion on the motion on the floor? seeing no discussion on the motion on the floor madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #7

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

Motion carried (5-1-2-1)

Councilor DiPiazza: I still object to the meeting I was proceeding and who's overseeing it, but I will abstain

Recorder Wolfe: five in favor one against two abstentions one absent resolution is passed

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder we go into

V. New Business

A. #1 Acceptance of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Internal Audit Report for Charity & Donations 8600 Budget

Audit of Charitable Donations 09/09/21

this item is brought forth uh by myself and Mr. Pringle I will at this point in time turn it over to Mr. pringle to go through that report

Comptroller Pringle: thank you. Once again good morning council and membership this is a report for an internal audit of charitable donations which is account 8600 of the 2020 budget if you next, we have the objective and a description for this particular internal audit our objective is to review the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians charitable donations to ensure the tribe is following tribal ordinance 14-800-06. Our audit scope was to review charitable donation requirements including but not limited to ordinances regulations resolutions procedures forms etc. review the 2020 budgetary requirements for 8600 reviewed all 2020 transactions under 8600 budgets reviewed all payments for the above donations for the 8600 budget which is charitable donations uh under the finding sections review the constitutions found no requirements for review of ordinance. The tribe has a revenue allocation plan ordinance 01-100-3 which has which was repealed in 2011 and there was no issues found. The tribe has a revenue allocation plan dated February 25, 2008, this plan allows for one tenth of percent of the budget for charitable donations no issues found there. The tribe has guidelines to follow for charitable donation ordinance number 14-800-06 found no issues there on the ordinance reviewed council resolutions. I reviewed uh resolution 11-0223-053 the repeal of the revenue allocation plan ordinance no issues there, with that resolution I reviewed resolution 08-0123-20 the approval of the revenue allocation plan found no issues with the revenue allocation plan review the 2020 tribal budget and budget summary the 2020 tribal budget was \$24,500,000 so \$24,500 was budgeted for 2020 charitable donations this was confirmed with the budgeting department's 2020 budget summary on 5/15/2020. The tribal budgets for donations was rebudgeted to \$12,450 because Covid related revenue shortfalls, next

was the review of the MIP software transactions the Little River Band executive branch donated \$8,250 in 2020 this consisted of eight donations from \$500 to \$3,000 three donations exceeded \$750 which the ordinance requires approval by council resolution. The Little River Band legislative branch donated \$1,000 in 2020 this consisted of two \$500 donations done by resolution the council resolutions are as follows 20-0226-072 and 20-0304-082. I reviewed payments to outside charitable donations on June 11. I reviewed the accounts payable paperwork for five donations that exceeded \$750 charitable date donation ordinance says that any donation amount exceeding \$750 has to be approved by resolution of the five reviewed two had resolutions attached and the other three did not. I researched all 2020 council um resolutions and agendas and could not find the 2020 resolutions agendas for the three large donations audited, these donations were \$3,000 for the "Vietnam wall", \$1,500 for the "Michigan Indian School" and \$1,000 for the "Stomp out Cancer". Current review of charitable donation programs the auditor's thoughts on the second in the second quarter of 2020 Covid19 had changed our businesses ways which we never imagined in the process day-to-day work is overlooked because the lack of resources and time. The tribes has a new council and, in its hands, to solve some of these resource issues currently the council is working on updating the charitable donations program to improve donations to native first 501c programs. I expect this will change in the future how donations are distributed recommendations it appears that three large donations above did not meet the charitable donation ordinance 14-800-06 requirements all three failed to meet the requirements under article 5 sections 5.3 and 5.4. I would recommend that the Ogema and chief of staff review sections 5.3 and 5.4 of the charitable donations' ordinance the tib the tribes' internal controls include the accounting staff and they should review the proposed updated ordinance corrective action plans not at this time as councils in the process of updating the charitable donations ordinance. Auditor will plan another charitable donations audit for the last quarter of 2020. So that was my internal audit dated September 9th, 2021, and presented the council at that time

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Pringle and it's coming forth today um as you know we have worked on the charitable donations' ordinance in past due to these concerning findings of financial irregularities by uh the Ogema's office specifically the tribal Ogema is the only one who is authorized to sign off on those donations which could exceed our ordinance and internal controls it's this pretty serious deal. Thank you, Mr. Pringle, for doing that report, at this point in time does any tribal councilors that concludes our presentation any tribal councilors wish to abstain? normally it's a motion of acceptance but because it's a resolution we will know if there's any tribal councilors wish to abstain? any tribal councilors which to abstain? Mr. DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: It's me again. I still don't believe this meeting is legal and how it's orchestrated and a charitable donation an extreme question how it's audited

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir

Councilor Guenthardt: I abstain also

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Guenthardt with that being said we opened it up for discussion uh with tribal councilors

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. Speaker we have a few guests in the waiting room with phone numbers do we want to admit them or wait for this vote?

Speaker Champagne: wait till after this vote

Recorder Wolfe: okay

Speaker Champagne: so, it's not disruptive um I'd entertain a motion to accept this report at this time if no councilors have any discussion and then move on to open discussion with citizens and councilors if the motion is on the floor. Mr. Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, I make a
**MOTION TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE LITTLE RIVER BAND OF
OTTAWA INDIANS INTERANL AUDIT REPORT FOR CHARITY
AND DONATIONS 8600 BUDGET**

Recorder Wolfe: Resolution number 22

Councilor Wittenberg: **RESOLUTION NUMBER 22-0209-014**; by
Wittenberg; supported by Wever

Councilor Wever: support

Speaker Champagne: support by council member Wever motion on the floor by council member Wittenberg. Discussion from councilors and citizens at this time citizen Miss Sara Agosa

Recorder Wolfe: Who are we documenting for support I heard Champagne and Wever

Speaker Champagne: I I did Wever

Recorder Wolfe: okay

Speaker Champagne: that's the first one I heard I mean councilwoman Wever I'm sorry I didn't mean no disrespect

Councilor Wever: Oh no it's fine

Speaker Champagne: uh citizen Agosa you have the floor ma'am

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478. I just have a question for Gary he keeps interjecting in the meeting and saying constantly this meeting isn't legal it's really disruptive and for me as a member just listening it's very unsettling so either councilor DiPiazza and the Ogema he stated that earlier provide the proof that this meeting isn't legal or please refrain from those comments thank you

Speaker Champagne: any discussion on this item? item on the floor motion on the floor

Councilor DiPiazza: Can say what they want

Speaker Champagne: Any discussion on the motion on the? Mr. DiPiazza you did abstain you can't participate in this discussion at this time

Councilor DiPiazza: I wasn't just she asked me a question do I want to respond

Speaker Champagne: You cannot actually

Councilor DiPiazza: You going to throw me out or I don't know

Speaker Champagne: You abstained Mr. DiPiazza please abide to the guideline to the rules of the tribe

Councilor DiPiazza: *(In auditable)*

Speaker Champagne: uh with that being said any other discussion at this time? seeing no discussion madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #8

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

Motion carried *(6-0-2-1)*

six in favor two abstain one absent resolution is passed

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder in the next item of business number one

Recorder Wolfe: Grab those two

Speaker Champagne: yes, yes ma'am go ahead

Recorder Wolfe: okay so I'm admitting them

Speaker Champagne: 2312997355 is that a new one

Reorder Wolfe: um I think 231654...4 ... 8435

Speaker Champagne: 2315648435 can you please identify yourself for the record

Shannon Crampton: Shannon Crampton 1747

Recorder Wolfe: and then the other attendant was 2312333255

Speaker Champagne: can you please identify yourself for the record

Samantha Shoup: hello this is Samantha Shoup 3989 I already identified myself earlier, but I'll do it again thank you

Speaker Champagne: our apologies that we're looking for the one who just joined is it um is it the ending in 231 7940066? you already identify yourself

Councilor Wittenberg: Burmiester

Speaker Champagne: okay madam recorder Wolfe do you have an idea who, who was the other add I don't see a number that looks unfamiliar

Recorder Wolfe: I'm sure it was the 3255 that just joined but

Speaker Champagne: all right

Recorder Wolfe: I don't see any other numbers that have that same beginning code of 233 and that's what both were in the waiting room oh maybe I didn't add them here's another one. We'll try this one 2312997355

Speaker Champagne: can you please identify yourself for the record

Recorder Wolfe: they may not have joined yet

Comptroller Pringle: You got to add

Recorder Wolfe: I did

Councilor Wittenberg: There you go

Speaker Champagne: so, we got 23179 what was it madam recorder? 231299

Recorder Wolfe: 2997355

Speaker Champagne: can you please identify yourself for the record? 2312997355 can you please identify yourself for record? You're on mute. Last call for 2312997355 can you please identify yourself for the record?

Recorder Wolfe: They just raised their hand but they're not speaking

Speaker Champagne: You have to be able to identify yourself for the record. You're on mute what's the code to unmute on a phone again? Star

(Councilors star6)

Speaker Champagne: Star6 if you do star6 231299 there you go

Janae Shaw: it's Janae Shaw 4641

Speaker Champagne: thank you all right we continue on business we're on

B. #1 Limited Scope Investigation One Time

Hazard Pay 07/30/21

Findings of investigative audit One Time

Hazard 07/30/21

this item uh is being presented by myself as uh the Speaker and our Comptroller General Mr. Pringle. I will turn over to Mr. Pringle for presentation at this time

Comptroller Pringle: once again good morning council and tribal members this is a limited scope investigation to determine the compliance with the 2021 Ogema authorizing a one-time hazard payment for employees who actively worked in the 2020. Objective and description did the Ogema work within the Little River Band regulations ordinance to authorize a one-time hazard payment? What safeguards are in place to protect the assets of the tribe from such activities? My investigative scope auditor will examine the circumstances of the one-time payment and question. where were the funds allocated from? what is the authorization criteria to allocate the funds? what are the total expenses concerned with the hazard payment? what criteria was used to determine eligibility for the hazard pay? I will also review tribal budgetary accounting ordinances and regulations. I will interview and discuss with Ogema accounting department budgeting department, payroll as needed. Under the finding sections um this these are the responses from our CFO. These are the responses from our tribal CFO Steve Wheeler when these same questions from the above were asked, what were what funds were the money allocated from? his response was funds are allocated from fund 4995 the 2021 BIA self-governance ARPA grant which allows for these types of payments. Resolution 21-0714-178 approve the modification of the operating budget of the fiscal year 2021 for \$2,199,732 so that's the rebel that's the resolution that actually put money into that account. Next question was what authority criteria was used to allocate these funds? the award document for the 2021 BIA self-governance ARPA grant specified that premium and hazard pay is authorized um from these funds payment was made based upon the

proof policy authorized by the Ogema dated July 21st, 2021. What is the total cost for the hazard payments? the total cost for the hazard payment was 266.

(Noise on ZOOM through someone's phone interrupting Mr. Pringle conversation)

Speaker Champagne: please mute yourself whoever is interrupting go ahead Mr. Pringle

Comptroller Pringle: total cost of hazard payment was \$266,000 for salaries and wages \$20,132.94 for payroll taxes \$3,841.95 for workman's count and \$7,859.73 for additional 401k so the grand total was \$297,838.62. What criteria was used to determine the minimum eligibility for the hazard payment? the response from the CFO current employee regular full-time employees prior to 12/31/2020 with hazard pays assigned as follows \$2,000 for full-time employees and \$1,000 for part-time employees. I reviewed the Little River Band ordinance and regulations uh found no issues. I interviewed with Steve Wheeler and confirmed that the information above asked him to send me the 7/21 policy that was stated above. I interviewed with Bill Willis, he informed me that no modifications were done to individual budget lines and all expenses were paid out of the 4995 fund he went on to tell me that the ULD advised and wrote the 7/21 policy for hazard pay, so one of the next questions was safeguards so safeguards in place have included several other departments that were involved in this hazard pay process? The ULD, CFO, budget coordinator, grants, and accounts payable all had involvement in the process in fact they did have an approved 7/21 policy um for this then so my recommendations. I have not found any information that regulations ordinance that allows or disallow such activity. I do believe that the ordinance was written with the intent that all dollars have to be spent through some sort of council-approved budget. I have confirmed that the tribal CFO that there is no current plans to spend the remaining unallocated 1.9 million dollars in the 49-90, 4995 fund. I would urge tribal council to meet with the Ogema and begin discussions on the best possible way to expense those unallocated funds. I recommend tribal council discusses this at the 8/2 roundtable meeting with ULD representation. That's that signature that was signed on 7/30 of 2021 and it was presented to tribal council um via email correspondence on 7 7/30 of 2021 that's it

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Pringle

Comptroller Pringle: Thank you

Speaker Champagne: and to add to the presentation um council did have follow up on those items did also seek that um ULD has stated that they've never completed a finalized policy we have that as well in writing further that on this item uh for limited scope of hazard pay that we have under testimony from the CFO that stated on the record in tribal council open meeting is that no payments from the fund shall occur without tribal council approval and it's never been done in the past and this is a first time occurrence and and the payments were made out across the board to employees whether they were working or not working in the office or in healthcare or not healthcare and so and across all three

branches even though the other heads of the branches did not authorize such those are details that. I would like to add to where we left off and that will conclude the presentation at this time does any tribal councilor wish to abstain at this time? Mr. DiPiazza thank you

Councilor DiPiazza: That would be me again

Speaker Champagne: any other tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time?

Councilor DiPiazza: nobody wants to hear my explanation?

Speaker Champagne: any other tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time?

Councilor DiPiazza: thank you for ignoring me that's okay

Speaker Champagne: okay hearing no other abstentions uh moving on any councilors have any discussion on this item at this time? any tribal councilors have any dis uh questions at this time? seeing none I'd entertain a motion uh for acceptance of this report uh and discussion if the motion is then made with citizens and councilors. Council member D or Council member Wittenberg go ahead

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, if there are no other question

**I'D LIKE TO ACCEPT THIS REPORT UH #1 LIMITED
SCOPE INVESTIGATION ONE-TIME HAZARD PAY UH
RESOLUTION NUMBER 22-0209-015;** by Wittenberg;
supported by Wever

Councilor Wever: support

Speaker Champagne: we got council member Wittenberg support by councilwoman Wever any discussion with council members or citizens at this time? Citizen Miss Sara Agosa, you have the floor ma'am

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478. My question is what is the consequence of an expenditure is made without tribal council resolution? thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you ma'am that is a very, very good question it has limited in many of these financial irregularities that we have seen there's action that can handle for removals there's action can going to handle with civilly and there's potential action for criminal um those are all asp auspices that the tribe can or may pursue um that this moment right now is just releasing of those records um so citizens have these financial records which you have always had entitled to but you'd have no way to know they existed. Any other discussion on this item? madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: um just for clarification because this was 25,000 and one cent threshold it should have been approved by resolution by tribal council, correct?

Speaker Champagne: that is correct ma'am

Recorder Wolfe: that was my only comment

Speaker Champagne: Thank you any other discussion from tribal councilors or citizens at this time? 231-564-8435 you're in queue

Shannon Cramptom: thank you Mr. Speaker this is Shannon Cramptom 1747. um I would urge the council to look further for other occurrences such as this I know that when I became Speaker, I was notified by Mr. Pringle that the previous speaker Mr. Pete had um told him to stand down and not give certain information to the council or it was no longer needed so don't be reporting of it, so I'd urge you to check for other instances thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir and just so you know um these all came up in our short tenure here as new council members these items came up before us, we didn't go looking they came before us and raised concerns to the into the level to ask for an independent aspect of internal investigation which is what Mr. Prindle's job is and founding code so thank you for that guidance. Any other discussion on this item? any other discussion on this item? Seeing none we will move on ma'am uh madam recorder roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #9

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

Motion carried (5-1-1-2)

Tom Guenthardt?

Councilor Wever: He went out the door

(Recorder Wolfe proceeded with roll call)

Recorder Wolfe: five in favor one against one abstain two absent resolution is a passed

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

C. #2 Limited Scope Investigation 2021 Hiring 10/05/21

Findings of investigative audit LSINV 10/05/21

um this item is being presented by myself and Mr. Pringle. I'll turn over for presentation to Mr. Pringle

Comptroller Pringle: hello once again council and tribal members this was a limited scope investigation to determine the budgetary compliance with the hiring of employees who were re-hired, new hires or returned to work in 2021 calendar year. Objective and descriptions we're all 2021 re-hires, new hires or return to work employees budgeted for the 2021 resolution approved tribal budget? did the executive department work within Little River Band of the Ottawa Indians regulations ordinances when executing these hires? Investigative scope auditor will view the budget appropriations act of 2013. Auditor will examine budget status of 2021 hires, re-hires and returned to work. Where were the funds approved in the 2021 a budget and are they proposed in the 2022 budget? I will review Human Resource hiring report for 2021. I will review the L drive 2021 final tribal department budgets. I will review the 20 uh any 2021 resolutions that may have modified the 2021 budget and I will discuss hiring processes with applicable management representatives as necessary. Findings review- the hiring list against the 2021 and the 2022 tribal budget located on the L drive there is an attached spreadsheet that you will see if when you have access to this particular document. Human Resources provided a list of 33 hires from January to August of 2021 of the 33 on the hiring list 13 are not budgeted and approved in the 2021 tribal budget, 6 of the 13 are not proposed in the 2022 budget, 5 of the 6 not proposed are seasonal Natural Resource positions. Review the Little River Band ordinance and regulations, review all detail in the budget appropriations acts of 2013. Section 5.8 of the overall reporting requirements (c) the Ogema and CFO provide a schedule of changes to employees' positions and budget to include new hires vacancies to be filled positions eliminated and proposed changes to the organizational chart. Um this report has not been filled um at the time of these hires section 5.9 operating department uh reporting requirements. The director shall provide the following information for each line item in their budget salary payroll taxes and benefits this appears to this appears on the required L drive tribal budget to reflect any changes entitled positions within the budget. Review the Little Riverbed Little River uh resolutions I reviewed all 2021 budget modification resolutions and did not find any addressing the new positions based upon new funding from budget modifications but that does not mean they do not exist you know there's somehow, I could have missed them, or they could not have been posted in a timely manner but I did not find any um of those particular resolutions that changed the budget. Discussion with Little River management. I met and discussed the 5 seasonal hires with the Natural Resources and with the CFO, they stated that these positions are 100% grant funded through grant funds because they are grant funded and approved by tribal council resolution they do not need to be accounted for in the tribal budget? The grant funded accounts the grant funded accounts discussed are the 4068 BIA inland Natural Resources and the 4137 BIA grant great lakes restoration initiative. I have not found a Little River Band ordinance regulation or resolution that discusses this requirement above the requirement is that because it's 100% grant funded it doesn't need to be in a tribal budget. Recommendation review this document at the round table and determine council's next steps discuss with the uh this as discussed with prior speakers many sections of the budget appropriations act of 2013 are not followed this should be a meeting all by itself. Human Resources could review tribal department budget status of potential hires before posting and filling these positions. The Little River Band purchasing department is required to check budget status before

purchasing any goods or services. Corrective actions to be determined this particular report was given the council by email on 10/5 of 2021.

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Pringle and it was also discussed with tribal council uh in depth um earned prior and after your findings um just to have the record clear on this there's two aspects one there was grant funded positions that were not including the budget uh that goes against the budget appropriations ordinance um long saying concerns over appropriations ordinance were in the 2022 budget with many of those concerns that have never received by the council. More so I want to highlight in this findings is specifically that 22 positions were terminated in that reforecasted budget 22 positions many of them tribal citizens we have learned since is that we never had a financial crisis in fact we had higher distribution than we did prior year and some of these positions were brought back without a budgeted position and other positions potentially were brought in without a budget position and so that is uh the highlight of the findings. Why is this important it all has to go through a approved tribal council budget tribal council approves the annual budget a reforecasted budget this was not this very much looks like it was a purge of government and brought back with supporters this is stuff that cannot be acceptable in tribal government. These are the things that we want all our employees no matter who you side and your political uh affiliations or beliefs that feel safe in their employment and that's why this and this scope is really important to me. I feel that this is something that public need to know, with that that concludes my presentation of this item, any tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time?

Councilor DiPiazza: I just want to note that would be your presumption on a lot of things

Speaker Champagne: are you wishing to abstain?

Councilor DiPiazza: I'm abstaining for the same reasonings

Speaker Champagne: any other tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time? Any the other tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time? Seeing none um open up for discussion with tribal councilors for any questions. Any tribal councilors have any discussion? Seeing none I'd entertain a motion to accept this time Mr. Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: no other questions I like the re uh

**ACCEPT THE REPORT C #2 LIMITED SCOPE
INVESTIGATION 2021 HIRING 10/05/21 RESOLUTION # 22-0209-
016; by Wittenberg; supported by Champagne**

Speaker Champagne: Thank you council member Wittenberg do we have a support for his motion?

Councilor Champagne: I'll support

Speaker Champagne: We have a motion made by councilman Wittenberg support by council member Champagne any discussion on the motion from citizens or councilors at this time? Citizen Davis

Krystal Davis: So, what you um I had a question um Krystal Davis 1100 um I was one of the 22 that was actually let go during that which you called a purge, now um did I hear you correct say that the funding um during this whole operation actually went up from the prior year when they did let us go?

Speaker Champagne: yes, ma'am the funding for your health care professional like yourself many other healthcare citizens were let go we had ample amount of dollars through the Cares Act funds in fact at the end of this year we're struggling to spend those Cares Act dollars we gave those additional payments out to citizens. The administration executive side knew funds were there and the projections of the casino were up significantly than, then previous year for a higher distribution. There was no financial crisis 22 positions many of them tribal citizens were let go and only some were brought back but never approved their re-forecasted budget. I would have expected to see all positions brought back underneath another budget or or repealed the form or reforecasted budget that is not what occurred to the record that what the council only became aware with this report council did not know prior to that

Krystal Davis: okay thank you

Speaker Champagne: at least at least all the new council members did not know. I can't say for anybody else; I can say for the new council members we did not know

Krystal Davis: okay thank you

Speaker Champagne: any other discussion from tribal citizens or councilors at this time? any other discussion for tribal councilors or citizens at this time? seeing none ope citizen Thull you have a floor ma'am

Susan Thull: yes, thank you uh first I'd like to say Krystal was one of the best workers that um I ever encountered so I was sorry to see that she uh wasn't brought back. Um also I do believe that um at the time that this was happening that we did have a councilor who said that we were not you know in that type of situation where we had to lay these people off and that was uh councilor Crampton um, he did say that uh at that time that this was not necessary so um just add that to it thank you very much.

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Thull I also do believe that uh there was council members who voted no on that reforecast any other discussion at this time madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: just to note for tribal membership of these 33 hires that happened through January through August only two citizens that were let go in that August layoff

or um whatever two of them were returned to jobs one was not budgeted in 2021 but budgeted in 2022 the other was not budgeted and the same 2021 and 2022 would move the position into a different department

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder for that additional information any other discussion at this time? any other discussion at this time? 2315648435 the floor is yours

Shannon Crampton: um thank you Mr. Speaker Shannon Crampton 1747 just to add on to what Susan was saying um I know the catalyst was uh made the point of uh the employment of uh former attorney Caitlin Carey but there was more to four council members getting up and walking out of those meetings now you guys are starting to understand there were five council members that were just shoving things through and were acting like lacking of the executive office and not responsible councilmen thank you

Councilor DiPiazza: *inaudible*

Speaker Champagne: Mr. DiPiazza are abstained cannot participate in the discussions

Councilor DiPiazza: oh yeah

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Crampton. Any other discussions at this time? any other discussions at this time? Um citizen Ms. Steinberg you have a floor ma'am

Jessica Steinberg: thank you Mr. Speaker excuse me um in the uh in the positions that were removed from the budget and now that there has been finances found or there never was an issue with the financial crisis is it possible or have those positions been restored to the budget? and will those employees be called back? that's all I have thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you ma'am you can look to public record you do realize there was court filings against a budget that actually, created many jobs um that is in public record so, I defer you to their unfortunately that budget is fade at this time. I can answer that executive side did not as madam recorder mention only two positions were put one position was put back in the 2022 budget proposal. The floor Ms. Steinberg

Jessica Steinberg: uh thank you Mr. Speaker just as a follow-up I didn't hear it as part of the the scope but then um wouldn't it be prudent to look at those positions as being an immediate return based on our own employment laws which deal with separations of employment and layoffs and calling those individuals back. I'm just concerned because apparently there we know that they're still out there only two have been called back but I think that an immediate correction could be to call them back and restore them to their employment I know that the budget's in I know the budget's in uh court right now the 2022 budget but if you're operating on a continuing resolution in 2021 you could easily restore them back I think thank you Mr. Speaker that's all I have

Speaker Champagne: thank you Ms. Steinberg I do wish that that was possible to do this council was taking actions um to be able to ensure our people have employment and we'll continue to work towards that um it wasn't this council's actions that that did such. any other discussion at this time? any other discussion at this time? seeing no other discussion madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #10

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

Motion carried (5-1-1-2)

five in favor one against one abstained two absent resolution is passed

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder we can move on to the next area of business it is uh

**D. #3 Limited Scope Investigation Government
Financial Reporting 10/08/21
Findings of investigative audit Government
Financial 10/08/21**

uh this item was being brought forth by myself and comptroller general Mr. Pringle. I will defer to Mr. Pringle for the formal presentation at this time

Comptroller Pringle: hello again once again uh council and tribal members this was a limited scope invested in investigation to determine why government financial reports and reviews were not available to council or membership from January 31st to 2021 through September 20th of 2021. Objective and description tribal council nor membership has had access to government financial reports for at least seven months. What reporting what reporting status was violated? and what can we do to curb future issues? Investigation scope- auditor will view the regulations ordinances to determine what requirements are and what violations occur. Auditor will examine timelines to determine how many months financial reports and reviews were missed. I will review how employee turn has affected these reports and reviews. I will discuss processes with applicable management representative as necessary. Findings- review the monthly government financial presentation timelines to council. Tribal council last received a January financial review from Little River Band CFO on March 8th of 2021. The next financial review is scheduled for October 7th to cover February, March, April finances for 2021. Tribal council presentations are seven months behind traditionally the October review would be covered in the August financials. I'm sorry traditionally the the October review would be covering up the obvious financials. Reviewed the posting for government financial reports for membership to review. During multiple council meetings during public comment concerns were raised almost monthly about financial reports not being posted to the website at this time of this report only January's financials are posted for membership to review for those listening the report was dated uh October

8th it would be fair to say that the postings membership are still seven months behind, and I also cannot find any Little River Band requirement to post these monthly to membership. Respond to the executive management. The tribal Ogema and CFO are applied in several public sessions that the tribe does not have a controller, so work is backed up in the accounting department. During several meetings, the CFO was expressed the tribal annual external audit was a priority at the time. Timeline for filling the controller position the prior controller did resign or retire her position as of March 31st, 2021, with full and prior notice. The Little River Band HR department hosted the controller job opening around July first. The tribal executive CFO hired new controller approximately July 30th with a start date of August 16th of 2021. Reviewed the Little River Band constitution, ordinance regulations and resolutions. uh constitution section five powers of the Ogema (a) 5. Requires the Ogema to prepare monthly reports for council. I found no other financial reporting requirement under tribal ordinances, regulations, or resolutions. Future expectations- it appears that tribal government financial reports are the controller's work. For the five months Little River Band was without a controller, this work was not a priority. Unless something changes, the monthly report does not take priority during times of turnover. Recommendations- the Little River Band constitution says that the Ogema must give monthly reports to council. It also appears that seven months without a government monthly report/ review is unacceptable by just about everyone's standards. I would like to see the accounting department develop a backup plan, for financial reports, in case of employee controller turn. Review this document to determine council's next step this report was given on once again October 8th, 2021, to council via email

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Pringle and discuss with tribal council I'll add to the report is the concern is concerned we hear from our citizens loud and clear we this council was not ignoring was concerns for you as well you know many of these things as why is it being released today we wanted to safeguard any bad PRs and things of that nature for potential expansion and gaming arena that was one of the reasons but it came to the point where we needed to be able to have this and we're actively looking at these financial irregularities when we don't have financial reports and the controller does not have the financial reports the information contained therein it's concerning the point where we have to threaten subpoenas to get documentation of finances in this tribe which obviously you know was filed in court as well to try and prohibit it without this council and our controller having those financial reports how are we to safeguard our people's resources it's concerned that all the financial regulators that we are seeing here and of the restricted of information come to council about our finances and documents the pattern behavior with that that concludes my presentation on this item. I would open up for discussions or questions with tribal councilors at this time? I apologize next order of business any abstentions any tribal councilor wish to abstain? any tribal councilor wishes to abstain? Mr. DiPiazza thank you any other tribal councilors

Councilor DiPiazza: Would you like me to explain why again anybody?

Speaker Champagne: any other tribal councilors wish to abstain

Councilor DiPiazza: I guess not thank you

Speaker Champagne: seeing none um we open up for discussions if any councilors have any discussion?

Councilor DiPiazza: *inaudible*

Speaker Champagne: any councilors have any discussion? seeing none I would entertain a motion to accept this report. Mr. council member Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, no other question I'd like to make a
**MOTION TO ACCEPT THIS REPORT UH D #3 LIMITED SCOPE
INVESTIGATION GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL REPORTING
10/08/21 RESOLUTION # 22-0209-017**; by Wittenberg; supported by
Champagne

Speaker Champagne: we have support for the motion on the floor?

Councilor Champagne: I'll support

Speaker Champagne: support by councilor Champagne. Discussion for the motion on the floor? Citizen Miss Sara Agosa, you have the floor ma'am

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 My comment is the Ogema is constitutionally required to provide quarterly reports to members this requirement has not been met so my question is did the comptroller include this quarterly report in his audit thank you

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Pringle do you care to respond I don't believe that was part of the scope, but I'll defer to you sir

Comptroller Pringle: yeah, that's correct that was not part of the scope part of the scope was the monthly report as addressed

Speaker Champagne: in duly noted Miss. Agosa I wanted to add is that we're aware of that as well um the thing that we're seeing is the financial irregularities and a pattern behavior of not sharing the finances with the body that's responsible to manage such Miss Agosa you do have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 so when will the quarterly reports be looked at because I thought I heard you say Brad that the monthly reports right now are not required to be posted on the website but maybe that was designed that way because members are supposed to be issued a quarterly report and receive that information and that's not being done so, I have two questions. When will the quarterly reports be audited or at least the members be given an audit finding that the Ogema is not meeting this constitutional

requirement and two if monthly reports are not required to be on the website does council have any plans to update this thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you Miss Agosa you know we can definitely any councilor can make a motion to ask for that investigative audit um and your concern is duly noted on both aspects as you know we've also been restricted by the executive side from now utilizing the government's website and having access to post and so um there is a lot of concerning things happening on behalf of the Ogema's office what appears to be happening at the direction of the Ogema's office. Any other discussion on this item?
citizens 2315648435

Comptroller Pringle: yeah, yeah but there's no requirement

Shannon Crampton: um thank you Mr. speaker Shannon Crampton 1747 and I just wanted to clear up the confusion so we could move forward with the meetings if people go to 7.04 of the tribal council meeting procedures ordinance number two no participation in deliberation what it says is prior to the beginning of appropriations on any agenda items tribal council speakers shall read the following statement any tribal councilor who's pensive abstain in the voting on this agenda item must state the intention now then it says any member of tribal council who declares that they intend to explain reporting based on a conflict of interest must also declare if you abstain and it's not for the constitutional mandated extension of financial gain you don't have to say anything thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you all right any other uh discussion on this item Mr. DiPiazza you did abstain thank you

Councilor DiPiazza: thanks for the clarification I did I forgot whoops

Speaker Champagne: all right so any other discussion from citizens or tribal councilors at this time? citizens or tribal councilors at this time? madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #11

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

Motion carried (6-0-1-2)

Six in favor one abstained two absent resolution is passed

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder we're on the next item of business uh i believe it's **E. #4 Limited Scope Investigation LHR-LLC Property**

Sales 10/28/21

Findings of investigative audit LHR- LLC Property

10/28/21

uh this item is being presented by myself and the comptroller general Mr. Pringle. Mr. Pringle can you please do the presentation for this report

Comptroller Pringle: limited scope investigation to review and identify property sold by Little River Holdings LLC which is of course our EDC department. objective and description review property reports and other tribal documents to determine what properties our economic development branch Little River Holdings has sold investigation scope auditor will review the 2017 and the 2020 Little River Band tribal property map book as well as Little River Bands property transfer records from the accounting department auditor will review resolutions to determine if property was approved if property sale was approved by council resolution auditor will review Manistee GIS records for sale information auditor will request records from Little River Holdings LLC findings reviewed the Little River Band tribal property map book property transfer records from the accounting and Manistee County GIS records from those four sources I was able to identify 10 properties that have been sold land contracted or exchanged by Little River Holdings LLC first is 375 state street the bank building April 2000, we paid \$625,000 for the property in august of 2020 or 2000 we renovated it for the cost of \$520,000 the property on 6/28/2019 was sold for \$605,000 in which Little River homes received six I'm sorry \$560,340 after fees there is 1762,1780 and 1828 US uh 31 South these are three contingent properties together on 8/01/97 we paid \$525,000 for the three parcels on 8/11 of 2000 we exchanged these three properties and \$325,000 for 295 River Street so that's a downtown piece of property. The next was 133 McKee Street on 7/24 of 2014 we paid \$48,000 for it and on 6/27/18 we sold it for \$39,000. 909 David Street on 1/3/2000 we paid \$48,000 for it we sold it on uh December 18,2019 for \$37,671. 290 Fourth Avenue on 4/3/14 we paid \$84,900 for it and on 9/29/2000 we want land contracted that property for \$89,900. 230 9th Street on 3/1/00 we paid \$61,900 for that property on 9/29 of 2000 we want land contracted it for s\$69,900

Recorder Wolfe: is this 20 or 2000?

Comptroller Pringle: I'm sorry that's gonna be that's gonna be 2000. no, I'm sorry 2020 we sold it on 2020 all these land contracts for 2020.

Recorder Wolfe: okay I don't think it's that the way you're reading it

Comptroller Pringle: oh, am I? Am I reading it wrong? I'm sorry I will repeat the uh the 209-4th avenue which is the which is uh 9/29 of 2020 we sold that property land contract \$89,900. 230 9th street we purchased that property on 3/1/2000 we paid \$61,900 for it on 9/29 of 2020 we sold the by land contract for \$69,900. 1311 Vine Street we purchased that land on uh 8/22/13 we paid \$55,555 for it on 9/29 of 2020 we land contracted that piece of property for \$51,800. 513 Ramsdale St on uh 4/03/14 we paid \$74,900dollars for that piece of property and once again on 9/29 of 2020 we land contracted it for \$60,000. Little River uh Little River Band tribal property map book shows that uh Little River Holdings LLC was operating and managing many of these properties all above properties

are listed and the 2020 map book is being operated by Little River Holdings LLC. Auditor located resolution 18-0124-024 was transferred to 230 9th Street from government operations to Little River Holdings LLC. Auditor located resolution 17-1115-397 was transferred the above remaining properties from government to Little River Holdings LLC. The auditor reviewed 2018 through 2021 tribal resolutions and could not find any tribal council resolutions that approve the sale of the above property. I did locate resolution 16-0511-136 that allowed the Ogema to contract a local broker to sell 375 River Street in that resolution it did require approval by tribal council resolution, but I will make a statement that the property didn't sell at that time it actually sold later four years later. Little River Holdings LLC did provide most all sales documents for the above property. Recommendations I would recommend that tribal council get legal opinion if Little River Holdings by laws and operating agreements allows them to buy or sell tribal properties without resolution approval. depending on the results of legal opinion the above Little River Holding LLC did acquire several properties in 2020 so they are buying and selling tribal properties without council resolution. This report was given to tribal council by email on October 28th, 2021.

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Pringle just to add to this uh very interesting concerning report it was months and months to get all the documentation so in the packet there is a, you can see how thick that packet is that he's putting away that it will all be public record if this gets accepted in there you will see, I want to highlight the River Street property of the bank building sold at half of the valuation of that property in our investment less than half with market rate this is very concerning. There was only one name one sworn affidavit that said they had that individual had the right to sell that property no council resolution one name Larry Romanelli sworn under oath in an affidavit he disposed of tribal assets without tribal councils' approval there is no record of a resolution to allow for the land sales of the River Street property and under sworn affidavit oath the documentation is in the packet. Mr. Romanelli is the one who attained that he had the legal right to do so the illegal land sales of this tribe should not go unnoticed the reasons that we are here today is smoke screens, so citizens do not come and able to understand what is really going on with the finances of their tribe every one of those purchases you can see were higher than what the land sale was this is a concerning aspect. When we have potentially illegal land sales in our constitution only tribal council can buy and or sell lands the title of all those properties is Little River Band of Ottawa Indians not title was not transferred to the EDC management was transferred. Every one of the properties the title was Little River Band of Ottawa Indians including the bank building. The only one who could sell that is tribal council by resolution that concludes my presentation and Mr. Pringle's presentation on this item at this point time does any tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time? do any tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time? do any tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time? Mr. DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: I almost forgot would anybody like me to explain why again?

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: I guess not that's a no

Speaker Champagne: any councilors have any discussion or questions on this report

Councilor DiPiazza: this is not correct I can tell you that

Speaker Champagne: Mr. DiPiazza you're abstaining, and you cannot, and I know you don't care if censorship sir but we you're dangerously close to being censored here today

Councilor DiPiazza: thank you I look forward to my day in the sun

Speaker Champagne: any tribal councilors have any discussion at this time? I'd entertain a motion to accept this report. Mr. councilmember Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, if there are no other question, I'd like to make a
**MOTION TO UH ACCEPTANCE REPORT E #4 LIMITED SCOPE
INVESTIGATION LHR-LLC PROPERTY SALES 10/28/21
RESOLUTION # 22-0209-018; by Wittenberg; supported by Wever**

Councilor Wever: support

Speaker Champagne: we have uh councilmember Wittenberg with a motion support by councilwoman Wever discussion the motion on the floor for councilors or citizens?
Citizen Miss. Sara Agosa citizen Crampton next in queue

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my question is how much money have we lost in total?
thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you with the valuation of the market today it's millions
ma'am

Councilor Wever: Yes

Speaker Champagne: the valuation of the market today this number is in the millions
thank you. We can we did not have a financial analysis to go through what the market
rate is today is significant now if we just said go for purchase price and improvements all
those numbers were read on the record that you can subtract and could see how much
money was lost that's about a million dollars. Mr. Crampton

Shannon Crampton: thank you Mr. Speaker um Shannon Crampton 1747. uh I applaud
the actions of the council and I urge you guys to do this to go forward this is the first time
the members are going to actually see what's really going on there. Uhm, I noticed this
before, and I would urge the council to suspend the activities of the EDC or even pull
their charter uhm you might want to go back and look for repetitive patterns in the past
because you're going to find them all the way back to Dan Broten. I would also look at

who the realtors were who were involved in the you guys are touching on the big thing here look at all the realtors who are involved with Dan Broten look for patterns in the past you're hitting it thank you council

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Crampton any other discussion on this report? citizen Agosa you have your hand raised

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 I just wanted to follow up that I would like to request that a financial analysis is performed. I feel as a member I have the right to know specifically dollars and cents how much we've lost, and I also agree that EDC does need to be um be brought back under tribal council thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Agosa any other discussion from tribal councilors or citizens at this time? any other discussion tribal councilors or citizens at this time? see no other dis ope citizen Thull you have the floor ma'am

Susan Thull: thank you and I'm sorry it takes me a minute to get my hand up uh so all of this money um that we're talking about everything that was sold that's turned back into EDC is that correct?

Comptroller Pringle: Correct ma'am

Susan Thull: so, they have that in their coffers uh do we know what um what is available for to them? totally

Comptroller Pringle: she talking about the cash or property

Susan Thull: yes, the cash from the properties

Speaker Champagne: we don't have that right at this point in time

Susan Thull: okay

Speaker Champagne: uh but obviously a financial uh you can request a financial um review of their records

Susan Thull: yes, I certainly think we need that thank you very much

Speaker Champagne: if you call citizen Thull we had a lot of discussions around that item in work sessions previously with uh working on an ordinance for the enterprise acts that also covered that thank you

Susan Thull: okay thank you

Speaker Champagne: Citizen Miss Agosa

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my comment is that I recently asked Tyler Leppanenr who works for the EDC where they're depositing their profits and they're actually using a separate general fund account and not the tribal general fund apparently this has been approved by tribal council and I'd really like tribal council to look at this. That's why I feel it's so important for tribal council to take them back under their control because we most definitely should have one um like one place where all our money is going thank you

Speaker Champagne: and thank you citizen Agosa. Any other discussion on this item from councilors or citizens? any other discussion on this item? Seeing none at this point in time I'd ask a madam recorder roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #12

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

Motion carried (6-0-1-2)

Six in favor one abstained two absent resolution is passed

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder the next item is

**F. #5 Limited Scope Investigation LAMAR Contract
10/29/21**

Findings of investigative audit LAMAR 10/29/21

this item is being presented by myself and Mr. Pringle our comptroller general Mr. Pringle can you please do the formal presentation

Comptroller Pringle: sure, sure well now it's afternoon so good afternoon council tribal members this is a limited scope investigation to review the circumstances regarding the Be Da Bin Lamar contract that was proposed on 8/25/21 by council resolution 2-1-1. Objective and description tribal council received a resolution from the Ogema on behalf of Be Da Bin how do you pronounce that?

Recorder Wolfe: Be Da Bin

Comptroller Pringle: Be Da Bin to approve the Lamar billboard contract. This documented attached revealed a signed and implemented contract. Investigation scope. Auditor will review the constitution, regulations, ordinances to determine what requirements were and what a violation occurred. Auditor will examine timelines to the documents proposed. I will review the 8/23 completed Lamar work for status. I will discuss processes with applicable management representatives as necessary. Finding timeline for the Lamar contract. On 8/6 of 2021 Lamar sent over a contract. On 8/6 of 2021 William Willis signed the contract. On 8/9 of 2021 a purchase order was completed through the purchasing department. On 8/13 of 2021 purchasing appears to have received

and processed the purchase order. On 8/13 of 2021 the Ogema completes the agenda review request for 8/26 of 2020 agenda date was wrong for both the day and the year it should have been 8/25 of 2021. 8/20 of 2021 legislative completes the 8/25 council request containing the per proposed resolution #211. 8/23 of 2021 Lamar displays the proposed billboards and prepares invoices for services. 8/25 of 2021 after a healthy debate council voted down resolution 211 twice and the council denied the resolution two in favor five against one abstain and one absent vote. review the resolution process. Agenda request was signed on Friday uh 8/13 of 2021 the agenda request asked for this resolution to be added to the 8/26 of 20 council meeting which we know was an incorrect date which the year in the day is off the council meeting was 8/25 of 2021 there was an assumption made that it was for the 8/25 of 2021 meeting that was the request it appears that there was no delay in processing it and it was added to the next council meeting. Review of Little River Band constitution ordinance regulations and resolutions Little River Band constitution requires that council authorized, and ratify agreements and contracts negotiated by the tribal Ogema. The Little River Band constitution requires the Ogema agreement contracts must be approved by ratification by tribal council to be effective. Tribal ordinance R100-01 AC-01, the budget appropriations regulations for purchasing a procurement section 3-line 3.3 line 3.3, references the same information and wording that's found in the constitution. Review the Lamar billing for the 8/23 work since contract was already implemented and the billboard displayed before the 8/25 council meeting. Council resolution approval failed Lamar billed the tribe for services on 8/23 using invoice 11279661. The department paid the vendor for \$1,400 worth of services by utilizing an earlier improved resolution 21-0217-045, authorizing a contract with Lamar advertising company review prior Lamar contracts. 2021-0217-45 prior Lamar contract resolution was passed on 2/17/2021 the Lamar contract was signed by the Ogema on February 23, 2021. Resolution for services were from march uh through October 2021 not to exceed \$3,005 I'm sorry \$3,050 total spend on this contract is \$3,025. This resolution appears to meet all minimum tribal requirements. So, uh a little brief discussion what happened here is that the resolution was not approved for that work, so it ended up being billed to another prior contract which was still met the requirements of the contract. Recommendation the tribal Ogema and his executive staff leads did not follow the tribal constitution or ordinance. They signed and implemented a contract before council approve approval or ratification. Tribal council should consider reviewing tribal council resolutions as they can be written very vague, and this can lead to a misunderstanding of the resolution's expectations. I would also recommend that the 2022 internal audit of contracts signed by executive leads or other designees of the Ogema. This was signed on October 29th of 2021 and sent the council by email

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Pringle and discuss in depth by tribal council um on this one specifically you heard much discussion on the floor about this contract when we talk about infringement on bodies you hear that usually come from the executive side and propaganda you don't hear much on us saying anything because we wait for independent reports to be able to guide us and say here's the facts black and white. This is what it is it is no question that a contract was signed and implemented without tribal council approval and and paid apparently. This is clearly goes against our internal controls our ordinance

and the constitution this pattern behavior infringement on another branch's power not just infringement the violation of the constitution all shows financial irregularities it's a pattern behavior that you see here. Implementing contracts without council's approval selling lands without tribal council approvals and the list goes on and that's why I believe that our citizens needed to know this information and have these reports with that that concludes my presentation. Any tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time? any tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time? any tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time?
Mr. DiPiazza thank you

Councilor DiPiazza: I didn't say what I was going to do

Speaker Champagne: so, during the abstention sir

Councilor DiPiazza: What?

Speaker Champagne: unless you're going to do the jig there's during your abstention

Councilor DiPiazza: well, you got to wait for me to say it at least just don't say thank you because I raised my hand correct you know follow protocol do it buddy but anyways, I'm going to abstain with anybody like to hear why?

Speaker Champagne: Mr. DiPiazza uh moving on from that at this point in time no other abstentions we open it up to tribal councilors for any questions? any other tribal councilors have any discussion? seeing none I'd entertain a motion to accept this report um Mr. council member Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, there's no other questions I'd like to make a

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORT UH 5 LIMITED SCOPE
INVESTIGATION LAMAR CONTRACT 10/29/21 RESOLUTION
NUMBER 22-0209-019; by Wittenberg; supported by Wever**

Councilor Wever: support

Speaker Champagne: we had uh motion on the floor by council member Wittenberg support by councilwoman Wever discussion on the motion from councilors or citizens at this time? the discussion the motion of the floor from councilors or citizens at this time? seeing no discussion madam recorder roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #13

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

Motion carried (6-0-1-2)

Six in favor one abstained two absent resolution is passed

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder we're onto the final

**G. #6 Limited Scope Investigation ONE IT
Expenses 12/02/21**

Findings of investigative audit ONE IT 12/02/21

uh this item uh has been presented by myself as the Speaker and Mr. Pringle's
comptroller general Mr. Pringle can you do please do a formal presentation of the item

Comptroller Pringle: and once again good afternoon council and members this is a limited scope investigation to review the expenses allocated to the ONE IT resolution 21-0818-206. Objective and description tribal Speaker requested a limit scope investigation to determine the status of the ONE IT expenses that was budgeted and authorized by tribal resolution 21-0818-206. This resolution was later rescinded so that any expect expenses need to be reallocated. Investigation scope to determine the status of the below expenses for the 4998 Covid CARES Act number one tribal council Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby approves and allocates the following budgeted areas from Covid 19 CARES Act funding A. government IT department salaries \$29,711.16. B. government IT department for tribal IT network and to conduct an assessment of penetration tests and consulting fees. C government IT department training for ONE IT system employees \$10,000. Government IT department to cover salaries and fringe associated with a restructure \$55,212.20. Government IT department to provide consulting services for the ONE IT system \$26,500 and a government IT department to provide a penetration test um and remedy any deficiencies in the ONE IT system \$50,000. So, the findings after I reviewed MIP software budgeting reports showing expenses and encumbrances for the 4998 Covid Act. I found no direct relations to the six transactions above. I met and discussed the low expenses with ONE IT resolution with the tribal CFO uh he and I both reviewed MIP budget report and it does not believe that there's any money that was spent or encumbered. I met and discussed the below expenses with the ONE IT resolution with the tribal IT manager he informed me that there was \$5,494.69 that was spent on item F item F I'll read item F again, government IT department to provide penetration tests performed to remediate any deficiencies for the ONE IT system \$50,000. He went on to say that he is currently working with purchasing to move the expenses out of the 4998 Cares Act fund account. I'll review current summary below of the six items below so item A. Once again government IT salaries and fringes \$29,711.16. No expenses or encumbrances occurred. B. Government IT and tribal IT network to conduct assessment penetration tests and consulting services. No expenses or conferences have occurred. Government IT department for training of the ONE IT system employees \$10,000. No expenses or encumbrances occurred. D. The government IT department to cover salaries and fringes associated with the restructure \$55,212.20. No expenses have occurred. E. Government IT department to provide consulting services for the ONE IT system \$26,500. No expenses or encumbrances have occurred. F. Government IT department to provide penetration uh test performed and revenant any deficiencies ONE IT system \$50,000 so \$5494.69 of expenses did occur on 10/28 of 2021. The IT manager said he was already in the process of working with purchasing to

return the money and allocate it to another account the controller general did meet with purchasing to ensure that the identified traction was resolved on 12/3 of 2021. This particular audit was presented to tribal council by email on 12/2 of 2021. Any questions?

Speaker Champagne: oh, thank you Mr. Pringle um just to recap on this aspect of the report uh why this one is significant is that tribal council pass ONE IT in conjunction with the executive side at that time saying there was support to have that ONE IT. We allocated Cares Act funds for that that implementation of that specifically around consultation to get our infrastructure up to allow for better suitability the executive side changed their mind filed for said it was unconstitutional at the point in time council did not want to litigate this as it was an aspect that you know proven that the executive side already had a pattern behavior of not implementing council resolutions such as the tribal daycare head start program a refusal to implement that even though council resolution authorized. We decided to just repeal that resolution and the investigative report looks at the money spent after the repeal of that resolution and so as Mr. Pringle mentioned it wasn't until his investigative report did it occur that we noticed there was money spent and that then they wanted to go back to fix that and clean it up so as it is uh that's what the report was finding in in just I guess lamest terms uh with that that would conclude my presentation on this item our presentation on this item. any tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time? Any tribal councilors which to abstain at this time? last call for any tribal councilors wish to abstain at this time? Mr. DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: I didn't want to make it look like I was doing alter or something um anyways I'll be abstaining

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir

Councilor DiPiazza: Wonder why?

Speaker Champagne: At this point in time, we opened a discussion for tribal councilors for any questions or discussion? open up this time for any tribal councilors for discussion? Seeing none I'd entertain a motion to accept this report. Council member Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, if there no other question I'd like to make a
**MOTION TO ACCEPT THIS REPORT #6 LIMITED SCOPE
INVESTIGATION ONE IT EXPENSE 12/02/21 RESOLUTION # 22-
0209-020;** by Wittenberg; supported by Wever

There we go

Councilor Wever: Support

Speaker Champagne: all right we have a motion on the floor by council member Wittenberg support by council member Wever. Discussion on the motion on the floor from citizens or council members at this time? citizen Agosa you're first in queue

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my question is has it been found who or what caused the large-scale um data crash in 2019 and 2020. thank you that's my question

Speaker Champagne: thank you um this this uh through this discussions on this uh reported reason for having investigative report that was one of the big concerns why we had the ONE IT proposed to address that it was a failure on the executive side led by the Ogema and the exact reason of why is still unbeknownst but we do know that very different variant aspects of IT issues continue to occur and so with this investigative report was limited to the financial aspects the financial irregularities that we see of spending when there was no resolution in place and no one they know that there was no resolution in place because of the fact that the executive side filed in court in suit saying it's unconstitutional and one would believe that you would not spend the money that was allocated um thank you for your question ma'am. any other councilors or citizens at this time for discussion? any other councilors or citizens at this time for discussion? Seeing none madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #14

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

Motion carried (6-0-1-2)

Six in favor one abstained two absent resolution is passed

Speaker Champagne: thank you, madam recorder Wolfe um that does bring us, to our next items on

IX. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, February 16, 2022

um going into

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

hearing none we move on to

C. Legislative Affairs Update

Ogema Romanelli: Sir I'm Ryan I am on and I'm ready to give my report

Speaker Champagne: oh, thank you sir

Ogema Romanelli: don't be rude

Speaker Champagne: The floor is yours. I was not being rude, sir I didn't see you on

Ogema Romanelli: don't be rude yes you did not ask three times give me a break here okay

Speaker Champagne: okay Ogema Romanelli go ahead

Ogema Romanelli: so, I'm gonna answer yes thank you I'm going to uh first off say again I don't recognize you as the council Speaker. I don't recognize this meeting um I don't uh you brought all of these forward I see um, so we'll start with that. I also want to let you know that uh I did not receive these until five minutes before on some of these audits uh yesterday Brad brought up the one, I believe it was uh I can't remember it was the first one probably

Comptroller Pringle: Charitable donations

Ogema Romanelli: yeah, yeah, charitable donation so that was brought to me I asked to see the others he said I wouldn't be able to see them until today which I received from Chantel about five minutes before the meeting I appreciate her for getting them to me um there's so much wrong with this this whole group of items I probably won't even begin to go too far into it if we look at the government business and accounting act of 2010 we see that uh these items these audits must be signed off by the director um Brad I guess I'm going to pose some of these questions to you uh they're supposed to be signed off by the director haven't they been signed off by a director?

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Pringle will not be answering any questions to you Mr. Romanelli

Ogema Romanelli: Wow, wow ok

Speaker Champagne: these are being turned over to appropriate authorities and so

Ogema Romanelli: Okay

Speaker Champagne: we're not compromising anything

Ogema Romanelli: okay

Comptroller Pringle: Mr. speaker Larry is speaking on internal audits and and six of these are limited scope investigations they are not audits

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir

Comptroller Pringle: Yep, thank you

Ogema Romanelli: okay again if that's the way we're going to go. I understand. There's so much wrong anyway but we'll keep uh going uh I don't even know where to begin uh because uh you violated the the council put together the government business and accounting act uh there's sections like 404 and 901 of the act are unconstitutional because

they require court to do certain acts um we don't take a lot into effect I I I guess I applaud your attempt to sensationalize a lot of this are there concerns? yes have there been concerns? yes uh you talk about the EDC and and you even let uh Shannon uh go on record to say suspend EDC look at the realtors etc. I don't think we did that with the properties that you wanted to buy in Milwaukee that were even close to property that you own as my understanding that the rest of council didn't even see the properties or talk to the realtors, but we don't have to go too far there. The EDC again was created Little River Holdings by the tribal council had tribal councils on there so uh when you talk about this uh again Shannon's doing the same thing he did all the while I've been Ogema where he's shaking paperwork and he has it in his hand obviously you brought this all out for a reason uh all at one time rather than uh bringing these items to the executive branch so that we might be able to take some corrective actions or look at them it was better to do it in a sense sensational manner like you're doing today adding your own little uh words which again I don't even respect you or recognize you as a tribal uh Speaker. Again I guess we're in court as you can see by the closed session which keeps adding up against the tribal council uh you'll see my name in there and if that's the plan that we're going to uh shut down your uh Brad Pringle uh then I will not be answering any more questions but people need to be paying attention to what what's really going on here and uh with that I will probably leave this meeting and uh feel free to do what you think you need to do. I believe this is a diversion I think it's an absolute diversion and a a hurried uh action because of the number of things that are coming against the tribal council and so I wish you the best and whatever you decide to do thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Romanelli we are on the legislative affairs update at this time any legislators wish to give an update? I will as you can see by the dates of this started when this new council came in because that's when we became aware of them council became aware as it completely can start to compile over and over again numerous documents that Mr. Pringle has had with email correspondence raising the same concerns year after year that was buried by previous Speakers, I guess. This is a concern this is nothing new that's new for this new council though why is it done in this format why as I believe, and this council believes by their votes that the citizens need to have all the information's and make their own accord Mr. Romanelli is going to say a hurried facet months and months of new information coming forth between this council this is not done in 30 days or 15. This is done since our tenure of being here not because we came in and said we want to dig and find this these are only actions that brought up fourth to council while we're sitting there. Mr. Romanelli knew about these reports coming it was referenced to him. Why did he get it the day of because he's a person of interest in these reports. This is not a removal hearing this is making the reports public record we're not asking him to testify we're not violating his due process this is merely acceptance of reports where citizens can be able to read it with their own eyes and see the facts if that is something that Mr. Romanelli is fearful of that's on him that's not on this council. We need to be able to have these records open so our citizens can make the right decisions and make their own determination we're not here to offer propaganda we'll leave that to the executive side that that concludes my legislative affairs update. any other

tribal councilors wish to give legislative affairs update at this time? Council member DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: I will say we we did have a passing of somebody. There is a fire that's been struck in the lodge so if anybody cares to venture in and uh either uh honors of that man feel free that's all I have now I'll be checking out because also closed session if there is a non-council member in a closed session meeting, I believe we're in a massive violation which I can't support whatsoever everybody have a wonderful day

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. DiPiazza for your antics today council member Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, I want to say uh Chi Miigwech I'm looking up here and we have quite a few members uh that uh uh that are here and so I want to say Miigwech to uh each one a lot of questions were brought up uh through different members out there and so maybe this will help clear the air out there there is a thing that uh personally myself might do of looking at that if I don't recognize you as such and such and such well then why am I there. That's just my opinion there's so many people that don't recognize the president of the president of the United States but he's still the president the bottom line. So until that is in stone to me then it is what it is uh I can say well I don't recognize you as this or recognize you as that but you're still that you know so it's just to have an open mind to these things that I'm not trying to mislead or miss uh lead anybody out there but uh for those who have an open mind to these things because when you got a ball game you got two teams and each one team gets to get up and going to bat the team ain't playing by itself they're in competition with each other. So, uh to have an open mind to these things and uh that's that's uh basically all I have to share Miigwech.

Ogema Romanelli: I'd like to be put back in the queue since there's been some commentary

Speaker Champagne: sorry sir this is legislative affairs update you can go on public comment period if you'd like

Ogema Romanelli: please put me in as the first one of public comment thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir. Any other tribal council members for legislative affairs update? any other tribal council members for legislative affairs update? seeing none we will continue on we are on

D. Public Comment Period

I recognize uh Mr. Romanelli and then citizen Agosa

Ogema Romanelli: okay

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Saugie

Ogema Romanelli: that would be the Ogema

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. Speaker

Speaker Champagne: madame recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: I want to let everyone be known that they cannot go over there five minutes today we have another pending closed session meeting already scheduled and we don't want to impact that yes

Speaker Champagne: yes, ma'am thank you there is uh

Ogema Romanelli: yeah, I wanted to ah I want to update the members that there is an informational meeting happening on February 19th at one o'clock at the resort Three Fires room uh the tribal council is absolutely invited and encouraged to attend again that's on February 19th at the resort one o'clock it starts and I encourage all elected officials from the tribal council and Ogema to be there and we'll give more information to the membership thank you very much

Speaker Champagne: Citizen Agosa you're next in queue

Sara Agosa: I have two questions I'll try to make it quick Sara Agosa 4478. There are three new lawsuits um on the agenda and I'd like to know what they are for and I'd like to request for um tribal council to finance a court reporter or add those duties to the press secretary or communications positions because I feel as a member, I have a right to know why elected officials are in litigation because it's being financed by public funds and then my second question is regarding Rapid River news I haven't had access since December 2021 I have brought this up in former meetings and my question to council is, is there any way to approve a continuing budget for thrive pop so that my access is restored thank you

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Agosa. Uh council member DiPiazza also for response

Councilor DiPiazza: I can comment a little bit on what she said but not very much. I don't know you were around last Friday so you could probably know more than I do Miss Agosa uhm

Sara Agosa: I actually have a question Gary because I did not understand from that hearing what the lawsuit was about

Councilor DiPiazza: oh okay

Sara Agosa: thank you

Councilor DiPiazza: my apologies I I really can't comment on it right this minute other than I'm paying for my own stuff out of my own pocket so that's about all I can say about it thank you

Speaker Champagne: Thank you Mr. uh Mr. DiPiazza uhm we defer all court proceedings that tribal council is involved into the court records we cannot make comments as we're in current litigation

Councilor DiPiazza: Other than I'm paying for my own

Speaker Champagne: all right any other responses? okay seeing none we move on to next

Councilor Wever: Well, give me some

Speaker Champagne: Is um is uh user handler Vicki user handler Vicki

Ron Pete: okay I'm not going to use my five minutes, so you'll have some minutes from my time I just want to um I want to applaud Gary DiPiazza, Pam Johnson and Tom Guenthardt for not recognizing this meeting and I also want to applaud the Ogema for not recognizing this meeting and I don't recognize this meeting either so I'm not going to be very long. I've waited a long time two hours and 30 some minutes just to get on this call and make this statement so and I and I have I do I do know that Gary is paying for his own attorney because council at one point sued me and Gary and we had to get our own attorney and of course we went to they've always got Big Fire on us and of course we always won against Big Fire so you know Big Fire continues to sue the Ogema and what else and the represent council I don't I I don't know why that they continue to do that because they continue to lose so but at any rate I do understand and I also want to um I want to say that in the past situation and there was no council meeting on Wednesday is that the tribal uh tribal elder Mr. Burmiester put on there to have the things to have the meetings in person and I was I was quite disappointed that it wasn't on there for this agenda so the only reason I'm saying that is it would be very hard I know for um for for Ryan Champagne to drive from Wisconsin so with that you know um I'm out of here. I'll see you maybe next week. I'm done. Is that okay

Recorder Wolfe: Mr. Speaker just to note for the record on Ron Pete's comment Mr. Burmiester remove the items himself

Speaker Champagne: yes, thank you madam recorder for that clarification next in queue is Mr. Saugie

Mark Saugie: good afternoon council I was just reaching out to let everybody know that we are in need of fire tenders so if you would like to help out, please reach out to Gary or myself and one of us will coordinate with you thank you very much

Speaker Champagne: thank you sir citizen Sam

Janine Sam: Miigwech uh Janine Sam tribal number 150 I'm going back to something I thought I heard I apologize because I did have to take another uh get off the call earlier but during the comptroller's reports and he was talking about hiring and I thought I heard so that I really want to make this clear for myself I thought I heard that 22 employees of the tribe were let go or or reduced or or whatever as a result of covid but then we turned around and hired 33 new ones like so so if I take those same 22 positions and then when we reinstated and re-hired we actually gained employees is what I thought I heard and my question is did all of those tribal citizen employees get called back and restored if I was hearing that correctly if I wasn't hearing it correctly I appreciate someone um clarifying that for me that is my question

Speaker Champagne: thank you citizen Sam uh Mr. Pringle is willing to respond

Comptroller Pringle: sure, sure uh uh council and membership the audit did not contain any information on who was let go of the you know on the budget reductions that was not part of the audit at all the audit was just basically who was hired and where they budgeted

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. Pringle

Comptroller Pringle: thank you

Ogema Romanelli: for that Mr. pringle can answer tribal citizens but not Ogema

Speaker Champagne: Mr. Romanelli you have a personal interest in another aspect um because that personal interest uh we're not going to litigate that here you have your

Ogema Romanelli: AHHH

Speaker Champagne: and I respect people's right to due process

Ogema Romanelli: oh please

Speaker Champagne: Miss Sam you do have the floor still if you have any other comments

Janine Sam: um no I I guess just my comment is that if there were 22 people that go and 33 if 22 positions are released and 33 positions or 30 positions are re-hired or reinstated my sincere hope is that we would call back every single tribal citizen that was released of employment that would be my first comment. Second comment is to let you know that we have a requisition form where I work very simple process that requisition form requires the finance department to sign off before a job gets posted seems like a simple fix to what you're talking about if the finance department certifies that the position is budgeted it's in the hiring packet and it kind of resolves those issues it is a system that's

working very well in another organization just thought I would uh let you know that that's what we do and you could certainly adapt that process here Miigwech

Speaker Champagne: thank you Miss Sam, we do have internal controls I have the same the reason why it's investigative is because those internal controls were violated that's what the findings had um we had those same controls to ensure that um they were not followed uh the rationale of why I didn't I cannot tell you we also passed a very progressive Indian employment act in preference employment act that covers if our people to get laid off their first priority to get back or last priority to get laid off this is all because information we received from these reports every action you see the council takes to try and correct the appearance of ineptness from the Ogema's office or these financial irregularities that we see from the Ogema's office under his control in his direction that's my personal take on it and I believe that the council worked very hard to try and correct these so I hope that answers your question for a response. Citizen Agosa you're next in queue

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 can I get a response about thrive pop is it possible to approve a continuing budget thank you

Speaker Champagne: madam recorder Wolfe

Recorder Wolfe: I would make a response as since the communication has been switched over under the recorder that at this time. I don't think just continuing and uploading the thrive pop contract which we know is not effective hasn't been beneficial there's potential of a new website and we can update and clarify things that's what we're waiting on to bring in those two new positions to determine what's in the best interest of the tribe the Rapid River news what you're asking to access currently does not have anyone producing that document and it was taken offline when the authority was switched to council with the passwords and updating of the contract so that the Rapid River news what you're looking for is not a current document that's even being updated or sent out at this time

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder Wolfe and I can also respond uh it should be noted that the resolution actually was to have the funds and position to come under tribal council we have correspondence from Mr. Romanelli that clearly states it will not occur he will not approve that and yet um so in violation of that resolution so when you say what about the staff that is included there is blatantly disregard from the Ogema to have that and that's in written communication to this council. any other public comment period at this time? any other public comment period at this time? 2315648435 you have the floor

Shannon Crampton: yes, Shannon Crampton uh 1747. um well first going back I'd just like to chris uh correct a misnomer and that was that um I know the council's doing the best and they're identifying these things right now but if the membership looks back in the minutes forever this is not an unknown anomaly it's happened forever there just haven't been enough council members to bring it forward, so I applaud this council for

doing so. Secondly for the Ogema to say that he doesn't recognize the Speaker there's a dire lack of a constitutional construct he has no oversight over the council the council has oversight over the Ogema and thirdly this is this has been puzzling you have council members who are violating their oath of office which uh was I think charge two against Norbert Kelsey you have a court order from the court in case number 20 082 GC that mandates their attendance and that the members of tribal council have an implied duty to attend regular scheduled meetings with tribal council and cast their vote on of spending before they count you have a willful violation of oath of tribal law and the constitution just like people knew that thank you

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll respond to that

Speaker Champagne: thank you Mr. respond Mr. Crampton councilor DiPiazza for response

Councilor DiPiazza: respond to that um the court order that kind of mandated council to be here and taking action was created while you were in office and the other one's hanging up and the Norbert one is he took his case to the federal court so you are un you are not correct again sir so and I encourage whatever people want to do to me I encourage it because I want that day in the sun so being that

Shannon Crampton: may I respond Mr. speaker

Speaker Champagne: yes Mr. Crampton you still have time in your your allotted queue

Shannon Crampton: okay I just wanted I I just want to correct both of those the um house of resolution that mandates attendance was created in 2004 a year before I was first elected to office so that's incorrect and the other one is the order from Angela Sherigan no council had a part thank you

Councilor DiPiazza: all right thank you for correcting me I'm okay with it but whatever anybody's gonna do please, please do it soon

Speaker Champagne: any other public comment period at this point in time? Any other public comment period at this time? Seeing none I want to thank all the citizens for being here today and participating throughout their governance process um we will be uh turned into closed session

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

At this point in time, I'd entertain uh motion to go in to closed you want to go straight into closed

Recorder Wolfe: we need a five-minute break in there. I make

**MOTION TO END FIRST OPEN; by Wolfe support by
Wittenberg**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Champagne: All right we got a motion to end first open support by council member Wittenberg. Um discussion on the motion the floor? discussion of the motion on the floor? seeing no discussion motion floor madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #15

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

Motion carried (6-0-0-3)

Six in favor three absent we've ended first open at 12:54pm

XI. Open Session

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder we're here for a second open as you know second open there's this item moved from closed to open session then adjournment that is on the agenda at this point time, I'd entertain a motion to proceed with second open

Councilor Lewis: **MOTION TO GO IN SECOND OPEN; By Lewis support by
Wittenberg**

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

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #16

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

Motion carried (6-0-0-3)

Six in favor three absent we are in Second Open at 3:28pm.

Speaker Champagne: Thank you madam recorder we'll move on to the only one agenda item there

A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session

at this point time any councilors wish to make a motion to move item from closed to open session its time allotted for that.

Councilor Wever: yea are you going to put that in open?

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah

Councilor Wever: Sandy

Councilor Wittenberg: Sandy

Speaker Champagne: Any tribal councilors wish to move an item from closed to open session at this time? discussion in closed session to move one item if councilor if so, makes a motion

Councilor Wever: Sandy

Councilor Lewis: I I was going to let you just move it forward Ron

Councilor Wittenberg: and how is the correct wording to bring the item from closed to open

Councilor Lewis: okay hold on a second because I got to go back and pull it up

Councilor Wittenberg: that's why I don't have my

Councilor Lewis: it bumps me out of the screen. When I do that, it slows down. Uh oh where'd you guys go hold on a second

Councilor Wever: oh yeah

Councilor Lewis: All right I make a

**MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD UM THE MOTION AND THE
VOTE ON REITERATION OF PROPER PROCEDURE FOR
DETERMINING RESIDENCY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND
DETERMINATION OF RESIDENCY OF SPEAKER
NITUMIGAABOW CHAMPAGNE, By Lewis support by Wittenberg**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Champagne: we got a motion made by councilor Lewis support by councilor Wittenberg. Any discussion on the motion on the floor? discussion on the motion on the floor? seeing no discussion on the motion on the floor uh madam recorder roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #17

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

Motion carried (4-1-1-3)

Speaker Champagne: I want to abstain even though it's not a technically abstention aspect
(back to roll call)

Councilor Wever: I thought she was going to abstain, and she didn't

Recorder Wolfe: Four in favor one against one abstention three absent motion is approved

Speaker Champagne: thank you madam recorder um that does conclude unless there's any other items moved from closed to open Session? seeing none I'll move on to

XII. Adjourn

I'd entertain a motion to adjourn at this time

Councilor Wittenberg: I'll make a

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 3:32PM; By Wittenberg support by Wever

Speaker Champagne: motion to adjourn. Someone to support.

Councilor Wever: support

Speaker Champagne: support by councilwoman Wever. Discussion on the motion on the floor? discussion on the motion floor? seeing no discussion on the motion on the floor madam recorder Wolfe roll call please

Recorder Wolfe:

Roll Call #18

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

Motion carried (6-0-0-3)

six in favor three absent we are adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Chantel Gamelin
Transcribing Assistant

Julie Wolfe,
Tribal Council Recorder

