



**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**  
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**APPROVED**

3/9/97

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 9, 1997**

**I. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**CALL TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order at the 411 River Street office by Chairman, Robert Guenthardt, at 12:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL.** Roll call was taken by Kathy Berentsen. Present: Bill Memberto, Steve Parsons, Robert Guenthardt, Kathy Berentsen, Chuck Fisher (arrived late). Staff present: Yvonne Parsons, Chris Holz, Jay Sam, Tammy Carter, Bill Willis, Diane Lonn, and Mark Dougher. Attorney present: Bill Brooks

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA.** Bill B. stated that under New Business, D. needed to be added to authorize a resolution of the execution of the Forest Clinic property. Kathy mentioned she would like to add onto Old Business the appointment of two new Health Board members which has been delayed for a while now. Mark discussed the Committee Procedures Policy that is in the works and how it will affect the members on the current committees. Kathy also said she would like to add to Old Business the appointment of a Special Events person/committee. Moved by Kathy, seconded by Bill M., to accept the agenda with additions, all in favor (5), (0) opposed. Motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES.** Moved by Steve, seconded by Bill M., to accept minutes, all in favor (5), (0) opposed. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT.** Chris said that there isn't really anything unusual here in the month, but the numbers are not definite yet. Chris talked about the BIA money being included in the 1997 Tribal Budget and how different programs are being categorized. He also talked about money being budgeted for elders, new job positions, etc. Chris said that the budget is basically the same as what was shown at the last meeting, but with one change. The change is money appropriated for the hiring of a Wildlife Biologist. Moved by Kathy, seconded by

Steve, to accept the monthly report as is, all in favor (5), (0) opposed. Bill M. abstained. Motion carried. Moved by Steve, seconded by Kathy, all in favor (5), (0) opposed. Bill M. abstained. Motion carried.

**STAFF REPORTS.** Mark lead into discussion his staff report. First, he wanted to note how well all committee reports have been in content or being transcribed by office staff. He pointed out that these will be an important part of the Little River Band's history. The first area of interest Mark talked about was the possible acquirement of the "Forest Clinic" on the south side of town. If we are able to get the office space, it will allow us to move all of our people onto the second floor of the building and offer some medical services. Mark stated that the people selling the building would be selling it at 20 percent of what the building is worth because of a financial burden. Mark said that if we do acquire the building, we need an architect to come in and survey the building for any maintenance repairs needed. He said that he hopes we can be in the building by April. Mark said that the Community Center still is being worked on and as soon as that is built, the offices could move again. It was mentioned that we hope to break ground this spring to build our tribal headquarters across from the casino site on U.S. 31 near M-22 while some of our health services would stay in town. Mark stated that the Housing Commission met with Bill B. and George Gaasvig and signed all contracts and papers. The Commission will now be meeting to plan future needs. Mark said that it is probable that the Secretary of the Interior will hold an election where the tribal members will be able to vote to ratify our Constitution. Also mentioned was that after six months of the Constitution's ratification, a Tribal Council election must take place so that is probable for the year as well. It was noted that by March, legislation on the 1836 Judgment Fund will go to Congress to be decided on how it will be allocated to the five tribes (Little River Band, Little Traverse Bay Band, Grand Traverse Band, Bay Mills, and Sault Ste. Marie). There has been discussion between the five Tribes as to what type of distribution would be fair, but legislation will draw up a plan to distribute the approximate \$70,000,000. It will be up to the Tribes as to what they want to do with the money, but according to Federal Law, no more than 80% of the allocation may go out in per capita money. The 20% left is then voted on as to what it is used for. Such things it could be used for include the Tribal government funds or for economic development and health services. Mark then talked about the casino. He said that it is conceivable that we will break ground this year, maybe in the fall. Mark said that there are four hurdles the Tribe needs to go through before we are able to break ground. The first has already been achieved--the Gaming Regulatory Ordinance. The second is that we need to have a compact or agreement between the Governor and the Tribe, ratified by state legislature, submitted to the Secretary of the Interior to review approval. We expect the compact to go to the legislature anytime now. The third part is our agreement with North American Gaming and then the agreement needs to be submitted to the National Gaming Commission. The fourth part that