

Approved  
9/13/23



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023  
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 March 15, 2023. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Recorder Wittenberg said ah, he would like to welcome everybody to the 10:00 ah, Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> ah, Council Meeting. Wittenberg said what he is going to do is he is going to go through the list to see who is all here....on there. Wittenberg said so ah, Al Metzger.

Al Metzger said #0890.

Recorder Wittenberg said he sees Angela Rabb up there and ah, Carrie Frias, Laura Echelbarger.

Laura Echelbarger said #2276, good morning.

Recorder Wittenberg said Corey wells.

Corey Wells said good morning, #4839.

Recorder Wittenberg said iPhone Guest.

Sandy Mezeske said #0018.

Recorder Wittenberg said ah, Jolene O'Signac.....O'Signac.

Jolene O'Signac said #18....she is sorry....#2866.

Recorder Wittenberg said Karol Ann Chabot.....Chabot.

Karol Chabot said #3742.

Recorder Wittenberg said okay, Lee Ivinson.

Lee Ivinson said good morning, #0099.

Recorder Wittenberg said Martha Howell.

Martha Howell said #3635.

Recorder Wittenberg said Matthew Alexandra.

Matthew Alexander said #2426.

Recorder Wittenberg said Tina Mc Clellan-Payment.

Tina Mc Clellan-Payment said #2917.

Recorder Wittenberg said okay, he doesn't see nobody else. Wittenberg said all right Speaker Crampton he will give this to him now.

*Recorder Wittenberg did not mention Misty Silvis, Jessica Steinberg, Victoria Wells, Alicia Goff, Cynthea Shantz and Antonio Romanelli along with Linda Wissner, Connie Terrell and Brad Pringle sitting in the audience.*

Speaker Crampton thanked him. Crampton said welcome everyone to the March 15, 2023 Meeting of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council. Crampton said with that he will ask the Recorder to lead them in an Opening Prayer if he would.

## **I. Opening Prayer**

Ron Wittenberg, Tribal Elder, offered the Opening Prayer in Anishinaabemowin and Shagnaash.

We thank you for this day.

We asked that you guide us and be with us in today's meeting and throughout the day.

We ask that you guide our hearts and our minds from within so that we may walk and talk in a good way.

Ahaaw. Miigwech. Miigwech. Miigwech. Miigwech. Ahaaw.

Speaker Crampton thanked Mr. Recorder for that prayer.

## **II. General Business**

### **A. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order and record the time they have there at 10:02 a.m.

**B. Roll Call**

Speaker Crampton said please do a roll call, Mr. Recorder.

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

Quorum established.

Recorder Wittenberg said Julie Wolfe said she had an emergency that came up and that is why she won't be here today. Wittenberg said they have six present and three absent they do have quorum.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

Speaker Crampton said he will entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MARCH 15, 2023  
WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES OF NEW BUSINESS, VIII  
A, REMOVED, DISSOLVING THE SHORELINE TASK FORCE;**  
by Lewis; supported by Wittenberg.

Speaker Crampton said he has a question from Mr. Di Piazza. Crampton said Mr. Di Piazza please proceed.

Councilor Di Piazza asked can he ask why this was removed from the agenda.

Speaker Crampton said his understanding is the proper.....the proper paperwork they wanted is not there yet at this time.

Councilor Di Piazza asked it doesn't have anything to do with the vote status right.

Speaker Crampton said um, there are three Councilors missing so he doesn't think so.

Councilor Di Piazza said Miigwech.

Speaker Crampton said all right they have a motion on the table by Councilor Lewis supported by Councilor Wittenberg. Crampton asked is anybody going to abstain on the item.

Recorder Wittenberg said Ogema Romanelli was up here at the ah.... Wittenberg said he seen him come up.

Ogema Romanelli said no he thinks ah, Councilor Di Piazza asked the same question he was going to. Romanelli said he sees this is a bad time to check

reportedly dissolving the Shoreline Task Force. Romanelli said he just wondered why it was put on then removed but his question was answered. Romanelli thanked them.

Recorder Wittenberg said um-kay.

Crampton said okay if everybody is satisfied with their questions answered um, they will proceed. Crampton said they have a motion by Councilor Lewis supported by Councilor Wittenberg. Crampton asked is anybody going to abstain. Crampton asked is there any further discussion from Council. Crampton asked anything from the membership. Crampton asked anything further from Council. Crampton said hearing nothing please do a roll call.

**Roll Call #1**

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

Motion carried (4-2-0-3)

Recorder Wittenberg said four in favor, two against and three absent so the four in favor and the two that are here that are against then there are two that absent. Wittenberg asked he doesn't want him asking he would seem that that passed. Wittenberg said wha.....yeah.

Speaker Crampton confirmed yeah, it passes that is the majority of the quorum present.

Recorder Wittenberg said two here.....two ah, oh, yeah.....one, two, three, four and then two against so that would four two and then three are absent. Wittenberg said okay, it has passed.....the agenda has.

Speaker Crampton said okay. Crampton thanked him.

**D. Tribal Council Minutes     1/11/23     2/8/23     2/15/23**

Speaker Crampton said he will entertain a motion.....how does Council want to handle these individually or all together.

Councilor Lewis said it's all together on there.

Speaker Crampton said okay.

Councilor Lewis if there are no questions she would like to make a motion.

**MOVE FOR THE APPROVAL OF TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES  
FOR 1/11/23, 2/8/23 AND 2/15/23; by Lewis; supported by Johnson.**

Speaker Crampton asked is anybody going to abstain on the item. Crampton asked is there any discussion from Council. Crampton asked is there anything further from the membership. Crampton asked anything further from Council. Crampton said hearing nothing please do a roll call.

**Roll Call #2**

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

Motion carried (6-0-0-3)

Recorder Wittenberg said six in favor and three absent Tribal Council Minutes for 1/11/23, 2/8/23 and 2/15/23 has passed.

Speaker Crampton thanked him.

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

**B. Budget Modifications**

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

**1. Approval of Ceremonial Lodge Improvements and use of  
ARPA Funds for the purchase of Canvas Tarp and supporting  
hardware**

Health and Well-being of Fire Keepers and Membership.

Councilor Lewis said okay, so um, the total amount on this is ah, \$5,000 they did have the um, Legal Review come in yesterday at 6:56 p.m. Lewis said what this is is um, four tarps and the hardware to um, attach the tarps in the ah, Fire Lodge and um, they had a few um, Fire Keepers come to them and they requested to update the Lodge a bit. Lewis said and um, it is for the safety and um, and health of the people. Lewis said so she will leave it at that.

Recorder Wittenberg asked if he can.....

Speaker Crampton said well, he had Mr. Di Piazza's hand up first.

Recorder Wittenberg said okay.

Councilor Di Piazza said well there are a couple of things he is concerned about one is the ARP Funding um, because when they seal that Lodge up they are promoting health and well-being as far as the spread of COVID. Di Piazza said it would be a little more severe and also once they tarp that is the fire going to

breathe well enough so anybody in there is not going to get smoke in them...smoke inhalation.

Councilor Lewis said okay, they did have a Legal Review so the ARPA Funds are allowed to be utilized for this.

Speaker Crampton said he sees one of the Fire Keepers has their hands up. Crampton said so he apologizes Councilor Wittenberg he is going to let an him respond real quick.

Corey Wells asked can them guys hear him.

Speaker Crampton said yes.

Corey Wells said sorry he is remoting in from Chicago on work travel. Wells said um, so about Councilor Di Piazza's concerns he doesn't know anything about the ARP \_\_ but as far as tarping it he thinks they are misconstruing tarping so people understand not just Councilors but people listening. Wells said its ah, lining the interior with winter canvas and that's going to be attached to the interior pillars so when wind comes in it comes in between those slats in the cedar port. Wells said there is still going to be plenty of room for the air to flow in there its just going to keep it off the people that are sitting in or standing in the building. Wells said they are not actually sealing it if there is a way to seal that building. Wells said so there shouldn't be any concerns with suffocation or anything like that as far as the spread of germs he is not entirely sure it is going to help or hinder but it should allow the smoke to ah, clear out of the building much better along with the other improvements that they talked about moving some of that stone work and lowering the fire pit so they can draw in more air and push up. Wells said he just wanted to put that out there. Wells said yeah....thanked them.

Speaker Crampton said okay, he wanted to go right before Councilor Wittenberg he wanted to give it to Mr. Di Piazza....Councilor Di Piazza if he wants to respond to that.

Councilor Di Piazza said well that is just his concern to make sure there is enough air draft to they know. Di Piazza said he is one of the Fire Keepers and have been for a long time. Di Piazza said there is usually a lot of smoke in there and sometimes when they are sitting in there for 12-14 hours it this going to make this alleviate that or make it more accessible to the problem. Di Piazza said that's his concern that and he still has concerns of using the ARP Funding....*the rest of his comment sounded garbled and could not be made out clearly on the ZOOM recording.* Di Piazza said that is his concern.

Councilor Lewis said and the ARPA, they know, like they know that, they know, there has been ah, um, a high amount of people that have passed on because of COVID and, they know, they need to be able to take care of their people, they

know, and the ones that are, they know, the um, families that come in and ah, the Fire Keepers. Lewis said so it will help them.

Speaker Crampton said yeah, and he wanted to um, ah, thank Councilor Wittenberg for being so patient. Crampton said go ahead Mr. Wittenberg.

Recorder Wittenberg said concerning that he strongly ah....and he himself been in the Lodge quite ah, number of times tending the fire and turnaround and getting it going and ah, he does know that with ah, everything that is going on ah, they are having people that are taking that journey and this will greatly help them.

Wittenberg said he knows within himself he just got a call yesterday of himself he has to go down state because one is getting ready to take that journey so these ah, this is a greatly needed ah, to him item that needs to be he feels for those that are taking that journey so it is better for the Fire Tenders that are in there. Wittenberg said those are his thoughts and many of those of what Corey Wells said.

Wittenberg said ah, Ogema Romanelli is up here also.

Speaker Crampton said oh, please go ahead Mr. Romanelli.

Ogema Romanelli said it was just brought to his attention that also their Lodge is not handicap accessible. Romanelli said the Lodges of other Tribes make sure they are handicap accessible. Romanelli said maybe a concrete walk up to the Lodge. Romanelli thanked them.

Recorder Wittenberg asked can he respond to that.

Speaker Crampton said go ahead.

Recorder Wittenberg said ah, Ogema Romanelli and he does strongly agree with what he is sharing on there being access....accessible. Wittenberg said what their plans are is also creating so where it is more for ones that are handicapped that it is hard to get in there but that will be down the line. Wittenberg said it will be a totally different Lodge so.....and they will have a.....they....in the work session talking about they thought at one time but being as old as what it is it would have to be all redone. Wittenberg said when it is redone then it would be ah, much, much better.

Ogema Romanelli said is that some time in the near future.

Recorder Wittenberg said that part they would have to naturally see....have someone to check this Lodge out to his understanding but to him he would like to have it personally himself at the Community Center because there is always feast right there and then even off to as they come in to Aki on as they are facing the Community Building on the left hand side and everything would be right there to him and to have it where in his mind where they could go from the inside where everybody ah, eats at and ah, comes there for meetings where they could go right

into the Lodge and they wouldn't even.....that would be his thought on that so its more everything is right there and the feast for it but those are just his thoughts on there.

Ogema Romanelli said that doesn't answer the question. Romanelli said the reason he asked that is the \$5,000 on top of this Lodge they would do it a new Lodge it doesn't make sense spending \$5,000.....

Recorder Wittenberg interrupted. Wittenberg said yeah, he understands that.

Ogema Romanelli said he was going to say if it was going to be within a year \$5,000 they might want to spend it on....*the Ogema was speaking too far from the microphone and it wasn't turned on so his comments could not be picked up clearly on the ZOOM recording and were not heard.*

Recorder Wittenberg said to honest with him he doesn't see in a year and he doesn't see it in two years so it would to him ah, because of for one building supplies everything is up and trying to get the right ah, as he knows himself in construction it takes....they have something here but it takes a lot before they can even get it off the ground so.

Ogema Romanelli thanked him.

Recorder Wittenberg said ah, okay. Wittenberg thanked him. Wittenberg said he's done.

Speaker Crampton said okay, is there any further discussion on the item.

Councilor Lewis said they know, she will just say that um, the Fire Keepers um, are willing to give them a follow-up on how things are working out and she knows that there was discussion about putting ah, they know, a different Lodge up in a different area. Lewis said um, they know, something like that is going to take, they know, about at least a couple of years to, they know, to even get it up and running so um, they know, this is a temporary solution but its only \$5,000 to, they know, make their people comfortable in...in the meantime and they know, for the future, they know, after they get an update and see how things are going, they know, there was discussion and its going to be on the table in the future but, they know, she doesn't see that actually coming together for a couple of years. Lewis said um, yeah, because they have to have the architect designs and all kinds of stuff. Lewis said she is sure, they know, building a new Lodge is going to take a lot more than four work sessions and that's what the tarps took. Lewis said all right. Lewis thanked them.

Recorder Wittenberg said he would like to respond or add onto that also. Wittenberg said with the tarps on there that them tarps are not going to stay in the Lodge 24-7 only one. Wittenberg said someone takes that journey the tarps be



brought up so their not weather beaten or kids coming in and say they vandalize ah, in their way of the tarps and what have them would be a lot ah, protect it. Wittenberg said so, Miigwech.

Speaker Crampton said okay, is there any other discussion on the item. Crampton said Councilor Di Piazza.

Councilor Di Piazza said he is just saying when the Lodge was built they were all part of that and the roof was never finished. Di Piazza said it actually took three years to get a roof on that Lodge and it has been leaking since and everything. Di Piazza said so he is giving them a heads up on that. Di Piazza said at least they know they did it. *Di Piazza was speaking so low here that his comments were not picked up clearly on the ZOOM recording.* Di Piazza said he's good.

Speaker Crampton said okay. Crampton thanked him. Crampton said is there any other discussion on the item. Crampton said he apologizes Mr. Recorder do they have a motion on the item.

Councilor Lewis said she will make a motion.

**MOVE FOR THE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #23-0315-039; APPROVAL OF CEREMONY LODGE IMPROVEMENTS AND USE OF ARPA FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF CANVAS TARPS AND SUPPORTING HARDWARE;** by Lewis; supported by Wittenberg.

Speaker Crampton asked is anyone going to abstain on the item. Crampton asked is there any discussion from Council. Crampton asked is there any further discussion from the membership. Crampton said one more time for Council. Crampton said hearing nothing please do a roll call.

**Roll Call #3**

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

Motion carried (4-2-1-2)

Councilor Di Piazza said yeah, he is going to have to abstain for the reasons that he has stated so.

Recorder Wittenberg asked what was it may he ask again. Wittenberg said he is sorry he couldn't catch that.

Councilor Di Piazza repeated he abstained for the reasons he stated earlier.

Recorder Wittenberg said four in favor, two against, one abstained and two absent Approval of Ceremony Lodge Improvements and use of ARPA Funds for the Purchase of Canvas Tarps and Supporting Hardware has passed.

Speaker Crampton said okay. Crampton thanked them. Crampton said and ah, just to remind Council that um, ah, per Robert’s Rules and their own ordinances um, when they ask for abstentions before there is any discussion if they are going to abstain they are not supposed to be included in any discussion. Crampton said so just going forward just so they know that when they say they are going to abstain then they can’t be part of the discussion. Crampton said Mr. Di Piazza.

Councilor Di Piazza said yes, he absolutely knows that and he changed his mind...*the rest of his comment was so low that it wasn’t picked up on the ZOOM recording.*

Speaker Crampton said um, yes, so there is no allowance for that under their rules or under Robert’s Rules. Crampton said um, so just going forward. Crampton said when they ask for abstentions after that there will be no inclusion in the vote if there is a change after that.

**IV. Acceptance of Reports**

- A. **Report of the Tribal Ogema**
  - 1. **Operations Report**  None Submitted
  - 2. **Financial Report**  None Submitted

**V. Acceptance of Commission Reports**

- A. **Binojeeuk Commission**  None Submitted
- B. **Enrollment Commission**  None Submitted
- C. **Gaming Commission**  February 2023

Speaker Crampton said he will entertain a motion to accept the report.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE GAMING COMMISSION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2023; by Lewis; supported by Johnson.**

Speaker Crampton asked is anyone going to abstain on the item. Crampton asked is there any further discussion from Council. Crampton asked anything further from the membership. Crampton said one more time for Council. Crampton said hearing nothing please do a roll call.

**Roll Call #4**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Recorder Wittenberg said seven in favor Acceptance of the Gaming Commission Report for February 2023 has passed.

Speaker Crampton thanked him.

- D. Health Commission**  None Submitted
- E. Housing Commission**  February 2023

Speaker Crampton said he will entertain a motion to accept.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE HOUSING COMMISSION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2023;** by Johnson; supported by Wittenberg.

Speaker Crampton asked is anyone going to abstain on the item. Crampton asked is there any further discussion from Council. Crampton asked anything further from the membership. Crampton said one more time for Council. Crampton said hearing nothing please do a roll call.

**Roll Call #5**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Recorder Wittenberg said six...seven in favor motion ah, Housing Commission February 2023 has passed.

- F. Natural Resource Commission**  None Submitted

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

- A. Little River Casino Resort Preference Report**  None Submitted
- B. Biskaabiiyang Committee**  None Submitted
- C. Elders Committee**  None Submitted

**VII. Old Business-None Submitted**

**VIII. New Business**

- A. Dissolving the Shoreline Task Force**  
 This Task Force is no longer needed.

Speaker Crampton noted this was removed.

**IX. Concluding Business**

- A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, March 22, 2023**

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

Speaker Crampton said he will turn it over to Mr. Romanelli.

*Ogema Romanelli's comments below were not all heard correctly on the ZOOM recording and kept fading in and out because he did not turn the microphone on and his comments were too low to pick up.*

Ogema Romanelli thanked him. Romanelli said it was stated how the members will get onto the Membership Meeting ZOOMing in and it not ZOOMing in it is actually livestreamed. Romanelli said that was directed by their IT Department so it will be livestreamed. Romanelli said it was directed to put it on the website not 6-9 but 7-9. Romanelli said he thinks he will also ask that in the new Currents that the Ogema and staff contact information be put back on there. Romanelli said not Tribal Council but the Ogema and the Chief of Staff their emails and phone numbers put on there. Romanelli said he thinks it would be nice if Tribal Councilors were listed absent in any of the meetings that when they rejoin this meeting that....*the rest of his comment could not be picked up on the ZOOM recording to be heard clearly.* Romanelli said they don't know if they are in the meeting or out of the meeting. Romanelli said sometimes they go in and out, they will vote on one item but not the others. Romanelli said when doing this by ZOOM they can't see that they are here so they don't know if they are online so. Romanelli said that is just a little suggestion there. Romanelli said the other last thing he wants to talk about in business is the Shoreline Task Force. Romanelli said he wants to talk about putting it on the agenda a couple of times he just wants to state one time clearly again the project is not done....it's not dead. Romanelli said he thinks that by putting this on the agenda....*the Ogema's comments could not be heard clearly on the ZOOM recording because he was speaking too low to hear.* Romanelli said they are actually waiting for communication back from the Governor then he will explain where they are at with this again. Romanelli said they have an application and have been through the process and right now they are looking for the Governor to either approve or deny the \_\_\_ as before she has stated that is the last time that she was waiting for a response from the Department of Interior on the Grand River Band's application for Federal Recognition. Romanelli said the Interior they were denied so its his understanding that the Governor now she can approve or deny their application. Romanelli said once she does that the Department of Interior has the important say if she does that then they can resend their application then it will take about three to six months. Romanelli said once that happens they will come back and the Governor signs....*his comment here was lost because it wasn't picked up on the ZOOM recording*....that means they can start building. Romanelli said he thinks since they invested so far over \$30 plus million in the project that the State to shut down anything with the project until they get anything from the Governor. Romanelli said that's it. Romanelli thanked them.

Speaker Crampton said ah, he really doesn't know how to respond to that. Crampton said that was just a bag full of lies and the Council is aware of that and that is the reason they need to open up the Shoreline Task Force. Crampton said that is the purpose for opening it as Mr. Romanelli he thinks he will find it very interesting his words that are being protected in Closed contrary to what he is stating in public. Crampton said he has never been ashamed of something so much in his life after last week's discussion. Crampton said he thought this was all hammered out everybody knows that that was just false. Crampton said so going forward he, he, he is at a lost. Crampton said Karol Ann Chabot.

Karol Chabot said well she heard every other word Larry was speaking she doesn't know if he needs to turn on his microphone or what but he was....he was very, very hard to understand a word and she doesn't know if anybody else had the same problem. Chabot thanked them.

Ogema Romanelli said okay, can they hear him now.

Speaker Crampton said that's much better.

Karol Chabot said yes.

Ogema Romanelli said he can read it.

Speaker Crampton said Laura Echelbarger they will get to her. Crampton said he is in the queue Mr. Romanelli.

Ogema Romanelli said okay.

Laura Echelbarger thanked them. Echelbarger said she just wanted to say the same thing as Karol Ann it was very difficult to hear the Ogema unfortunately um, and she did....she didn't want to interrupt the Ogema while he was speaking but she does wish that those Councilors that were on the phone. Echelbarger said she doesn't know if he could hear them back there Shannon but out here she, she couldn't hear them neither could Karol Ann. Echelbarger said she just wish that in those moments that them guys could just stop everything so that microphones could be turned on so everybody could hear good because it sounded like it was important information. Echelbarger thanked them.

Ogema Romanelli asked is he in the queue next.

Speaker Crampton said um, he has been trying to take them in order Mr. Di Piazza was next.

Councilor Di Piazza said he is going to say when he was saying that was a bag full of lies, no its not there is still an opportunity to resubmit the whole um, package to the Interior so. Di Piazza said first one yeah, it is no longer in

existence but him playing that....he doesn't get it to be quite honest. Di Piazza said he doesn't want to give people more opportunity or Per Capita or more services and something on that order down that way its astronomical. Di Piazza said everybody wants the Mt. Pleasant or Gun Lake Per Capita. Di Piazza asked how is he going to achieve that. Di Piazza said so besides that, they know, they just had Indiana put in a casino not too long ago, that was \$400 million. Di Piazza said Gun Lake just spent \$300 million on renovations. Di Piazza said so the other....the other casinos and the other Tribes are moving ahead in renovations and construction so that's....*the rest of his comment was lost here on the ZOOM recording because he was speaking so low.* Di Piazza said he doesn't believe he still thinks it is quite pliable. Di Piazza said in the resolution that he read was actually quite disturbing....*the rest of his comment was hard to hear clearly.* Di Piazza said he is done.

Ogema Romanelli asked is he next.

Speaker Crampton thanked him. Crampton said well, he has one more person before him Mr. Romanelli. Crampton asked Laura if she had something else because her hand is still up if she is in he will catch her at.....

Laura Echelbarger said oh, she is sorry.

Speaker Crampton said okay, then he had a number at ah, 391-0737.

Sara Agosa identified herself. Agosa asked if they could hear her.

Speaker Crampton said yes, they can.

Sara Agosa said so her comment is she just wanted to thank Karol Ann um, for brining it up that the sound is really bad she couldn't hear it either on her phone. Agosa said she does have a comment for Gary that Gary, she feels that he is admitting several details on the complexity of the project. Agosa said its not that easy and this has been discussed in a work session. Agosa said in terms of their Per Cap a couple of years ago she called Larry Romanelli asking about the financial condition of their Tribe and why their benefits have not increased over time and Larry in a phone conversation told her that the Per Cap would only be a couple of thousand of dollars. Agosa said um, the Shoreline Project which to her must be weighed because they have to go into serious debt in order to finish this project. Agosa said um, and if Tribal Council could weigh in on this how much it would cost because her understanding is they would have to take out a significant loan and that's something that must be seriously weighed. Agosa said so Gary she would appreciate it if um, the details could be provided it is not that easy and it is not that easy to resubmit an application either. Agosa said all of this should be reviewed and members have been requesting a Feasibility Study. Agosa thanked them. Agosa said that is her comment.

Councilor Di Piazza said they know.....

Speaker Crampton said now it's.....he is sorry now Mr. Romanelli he is going to allow Mr. Di Piazza to respond since he was addressed.

Councilor Di Piazza said oh, since she addressed him. Di Piazza said there is some information that she is probably not purvey to which he thinks is quite pliable yet. Di Piazza said Grand River was rejected granted they have 180 days to appeal it but he doesn't know if they are going to appeal it. Di Piazza said like he said the other Tribes are spending a lot of money to rejuvenate their facilities or building a new facility. Di Piazza said yeah, it does cost money to make money but the opportunity that that could bring in for them is to him astronomical. Di Piazza said it is not that hard to run those numbers on their own. Di Piazza said so he knows people want to go to the internet gaming but that's not the catch-all either. Di Piazza said anyways, Gun Lake wouldn't be putting \$300 million into their facility...that is \$300 million. Di Piazza said why did they spend that amount of money to improve their facility so. Di Piazza said he is done he is good.

Speaker Crampton thanked Mr. Romanelli for being so patient. Crampton said okay, Mr. Romanelli.

Ogema Romanelli said no problem, the mic wasn't on. Romanelli said his apologies so he will just repeat quickly his rundown. Romanelli said the Membership Meeting will be livestreamed, not ZOOMED, but livestreamed. Romanelli said yeah, he was corrected by his IT Department and the Ogema's Meet and Greet ah, on the website says 6-9 and it is actually 7-9. Romanelli said then he asked that the Ogema and the Chief of Staff contact information be reposted in the Currents. Romanelli said it was always in the Currents and it is no longer there. Romanelli said and he ask that it be put back in if possible. Romanelli said the other thing is is he wants to ask that when a Tribal Councilor is absent at the beginning of the meeting if they choose to rejoin the meeting later on that they probably should announce themselves. Romanelli said it would help if they would announce when they are coming in or leaving because they are voting on partial items sometimes and he thinks it would be helpful to the membership for that to happen. Romanelli said the last thing he wanted to talk about and discuss was the dissolving of the Shoreline Task Force the New Business that was removed. Romanelli said it has been on the agenda a couple of times he thinks that would be a mistake and he clearly stated that the project is not dead. Romanelli said they keep saying that and he thinks that hurts their chances for moving ahead. Romanelli said ah, again it could die. Romanelli said what they are waiting for now is the Governor. Romanelli said he has a call into the Governor ah, to ask for her to sign off because what she was waiting for she stated was for the Grand River Band decision from the Department of Interior. Romanelli said the Grand River Band did get their decision and it was denied. Romanelli said so in his estimation there is no reason for the Governor not to sign

it at this time. Romanelli said granted that the Grand River Band has been given an additional 180 days for ah, some kind of.....something to happen but in his understanding is that of 35 ah, Tribes that have been denied only one reversed and there was some complication. Romanelli said other than that they usually don't get reversed which the two probably should not have been combined in the first place. Romanelli said it's very much alive and they are working very hard to...to ah, complete this project and they have put a lot of time a lot of money into it. Romanelli said he thinks this would be premature to ah, take this action at this time. Romanelli said he will leave it at that. Romanelli thanked them. Romanelli said oh, he guessed he should answer Sara too. Romanelli said ah, Sara does call.....the project has taken turns ah, throughout the 13 years and at one time it looked like they were....like it wasn't going to happen and that they should put the Land in Trust for non-gaming purposes after that. Romanelli said he thinks that is what Speaker Crampton is talking about. Romanelli said it was discussed that there is a possibility to resubmit an application and that's very clear. Romanelli said it is clear from the Department of Interior the timeline is not a lengthy timeline, matter of fact it was less than half a year is what he was told. Romanelli said to hinge onto something that was said six months ago is not correct so what he is telling them is the truth and again ah, they can take it from there.

Speaker Crampton said okay, um,.....*laughing at this point*.....again, he is at a loss he doesn't know what to do. Crampton said they are not waiting on any um, word from the Governor they are taking the property into Trust for non-gaming purposes um, the Governor does not matter if she says yes or no at this time, that time for her to respond was granted to her by the Interior. Crampton said she had to ask for an extension for it to be extended. Crampton said they extended it she said no. Crampton said there is no longer any time for her to respond so they are not waiting on any signature. *Crampton laughing louder at this point*. Crampton said that is absolute false. Crampton said he....they can submit a whole new package and restart. Crampton said the old package is done it was grandfathered in under the old two-part determination provisions. Crampton said grandfathered means their being brought under.....in under regulations that have changed and no longer exist. Crampton said so if they file the package now.....Congress has gotten involved so its not the same process. Crampton said so he wants the membership to understand that they are not waiting on anything from the Governor. Crampton said a whole new pack that needs to be submitted if they are going to go forward on this project. Crampton said the Shoreline Task Force was created to deal with the propriety information of the first package which was turned down by the Governor and no longer exists. Crampton said so as long as everybody understands that and that's why it is so important to bring this information out because he feels that it is being used to confuse the membership and Shoreline members they are on from Council even acknowledged that they haven't been to meetings in months so they are the only ones who are authorized to speak on the project per the ordinance.....or the resolution he is sorry. Crampton said um, Mr. Di Piazza.



Ogema Romanelli said he needs to respond to the Speaker please. Romanelli said and what is confusing here is.....

Speaker Crampton interrupted. Crampton said Mr. Romanelli he didn't address him.

Councilor Di Piazza said he will step aside a second. *Di Piazza was still talking but his comments could not be heard clearly.*

Speaker Crampton said well he didn't address him so if he wants to get in the queue he can get in the queue.

Ogema Romanelli said he was.....to respond to his.....

Speaker Crampton said he didn't address him so there is nothing to respond to. Crampton said so if he wanted to get in the queue he can get in the queue.

Ogema Romanelli said oh, okay. Romanelli thanked him.

Speaker Crampton said he is welcome. Crampton said yeah, well.....Mr. Di Piazza.

Councilor Di Piazza asked is he in the queue then.

Speaker Crampton said yes, he is.

Councilor Di Piazza said well, most of that package that was submitted is still pliable and a lot of that information is never going to change. Di Piazza said so they know, he doesn't get.....he knows he is using it as a campaign ploy....that is what he hears....so he believes it is quite pliable, they know. Di Piazza said Grand River gets Federally Recognized he doesn't believe that is going to happen. Di Piazza said like he said his mother was....did a lot of secretarial for Grand River and there is a lot of documents their missing and he thinks they know where it is at but....but that is about all he can say on that that but to keep beating it down he thinks he is doing an injustice to the citizens and the membership. Di Piazza said so he's done.

Speaker Crampton said okay, um, Sara Agosa did she still have her hand up. Crampton thanked her. Crampton said Mr. Romanelli.

Ogema Romanelli thanked him for allowing him to speak. Romanelli said the confusion comes in when he is talking about the Legislature. Romanelli said they do not need the Legislature to open a Class II Gambling Casino. Romanelli said if they want to open a Class III Gaming Casino they would need the Legislature to vote. Romanelli reiterated they do not need that for a Class II. Romanelli said take

the example of the Indiana and the Potawatomi Tribe and they will understand fully how the two differ. Romanelli thanked them. Romanelli said he is done.

Speaker Crampton said thanked him for that because their first package was asking for the Interior to take into gaming the ah, Class III. Crampton said so now if their talking about a new application for a Class II that's going.....that will be a whole new application. Crampton said so everybody can see the first package was.....and he does have to say this.....he means this keeps happening....keeps happening and they have a member of the Shoreline Task Force knows exactly what Mr. Romanelli and um, ahhh, what Mr. Di Piazza said is untrue sitting right there before them saying nothing. Crampton said they have Councilor Wittenberg sitting here knowing what they are saying is untrue is not saying nothing. Crampton said he gets tired of being the only person on Council.....this is why this is important to bring this forward so the membership can see. Crampton said it not the Speaker he doesn't have a dog in this fight. Crampton said its oh, the project is over, they will see all the information, the only people that want to keep from them are the people who don't want the Task Force to \_\_\_ it so the information can't get to them. Crampton said he does have to say that he is ashamed of those other Councilors at this time. Crampton said Cynthea Shantz.

Cynthea Shantz said um, she is sorry but she doesn't understand why they are not like sitting down and discussing this like they know using...eh, ah, she doesn't understand this. Shantz said this does not make sense to her um, he keeps.....she....she is sorry....she just wished they would sit down and discuss it instead of accusing each other of they know, "*well you said this but you said that.*" Shantz said she just um, she doesn't....she doesn't understand why um, they know, its not all laid out for them to see. Shantz thanked them.

Speaker Crampton said she is welcome. Crampton said that is what he has been trying to get to there has been adult meetings, adult discussions, there are adult minutes of these discussions. Crampton said they are being held in proprietary under.....under.....*inhaled deeply here*.....under propriety underneath the Shoreline Task Force. Crampton said if they dissolve the Shoreline Task Force they can bring this all out to the membership then they will see what is in these meetings. Crampton said he has no fear of them being....of them seeing what is there. Crampton said there is a whole bunch of people that doesn't....do not what them to see those things. Crampton said he wants them to see every minute of it. Crampton said he wants them to see all the dealings. Crampton said there have been discussions like what she is requesting Miss Shantz and like he said he is dumbfounded that the other Councilors that know this information sit there. Crampton said its like they don't want them to under.....to know what is going on. Crampton said its....its....it's disturbing but the information will come out.

Councilor Lewis said well um, they know, its obvious to see that there needs to be more work sessions on this because now that it is out in the open like people are saying more of what their thoughts are. Lewis said so, they know, everybody's

not cohesive here. Lewis said and um, they know, she is on the Shoreline Task Force and, they know, to her understanding, they know, and, they know, like when she first got on, they know, she is not the Speaker of that. Lewis said she was not appointed Speaker. Lewis said um, she was told, they know, there is confidential information and there is and they know, if...even if this is brought forward, they know, some of the confidential information, they know, that can't be out there so they know, she doesn't see that, they know, that there was any wrong done on there. Lewis said that is just her insight, they know, she thinks everybody was 100% trying to push this forward. Lewis said she also sees, they know, um, they know, say, they know, and that is out in the public that, they know, Whitmer said no. Lewis said she said no to this one and they know, she doesn't understand why they don't they know, simplify and work together because they can close this one out they know, and then they know, just like it was said in the work session the other day some of the members they know, wanted, um, more of a voice in which direction they move forward. Lewis said so they know, she is okay with giving them the right to say, yes, they want to do a new, um, they know, submit a new application. Lewis said she is good with that. Lewis said she thinks everyone, they know, does want the casino there is no one that doesn't. Lewis said of course they want another casino they know, with that what's going to help take care of they know, their life, their health they know, everything its going to take care of them in a good way. Lewis said so they know, she doesn't understand they know, why it is so hard to close this one out and they know, give their thoughts and hear the voice of their people and if they want to move forward with the new application its, they know, as easy as that but it is obvious to see or they know, just by hearing everyone that they do need more discussion in a work session. Lewis said she doesn't think that they know, right out here is...is the place. Lewis said they know, they can have, they know, some good talks and work together and they know, figure this out together. Lewis said so they know, with that she requests the Recorder to put a work session on so they can sit down at the Round Table and really discuss this. Lewis said they know, they hope that they know, as many Tribal members can call into ZOOM please do. Lewis said please let all their family know, they know, so they can get onto part 2 if that is what they wish. Lewis said all right. Lewis thanked them.

Recorder Wittenberg said Ogema Romanelli is back at the mic.

Ogema Romanelli said yeah, he thinks they are getting into a lot of confusion here. Romanelli said with all due respect Councilor Lewis she was on the Shoreline Committee and as they discussed the other day. Romanelli said she missed meetings, crucial meetings towards the end and he will leave it at that.

*Councilor Lewis was in the background trying to speak but it was interrupted.*

Ogema Romanelli continued...Romanelli said so when they talk about getting together and having a work session and discussing this they first need the people here, they need to be here, he sees everybody out and about and he is speaking to

her as well, Councilor Lewis but they can't make it in here where they are going to have honest discussions. Romanelli said he is looking at two Council members here, he know there are two also in the building, and they have two or three that have not been here for months. Romanelli said how in the heck do they have a discussion, a real discussion, with this. Romanelli said so he will leave it at that. Romanelli said he thinks there is going to be tendency to confuse this issue even more and he will just let the words speak for themselves and eventually it will come out and Council can release any Closed Session Minutes they want to if they want to do that so be it. Romanelli said but the information that is on this recording and that is why he brought this up today will come out and Tribal members will see what was being talked about on this day and at this time. Romanelli thanked them very much.

Councilor Lewis said okay, and she does want to say that, yes, she did miss two meetings and um, she did not get the information that there was meetings. Lewis said she did respond to their Ogema at the time and um, they know, its,,,,,all these IT issues that their having they know, and they are not getting their information. Lewis said um, she does have to say in the Lodge they know, their computers have been down, they don't work. Lewis said there is one computer working and that's been for months. Lewis said to her understanding right now, they know, people like have to be cautious because they know, to her understanding the virus numbers are going up and their computers don't even work in there.

Speaker Crampton asked Councilor Lewis if she was through.

Councilor Lewis said she is not sure on that yet she will wait.

Speaker Crampton said okay, hold on. *Crampton was laughing at this point.* Crampton said he was going to try and grab some order back to this. Crampton said he saw some hands go up. Crampton said he is going to go with Laura Echelbarger first and Councilor Di Piazza then Cynthea Shantz. Crampton said Laura Echelbarger please.

Recorder Wittenberg said Ogema Romanelli come back up.

*Ogema Romanelli made a comment in the background on the Zoom recording but it wasn't picked up clearly.*

Recorder Wittenberg said no he said he's good.

Laura Echelbarger thanked Speaker Crampton. Echelbarger said she wanted to address what um, Councilor Lewis had stated and she just wanted to suggest since it seems like um, the majority of the membership is a little confused. Echelbarger said ah, that maybe they could have a work session in the evening so that more membership could attend and um, that might be ah, really helpful. Echelbarger said so she just wanted to suggest that. Echelbarger thanked them.

Speaker Crampton said to Miss Echelbarger that she was welcome. Crampton said um, Councilor Di Piazza.

Councilor Di Piazza said yeah, he is really done going down that road right now. Di Piazza said release Closed Session stuff go ahead but make sure they do it all instead of trying to pick what is going to be exciting. Di Piazza said actually the computers work quite well in this Government Building. Di Piazza said he doesn't know at this point. Di Piazza said but he's good.

Speaker Crampton said okay, ah, Cynthea Shantz.

Cynthea Shantz thanked him. Shantz said she agrees with Larry that how can they have a discussion when Councilors are not even in the room. Shantz said they have to take turns talking um, and unless their um, their name is announced they can't respond to something derogatory or something that someone else says about them um, how can they have a discussion like this. Shantz said she is very disgusted with Councilors for not showing up to do their job. Shantz said she doesn't care it's ZOOM and IT allows them to um, do different things from their home or wherever they choose to be. Shantz said um, they are paid to show up and represent her and every other member in their Tribe. Shantz said if they can't do that then resign. Shantz thanked them.

Speaker Crampton said Mrs. Shantz is welcome. Crampton said okay, um, he just wanted to get back to a couple of things. Crampton said going back to the Ogema's comment \_\_ addressing him Mr. Romanelli um, about Councilors coming into meetings. Crampton said if they go back to as far as they have recorded the minutes they will see that um, there are entries in there where it says so and so entered at such and such a time. Crampton said there is no announcement from the Speaker it has been common practice of Council to allow this. Crampton said it was say so and so entered at such and such a time and it wouldn't say they were there other than that then they will just pick up the vote where they were at. Crampton said so he wanted to address that because he just wanted to make sure that was a common practice of Tribal Council since day one. Crampton said so if they want establish it or change it they can change it. Crampton said number two he just wanted to get this out to the membership because the conversation.....they are going to find out that the conversations that they had in public in Closed are very adult and cover a wide range of things that is absolutely contradictory to what they are hearing today. Crampton said so that is just what he wants to get to he is not afraid of any of those minutes coming out in fact, he is trying to hurry it because members keep asking questions and keep getting confusing answers. Crampton said at this time there is no application submitted by Little River other than non-gaming. Crampton said now if they want to get rid of the Shoreline Task Force that is where they can have some \_\_\_\_ discussion with the membership show them when it was done with the last application that is no longer viable and decide whether they want to move

forward. Crampton said the project was started in 1993 or 4 um, and that was a good idea for brick and mortar back then. Crampton said right now with the banking situations and potential recession online the highest um, building costs, the highest property rights they \_\_\_ that this is not the time to so brick and mortar and that is a decision that needs to be of the full membership not just a few people on a task force, Crampton said now what they are doing incurring all those increases in debt is now they are almost doubling the time they are looking at any kind of payback. Crampton said it might be more admittable than what was projected before so there needs to be more projections. Crampton said since the time of that first package they didn't have online gaming like it is today now its just exploded and everybody has exploited it and its getting.....its.....its becoming phenomenal. Crampton said he does understand what Mr. Stone was saying a couple of weeks ago that Tribes can.....to the FCC can um, do it internationally. Crampton said well Tribes don't have to listen to the FCC they want to do it internationally and get outside the United States. Crampton said that is just the boundaries of the United States for Tribes. Crampton said if they want to go international there is nothing that stops them. Crampton said okay, Cynthea Shantz he sees that her hand is up again. Crampton asked Cynthea Shantz if she had something else.

Cynthea Shantz said yes. Shantz thanked him. Shantz said first of all why do they have to get rid of Shoreline before they can release all of the information. Shantz said secondly, as far as she can tell the brick and mortar um, discussion that he....he is having here um, is based on opinion. Shantz said she doesn't see any....she doesn't see anything that backs up his....his um, his claims. Shantz thanked them.

Speaker Crampton said she was welcome. Crampton said see that what he wants to get to is a meeting where they can all sit down and everything and bring it forward because there is a plethora of discussion. Crampton said in fact right now the banking.....the banking crash that they are experiencing right now um, she is going to find out that a lot of top investors along with their money are pulling out just to save the low increment.....well, it's a low increment right now but it is not going to be of switching over to online banking because it takes away the overhead of the brick and mortar. Crampton said so a lot of this is being focused by people switching over to that. Crampton said it's the big investors who...who has got the millions and the billions to loan the banks so that is the driving part of this. Crampton asked Cynthea Shantz if she had something else.

Cynthea Shantz said yes, she does. Shantz said he didn't answer her question about why they have to get rid of Shoreline ,why they have to disband that group before they release um, the information. Shantz said um.....

Speaker Crampton interrupted. Crampton said if she reads the Task Force Resolution, he was sorry to interrupt, but it um, if she reads the resolution it

makes it proprietary information and they will only be able to discuss with that body named by Council.

Cynthea Shantz asked can't they just passed something that says it is not proprietary anymore.

Speaker Crampton said yes, that would be redacting the Shoreline Task Force and if they want to put it back in place it just be another Wednesday and they can put it right back in place.

Cynthea Shantz said well let's do it then.

Speaker Crampton said that is what he is trying to do. *Crampton laughing at this point.*

Cynthea Shantz said then they can, they know, she believes that they should have further discussions at the Membership Meeting where all the members are present um, not all the members but everyone can view what is going on. Shantz said um, she believes that is a good time for all of this to come out in the open so that everyone can see what's going on, all the members, all the Tribal Councils can be available to answer questions. Shantz said um, she believes that is a good time to have this discussion. Shantz said um, she also has to interject on the banking situation of today. Shantz said she said she means they saw the collapse just recently um, there....there's....its.....that has absolutely everything to do with management of funds ah, where the bonds that were purchased are um, is the long term of this bank um, um, the long term assets um, were not realized because they had to make up that money because the inter-straight went up so high. Shantz said it has really has nothing to do with um, pulling money um, pulling money out people pulling their money out because its easier to go online. Shantz thanked them.

Speaker Crampton said um, he just wanted to respectfully disagree and just say that he understands what she is saying. Crampton said what had happened was that ah, um, SVP had ah, scheduled....scheduled loans and scheduled investments. Crampton said what had happened was that the major investors had pulled some of their money because they were going over to the online banking to save those dividends with the overhead....with the lack of overhead. Crampton said then what had happened the scheduled loans and investments going out. Crampton said the management was unaware at that time....well, they were claiming they were unaware at that time there was enough money to uphold those. Crampton said Miss Johnson.

Cynthea Shantz said she respectfully disagrees um, because a bank has to manage their money um, so therefore they have to consider what is going in and what is coming out. Shantz said they have to have a set....a set amount of money

available to cover that stuff. Shantz said um, that stuff happens in every day banking all the time. Shantz said the problem is

Councilor Johnson said

- C. Legislative Affairs Update**
- D. Public Comment Period**

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

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

Speaker Crampton asked is anyone going to abstain on the issue. Crampton asked is there any discussion from Tribal Council. Crampton asked is there any discussion from the membership. Crampton said hearing none please do a roll call.

**Roll Call #**

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

Motion carried (0-0-0-0)

Recorder Wittenberg said

The meeting was adjourned at : a.m.

**1:08:14**

**XI. Open Session**

*Tribal Council noted that there was no quorum for the Second Open Session.*

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

**XII. Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace A. Hendler  
Transcribing Assistant

Ron Wittenberg,  
Tribal Council Recorder



