



Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020  
LITTLE RIVER BAND  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on April 1, 2020. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

**I. Opening Prayer**

Gary DiPiazza, provided the Opening Prayer.

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

**B. Roll Call #1**

T. Guenthardt -Present	C. Champagne -Present	D. Corey -	Present
S. Crampton - Present	G. DiPiazza - Present	R. Pete -	Present
R. Wittenberg- Present	D. Lonn - Present	S. Lewis -	Present

Quorum established.

Others Present: Jessica Steinberg - 0148, Larry Romanelli, Mary Thomas, Rebecca Liebing, Kathleen Bowers

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020; by DiPiazza; supported by Lonn.**

Cindy Champagne stated I didn't not remember getting a copy of that meeting.

Ron Pete said it came out yesterday to all the Tribal Council. Does anybody else not have a copy of the agenda?

Lewis said I have it.

Lonn said I have it.

DiPiazza said I have it.

Wittenberg said I have it.

Guenthardt said so do I.

Jessica Steinberg said for those Tribal citizens that might be on the line could you read the agenda into the record for the conference call so everyone will know what it is.

Pete asked if Gary would like to read the agenda into the record or as the Recorder do you want me to read it.

DiPiazza answered that I can do it. There is only one item and it is under Continuing Business. Budget Modifications for Low Income Home Energy Assistance for \$16,123. Under Acceptance of Reports. Operations Report, Financial Report for January, Acceptance of Commission Reports, Binojeeuk, Enrollment, Housing, Natural Resources, Committees would be Elder Committee Minutes, Little River Casino Preference Report. There is nothing under Old Business and nothing under New Business at this time. Concluding Business is just the next meeting, the Ogema Status Update, Legislative Affairs Update, Public Comment. Closed would be the Council Closed Session Minutes and then there is really nothing under Closed other than the acceptance of the Binojeeuk Closed Session Commission, Little River Holdings, Resort Business Closed Report and Unified Legal and under Litigation we still have the Tribal Ogema and Stone versus Tribal Council. That is pretty much it for this one.

Steinberg said thank you Mr. Recorder I do appreciate that.

DiPiazza said we are trying to get this the best we can.

Speaker Pete asked if anybody was going to abstain.

**Roll Call #2**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	D. Corey -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn -	Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**D. Tribal Council Minutes 3/11/20**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES OF 3/11/20 TO BE FILED;** by Lonng; supported by Wittenberg.

Speaker Pete asked if there was any discussion or if anyone was going to abstain.

**Roll Call #3**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -No	D. Corey -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonng - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

**B. Budget Modifications**

1. **Acceptance of contract funds from the Department of Health and Human Services – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB2020-\_\_\_ in the amount of \$16,123**  
 Acceptance of funds.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 20-0401-098, ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) AND APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE OPERATING BUDGET MB2020-017 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,123;** by Lonng; supported by Corey.

**Roll Call #4**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	D. Corey -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonng - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Lonng said with this LIHEAP now being approved and we know it is a program, who is monitoring it. Do the people call Jason Cross or do they call Linda?

Pete believes that it is Jason Cross.

Lonng said I just want to make sure because I'm getting some phone calls on some different things. Thank you.

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

**IV. Acceptance of Reports**

**A. Report of the Tribal Ogema**

1. **Operations Report**  None submitted  
2. **Financial Report**  January 2020

**V. Acceptance of Commission Reports**

- A. **Binojeeuk Commission**  February 2020  
B. **Enrollment Commission**  February 2020 - No Meeting  
C. **Gaming Commission**  February 2020  
D. **Housing Commission**  None submitted  
E. **Natural Resource Commission**  None submitted

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

- A. **Elders Committee Minutes**  February 1, 2020  
B. **Little River Casino Resort Preference Report**  February 2020

**VII. Old Business**

**VIII. New Business**

**IX. Concluding Business**

- A. **Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, April 18, 2020**  
B. **Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update**

Ogema Romanelli just wanted to say it has been a very, very busy two or three weeks and long days. We are trying to keep the essential services going and I think the staff overall has done a very good job. As you know we had to close the Resort and we closed the Government. While we are doing this we are also watching what is happening on the State and Federal level. As a sovereign tribe we don't have to follow word for word what the State does or what the Federal Government does but we also want to be in unison with them so we are watching what happens. Most of you know things are changing by the day and sometimes by the hour. We are doing what we can to keep essential services going. Overall I think we are doing a very good job being we got the checks out and also got the per cap out in a very timely manner with all things considered. I really want to say thank you to those people that made it happen. Sometimes people think it is just a matter of pushing a button and everything gets printed out but there is a lot of work that goes into it and this staff did a wonderful job making sure that people got their per cap checks and I think they are owed a special gratitude for doing so. I did set up a Task Force. We need to make sure that we are looking for any kind of fund to recoup monies that are out there from this virus. It has been going back to January in some cases and we need to make sure that we are getting whatever funds we can. The worst thing for me is to get through this and realize that we left \$2,000,000 laying on the table. I think we have a good group of people

which also includes the finance director of the Resort so we are trying to get that going. There are already some funds that are available and ready to go. We hope this is very short term and just wanted to let you know that I did suspend operations of the EDC in very short order and expect to have them back in operation within a day or two. Whatever people are hearing it is only a short term situation. Aside from that we also have to look at the, we basically have things pretty much under control until mid-April. Now we have to decide what we need to do from mid-April to the end of the April. Aside from that I am just trying to keep up with all the emails and phone traffic, etc. I really appreciate the help of staff. Ron Pete thank you for being in contact and I will keep you posted as much as I can and go from there.

Romanelli said I'm sure there is something major I am forgetting. I think that is it. I may be missing something. There are so many things going on right now. I'm still planning on holding the Membership Meeting by phone or by whatever I have to do. I won't be doing the Meet and Greet this year by all accounts. There is just too much going on but I do plan on holding the Membership Meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> I believe and more information will come out about that. I think that is it for now.

Ron Pete asked if I ask you a question. I thought you were going to do the Membership Meeting, we didn't want to do it on the 11<sup>th</sup> because that is Easter weekend but I thought it was the 18<sup>th</sup>, did that change to the 25<sup>th</sup>?

Romanelli responded yes, to give a little bit more time for a number of reasons. One is, by April 15<sup>th</sup>, the US Government believes there is going to be a change and they will be able to identify what is going on with the Coronavirus so that would give a week to do that. I also have some other information and some other things that are going on that would have to move it to the 25<sup>th</sup>. I will send out a notice. It looks like it will be by Skype or something like that and it will be on April 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Meet and Greet this year. I will send out more information.

Romanelli said I do want to thank both Tribal Council officers for being in contact, being Gary and Ron because I really need to have that communication so thank you.

Cindy Champagne said can I jump into the cue to ask Larry a question. I just want to ask you a question in planning for this virus, have you considered if our frontline people working in like a hospital, fire department, police department or anything like that, have you considered if they don't want to go home to bring the virus home to their families that we might allow them to stay in some of the hotel rooms. I know one of our fellow casinos down in Detroit did that and I thought it was a great

idea and that would at least keep their family safe. Just questioning, thank you.

Romanelli said thank you Cindy. Not formally. I looked at that and I saw the same program that you did and it does seem like a good idea for our staff but no, I haven't talked directly with the Resort yet and that is part of the planning that we want to do. Adding on to that just a little bit, I think I want to put a little more flexibility in, when if we were to close the last half of April that if something changes that says that we could just open two days earlier or whatever, I want the flexibility to be able to do that. But that is a good question and I will run that by the Resort too. Thanks Cindy.

Lonn said I have a question for Larry. Larry can you tell us what department of who to get a hold of because I had a Tribal member email me yesterday and she was ¾ of the way through the process of a loan to get a house or whatever they do like that in Housing and I don't know who the lady is or her number so can you just post it for us so I have a list when they call me and ask who to contact I can tell them.

Romanelli responded yes. Now we have been posting those numbers and hours on Facebook and also on our webpage I believe but I will get that information out again. If all else fails we have the three leads if they can't get a hold of the Housing Director, one of the three leads can pick it up and make it happen.

Lonn noted the lady said she finally got approved for her house, wherever that may be but she needed that whatever down payment done and I don't know who to ask. If you would do that I would appreciate it.

Romanelli responded yes.

Champagne said HR puts that out almost daily and he has almost all of the numbers in there.

Lonn said but I haven't seen it for a while and I don't know what I did with the original.

Champagne said I seen it yesterday.

Lonn said I will look again.

Champagne said the other thing I wanted to ask is that I've been getting calls as to apparently EDC suspended rent or made it \$100.00 a month or whatever they did, people out at Aki have been calling and asking if the Tribe intends to do anything with their rent.

Romanelli said an answer to Cindy's question, yes. Part of that is why I had to temporarily suspend EDC operations and I plan talking with the Council during Closed Session I believe today to get this resolved because there was some kind of memo that went out I believe that probably shouldn't have went out. I have people from Aki calling me as well. I told them I would look into it and get back with them that I was hoping to do yesterday but this thing got a little more complicated as we went on. It is my belief at this point in time that the citizens of Aki will not be getting the same treatment. As a matter of fact we are going to look at the memo that went out. I talked to people from the EDC so we are going to have some discussion and I will be able to give a clear direction this afternoon.

Shannon Crampton said I am kind of confused now because I thought that in the last Executive Order that would be no flexing of past overdue charges.

Romanelli responded right, there will not be.

Crampton said okay.

Romanelli said in the Executive Orders it said there would be no penalties, etc. We understand people are going through a hard time. Cindy's idea was would there be additional I think forgiveness or something for that for Aki but I may be wrong so yes Shannon.

Champagne wanted to respond to Larry. Larry you are correct, my question was will there be any rent reduction for Aki. That is what the people up there are asking me. I understood what your order said but they were asking if there was going to be rent reduction. Thank you.

Romanelli said yes, that is what I thought and it looks like as of now that there will not be. There was some confusing information that was put out and that is what I was dealing with probably all day yesterday and that's why I asked to have this situation put on the Tribal Council agenda for closed today so that we could address it. Because I have people calling me too and they were confused so I had to make sure that we get this thing straightened out. Just for your information, it probably will not happen at this time anyway.

Kathy Gibson said I just have a couple of comments. I am happy that the LLC did you know not have rents payable to July 1<sup>st</sup> for those people that are living in tribal housing that the LLC owns but my concern is they, some of them, as far as I know, are employees of the tribe which are receiving their full benefits so I don't understand why that would be detriment or helping them in any way because of their rent for example is

\$400 a month and they are still getting their full wages they have an extra \$1,200 for the three months. I am just voicing my concern as far as that goes because I myself being a Tribal member and being involved, I no longer work for the Tribe as of October, I have absolutely no income because the Election Board is not meeting and I have no means to get income. I have had two interviews with the Tribe but I have not been selected for those positions and have been filled by other members, which is great. I'm glad that whoever is best qualified gets hired in those positions but I absolutely have no income and as you know Brian has his own tree service and he has had one job in the month of March. Those Tribal members that are not working, they don't qualify for unemployment, they have absolutely no income, including myself, which is very \_\_\_\_\_, because obviously this is a difficult time. My second comment is I understand that there was and has been for quite some time a Tribal member that is living at the Casino in the hotel so what happens to that Tribal member and their family when the Casino is shut down. They did they have to find someplace else to live or do they have free reign at the Casino. Those are some concerns that I have.

Romanelli said yes, and I can answer you. Thank you for those questions Kathy. To your first one, I'm sorry you are in the situation that you are. You may have just joined but I did suspend operations of the EDC yesterday because there was a hot topic that maybe 20 people or approximately, of homes that were, they were basically looking like they were forgiving rent and that caused a bit of a stir. I am asking to get on Council's closed agenda today to resolve the issue. That is the first one.

Romanelli said on the second one, I was aware. The situation is now with more than one person in the hotel and I believe that has been resolved as well. But I thank you for bringing that to our attention as well.

Gibson said thank you Larry.

Jessica Steinberg said I think the Ogema may have partially answered this but my question was going to be is the EDC, who, when they did the rent forgiveness, which houses did that impact. I wasn't really clear on that whether it was market rentals that at one point the EDC was going to manage or if it was other units of housing that maybe they were managing so that was my first question. The other one, and forgive me for raising this, but, I understand the need to have a Spring Membership Meeting but I was looking at the constitutional language regarding the meeting itself of the general members, it is a general membership meeting that the Ogema chairs. My question and maybe my suggestion more appropriately would be since that that is the opportunity for members to bring referendums from the floor if they have a quorum and there is a pretty clear constitutional language about the Ogema's role in that meeting, being the



chair of that meeting, and that the meeting is for the members, maybe we should look at postponing that meeting so it can be held at a time that it would be possible for members to be physically present. I'm not sure that a Skype meeting or a teleconference type meeting for that particular event might be constitutional in nature. I just wanted to bring that up.

Steinberg said the last thing was the Feds and the State both extended the stay at home criteria to the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and I know that there is a lot of consideration about that monetarily but maybe that is something that as you are considering it and considering the membership meeting we could look at a date in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May and make that a little easier for people to plan in advance. It is really important for the members to have that opportunity to be there, be counted for a quorum and to bring those ideas from the floor that might have a \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you.

Romanelli would like to just give some responses to those. They are all good questions again and we are talking about the meeting. The constitution as we read the constitution says they have to have the opportunity and it also says that we have to hold a meeting in the spring time and we don't know that this is going to be extended to May or June. We just don't know. The thought that I had is that we could hold this meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> to at least get information out to the membership because they are having a lot of questions of what is going on. Now if we don't have a quorum, which in most cases we haven't had a quorum for years, the fact is it is a not . . . we note that there is no quorum. We do have the ability to have, just like this meeting today, we have the ability to show a quorum by phone. So we are kind of in an awkward situation. I would think that we could still hold the meeting to give people information. Now, if for some reason someone would like to have something done, fine, we may be able to respect that but I'm not sure because the other problem that you have is you have to give enough notice to the people to even know that it is out there. Then you have to talk about if we are going to provide the hotel rooms for people when they come in, then we have to understand the Resort has the capabilities. All of that went through my mind and I have talked to several people but it is really an awkward situation. I think given the circumstances right now, I think April 25<sup>th</sup> by Skype is the best we can do. But yeah, I am willing to at least looking at the idea of maybe something later down the line too. So thanks Jessica.

Steinberg said thank you, I appreciate it.

Susan Thull said I would just like an update on what is happening with our website with the internet.

Romanelli said I don't know. George is on and I think he is. George are you there. Since George isn't answering we have had, as you know we have had some phone problems that are going back a ways too before this. Right on the heels of that we had some changes or some issues with the website, or with the \_\_\_\_\_ and then on the heels of that we had this coronavirus so it has been a really fun few months here. But, we called in another company, as a matter of fact I signed a contract today to work with us to getting IT up to where it needs to be and do a full audit of our IT system so that we can make that everything is running right. We have had some problems again with the phones, our email addresses, and a variety of problems so I guess an answer to your question, Susan, is we are working on it and no it is not completely up to date. Rebecca Groh has been doing everything in her power to make sure that people have and I don't know if she is on the call or not but she has been working at it. What we do have access to is the Facebook page where information is being put out and also I understand our website, at least the first page, and we are trying to get as much as information on there as possible.

Thull noted that you said that you signed a contract for a company to come in.

Romanelli said it will be ASAP. I don't know what that means but if it was up to me they could start in an hour. I do believe that it will be within a day or two I am hoping so yes.

Carlene Deverney said I just got done and can you hear me. I was wondering if you were asked this question before, will there be a supplement coming out this month. Have you guys decided on that yet? Do you have that yet so that checks will be coming out and that they will be released, not the per cap but the supplement that you guys have going on.

Ron Pete said no we have not had that meeting yet. We are going to have a meeting like that in closed and no we have not passed that resolution that Councilor Champagne brought if that is what you are talking about. We have not passed that and we have to have a meeting with our finances to make sure that we can pass whatever supplemental would be coming out. The simple answer to that question is no we have not had that meeting, no we have not had that discussion and we will have some kind of discussion in closed session.

Carlene Deverney said okay, thank you.

Shannon Crampton said there are two issues. Today we were supposed to go over the financials in closed like Ron said. But there were two issues here, there was my proposal, which is a verbal proposal which is treated

like a motion and then there is a resolution. The resolution we have already gone over and that pretty much is not doable.

Pete said Shannon is exactly correct. There was a verbal proposal and in fact that was probably one of the last meetings or, it wasn't a Council meeting, it was where the Councilors were there until this coronavirus thing hit and that was a discussion, a verbal discussion, as a matter of fact, with Shannon in his office. Shannon proposed a proposal that we could possibly do and we are going to look at providing the finances and stuff for that. That is 100% correct but the other one that you are talking about was an actual resolution. We have not considered that resolution and we certainly have not voted on it. Everything that Shannon just said is that we have to discuss this and we have to make sure that a) we can afford it and if we can't afford it, how much it would be based on the position that Shannon originally brought up, he was the one that originally brought it up and may have discussed this with other councilors to. He is free to discuss it with anybody. I am just agreeing totally with what Shannon just said.

Deverney asked when there will be a final date on that so that Tribal members will know about getting extra help from the Tribe. Will there be . . .

DiPiazza said we are running an actual cue where people get in line to speak when people jump in . . .

Deverney said I'm sorry.

DiPiazza said it is very difficult to keep track of what is actually going on. I didn't mean to interrupt you.

Elise McGowan-Cuellar suggested that Tribal members give their ID numbers for the members who are speaking for the minutes to help Kathleen. Thank you.

DiPiazza said my apologies. Actually, towards the end here I was going to ask everybody if they could give their full name and Tribal ID number for the record because it is very difficult to know who is actually on the call. Not right this minute. Can you give your full name and Tribal ID number for the record?

Carlene Deverney, #1020, I just wanted to make sure to find out because my kids are wanting to know also and I have family over here that wanted to know that are asking questions if that is going to be passed today. They are wanting to know if it was going to be \$1,000 coming up or going to be \$5,000 coming from the Tribe or \$1,000 coming up. They wanted to know which ones can they depend on because they also have bills that

they want to take care of and depend on. Is there going to be any money coming through. They have all been asking questions for well over a week now depending on it going back and forth so we have been waiting also so we are glad to be at least get through to find out if this is going to be a conflict or not.

Shannon Crampton, #1747, Tribal member, I would hope to think that we would have some kind of a decision or answer for the membership today whether or not it is going to go or what the amount would be. As we just heard of another member who is unemployed and having hardships at this time too. If you go to the federal plan, which I have done for the last days and I know Jessica has gone through it, there are some cracks there. I don't think the majority of our membership is going to qualify for some of this stimulus. April 1<sup>st</sup> is hitting and we are going to discuss our rent at Aki but that is also happening all across the country and we have no control over that. Some states are deferring; some states aren't even doing that. Some states are just letting it roll as possible. We have members in all the states.

Deverney was wondering if we were going to be getting anything of that. It doesn't seem like we will be getting anything because we don't qualify.

Crampton thinks about 30% of our membership is not going to get it. But, to answer the question that is on the table, I would think that we would have some kind of answer today.

Deverney said I appreciate your help. Thank you. I just wanted to let them know and at least I can call you back later or you can contact me later and let me know if anything is published maybe later on today.

Crampton said I sure will. Thank you guys.

DiPiazza, #0445, Tribal member, from my understanding is on this government stimulus is they are going by the 2018 tax returns so even if you never filed taxes, get that done. I can hear people say well you are on social security or SSI, there is a number already assigned to you from your social security number, but you know, social security and SSI are not the same as the Internal Revenue Service. That is what I am understanding. Things change by the hour, by the minute. To be on the safe side, people that have never filed tax returns or anything on that order I would suggest get a 2018. You can go on line and get one done. They are relatively inexpensive for the benefit that you are probably going to get from this government stimulus.

Sandy Lewis said the checks are going to be done by the 6<sup>th</sup>. I think for some people that is going to be impossible for them to do. People are

already cutting checks and it is supposed to be deposited by the 6<sup>th</sup>. Not everybody has access . . . (inaudible) some people are still going to be left out. (inaudible).

Diane Lonn, #0194, I read this morning that it was on Facebook, not Facebook, TV as well, if you got social security or SSI they have what they call a short form that you are going to have to fill out and send in right away so that you do qualify for it but I don't know where you get it from. It didn't say.

DiPiazza said you can go to TurboTax or any of them places and you know, even if you are on a smart phone you can still do it.

Lewis said some of our people don't even file taxes. Some of our people can't even read. Some of our people don't even have \_\_\_\_\_. So for some of our people who are out there that need help, I still feel that we need to help them.

Deverney said that is why they are depending on this little bit that is coming from our Tribe and that is why they are wanting to know if this is going to happen or not.

Diane Lonn said I understand Sandy but I also don't want to get rid of the Tribe or hurt the Tribe any, I agree we need to do something but we have to look at the finances first as Shannon said.

Sandy said I was going to leave this for later but yes we do have to look at the finances but I mean I'm sure we are 100% good. We have so much funding coming in for all this.

Lonn said I am not 100% sure.

Sandy said myself, the way I look at it is you know I am kind of in between a resolution and Shannon's resolution. Myself, I think we need to get \$1,000 out to our members like today if possible but with that being said, and I think the resolution that there was something written that Rebecca had sent but it said that this was a one-time payment. I think we could open that up and say that we will look at this again each month until (inaudible) . . . we may have to help them again next month and it could be the next month after that also. So, you know, I hope it doesn't exceed the \$5,000, I really don't, . . .

Lonn said I am not agreeing to anything.

Sandy said I know but I'm just saying, I'm just saying that is how I am looking at it.

Lonn said I understand.

Sandy said yes we do have millions of dollars that are being put out by the federal government and we will defer our costs. (inaudible) basically they said they were going to cover us.

Crampton asked for a point of order. We are still on the Ogema's weekly status update.

DiPiazza said yes anyways we are still on the Ogema's.

Ron Pete is going to say the same thing that Shannon just said. We are still in the Ogema's weekly status and business update. Next is the Legislative Affairs update. Do you have more questions for the Ogema right now.

Martha Howell said yes I have a question for Larry. I would like to know what he is going to do to address the health issue and focus on saving our population. Do we have ventilators, do we have tests, do we already have an emergency plan to set up somewhere for our Tribal members to go. I know that the population COVID-19 exploded in Muskegon over the weekend. Are we going to have anywhere available for our people to go and what are our life saving measures that we are taking. That is my question for Larry, thank you.

Romanelli said thank you Martha. I am in contact with our doctor in our clinic on a regular basis along with other people. We are following some of the guidelines that are on the federal level and on the state level as well. Also, I am talking with local level individuals. We do not have a test kit yet. We are applying for it and some of the PPE we do not have. The clinic is doing as well as they can. They have gloves, they have some of the masks, I'm not sure if they have the N95 mask but I think they do have masks and gloves. As people are entering they are making sure that they take their temperature and things like that and have the masks that they are asking for. We are taking measures. Obviously we are trying to follow the stay at home. I have done a couple of Executive Orders encouraging people, mandating people, to stay at home and things like that. We have had some problems already with, for example, at Aki where people are bringing in guests from outside and that is what prompted me to write an Executive Order to stay at home and to provide a curfew for the people. The other thing that was happening was that they were at the playground at Aki and allowing kids to be unsupervised to play together. That prompted the Executive Order. Again, I am following some of the guidelines that are down from the federal government and the state government. As you know, if somebody feels sick they need to make sure

they are following the directives of the federal government as well. We do not have a place right now, for example, we haven't opened up the hotel or anything like that for individuals. We are monitoring the situation and we are doing everything that we can with the limited resources that we have.

Howell said thank you Larry for answering.

Romanelli said you are welcome Martha. I'm not sure that fully answered it but it is the best I could do. Thanks.

Susan Thull said on the clinic I'm pretty sure I read that it was open Monday through Wednesday and I was concerned about that because that is leaving four days and if someone is getting sick so I would like to know for sure if that is Monday through Wednesday that they are open. I would think that you would at least go Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Romanelli said I do believe that it is during those times they are off there is an emergency contact number that can happen as well. I believe there would be a willingness to see patients if need be but I can pass that suggestion on for the Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Thull said thank you and do we have a doctor.

Romanelli responded yes.

Thull noted that you said that you will going over the (inaudible). Could you tell me right now how long the government workers and Resort workers are going to be paid their wages.

Romanelli said at this point it is through the middle of April. Again, I have some meetings that I have to do to see because the governor now has stepped down things until April 30<sup>th</sup>. So now we have to look at what we are going to do for the next few weeks. The Council and the Ogema have gone and discussed the finances of the Tribe most recently because of the two initiatives for some kind of payment to the membership so we have looked over where we are at, our financial position right now. So we continually have to look at that. The other thing I have to do is make sure that we understand that there will be some reimbursements from the federal government. We have to make sure that we are following those as well so we are eligible to receive those monies that are available. It is really a daunting act of sorts. The other thing that people have to realize is that when we look at our cash point and we may have a dollar amount in overall but a lot of the money is encumbered. We also have to remember that when we get ready to reopen the Resort it has to be open without having some monies available there. We also have to realize that there are things that are needed again within the government when we talk about

services that we continue to have to have, which is Public Safety and Surveillance and things like that. So just looking at the budget and I know there are people saying that we shouldn't be paying our staff. I disagree with that because I understand the federal government's position, I understand our position. It is very important that we take care of our cash cow or golden goose at the Resort. We have services that we have to provide or should be providing to our members and that being the clinic and other things. I don't know if that answers the question or not. But right now we have agreed to pay through mid-April and I believe, and I am just talking off the cuff but I believe that hopefully we will have enough to pay through the end of April. Now there is the unemployment option and the option of PTO that we may have to resort to as well.

Thull said thank you. That is what I wanted to know is how long we are committed to pay the people. What I wanted to know is are there severances that go along with that salary or that wage that we are also giving to those workers that aren't working. Are we giving them, I'm assuming that based on their wage, vacation, you earn the personal time off type thing, are we still putting or logging that into the wage so that these people that are not working right now and they are earning whatever or say \$500 a week, are they still getting their two days vacation or their one days vacation. That gives an expense eventually.

Romanelli said yes it is and they still are earning and along with that you have the insurance costs. You can't drop insurance when they are still employed. Yes, those costs are figured in as well.

Thull said that is what I thought. That should be at least taken, if you are going to continue to pay them that may have to be looked at so that it wouldn't be accruing their vacation time and so forth. They are going to be taking a loss and at least they are still going to be paid and their insurance is still being paid. Just my one thought.

Romanelli said thank you Susan. Those are some of the things that we have been looking at and we have to watch for is HR policies, etc. but we are looking at all of the options because we want to do what is best for the Tribe overall and that is really the first thing and then we have to look out for the Tribal members and there again, whether it be financial monies to them or whatever and I appreciate that people are looking at that but we are just trying to do the best we can. We have to again look at rationing out because we don't know that this won't move into mid-May or September for gosh sakes and how do we ensure that this Tribe survives. Thanks Susan.

Bernadene Crampton said this was an Ogema question. My statement is people are receiving information through the internet and is the Little



River Band Tribal Facebook the one that we should be looking at for information from Council and the Ogema.

Romanelli responded yes.

Crampton said all this information will be on and that we can be, we can receive information from that rather than the rumors and everything else.

Romanelli said you are right Bernadene, thank you. We are trying to get the information out as soon as possible. As I mentioned earlier the information keeps changing hour by hour from the federal and state government so we have to dance to whatever song is playing and it is a little difficult but yes, you are right. That is exactly where people should be getting their information. Thank you Bernadene.

Bernadene said what about people who do not have the internet or have access to it an internet.

Romanelli said we are trying to get that information out any way we can and if we have to send, some people are making personal calls I know and are making stops. I don't think we are going it now. We are also encouraging employees and we should also encourage membership to contact your neighbors and check up on that person who is an elder or have health problems and a phone call would help and hopefully they at least have phone services. Anyway we can get the information out. We understand that not everybody has a computer and that is why we are asking for the neighborly thing because every time we try to send a letter which is almost impossible at this point in time, it costs us \$5,000 or \$6,000 for that. That's why the internet, if people are exchanging information we can keep people informed.

Bernadene said okay, thank you.

Kathy Gibson, #0352, a couple of comments and one question. Regarding the stimulus from the government that is coming, it does state on the website that you claim that up to a year. I understand that although that will not be helpful at this point in time but just to put that out there that you will be eligible for people for a year. Also, people who are receiving social security benefits that have not filed taxes, it also states that they will go off of their social security benefit statement that they receive for that stimulus. A couple of other comments is according to the Personnel Policy it does state in there that you only get PTO time for hours worked so I'm not sure what the Executive Order says or what the resolution said that null and voided the policy but it does state in the policy that you have to have hours worked in order to be given the PTO hours. The other thing is concerning that you may want to look at is, is Legal on the phone

currently, but for benefits there is dental and vision, that there is a circumstance that nobody had anticipated that we are in today. But according to the plan documents for dental and vision and I believe the SEHP program too you would have to have at least three hours of work in order to be eligible for those benefits. So the plan documents, if Legal is on the phone or not on the phone, but that may be something to look at as well. I believe that our Tribal employees and all employees through the government should be being paid. To go through unemployment they may not be (inaudible) for six weeks or seven weeks if not longer because of the increased in on employment and applying for that. I think to help our community to help them survive, just a couple of things like I said, to make sure we are looking at the plan documents for the medical, vision and the health and also look at the personnel policy regarding, saying you have to have 40 hours of work in order to obtain PTO. The question I had was community members or Tribal members, do we have something set up that people that people are going door to door at Aki, especially for our elders or people who are insulin dependent or those types of things that are taking the meals or somebody specific that is making sure they don't miss anybody in the community.

Romanelli said thank you Kathy.

Martha Howell said I know that Noelle is up here Monday through Thursday I think delivering on Monday and Wednesday. Monday and Tuesday's meal gets delivered Monday and Wednesday and Thursday's meal gets delivered on Wednesday. We also have set up Facebook page for residents of Aki only so we can check in on one another and checking on our neighbors without having to go over to their house.

Romanelli said thank you for that Martha.

An unidentified individual asked about Muskegon and are they still keeping the social distancing in the Muskegon office to help elders in that area and provide food for a couple of days or what needs to be done with Wisconsin and those types to be set up just little substations I guess if you want to say to help those Tribal members. We have food commodities so what is happening to that building? Are they still doing deliveries?

Romanelli responded yes they are.

Pete said in terms of the Muskegon office she has been delivering elders meals down here on one or two Fridays a month. That is pretty much for safety sake because there is a little spike here in Muskegon that has been coming on for the last few days. However, I am going to say, that the Pharmacy Department, the last time I saw Pharmacy down here on a Friday it may have been last Friday or something they were delivering 23

medications to Tribal members down here. They schedule the times between noon and 1:30 I believe. They are delivering the Pharmacy, the pharmacist if delivering that stuff down here so congratulations to them and they are still taking care of our elders medication and all our medications down here, not just elders. They are still, they are not going without their pharmaceutical drugs down here so I am very happy that they are doing that.

Kareen Lewis, #2112, I wanted to make you guys aware of this, I don't know where it said there was gloves and masks at the clinic but I've been self-quarantining except I had to go to the pharmacy twice and I was just there I think it was Friday to pick up some meds and when I walked in I stayed 6 foot behind the person that was at the counter in front of me and then after they moved away I went up to the counter and instead of proceeding right to the pharmacy and the person working there said, okay I have to take your temperature and ask you a couple of questions and I said yeah, I know. I said it was kind of weird that you are doing this without gloves and a mask. Then they blew in my face with their breath like really hard and laughed at me and said oh, I'm not going to get anything as they were taking my temperature. I am a high risk person susceptible to this thing and so I think we are really unprofessional and dangerous and if I get sick because of them blowing in my face I'm going to be really upset with how this is being handled at our Tribal clinic. And so I would like to stress the importance of talking to our employees that are still working on how they handle the public like to not purposely breath in our faces, to wear masks and gloves it would be greatly appreciated. And then I just wanted to ask if we are disinfecting all of our properties so that we don't continue spreading anything in case anybody comes in our buildings with the disease. The last thing is I just wanted to thank everybody for continuing to work on this even by the phone calls holding this meeting and for the efforts of looking into our budget to see what you can do to help us out as Tribal members. Thank you.

Romanelli said that is really bizarre that they blew in your face. My apologies and if they were not wearing facemasks and gloves I just received another email update that said that the clinic has all of the gear available. They have the masks and they are supposed to be wearing their gloves if they touch a patient. I don't know if you took the name of the person that you could report it to me off the record or report it to the clinic and also, did you report it to anybody else.

Kareen Lewis responded, no I haven't reported it to anybody but I did want to make you guys aware of it. On one hand I am very upset that it happened to me because it is really dangerous and at the same time I'm not trying to get anybody fired, especially in this climate, but if that is the step that needed to be taken then I guess I would say who it is. I know

who it is. I just think everybody should be talked to about how dangerous this virus really is.

Romanelli said knowing how dangerous this situation is, that is unacceptable for one of our employees to be doing. I apologize and again I would be upset myself. I don't want to get anybody in trouble either but I think we need to have a name in order to pursue this and my apologies. I know you don't want to get people fired but on the other hand if you have their name then you really should report it to someone so we can address the situation because we just don't need something like that. I do think that quite honestly that is an action that is up to and including termination. We just can't be doing that. Please report it to someone. Thanks Kareen.

Kareen Lewis said I didn't get an answer on the other thing about disinfecting our building.

Romanelli said our cleaning crew and maintenance staff coming around cleaning what needs to be cleaned and disinfecting. They are supposed to be. We have a cleaning service here in Muskegon that should be disinfecting and cleaning this office as well. We do have staff in the government center that is working on a regular basis and the maintenance department has been instructed to disinfect door handles, toilets and everything that they need to, everywhere where it might be a problem. Yes they have been given the word to do extra cleaning and sanitizing in those areas.

K. Lewis said thank you.

Martha Howell said Larry I have a request, if you will, if you could do video updates and have them posted to our Facebook page and be our leader in this trying time to up the nation mentally. I think it would do everybody good to be able to see you. I would also, I have a question about the enrollment department and Jessica, (inaudible) the department gets overwhelmed or the people over there get sick and (inaudible) people that currently work for the tribe in other departments and those departments to help with processing claims or if there is more help needed in other departments, is there the possibility of moving other people to help out. That is what I have today, thank you.

Romanelli said yes, there is the possibility of moving people around. Again, we have to follow certain policies and procedures but we are looking at that as well. The other thing that we need to do and I thank for the suggestion of the video update. I don't think that is a bad idea. We have the capabilities unfortunately I am not real IT savvy and I wouldn't mind doing so you know. We could even have somebody that the Speaker of the Council and me at different times giving a video update because I

think to quell some of the fears that are going on to know that we are not just sitting here on our thumbs and really there is a lot of work being done here. A huge amount of work. I can tell you that I appreciate the staff that we have and this is where you really realize how good or how important your staff is because blowing in somebody's face, which still boggles my mind, or if they are working overtime and putting in these long hours. I can tell you many of our staff are putting in extra hours in and not really noting it. They are talking to me late at night or whatever. So yes, I think I will see if I can do a video update even weekly. I think it would squash some of those fears that we really are paying attention and we are trying to take care of the situation. The other thing is, just like with Ron and I, I know sometimes I get a little crazy here but I don't think that Ron and I should be in the same room because you have the Ogema and the Speaker and what if we both got the virus. Then it would go right on down the line and quite honestly our constitution doesn't have a succession plan much beyond the Speaker and the Recorder and then you are kind of winging it. We have been kind of cautious to keep our distance too. These are new things for everybody. We are at places where we never realized we would be at but we are taking as many precautions as we can and I will look at the video.

Ron Pete said this has been some great discussion and everything but we are still on the Ogema's Weekly Status and Business Updates. This conference line, and we have a lot of things I think to discuss over and we only have about another ½ an hour and then it will automatically hang up on us. So we have a lot of things to discuss yet in Closed Session of things we can do now. I would love to discuss this but at some point we still have Legislative Affairs update and a couple of comments to go through and then is going to cut into. This meeting was arranged for two hours and it is going to hang up on us. I am just throwing that out there.

Deverney, ID # 1020, I just wanted to let you know that here in Milwaukee I have access to a couple of food banks that I think a couple of Tribal members a couple of days a week, I take them to or access one day a month that I can take them to food banks over here. I have to have access to that so if somebody needs to go to a food bank or something and if you find somebody that needs food or anything you can put that down. If they call you needing food and don't have a way to get it, just let them know that they can give a call to me and I would be more than happy to take them to a food bank to help them out. It is for families or elders or anything else. I am close to them. If they are here in Milwaukee, I am close to three different food banks.

**C. Legislative Affairs Update**

Shannon Crampton said before he gets into it he just wants to answer two things before we get into that. On the succession plan Council did adopt a pro temp officer so we can elect from Council, so there is a succession plan there. Now back to the employee issue, I think we have some leeway on the government, I don't see where we have any leeway on the Casino side because we have a Revenue Allocation Program that pretty much ties us. We are going to have to be talking about unemployment on that side really quick. Thank you.

Crampton said he would just like to say that the Governor's office is pretty much going to get worse in the next two weeks. This is going to be our prime time right here where it is going spike. Everybody needs to be really cognizant and just stay at home, and just stay away from each other and stay safe.

Pete said I can assure you that Larry and I are sitting at the Muskegon office because I get more reception here than at home to do this and Larry is in his office and I am maybe about 40 feet away from him. I'm going to stay that way.

Gary DiPiazza said today is opening day of trout season. A lot of people were worried about permits and such. If they go to the Inland Fishing Regulations it gives a description in there of what is closed as far as streams that you will need a permit for. At this point they are still willing to get people permits for closed areas for fishing. There will be some turkey permits going out in the mail. Again, everybody be safe. They closed Tippy Dam because everybody couldn't, they were jam packed in there and touching and feeling trying to fish so they closed Tippy Dam. So keep that in mind if you are out there fishing. Try to avoid people.

**D. Public Comment Period**

Jessica Steinberg, #0148, I have a couple of comments for public comment if I could. Just with regard to the telephone conference meetings. There are a couple of things procedurally that the IT crew should be able to set up for you and one of those is that when people call in that they state their name and their Tribal ID before they get into the call. There is a way to do that on the AT&T conferencing system so they should be able to set that up for you ahead of time so you will have a record of who is calling in. Secondly, you will probably need to make sure that your Council members have a way to continue to demonstrate that they are on the call and establish quorum just so you don't lose quorum when you are conducting business. You are just going to want to make sure that the Council members that are on the meeting call have and maintaining that there is a quorum present on the call. You are going to

have to set up some sort of system for that, whether you just hit a number at a certain time in the call or whatever that takes.

Steinberg said the other thing is you can arrange to have more time and that might be beneficial to you. I would suggest that since you had so much interest with members calling in today that you might want to arrange longer than two hours. There is a Tribal consultation today with the Indian Health Service at 1:00. They have been given a \$1,000,000,000 stimulus package under the CARES Act. They are asking Tribal leaders to call in. I did forward that information to Councilor Lewis yesterday so someone will probably want to be on that call at 1:00 p.m. Relative to the closing of Tippy Dam, just remember to exercise your consent decree rights. I live very close to there. I took a drive down and most of the vehicles and the guys that were down there were out of states. That is probably something our DNR needs to be keeping an eye on as well. Thank you.

Pete said I did get information on the CARES call in for me to call in between 2:00 and 4:00 on Thursday. That is what Jay Sam sent me.

Steinberg said the CARES Act is different. The IHS call today is just for the IHS portion of the money and that is at 1:00 p.m.

Lonn said there are like four parts to it.

Pete said I will also be on that call.

DiPiazza asked to whoever is on the line to give your full name and tribal ID number:

Carlene Deverney – 1020

Bernadene Crampton – 3921

Diane Lonn – 0194

Kareen Lewis – 2112

Clatus Clyne – 2874

Cindy Champagne – 2419

Susan Thull – 3727

Ron Wittenberg – 0927

Dave Corey – 4546

Jessica Steinberg – 0148

Shannon Crampton – 1747

Ron Pete – 4158

Tom Guenthardt – 0040

Jessica Burger said you should just be identifying yourselves as Councilors, thanks.

Ron Pete said I think Gary did take a roll call in the beginning and answered they were here. I just wanted to make sure that you knew that.

Romanelli said Larry Romanelli is still on the call for closed.

***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 AT 11:35 A.M.;** by DiPiazza; supported by Lonnn.

**Roll Call #5**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne - Yes	D. Corey -	Yes	
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	D. Lonnn -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (0-0-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

**X Open Session**

Tape did not record the second open session. Minutes were transcribed from the roll call sheets.

**MOTION TO GO INTO SECOND OPEN;** by Lonnn; supported by Crampton.

**Roll Call #6**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne - Yes	D. Corey -	Yes	
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Absent	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	D. Lonnn -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

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

**MOTION TO MOVE MOTION AND ROLL CALL FROM TODAY INTO OPEN SESSION;**

**Roll Call #7**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	D. Corey -	Yes	
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Absent	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	D. Lonnn -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)



*The following item was moved from Closed to Open Session.*

**MOTION TO APPROVE \$500 THIS MONTH AND SEE WHAT OUR FINANCES ARE TO SEE ABOUT GIVING ANOTHER \$500 NEXT MONTH;** by Lonn; supported by DiPiazza

**Roll Call**

R. Wittenberg – Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza – Yes
D. Lonn - Yes	D. Corey – Yes	C. Champagne Yes
T. Guenthardt - Yes	R. Pete - No	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

*This concludes the items moved from Closed to Open Session*

**XI. Adjourn**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN;** by Pete; supported by Lonn.

**Roll Call #7**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	D. Corey - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Absent	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Bowers  
Transcribing Assistant

Gary Di Piazza,  
Tribal Council Recorder