



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 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 8, 2020. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

I. Opening Prayer

Gary DiPiazza, Tribal Elder, offered the Opening Prayer in Anishinaabemowin and Shagnaash.

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.

Ron Pete said for Kathleen if you are here and present, people that are here, if you here can you please state your name and say that you are here and if you are calling in as a Tribal member please state your name and Tribal ID.

Others Present: Clatus Clyne - 2874, Rebecca Liebing - 2878, Steve Wheeler - invited, Chelsea Densmore - 3225, Jason Cross – Director of Family Services - 231, Martha Howell - 3635, Dr. Daryl Wever, Lyle Dorr, Kathleen Bowers, Elise McGowan-Cuellar, Dennis Swain, Ogema Larry Romanelli

C. Approval of Agenda

MOTION TO APPROVE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020 AGENDA WITH THE ADD OF III A. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS – GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST FOR A CDC SUPPORTING TRIBAL

PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY IN CORONAVIRUS PREPARATION AND RESPONSE NON-COMPETITIVE GRANT MINIMUM \$25,000 TO POTENTIALLY MORE THAN \$1.5 MILLION; by Lonng; supported by Wittenberg.

Ron Pete asked if there was any further discussion. Is anybody 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. Lonng -	Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

D. Tribal Council Minutes

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts

1. Grant Application Request for a CDC, Supporting Tribal Public Health Capacity in Coronavirus Preparedness and Response non-competitive grant minimum \$25,000 to potentially more than \$1.5 million

Speaker Pete noted that I believe that Dr. Wever and Lyle are here to represent this.

Lyle Dorr stated that since you are on the phone Dr. Wever and you and the Ogema were on the phone that I would suggest that you guys go ahead and start with that.

Dr. Daryl Wever stated this has just been released last Thursday. The Ogema Larry was on the call the following Tuesday. We had another follow-up call last Friday. The details were basically that this is a non-compete. They have \$40,000,000 available currently. They stated that they have \$40,000,000 now and another \$40,000,000 is going to be happening here shortly maybe up to \$120,000,000. It is a non-compete. Basically this gives us the plan and the guidelines and \$25,000 initially and basically the remaining balance of funds will be awarded June 10th is when that will come out. But the sooner we get this application in they said that the funds will be with us within 7 days. Basically, what we have been kind of discussing for this type of project is obviously with the COVID situation we are here at the clinic that is connected to the government so if there are government officials and other health care providers that may

be at a higher risk. What we are kind of formulating is kind of a separate center that is away from everybody else. We have kind of been discussing Muskegon location so we are basically going to work into a separate location for the cost of the building so we can put costs for a building, rehab, supplies, salaries, all can be included. Basically what we are doing is we will put the funding for the building, funding for the supplies, staffing for that facility so everything will be included. So basically we can modify this as we go along for six weeks. They stated that depending on who applies and how many apply is kind of how they are going to go by the funds that everybody will get a baseline of \$25,000 but it could be up to potentially \$1.5 million. That is kind of what we have been formulating and discussing for those high risk patients away from the government officials and high risk health care providers that have a little bit higher risk and then just apply.

Councilor Lonn said you are talking about putting a separate clinic down in Muskegon from what . . . we still will service our clinic here right?

Dr. Wever responded correct.

Lonn said but you are using that one down there for high risk there right? Or high risk here as well?

Dr. Wever said correct. This application, this fund, this program is basically we can say we want \$100,000 for supplies and medicine and say we want \$50,000 for testing kits.

Lonn said so there is no boundary on anything that we want. Once we get this we can use it with like you said, the kits or whatever we may need, correct?

Dr. Wever said in this application it includes like the building, the staff, the testing kits, and the telemedicine. We might as well go the full spectrum and it depends on who applies and the funds they said are there and it is going to keep growing because they want to get the money out to us as fast as possible. So if you get the application in today they said you will get the \$25,000 right away.

Lonn said I got, thank you.

Dr. Wever said so we can be as creative as we want. They will come back and say okay we will give you \$400, \$75.

Lonn said we have to get this done, okay thank you.

Lyle Dorr just wanted to make just one comment for everybody's knowledge. An example is we have this database money that came through and we were second round actually or the second or third round so we put in for what we needed and it was \$21,000 or something like that and the next week they came back and they said well, if we just up the number to \$40,000, you know, do you have more than you can use because they wanted us to use it up. That is essentially what these guys are saying. Get in, we will do a \$25,000 place marker, once they know who all has applied, then they will release the funds according to projects availability or whatever else and then even after that it may continue to grow and develop. We can keep you posted on that progress.

Lonn said great, thank you.

Cindy Champagne asked if she was understanding it correctly that the clinic in Muskegon is for everybody who are up here who are high risk or is it just for the people from Muskegon who are high risk.

Dr. Wever said it is for everybody. My hopes are that this allows us to get patients away from high risk like government officials, Council members, everybody here in this building where we have health care providers that have other high risk health issues to pull these patients and can be potential COVID or highly contagious individuals from anywhere can utilize that COVID center in Muskegon. This will pass. I get the news and it is scary times but with the vaccinations and drugs combinations and the testing it will, this will pass, then two years to five years maybe we can convert that center or have half of it for COVID. That is my hopes that it does surpass and settle and we will still have that extra location utilized. But every patient can utilize that.

Ron Wittenberg hopes everybody is doing well this morning. My question on this if you don't mind I know it is for Tribal members but I wonder because Tribal members, is this just for Tribal members or Tribal members and say their mates.

Lonn noted it says for everybody.

Dr. Wever said it will still be the same regulations or who is qualified as what we have here in the clinic with the social economic ties, individuals at the Resort so it would be the same but might have separate location to minimize risk.

Wittenberg said thank you.

Speaker Pete asked if there was any further comment. Hearing no further comment is there any further discussion. Is anybody going to abstain?

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 20-0408-101, GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST FOR A CDC SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY IN CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE NON-COMPETITIVE GRANT MINIMUM \$25,000 TO POTENTIALLY MORE THAN \$1.5 MILLION; by Lonn; supported by Wittenberg.

Speaker Pete asked now if there is any further discussion. Is anybody going to abstain?

Roll Call #3

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)

Recorder DiPiazza stated we had three people come in on the line can they identify themselves please.

Jay Sam - 0145, Jessica Steinberg – 0148

- B. Budget Modifications**
- C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

IV. Old Business

- A. Report of the Tribal Ogema**
 - 1. Operations Report – none submitted**
 - B. Housing Commission Report – none submitted**
 - C. Natural Resource Commission – none submitted**

V. New Business

VI. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, April 15, 2020

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

Larry Romanelli just wanted to say that we are in the middle of this virus, this Coronavirus and the landscape is ever changing. We are in constant communication with the other tribes, with the State officials, with the Federal officials and just watching this thing change day by day. We have taken a series of steps to protect both the Tribe and the Tribal members and our employees. And that continues to change as well. We are doing everything we can to watch and see where this ends up. What we don't want to do is we don't want to close longer than we have to but we don't want to underestimate the damage that this whole thing can do, both health wise or resource wise so we are watching it and just being cautious. We are holding a series of meetings. I can't tell you how many meetings we've had on this over the last couple of weeks. It has been a phenomenal amount of meetings. Everybody is trying to get a handle on it. As you know some of the information coming from the State and some of the information coming from the federal government is a little unclear. There is some gray areas there and we are just trying to do the best we can do to decipher what it is. We have key people on. We have our legal staff. We have our Accounting, our CFO, we have it, our General Manager and Assistant General Manager at the Resort all on these calls, different calls that they are needed on and we have our staff as needed. It has been a hell of a ride to be honest with you but I think overall we are doing really good as a Tribe. I'm sure we can look back and find some things that we could have done better but I think that will be said about the State and Federal government as well. In comparing ourselves to other tribes, in some ways we have more numbers than some of the other tribes and some have less and we have less money than some so we are in there just battling the best we can. We did shut down our casino and that remains shut down. We have now closed everything until April 30th for sure and we have to keep some staff understanding that for example our Accounting staff has been working pretty regularly as they need to do because these checks just don't go through a machine and get printed. That is not how it happens. The staff has been really wonderful. Now we have added a couple more things to their work so I appreciate the work they are doing. Obviously we have Public Safety and we have Natural Resources and we have the Clinic, the Pharmacy and the Commodities and all these people are still working on a limited basis. We are doing the best we can. Again at the Resort you have Surveillance and some management, EVS and some Security that still have to work. Most of them are on a reduced status. As you know we recently did our first layoff at the Resort for a number of people. We are looking at doing the same on the government side. We have a few questions to answer before we actually do what we do but we are going ahead the best we can. I think that is pretty much it. I think people should

watch the webpage again. There has been discussion about the Membership Meeting whether we don't have it or we have it by teleconference or whatever we have to do or we postpone it. There are three different options there. At the last, and I wish people would try to communicate to other people that don't have a computer, the best that they can do is watch our website for the official announcement. As it looks right now it will be on the 25th of April and I don't know if they will be able to communicate back and forth or not. There are some things within the Constitution that calls for us to have to do or be able to do. That is almost impossible because if we move the date, say we move it to May 5th, there is a chance that things will still be shut down and then we have to change it again. The other problem we have is we can't get a quorum even when all things are working good and we are supplying hotel rooms. If we put it out and our hotel rooms aren't available it could further complicate things. So to the best of my knowledge it will be on April 25th and please watch the main webpage of the Tribe and we will see what we can do. I'm on calls with other tribes and I think I have one tomorrow and we are just rolling along. I think overall we are doing good. I hope people stay safe and hunker down. The latest within the 9 counties we have had 204 cases within our 9 county service area. We have had 11 deaths. While these numbers are less than what was initially put out they still stay we are still in the middle of this. I wish everyone to hunker down and just stay as safe as they can. I think that is it from me.

Speaker Pete asked if there were any comments for Larry.

Cindy Champagne wanted to ask Larry a real quick questions, when are the layoffs starting. You said you have started the layoffs at the casino and when are they starting.

Romanelli believes the notice was sent out last Friday and I believe it started the next day, either Saturday or Monday.

Champagne said so it wasn't carried through the end of the month or the first of next month then.

Romanelli answered I don't believe so. I've read it and I've had so many communications but I will have to check.

Lonn said I can verify that I have a granddaughter that works there and she got the notice and it starts right away.

Champagne said thank you.

Romanelli said thanks Cindy.

Speaker Pete asked if there is anything else for Larry.

Romanelli said thank you I appreciate it.

Champagne said is there still open session coming because Larry might have to answer.

Pete said at the end of this is public comment period and we are going to go into closed and then after that we will be re-opening again but normal conditions are actually up there meeting in person. So does that answer your question?

Champagne said no it didn't.

Champagne said I just have a question that Larry is probably going to have to answer. I got an email on something which I thought I had read on the staff that was in place that the Natural Resource staff was in place and if somebody wanted fishing permits or whatever that they could contact them. I was questioned why we are not giving spearing permits for the walleye.

Romanelli said okay, that would be during public comment. I think that is what you were asking originally. Ron, I think, if you want to do the legislative updates and then do the public comment. I can make sure somebody can answer and hopefully get on and answer that question.

Pete asked Cindy if that is okay with you.

Champagne said that would be fine thank you.

Shannon Crampton said before that I have a couple of questions for Larry.

Romanelli said go ahead Shannon.

Crampton said I have been getting calls from a lot of people about numbers at the Tribe that they can contact. I know there are a lot of people that didn't get per cap and my suspicion is probably because they moved. The problem is they are trying to contact Jessica and I get a lot of people saying they can't get through. Plus if we can get a number of available staff people that. I know that there are a lot of people reaching out to Members Assistance right now and we have a lot of grant funding with the heat and the house and all the stuff we can do the repairs on and all the assistance, if we can just get some numbers we can give out to the members of who is available.

Romanelli said the answer would be yes. Again, the website, the website is supposed to have the numbers and I know everybody doesn't get on a computer and they should be able to call the main number. As we know we have had some issues with our telephone service as well. But we have been checking into that as well so they should be able to get through one or the other. The number should be updated continually. We know that we have the Enrollment Department who has been fielding some calls because I passed them again and again Members Assistance we have some calls. So, yes, we are doing the best that we can. Have them call the main number and also check the website and we will make sure that the numbers are updated on both of them.

Crampton said thank you. I'm good.

D. Legislative Affairs Update

Shannon Crampton said I sent out a bunch of funding to everybody so hopefully everybody got those. It looked like everybody did. Also, I only thing I really was watching over the weekend was a couple of tribes got hit and I know that the Navajos they have three sections of the tribe so it is pretty huge but there is one section in Arizona that is dealing with it right now and it looks like they are going to get hit really bad. With tribes being as small as they are, that is a real threat. There might not even be a tribe.

Pete said I was following the same article that you were and in one instance they said it could decimate one of the tribes out there. I don't remember which one it is but we send our hope and prayers but I am in agreement with what has happened out there.

Crampton said I have also been looking at some of the mitigation plans that tribes have and what they are looking at is when they re-open their casinos like advertising the fact that they are just spotless clean, haz mat suits and just make sure that we let people know . . . something to distinguish us from everybody else.

Pete said yes, I think so too. I was down here this morning and Gun Lake is closing for the foreseeable future and they are also putting their staff on furlough. At any rate, I know, I hoping we have reached our peak and this might get better but I think right now in the situation we all are in this Tribe and we all are together is the best thing that we can do is hope for our first responders that they are going out there and they are always doing what they are doing and to offer our prayers to everybody else.

E. Public Comment Period

Speaker Pete asked to please state your name and your Tribal ID to get in the cue, thank you. Is there anyone for public comment?

Diane Lonn, 194, I just read this morning from Jack Bergman because he sends me all his updates and he does state in there because someone said they didn't think Tribal business would be able to get any help and he says that Tribal business concerns or Tribal business concerns are eligible for all their businesses and that so. Just an FYI.

Pete said if you go through all of the CARES reports and all of the stuff that we have read, the latest update that I kind of had was that there was a good thing to do that decision is that anything under 500 employees will not be eligible for status and that is the same thing as the government is separate, is viewed as separate, the government is under 200 employees and from my understanding and I know that Larry said that this thing can change from day to day but yet at this point it looks like our government will be eligible for 100% reimbursement but that is just my interpretation of it right now.

Lonn said that is just what came out this morning from Jack Bergman.

Romanelli said I want to caution everybody because we have some internal questions going back even to high level employees that we have to establish the difference between Tribal businesses which may be under the EDC, Tribal government and also the casino resorts are being held to a different standard. That is part of what we are going to, not only internally for our Tribe but with other tribes are still questioning what should be or is covered and what is not and what should be and what should not be covered. That is one of the calls I have I think tomorrow where we are trying to sort that all out. Because there is some confusion there but what Representative Bergman might be talking about is Tribal businesses rather than Tribal governments. Although we are still trying to figure it out and going back and forth every day. That is what I say, everything is changing almost by the hour sometimes but thank you for bringing that up.

Pete knows it is a different period to go through that stuff but hopefully that is all going to come out.

Speaker Pete asked if there was any other comment from the public comment period.

Councilor Champagne asked Larry if he was able to get a hold of someone to answer that question.

Romanelli said I asked my leads to get on the call so that was a Natural Resource question I believe and Jay is on the call, Jay. Is Frank on the call?

DiPiazza asked to step in a second.

Lonn said yeah, you are on Natural Resources.

DiPiazza said if you refer them to the website there is a layout that has been put out by the Natural Resource Department for permitting updates. The spearing permits office is closed and those are usually face to face. You only need a permit if the lake or stream is restricted or closed. I would refer them also to the Inland Fishing Regulations and that is also on the website. That gives the layout of what streams, rivers and lakes are closed. If they are not closed you don't need a permit. If they are closed like the weir, Little Manistee and the Weir, you need a permit to go in there and do that. At this point in time, and I don't want to speak for but the office is closed and a lot of them have to be face to face if you have a permit like that. You can still get turkey permits. Their email addresses are on the website so refer them to the website and also the regulations.

Elise McGowan-Cuellar said for the specific streams that they require permits for there is a little document that the NRD has posted. I had the chance to speak to Frank and he said some of the hold up . . . it isn't so much that they can't issue the permits, it is because they don't know how many fish are actually in the water so they can't make a good faith permitting without knowing what impacts it will have on the fish. With our server failure I believe some of that data is lost but they are trying to find that data and get all of that moving forward so that people can get permits for spearing. I think if not this year, next year.

Pete asked if that helps you Gary.

DiPiazza said I'm all set. All I can do is refer them to the website and regulations.

Romanelli said I appreciate that Gary and Elise.

Speaker Pete asked if there was any other comment under 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 END FIRST OPEN SESSION; by DiPiazza; supported by Lonn.

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. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

VIII. Open Session

MOTION TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION AT 11:17 A.M.; by DiPiazza; supported by Lonn.

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. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session

There were no items to be moved from Closed to Open Session.

IX. Adjourn

MOTION TO END SECOND OPEN; by DiPiazza; supported by Crampton.

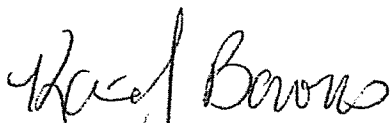
Roll Call #6

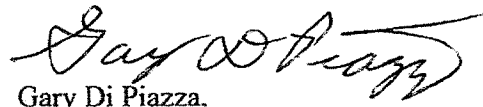
T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	D. Corey -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kathleen Bowers
Transcribing Assistant


Gary Di Piazza,
Tribal Council Recorder