



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020  
LITTLE RIVER BAND  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting via Teleconference on April 22, 2020. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

**I. Opening Prayer**

Gary DiPiazza, Tribal Elder, offered the opening prayer.

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order at 10:02 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.

Speaker Pete asked if anyone else is on the line if you can state your name and Tribal ID # so Kathleen can record it.

Others Present: Rebecca Liebing - #2878, Mary Thomas - #202, Jamie Friedel - #4744, Ogema Larry Romanelli - #3752, Caitlin Carey – ULD, Elise McGowan-Cuellar – ULD, Dr. Daryl Wever, Brad Pringle – Comptroller General, Kathleen Bowers,

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION TO APPROVE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020 AGENDA WITH NO CORRECTIONS;** by DiPiazza; supported by Lonn.

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. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**D. Tribal Council Minutes**

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

**B. Budget Modifications**

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

**1. Approval of Supplemental Appropriation 2020-\_\_\_ - 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR to fund necessary repairs to the Gaming Commission Entryway in the amount of \$71,300**

Approval of supplemental appropriation

Speaker Pete asked if anyone was here to represent this.

Councilor Lonn noted that we had discussed this a while back I remember.

Kathleen Bowers stated I can contract Steve Parsons if you need me to and have him get on the line.

Pete asked if people want Steve to be contacted.

Champagne said I would like to have him be contacted. Since he said this was postponed I want to see where we are at.

Bowers said let me contact him on my cellphone.

Pete asked Bowers to contact Steve.

Lonn said I didn't know it was postponed.

Kathleen Bowers contacted Steve Parsons by cellphone and put him on speaker.

Pete said I just want Steve to say something so he can understand us.

Kathleen Bowers gave Steve Parsons the call in number so he could be heard.

Pete noted that Cindy has a question for you that she thought this was postponed.

Councilor Champagne thought when you talked to us the last time that it was kind of postponed because I don't know if the contractor you had wasn't going to be able to do it right away so I am just wondering where we are at with the whole project.

Steve Parsons answered okay. The project is kind of on hold or temporarily suspended primarily because I spoke with the contractor that we were going to go with and that was based on the Construction Task Force's recommendation. He says they are not doing any field work and they won't be sending anyone out in the field until she lifts her work restriction. I guess there are some hefty fines involved if they catch anybody out there working. They didn't want to chance that so where we left it was you know that we will try and get this worked out and back to normal. In the meantime I was thinking that if I could get the contract approved then at least that would be done and we could at least have that ready to go so when it was time to move on the project we could then set down and work out a schedule and that kind of thing and try to get them in there sooner rather than later and they were agreeable to that. In the meantime, I found out when I tried to submit the contract for approval that there wasn't sufficient funding in the building budget. That is a budget I really don't control. It is really under Steve Wheeler in Finance. Bill Willis helped me understand how that works and essentially there isn't sufficient funds in the building budget to cover the contract and so Bill put together paperwork for a supplemental appropriation to put the money in the building budget so that it would be there when it was time to execute the contract and move forward with the project. It is my understanding that is what is in front of you in the open session now is approving the appropriation and if it gets approved, again, my understanding is that the money will just sit there in that line item until we are ready to move forward with the contract itself. That is in Closed Session and I can certainly talk about that when we get to it. I'm not sure if that made sense or not but that is kind of where things stand with my understanding of it.

Councilor Champagne noted the only thing I would ask you on that if they are not sure when they are going to be able to do this project, what if something happens and we sign this contract and they can't do the project. With this COVID-19 you never know how it is going to hit anyone so I am a little concerned to sign a contract and if something happens to that organization where they

can't do it then we are kind of stuck and have to find someone else. That is my concern. Thank you.

Parsons said I don't have an answer for you and you probably have to go to the Unified Legal Department and ask them what our legal options were at this point. I'm not sure that has ever happened before so I really don't have a good answer for you but I understand your concern.

Councilor Corey said I can answer it if you want. If we approve the contract and either party backs out you just go to the next bidder and call them up and find somebody who will do the project. It is not even a concern,

Parsons responded okay. That is what I was thinking but I didn't want to say that because I wasn't sure if there was any legal issues with one or both parties backing out of the contract. I appreciate that thank you.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 20-0422-107, APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION 2020-06, 2<sup>ND</sup> QTR TO FUND NECESSARY REPAIRS TO THE GAMING COMMISSION ENTRYWAY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$71,300; by Lonn; supported by Corey.**

Speaker Pete asked if there was any discussion.

Councilor Crampton said there seemed like there was some concern about if the funds would be expended or not and what would happen if they weren't so why don't we just restrict this for this purpose and if they don't use it, it gets returned back to the funds.

Parsons said if that is a question for me I have no problem with that because if we don't do it I am assuming they will find another purpose for the funds. Again, if you want to restrict the appropriation for this only that works for me so that is pretty much what it is there for or supposed to be there for.

Crampton said what I've been noticing is that sometimes we do this and we put and something doesn't happen under self governance we can co-mingle the funds and it kind of gives the executive a little bit of room to move the funds to places that Council didn't approve.

Parsons responded okay. I understand your concern and if you want to put that kind of restriction on it . . . I am okay with it simply because if it is for that specific purpose it will still can be used for paying the contractor for this project. I'm not sure how you do that as far as the resolution goes but I will defer to others as how you can put that restriction on there but I have no problem with it.

Crampton said it would be a vote for everybody.

Parsons said okay.

Lonn asked if you want me to make another motion?

Councilor Lewis said just amend it with an add.

Lonn said I will just say amend it with an add. Okay. Let me do my own thing here.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #20-0422-107, APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION 2020-06 – 2<sup>ND</sup> QTR TO FUND NECESSARY REPAIRS TO GAMING COMMISSION ENTRYWAY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$71,300, WITH RESTRICTIONS;** by Lonn; supported by Corey.

Pete asked if there is any further discussion.

Kathleen Bowers asked if you are adding a whereas or anything or just saying with restrictions.

Pete believes it is just with restrictions.

Bowers said okay.

Crampton said I would add restricted to the purpose submitted.

Pete said I'm good with that. Pete asked if there was 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 -	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	D. Lonn -	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Steve Parsons left the call.

**IV. Old Business**

**V. New Business**

**VI. Concluding Business**

**A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, April 29, 2020**

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

Ogema Larry Romanelli said we continue to watch what is happening with the President and Congress on the national level and we also continue to watch what the Governor is doing and also other tribes. Again, it is a moving target but we are working at it. Trying to nail down the best timing for tribes and what we do with our enterprises, etc. The April 30<sup>th</sup> date is coming up soon and we are looking at that to see where we go with that. As you know that was a state of emergency. I know the Governor is planning on extending her state of emergency however that doesn't mean that everything to do with it is going to be in place. Again, whether we shelter in place or whatever the cases are we are still looking at what we do with that. I have a call this week also with chiefs of the other eleven tribes and we are trying to work together to coordinate and especially our enterprises and primarily our casinos to see what we do and what best practices there are. We will be giving out information as we can. Last week I was asked to do a video update to the membership and it took a little longer than I thought but I appreciate Martha bringing it to my attention and I just wanted to let her know that.

Romanelli said the only other thing I have is our membership meeting is going to be this weekend on Saturday. That will be held in the Lodge room and there will be no audience but we will be giving reports from the different directors from the different departments. We are going to have more than usual. Normally, at the spring membership meeting we have reports that are 15 or 20 minute report but because of the need for several departments we are going to try to reduce that to a 5 or 10 minute limit for each department that gives a presentation so we can get through all of them. I think that is going to work out okay. We pretty much have that nailed down. The agenda is on the website now. It should be. There may be a couple of changes as we go forward but it looks pretty good. The other thing is we may, heavy on the may, be able to have people call in and answer questions. We may set aside a ½ hour for question and answer period at the end. We are just kind of playing it by ear. I think the people will at least get information to update to the membership meeting and the best way we can do it. So I think we are good. I don't have anything else unless people have questions for me.

Pete asked if there is anyone that has questions for Larry.

Councilor Crampton said I do. I went on the site and got some numbers for the members for membership assistance and Jason also sent me a private number that I was giving out and nobody is returning calls and nobody is getting back. Is there a number we can give out that they can get through.

Romanelli asked if you are talking about Jason in Family Services.

Crampton responded yes, members assistance is what I am looking for. Jason sent me a private number because he was on the phone call a week or so ago and he sent me a private number I could give out and I gave it out and everybody keeps calling back and saying they are not getting their calls returned.

Romanelli said okay. I don't know if the lead for members assistance is on this call or not, if not, I will pass the information on to Jason. The other thing we can do is put a contact number on the website starting this afternoon even if we determine what is wrong. I don't understand why they wouldn't be getting through but it wouldn't be the first time we have had problems with our phones. Let me do some checking and we can put a notice as of today on the website. That is the best thing I can do. If you know of any names specifically I can have Jason try and contact them back.

Crampton responded perfect, thank you.

Romanelli said thank you.

Councilor Champagne said I have a question for Larry. Larry I don't know who Yvonne Parsons reports to but before this whole epidemic thing started I had contacted Yvonne because she had no responded to text book or tuition on Ryan and he asked if I would just go down and ask her about a question and she never responded to me. I have sent her emails and she still has not responded and I looked at the list and it shows that she is supposed to be working on that stuff and I am wondering who I would talk to about that.

Romanelli said your right. Yes, that would be Bill Willis. You said that she has not responded to your questions or Ryan's questions about his textbooks or tuition right?

Champagne said that is correct.

Romanelli said I can do some checking and I'm sure she has his contact number and hopefully even later this afternoon we can make that contact.

Champagne said that would be great because we were trying to be patient but this is getting ridiculous. She didn't respond for a long time when she was actively at work and I don't expect to hear from her now that she is not actively at work. So, if you could do something to help I would really appreciate it. Thank you.

Romanelli said yes, we will make those contacts to her.

Pete asked if anyone has anything more for the Ogema.

Romanelli asked do I have any of the leads on, any of my three leads? Okay, I guess that answers the question. Okay, thank you, I'm good.

### **C. Legislative Affairs Update**

Councilor Crampton said this morning there was a second part to the Corona Relief Bill passed by Congress and it is \$484,000,000 and I am not sure what the current amount is for tribes (inaudible) but I know there is a part in there that is a paycheck guarantee for (inaudible) program that we might want to look into to see if it is available to us. Also, this morning they just approved the first in home test for Corona virus by Lab Core. It is going to run about \$119 per person but it is supposed to be free so that is what I am looking into right now.

Speaker Pete said I heard that same report this morning and I do believe they said it is supposed to be free.

Crampton said I hope so.

Pete said I hope so too.

Pete asked if there was anything else for Legislative Affairs Update

### **D. Public Comment Period**

Speaker Pete asked if there is anyone out there for public comment.

Dr. Daryl Wever thinks there was an email that Cindy and everybody was sending in regards to epidemiology reports and tribal members being tested and testing positive and how we can track it. That is part of that CBC \$88,400 that Little River should receive here next week. That is part of that agreement is that (inaudible) and transfer that information (inaudible). Obviously there is no names, no tribal ID or anything that is



connected to the patient. As they come through we start, hopefully here shortly, have a database for that information and obviously once we get further out with the testing and at home and in the clinic and everywhere that is available we will get more data and more information. I just received that email and I think Cindy sent it out asking for the data. But yes, we will keep track as patients start coming through as to Tribal members and their status.

Speaker Pete said thank you Dr. Wever. I saw that too. In fact, you sent that out. Thank you so much.

Wever said also a real quick update with the testing. Finally Lab Core Avid Quest obviously they have been decreasing their numbers of production so we got an email this morning that we will receive our testing kits and supplies in three days. We also requested through IHS the analyzer and sometimes that is quicker to go through IHS and they disperse it to the tribes but we also went through Avid Quest so basically we went through all of them to get the kits the fastest but we just got an email this morning that we should have them in three days. They didn't ask for a credit card or any type of finance so I would presume that it is covered by stimulus package as well.

Champagne said I have a question for Dr. Wever. How long are those test results where you are sending them to the lab, how long are they taking to come back.

Wever said we ordered several different versions so they have a 15 minute one, actually the 15 minute one ends up being 51 minutes for the whole process. With the ones that are oral swabs, we swab them send them out and then we will have results for that particular test in 48 hours. That is the two that we have. The analyzer is a very expensive device and that one is very . . . I was on that conference call and that one we are on the list and hopefully, some tribes did receive an analyzer and that is still pending.

Champagne said thank you.

Wever said also real quick. Can I give you one more update and I think Larry was trying to point that towards me for 5 to 10 minutes this Saturday. I think that was directed towards me. I heard that. Real quick, with the, you know there are cases that are in the area and some within our organization so there has been discussion this week and I think with legal and HR to how to go about positive cases. I spoke with Munson and the Michigan Health Department last night and until we get our testing on board that is . . . people are still concerned that a patient was positive and have to do the 14 days quarantine and then with their Michigan Health Department is stating that the 14 days quarantine and then if they still have

symptoms, cough or fever then have to do an additional 7 days of quarantine and that is when they feel the patient is not a risk to others. It is how things are going with . . . at Munson a physician has to fax over to be seen and tested in the back behind the ER. That is a separate building but that is kind of how people are getting tested and evaluated and released at this point. We have a mass testing supply out there.

Pete asked if that is it Dr. Wever?

Wever said that is it. I appreciate it.

Pete asked if there was further comment.

Romanelli just wanted to let everybody know Jay was on the call and he is one of the leads and he was on the call so we are good to go. Thank you.

***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 Lonm;  
supported by Guenthardt.

Pete asked if there was further discussion. Was anybody going to abstain?

**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. Lonm - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

**VIII. Open Session**

**MOTION TO GO BACK INTO SECOND OPEN AT 12:07;** by Lonm;  
supported by Guenthardt.

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

**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
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Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

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

**MOTION TO MOVE RESOLUTION # 20-0422-108, MOTION AND ROLL CALL ONLY, RESOLUTION # 20-0422-109 AND 110, MOTION, ROLL CALL AND RESOLUTION;** by DiPiazza; supported by Lonn.

**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 following items were moved from Closed to Open Session.*

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 20-0422-108, APPROVING AMENDMENTS AND DEFERRAL OF PAYMENT TO LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN LITTLE RIVER CASINO RESORT AND LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS TRIBAL GOVERNMENT;** by Lonn; supported by DiPiazza.

**Roll Call**

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)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 20-0422-109, APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION OF THE OGEMA TO SIGN THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDOT) FOR THE US-31/M-22 ROUNDABOUT PROJECT;** by DiPiazza; supported by Lonn.

**Roll Call**

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)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 20-0422-110,  
RATIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTORS INCORPORATED  
CONTRACT; by DiPiazza; supported by Lonn.**

**Roll Call**

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)

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

**IX. Adjourn**

**MOTION TO END THE SECOND OPEN SESSION; by Lonn;  
supported by Guenthardt.**


**Roll Call #7**

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 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Kathleen Bowers  
Transcribing Assistant

  
Gary Di Piazza,  
Tribal Council Recorder