



6/5/02

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SATURDAY, May 18, 2002
LITTLE RIVER BAND COMMUNITY CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

I. Opening Prayer

Tribal Council engaged in silent prayer.

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m. by Speaker Parsons.

B. Roll Call

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	C. Fisher – Present	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Absent	P. Medahko – Present	S. Parsons – Present
E. Porter – Present	P. Ruiter – Present	J. Sam – Present

Quorum present

Bennett called she was unable to attend. Kleeman called and was unable to attend due to recent surgery.

Others in Attendance:

Leatrice Castonia, Bob Davis, Jo Anne House, Greg Markowski, Al Medacco, Brian Medacco, Yvonne Parsons, Sadie Riffle.

C. Approval of Agenda

Item VI B Cultural Preservation was removed from the Agenda.
Fisher requested VII A Little River Maintenance and Construction Board be removed from the Agenda and replaced with Little River Band Construction Management Team.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED; by Ruiter ;
 support by Porter.

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	C. Fisher Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Absent	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (6-0-0-3)

McCatty entered at 10:24

D. Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

III. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Education Department

Y. Parsons reported for the Education Department. Parsons reported the JOM/LRBOI Student Services Program which assists with expenses for children K-12 has assisted 51 students. Also, the JOM activities have included Super Saturdays, helping Natural Resources with sturgeon assessment, and a field trip to Career Expo. The adult education program has assisted 28 Tribal members with \$500 incentive grants and six of the 28 were currently attending college. Since January 2002 twenty-nine Tribal members have received Higher Education Scholarships ranging up to \$2,000. Seventy-six Tribal members have received a college book stipend ranging from \$100 to \$400 determined by number of credits enrolled. Four Tribal members were enrolled in the Vocational Education program which provided work skills. Sixteen Tribal members have received assistance from the Educational Advancement Fund which helps defray costs in testing, licensing, certification etc. Discussion was held regarding the benefit to Tribal members of these various programs. The Council members thanked Parsons for the positive report.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR FILING; by Sam,
 supported by Porter.

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	C. Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

A. Report of the Tribal Ogema

1. Financial Report

Sam stated the report has taken on a better format and finds the addition beneficial when comprehending the report. A. Medacco queried if a local newspaper was accurate in reporting Casino funds. Council members responded the gross figure was perhaps close to accurate, however, there were so many other factors to consider it was difficult to determine if completely accurate or not. The Council members had just received the report either late the day before or the day of the meeting, therefore, were not ready to accept.

Bob Hardenburgh entered at 11:00 a.m.

MOTION TO POSTPONE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT UNTIL THE MAY 29 TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING; by Sam; supported by Porter

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

B. Director of Operations Report

Bob Davis stated in the past two years total number of employees had risen from 60 to 190. Davis indicated he felt phase one of the up-staffing was now complete. Davis suggested the Tribe was now ready to enter into phase two which would be to implement line/staff, policies and procedures to obtain organization of the departments and individual responsibilities. Also, once these things were in place a method to measure accomplishment could be established.

Davis reported the Commodities Program has been getting more exposure in the Muskegon area and as a result more Tribal members in that area were able to be served.

The Tribal newsletter was discussed including topics such as material to include in the newsletter, responsibility of authenticity of articles, proofreading, etc. It was suggested perhaps a PR person should be added to the staff, in fact a mid-year appropriation change to establish a PR position was suggested.

The issue of Indian Preference and the fact the hiring policy had been changed at the Casino were discussed.

Travel issues were discussed such as travel advances, policy for use of vehicles the Tribe was responsible for, submitting of reports after attending conferences, and ascertaining drivers of those vehicles were properly licensed. Davis explained the procedure for obtaining the use of a vehicle. Davis indicated he planned to have a travel policy in place by the end of May.

McCatty questioned employees serving on Commissions during working hours. They receive their wages plus a stipend. Also, how were they being represented as an employee or as a member of that Commission.

McCatty asked when the Planning Department would have the plans in place for the use of the cemetery.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT AS SUBMITTED; by Ruiter supported by Porter

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Recessed 12:25 p.m.

Reconvened 12:41 p.m.

C. Attorney Report

Fisher noted for the record Nancy Kida's report was missing.

House returned at 12:45

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ATTORNEY REPORT FOR APRIL AS SUBMITTED; by Porter, support by Fisher

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

V. ACCEPTANCE OF COMMISSION REPORTS

A. Binojeeuk Commission

Ruiter queried if members of the Binojeeuk Commission were still using the “call-in” system, Medahko responded in the affirmative. A short discussion followed.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE BINOJEEUK COMMISSION REPORT FOR FILING; by Sam, supported by Porter

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

B. Enrollment Commission

McCatty stated the report was written as the May report when in actuality it was the April report. The subject of affidavits was discussed. The Council was concerned with the same personnel signing affidavits that approved the enrollment certification. Sam stated affidavits were not based on facts but rather assumed facts.

Mark Dougher entered the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

House stated the Bereavement Ordinance has different criteria than the Enrollment Ordinance. A person can be eligible for the Bereavement Benefit Program without being enrolled as a member.

Sam suggested requesting a legal opinion regarding use of affidavit to substantiate eligibility requirements. Also, to authorize the Speaker to convey to the Enrollment Commission the Council’s concern regarding affidavits vs certified documents to determine enrollment eligibility.

MOTION TO POSTPONE ACCEPTANCE OF APRIL ENROLLMENT COMMISSION REPORT AND TO AUTHORIZE THE SPEAKER TO COMMUNICATE TRIBAL COUNCIL’S CONCERNS AND REQUEST THE LEGAL OPINION REGARDING USE OF

**AFFIDAVITS TO SUBSTANTIATE ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENTS.** by Sam, supported by Porter.

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

C. Gaming Commission

McCatty noted the number of BIP's issued to the Table Games Department, would like a breakdown to see if the same people were repeating the same BIP's. Ownership of the Casino's warehouse was discussed. House suggested the Business Board could request a clarification of ownership.

It was questioned if the Gaming Commission required vendor's licenses for all vendors or were some vendors given a waiver.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE GAMING
COMMISSION REPORT FOR FILING;** by Ruiter,
supported by Sam

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

D. Housing Commission

The plans to build a community center and the use of that building at Aki maadiziwin was discussed.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE HOUSING COMMISSION
REPORT FOR FILING;** by Porter, supported by Ruiter.

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

E. Natural Resources Commission

R. Hardenburgh, member of the Natural Resources Commission, stated because of a recent change in regulations staff members can no longer attend Commission meetings during work hours. Therefore, the secretary who was compiling the minutes was not available to the Commission. Hardenburgh indicated there would be minutes at the meeting next month.

MOTION TO POSTPONE ACCEPTING THE MINUTES OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION FOR APRIL AND APRIL AND MAY MINUTES WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE SATURDAY MEETING IN JUNE; by Sam, supported by Porter

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

VI. ACCEPTANCE OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

A. Elders

McCatty queried if a travel policy for Elders had been compiled. McCatty reminded those in attendance the policy must come before Council prior to enactment.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ELDERS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2002; by Sam, supported by Porter

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

B. Cultural Preservation

This item was removed from the Agenda at the time the Agenda was approved.

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES & REPORTS FROM OTHER ENTITIES

A. Little River Band Construction Management Team

Discussion was held regarding the fact confidential material was contained in the CMT report.

**MOTION TO MOVE THE LITTLE RIVER BAND
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT TEAMS'
REPORT TO THE MAY 29TH CLOSED SESSION
FOR CONSIDERATION AT THAT TIME; by Sam
supported by Porter**

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A. May Report

Sam queried regarding the status of the Corrective Action Policy. House indicated at this point she was waiting for additional information from the Human Resources Department.

Sam stated she was concerned administrative and legislative materials were being handled in a manner that could cause conflict of interest. Sam stated if executive legal matters come to House it should be for the Tribal Council's review or House needs to return the material to those who work for the executive branch. Regulations were to be considered a legislative function coming from the Tribal Council

House gave a synopsis of the activities planned for her office during the next month.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MAY LEGISLATIVE
REPORT; by Sam, supported by McCatty.**

Roll Call

C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

IV. CONCLUDING BUSINESS

A. Next Regular Tribal Council Meeting: May 22, 2002

B. Public Comment

Hardenburgh queried when amendments to the Constitution were going to be considered. House indicated a work session has been scheduled to examine some recommended changes to the Constitution. Discussion was held regarding the role the Tribal Council would take in Constitutional Amendments.

MOTION TO ADJOURN; by Ruitter, support by Sam.

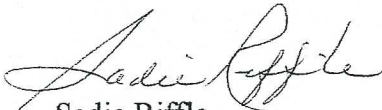
Roll Call

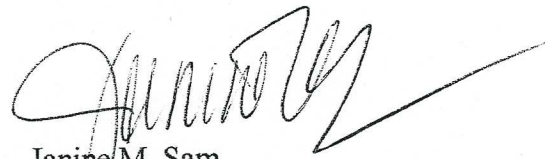
C. Bennett – Absent	Fisher – Yes	T. Kleeman – Absent
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruitter – Yes	J. Sam – Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sadie Riffle
Transcribing Assistant


Janine M. Sam
Tribal Council Recorder