



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, August 21, 2024
LITTLE RIVER BAND
VIA ZOOM
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on August 21, 2024. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning, everyone. We are here this morning for our regular scheduled Tribal Council meeting, Wednesday, August the 21st, 2024. I have asked Councilor Wolfe if she will say the prayer, so if you're able to stand, please stand. Thank you.

I. Opening Prayer

Councilor Wolfe: (speaking Anishinaabe) Uhm I was taught by my elders uhm to always say, it's gonna be a really short one. I don't want to take too much time, so if you know, you know. Uhm first, I want to send out prayers to those in grief, lost, hurting, or who feel alone, who are in a fog, or just need some love from Giizhemanidoo. Uhm lost a few Tribal members recently, so just want to think about those and their loved ones. Miigwech Giizhemanidoo, Miigwech to Nokomis and Mishomis, Miigwech to all the old ancient ones, the sacred animals and birds, guides, teachers, healers, helpers, our traditional healers, protectors, warriors, giants, stone people, and the good spirits of love who speak the absolute truth. I'm asking to send nothing but pure, unconditional love through everyone's whole being, to flush out all the darkness, neutralize it, bless it, purify it, and fill each person with gratitude. I ask Giizhemanidoo to give everyone their own mind, sight, and gifts back. I'm asking for the removal of blocks to our brains, minds, and thoughts, reestablish our connection to Giizhemanidoo, so that everyone has a clear mind, healthy brain, healthy thoughts, and see the absolute truth, and have a clear and powerful connection to the great mystery. Many of us helpers are getting attacked and blocked through our finances. I'm asking that all blocks be disintegrated and replaced with a beautiful flow of abundance and finances right through our whole being, to feel our spirits head-to-toe with abundances and finances. I'm also asking that abundance of blessings and finances be sent to each one who needs it, to keep each person going so they can keep helping themselves and all the people in a good way. Everything that I'm asking for is with gentle guidance and the highest good of each, and that pure love and pure healing energy fills our whole beings, our homes, our lands, our vehicles, so that we all can be spiritually safe, prosperous, and moving forward in life with ease, grace, clarity, and great pleasure. Chi-Miigwech Giizhemanidoo. I love you. We love you. I honor you. We love you. I respect you. We respect you. I believe in all of you. We

believe in all of you. All of my relations. Miigwech, Miigwech, Miigwech, Miigwech.
That was short right?

Councilor Metzger: Yes, it was.

Councilor Wolfe: (Laughing)

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Councilor Wolfe, for that very nice prayer. Moving
down on the agenda under

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

I will call this meeting to order at 10:04. Next. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I just want one announcement before Tammy gets started. Uhm we got
a notice from maintenance that it's the annual sprinkle inspection, sprinkler inspection
today. Uhm that starts at 9 from 5 in the Government Building Center, so uhm just
wanted everyone to be aware there may be audible alarms flashing strobes throughout the
building, uhm so we just don't want to make too much disruption or if that was to happen
during our meeting everyone is aware of that. Thank you.

Councilor Wittenberg: I thought you were going to say, I hope everybody brought their
umbrella.

Speaker Burmeister: (Laughing) Thank you. Next, zoom users, if you are a tribal citizen,
please list your tribal ID and your name. If you are an employee, please list your name
and the department that you work for. Thank you. Chris McClellan, please identify
yourself.

Chris McClellan: Chris McClellan 2916

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you Delia, please identify yourself.

Delia Ross: Delia Ross 2446

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Government IT, uhm they do not, it says no mic. Uhm,
moving down to Joanne Green, please identify yourself.

Joanne Green: Joanne Green 3580

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Gary Lewis, please identify yourself.

Gary Lewis: Gary Lewis, Utility Director.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Jolene O'Signac, please identify yourself.

Jolene O'Signac: Jolene O'Signac 3866.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Kathleen Bowers, please identify yourself.

Kathleen Bowers: Kathleen Bowers, Budget Coordinator.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Kimberly McClellan, please identify yourself.

Kimberly McClellan: Kimberly McClellan 2918.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Laura Echelbarger, please identify yourself.

Laura Echelbarger: Good morning, 2276.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. Thank you. Lee McCaslin, please identify yourself.

Lee McCaslin: (Speaking Anishinaabemowin) Lee McCaslin 0748.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Mark Huddleston, please identify yourself.

Mark Huddleston: Mark Huddleston, 3230.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Martha Howell, please identify yourself.

Martha Howell: Martha Howell, 3635.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Misty Silvis, please identify yourself.

Councilor Silvis: Councilor Misty Silvis, 2488.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sandy Mezeske, please identify yourself.

Sandy Mezeske: Sandy Mezeske 0018.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sara Agosa, please identify yourself.

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Shannon Crampton, please identify yourself.

Councilor Crampton: Outlying Tribal Council Rep Shannon Paul Crampton 1747.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Shawna Gonzalez, please identify yourself.

Shawna Gonzalez: Good morning Shawna Gonzalez 4700.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. Thank you. Sky Gonzalez, please identify yourself.

Sky Gonzalez: Sky Gonzalez 1042.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Staci Cheney, please identify yourself.

Staci Cheney: 992.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Tina McClellan-Payment, please identify yourself.

Tina McClellan-Payment: 2917.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Venus B, please identify yourself.

Venus Battaglia: (Speaking Anishinaabemowin) This is Venus staff and tribal member 1102.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Phone number 906-458-4756. Please identify yourself.

Vicki LaPorte: Vicki LaPorte 3384. Good morning.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. Thank you. Uhm 231-794-0066. Please identify yourself.

Michael Burmeister: Michael Burmeister 945.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Did I get every? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I want to ask respectfully that government IT be moved to the waiting room. We've never had anyone identify under that, and I don't believe our staff would. And it shows microphone and says no mic, so I would respectfully ask they be moved to the waiting room.

Speaker Burmeister: Sure, we can do that. Okay. Thank you. So, we are moving down to under general business

B. Roll Call

Recorder Johnson can you do roll call Please.

Recorder Johnson:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| T. Burmeister -Present | G. DiPiazza - Present | M. Silvis - Present |
| R. Wittenberg- Present | J. Wolfe - Present | A. Metzger - Present |
| S. Crampton - Present | P. Johnson - Present | S. Wever - Present |

We do have quorum.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down under general business

C. Approval of Agenda

will there be any tribal councilors that are going to abstain from this agenda? Okay. With no uhm abstentions, I'd like to entertain a motion for this agenda, please. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I make a motion for Wednesday, August 21st, 2024, approval of the agenda with the following edits. If we go under V.G, Little River Holdings, May and June 2024, a portion of their closed session was moved to closed session. Uhm so we still have the open minutes to accept. Uhm Old business, so that's VII. B operations report has been postponed. VII new business C, add Adopting the membership meeting procedures ordinance, which is a postponed item. We didn't have the work session. Uhm D is an add Adopting the Budget and Appropriation Acts of 2013-104. That's an add and it's also been postponed. We didn't have the work session. E is an add approval for Councilor Wolfe to attend Indian Gaming Association's Mid-Year Conference and Expo 9/16-9/18 in Tulalip, Washington. And then into uhm under closed session, X.C.2, postponement, Ratification of approving lease agreement with Capital Gaming Group. And D is the add of Binojeeuk Commission closed session minutes for July 2024. And XI. open session A4, Binojeeuk Commission closed session minutes for July 2024 is an add. And then on A2, would we need to have that removed or postponed there? Doesn't have any identified.

Vicki LaPorte: Yes I got it on

Councilor Wolfe: Postpone? So, we already postponed it from closed session. So, XI. A 2 would be postponed, Ratification of approval lease agreement with Capital Gaming Group.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Now I should ask, uhm is there any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from the agenda? Any Tribal Councilors with questions? Tribal citizens? Sara, I see your hand up. Go ahead, please.

Sara Agosa: Can everyone please make sure that their phones are muted because we're getting a lot of interference. My question is about the canceled work sessions. Can you please clarify what work sessions were canceled and the reason why? Thank you.

Councilor Wolfe: So, the three for Tuesday morning, uhm membership meeting ordinance procedures, budget and Appropriations Act of 2023-100-04, and then the Commission and Committees work session, uhm our attorney got notified of the calendar late and she had a personal appointment and was unable to attend.

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah, would you let him in, please? Okay, Drew, could you please identify yourself? Okay, we have Drew from uhm IT that has entered the meeting. So, I'm going to move down the agenda. Okay. Any further comments from Councilors? Back to citizens? Councilors? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the agenda, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #1

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe - Yes | A. Metzger - Yes |
| S. Crampton - Yes | P. Johnson - Yes | S. Wever - Yes |
| G. DiPiazza - No | M. Silvis - Yes | T. Burmeister- Yes |

Eight in favor one against, it has been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down under General Business

D. Tribal Council Minutes

there are none submitted.

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts

Nothing listed under that.

B. Budget Modifications

- 1. Acceptance of Contract Funds from the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Approving a Modification to the Operating Budget MB 2024 in the amount of \$53,690.** Ogema Romanelli and Kathleen have brought this item forward. So, Kathleen, the floor is yours.

Kathleen Bowers: Thank you. Uhm this is accepting into the budget from the BIA into Tribal Court \$24,702. BIA road maintenance \$504. Family Services \$3,484 and Water Resources Program, \$25,000 totaling \$53,690.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any Councilors with questions? Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Uh I don't know if Kathleen can give me an explanation, but I'd like to know why \$24,000 is going to the court when it seems like we have uh half the court just working over there. Could you elaborate on the \$24,000 please?

Kathleen Bowers: That is just the amount of the BIA gave us. We don't get a say in that. That's how much has been awarded to us.

Speaker Burmeister: Any Councilor, other Councilors with questions? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: We're self-governance. That means we get to allocate where our dollars go. It wasn't awarded to the court. Is there more clarification?

Kathleen Bowers: Well, if you look at the paperwork, it says Tribal Courts Program. Program funds for the Tribal Courts Program base increase. It's a one-time distribution of funds.

Councilor Wolfe: That amount doesn't match what you have on your resolution.

Kathleen Bowers: What doesn't match?

Councilor Wolfe: The paper that you just read and quoted says \$31,484. You have \$24,702.

Kathleen Bowers: Where do you see 31,000.

Speaker Burmeister: It matches.

Kathleen Bowers: Oh, we received, we accepted that. That was in 2022. There's a lot of different awards. The one I have highlighted uhm is for 2022-23. Uhm it for the.. Oh, nope that wasn't the right one. Wrong paper. It was for it was awarded on 7-18 for \$24,702.

Speaker Burmeister: Does any Tribal Councilors have any further questions on this? Tribal Citizens, any questions? Okay. Back to Tribal Council. Any further questions? Okay. With no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make the motion to approve Resolution 24-0821-144 Acceptance of Contract Funds from the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs and Approving a Modification of the Operating Budget MB-2024-36 in the amount of \$53,690.

Speaker Burmeister: Any further questions from Tribal Councilors? Back to Citizens. Tribal Councilors? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #2

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----------|------------|-----|----------------|--------------------|
| G. DiPiazza- | Yes | M. Silvis | - | Yes | T. Burmeister- | Yes |
| J. Wolfe | - | No | A. Metzger | - | No | R. Wittenberg - No |
| P. Johnson | - | Yes | S. Wever | - | Yes | S. Crampton- No |

Five in favor, four against. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

- B. Budget Modifications**
- 2. Acceptance of Contract Funds from the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs and Approving a Modification to the Operating Budget MB-2024 in the amount of \$571,096.** Ogema Romanelli and Kathleen have brought this item forward. So, Kathleen, the floor is yours.

Kathleen Bowers: Thank you. Now, this is accepting into the budget uhm \$24,151 in Family Services, \$26,592 in the Education, \$229,849 in the Natural Resource Department, and \$290,504 in Public Safety for a total of \$571,096.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any Tribal Councilors abstaining from this item? Any Tribal Councilors with questions? Any Tribal Citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council. Any questions? With no questions, I'd like to entertain a motion for this item. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If there uh I'd like to make a **motion, Resolution 24-0821-145, Acceptance Contract Funds from U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs and Approving a Modification to the budget or Operating Budget MB-2024-37 in the amount of \$571,096.**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Any Councilors have questions? Tribal Citizens? Back to Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson. Oh, excuse me. Go ahead, Lee. We can't, we can't hear you.

Lee McCaslin: What was the portion to go to Public Safety? And how many Tribal members are employed?

Speaker Burmeister: The amount of Public Safety is \$290,504. You wanted to know how many employees there is?

Lee McCaslin: Um, actually, Tribal Citizens that are, uh, Little River.

Speaker Burmeister: I don't know that answer. Lee can't answer because we don't know how many Tribal Members, Tribal Citizens offhand.

Lee McCaslin: Okay, Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, Recorder Johnson, can you do a roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #3

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| G. DiPiazza- Yes | M. Silvis - Yes | T. Burmeister- Yes |
| J. Wolfe - Yes | A. Metzger - Yes | R. Wittenberg - Yes |
| P. Johnson - Yes | S. Wever - Yes | S. Crampton- No |

Eight in favor, one against. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down on the agenda,

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

There's nothing listed under that. Yeah, Uhm, we have someone that joined us, Bill O'Signac Could you identify yourself, please?

Bill O'Signac: Yeah, Bill O'Signac 3877.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. We have another person, um, iPhone Guest. Could you please identify yourself? iPhone Guest, please identify yourself.

Greg Walters: Greg Walters, Utility Department

Speaker Burmeister: Um, what is your Tribal ID number?

Greg Walters: 4775

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, um, C was Approval of Budgeted Expenditure. There's nothing listed under that.

IV. Acceptance of Reports

A. Report of the Tribal Ogema

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Operations Report | <input type="checkbox"/> None Submitted |
| 2. Financial Report | <input type="checkbox"/> None Submitted |

Moving down to

V. Acceptance of Commission Reports

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| A. Binojeeuk Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> None Submitted |
| B. Enrollment Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> None Submitted |
| C. Gaming Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> July 2024 |

Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from this report? Any Tribal Councilors with questions? Any citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council with no further questions. Um, I'd like to entertain a motion. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I would like to **accept the gaming commission report for July 2024**

Recorder Johnson: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Okay any further questions?

Sara Agosa: We can't hear you

Speaker Burmeister: What Sara?

Sara Agosa: I apologize, but we can't hear Julie and then also earlier Councilor Metzger, um, and Councilor Wever's mics. We couldn't hear either. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Any further questions from citizens? Councilors? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #4

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|----------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| P. Johnson - | Yes | S. Wever - | Yes | S. Crampton- | Yes |
| M. Silvis - | Yes | T. Burmeister- | Yes | G. DiPiazza- | Yes |
| A. Metzger- | Yes | R. Wittenberg- | Yes | J. Wolfe- | Yes |

Nine in favor. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Moving down under Commission Reports

D. Health Commission **None Submitted**

E. Housing Commission **July 2024**

Would there be any Tribal Councilors that are going abstain from these minutes? Any Tribal Councilors with questions? Citizens with questions? Tribal Council questions? With no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please.

Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If there's no other questions or concerns, I'd like to make a **motion to accept the Housing Commission meeting for July 2024.**

Councilor Wolfe: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Are there any questions from Councilors? Citizens? Back to Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for these minutes, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #5

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|----------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| M. Silvis - | Yes | T. Burmeister- | Yes | G. DiPiazza- | Yes |
| A. Metzger- | Yes | R. Wittenberg- | Yes | J. Wolfe- | Yes |
| S. Wever- | Yes | S. Crampton- | Yes | P. Johnson- | Yes |

Nine in favor. They've been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

F. Natural Resources Commission **July 2024**

Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from these minutes? Any Councilors with questions? Any citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council? With no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make a **motion to acceptance of commission report for Natural Resource Commission for July 2024.**

Speaker Burmeister: Any questions from Councilors? Citizens? Back to Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you please do roll call?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #6

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| A. Metzger- Yes | R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe- Yes |
| S. Wever- Yes | S. Crampton- Yes | P. Johnson- Yes |
| T. Burmeister- Yes | G. DiPiazza- Yes | M. Silvis- Yes |

Nine in favor. They've been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

G. Little River Holdings LLC ☐ May & June 2024

Uhm these have been moved to closed. Are we doing the open first and then the close closed? Okay, so actually we have the open minutes. Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from these minutes? Hmm?

Councilor Metzger: (Inaudible)

Speaker Burmeister: They're both together.

Councilor Wolfe: Did they send edited?

Speaker Burmeister: No, I asked for edited ones and they did not send them. I think so too.

Councilor Metzger: They can't be submitted (Inaudible)

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah right, right, right. So uhm we can postpone those. Yeah, we can accept okay. Okay so we are going to. We have them.

Councilor DiPiazza: (Inaudible)

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, all right, so moving down to six acceptance of committee minutes. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger. Pardon me. Go ahead.

Councilor Metzger: I'd like to make a **motion to postpone the Little River Holdings LLC minutes for May and June. Open.**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from these items? Any discussion from Tribal Council? Back to cit.. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Yeah, one of the reasons I'd like this postponed is because closed minutes are included with the open minutes and those cannot be released to the public at this time. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: And I also have sent them an email to separate them too. So EDC, I

sent the email too. So just for the record. Okay, uhm citizens questions back to Council. Okay, with no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #7

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| M. Silvis- Yes | T. Burmeister- Yes | G. DiPiazza- Yes |
| A. Metzger- Yes | R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe- Yes |
| S. Wever- Yes | S. Crampton- Yes | P. Johnson- Yes |

Nine in favor.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, moving down to

VI. Acceptance of Committee Minutes and Other Entities

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

Moving down to

VII. Old Business

- A. **Acceptance of grant funds from Inter-Tribal of Michigan 2024/2025 Native Connections and approving A modification to the Operating Budget MB-2024-___ In the amount of \$ 70,000.**

Ogema Romanelli, Kathleen and Kim Hinmon have brought this item forward. So uhm, Kim was you going to represent? Okay, thank you. So, you have the floor.

Kim Hinmon: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Uhm, this is just a continuation of the five-year grant that we have uhm joined Intertribal Council with. Uh so this is just accepting the funds so that we can continue business as usual.

Speaker Burmeister: Go Ahead Kathleen

Kathleen Bowers: Uhm I am just going to ask if this could be postponed one more week. Uhm there's some things that came up that I'd like to investigate further. So, I'm just asking for a postponement.

Speaker Burmeister: Uh hmm. Are you okay?

Kim Hinmon: Okay, so I guess we're going to look at postponing.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, Councilor DiPiazza had his hand up and you had your hand up. So go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Just I was going to make the **motion to postpone this item.**

Kim Hinmon: Al, did you have a question that I can answer?

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah, your question.

Councilor Metzger: Postpone it even though. You're bringing this forward, right?

Kim Hinmon: Yes.

Councilor Metzger: Even though you didn't know it was going to postpone it until now?

Kim Hinmon: uhm well, I had requested to postpone it previously. Uhm and so, I'm not I'm not unfamiliar with the reasons why. Uhm, I'm not or I am unfamiliar with the reasons why today, but I'm okay with it. I'm absolutely.

Councilor Metzger: Okay, that's all I wanted to clarify was that.

Kim Hinmon: Yep, no problem.

Councilor Metzger: All right. Thank you.

Kim Hinmon: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Uhm, thank you. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Okay, any Councilors that have questions? Any citizens that have questions? Kathleen, you have your hand up. Go ahead.

Kathleen Bowers: Sorry, I forgot to lower my hand.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, That's okay. Back to Tribal Council. Okay. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #8

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| T. Burmeister- Yes | G. DiPiazza- Yes | M. Silvis- Yes |
| R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe- No | A. Metzger- No |
| S. Crampton- Yes | P. Johnson- Yes | S. Wever- Yes |

Seven in favor, two against. It's been postponed.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you Kim. Okay moving down to
B. Operations Report **June 2024**

This has been postponed. Moving down to

VIII. New Business

A. Imposing restriction on all funding of the tribe from being utilizing, dedicated, or expended for Muskegon Gaming Proposal.

Councilor Wolfe has brought this item forward. So, Councilor Wolfe, the floor is yours.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. Uhm so, this is a resolution that's imposing restriction on all funding of the tribe from being utilized, dedicated, or expended from for the Muskegon Gaming proposal. Tribal Council is acting to preserve and protect the highest standards of fiscal responsibility in order to inspire public confidence and trust. Um the reasons why this is being brought forward by me um the Ogema's failure to manage the

economic affairs enterprises property both real and personal and other interests of the tribe consistent with ordinance resolutions enacted by Tribal Council has caused an unstable economic climate of the tribe. The Tribal Ogema has constantly engaged in actions what upsurge Tribal Council's constitutional duty to manage any funds within exclusive control of the tribe whereas fiscal year 2024 operating budget has a significant shortfall of 4.2 million dollars which has been allocated from the general fund. Whereas fiscal year 2024 casino distributions are less than projected and there's an uncertainty of gaming distribution. Whereas the monthly financial reports are not current we only have its August we've only received through March. We have April that's been um postponed twice for us to receive that report. Whereas fiscal year 2025 budget drafts have been asked to be submitted with a 10 percent reduction from the fiscal year 2024 budget and then on August 1st in the 2025 annual budget hearing presented to tribal members the proposed budget by the Ogema contains a significant deficit of \$3,104,499. Whereas Tribal Council finds adoption of this resolution and content contents contained herein will provide for the public health peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Little River Band and its members. Um so it's restricting any tribal funding from being utilized, dedicated or expended for the Muskegon gaming proposal and it will remain in full force in effect until such time Tribal Council repeals modifies or replaces this resolution.

Speaker Burmeister: thank you. Um will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? any councilors with questions? tribal citizens? I see we have a citizen that has her hand up go ahead Kim.

Kim McClellan: Julie, I thank you for bringing this forward this is very important um to our tribe and this should have been happening quite a long time ago thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: thank you any other citizens? go ahead Lee.

Lee McCaslin: yeah, I'm in way supportive of this because it's at a risk and the position that it's holding so at risk um we've risked a lot of things in our lifetimes and uh one of those things are exactly what this is laid out to be an at risk so that's what I wanted to share there.

Speaker Burmeister: thank you go ahead Ogema Romanelli

Ogema Romanelli: thank you I saw this come up on the agenda I have to say that much of what councilor Wolfe has put forward is incorrect and the courts have ruled uh that have that state very much against what is uh being proposed but again I turn it over to the council to vote it up or down thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: k. Thank you go ahead councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Just to clarify none of the whereas is what I read are incorrect those are all accurate information, and this is to create transparent public confidence and trust in your tribal council all of those are facts thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: thank you next in the queue is councilor Crampton go ahead please.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, everything that uh councilor Wolfe has stated is fact roma Mr. Romanelli has a problem with the truth. A few weeks ago, I asked him in front of the membership where the six million dollars was in escrow, and I needed those numbers he said he would have them to me that day. We have still yet to receive them. I was lied to by him. I was lied to by Dawn McGrady three times about the same subject. So, councilor Wolfe forgot to mention there's six million dollars missing and Mr. Romanelli talking about the court their court ruling stands until I think you all learned that just recently until council put something in place. So this was overriding ruling because there's nothing in place now so there's no ruling that could affect it but he is absolutely a liar and if you want to look back three weeks ago um you'll see the video where I asked him for the escrow numbers he said you'll have them today. We have yet to receive them that's a liar. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Crampton can you just state the fact without keep saying a liar, liar just state.

Councilor Crampton: no, I can't because he lied.

Speaker Burmeister: well just please state the facts. okay um are you finished?

Councilor Crampton: He was okay he was untruthful, thank you there you go.

Speaker Burmeister: okay we are moving on to go ahead Kim.

Kim McClellan: These are questions uh for Mr. Larry Romanelli. What is incorrect about what Julie stated? and then.

Ogema Romanelli: Want me to.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead

Kim McClellan: And then. oh yeah, he can answer it and then I got another.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, go ahead Kim why don't you um

Kim McClellan: Finish.

Speaker Burmeister: you can finish your questions.

Kim McClellan: okay and the other thing is is um to Mr. Romanelli how much money that's coming from the casino I don't understand how you can run the government on just \$30,000 that we received, and the budget hearing was truly sad for our tribe. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay go-ahead Ogema.

Ogema Romanelli: I didn't understand part of the last part something about \$30,000 running the government maybe I heard it wrong.

Speaker Burmeister: No Kim could you restate that please?

Kim McClellan: with the money coming from the uh casino there was only 30,000 that was uh given to the government side. I don't understand how you can run a government on just little dollars even if it was that low amount that a lot of these um departments are run by the tribal dollars not um grants. So I'm not sure how the money is coming forward to run these departments and the people that are you know like the cost of living that you just gave out and different things within the tribe is a lot of money

Ogema Romanelli: Oh, I think I can answer that. I think what she's talking about with the \$30,000 was what came across during uh the early months of this year I may be wrong, but I think that's what she's talking about. Every year we are very aware of the uh money that comes in from the casino in our worst months it's usually in the snow time snow period and those numbers are very low. We already calculate as best we can understanding that any revenue from the government from the resort is an estimate. We don't go off from the follow the previous year, we have to go on an estimated average uh to date. I believe we're above average for this year. Uh so I I don't know what the first part of her question was. Now I kind of missed it but okay. I guess what was what was wrong with what was stated by councilor Wolfe. The issue we have here is that up till now we've had revenue that comes from the resort based off from the brick and mortar. Several years ago four or five years ago online gaming came into effect that did kind of uh take some from the brick and mortar and so now we have to look at both of those as revenue from the resort. What we do with our revenue allocation plan is is allocated is the money from the machines coming over is what we have to give to the government. We now have this other thing which is the 14 million dollars that's been collected over those four or five years that comes in over as revenue is and that's been held into a special fund that is revenue that in part takes from the brick and mortar and we as you know gave out the 14 million. Council gave out the 14 million, make sure. um that gave out the 14. Okay. That 14 million dollars was revenue from the resort. What happens here is that that 14 million dollars and I think it was stated in the meeting. I think it was June 26th where council gave it out. I asked that they not give out the 14 million dollars if they were to prove it to take 2-4 million dollars and put it back into our programs for funding. What we're talking about with what uh Miss Hinmon brought up earlier is a lack of funding in the departments we're having it within other departments too. You cannot keep the same rate of income coming in and we're doing everything we can to keep that up while employee costs go up and and employee costs go up and the cost of goods go up. So there's every need we have to uh help out the departments with extra funding I think it should have come from the online gaming in part. When you give out that revenue the revenue the other revenue is 50% to the tribal members and 50% into the government. When you give out the total 14 million dollars that's not 50% that's 100% and that will do

nothing but keep us in a financial bad position in my opinion, so I hope that clarifies part of it anyway thank you.

Kim McClellan: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Um Kim does that um answer your questions?

Kim McClellan: yes, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: okay thank you moving down um next person in the queue is Sara go ahead please.

Sara Agosa: well, I have several concerns first of all I'd like to back up to the financial report. The February 2024 financial report which states in part during the month of February the tribe received a distribution of 29,390 from the casino for January activity which is 670,000 roundabout less than the 700,000 budgeted. For February 2023 the tribe received 462,000 in distribution for activity from January 2023. So, I would like to know why the drop in distribution also I have concerns with the statements Mr. Romanelli made in the budget hearing and I've tried to get clarification from tribal council I know that the budget is being formulated however my questions can be answered just based on these financial reports. Additionally, Mr. Romanelli continues to refer to the online gaming tax reimbursement which is separate from our online gaming still we have not obtained answers where is our online gaming money where is it and where is it in the financial reports if it's being flowed through to the tribal government. Additionally, Mr. Romanelli continues to say that online gaming is taking away from our brick and mortar casino then why does he continue to push for another brick and mortar casino in Muskegon which was brought up in the budget hearing it actually it absolutely makes no sense and I would just like to convey to tribal council especially the five on council who often vote in a way that is not in the best interest of our tribe overall that you are responsible for our fiscal management and to cast your votes with the utmost integrity and ethics and to always think about the welfare and well-being of our tribal members and that just isn't happening those are my comments thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: thank you next in the queue is councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: yeah, I just like to clear up some of the untruths that were told by Mr. Romanelli. Uhm first of all the 14 million is not part of the um gaming proceeds that is through a state compact that's not federal, so it doesn't follow the casino. I don't know how they're um saying that that applies IGRA applies, when there's been a case in Florida proving that it does not, and our own lawyers have told us it does not so he keeps lying to the members and telling them about the 14 million. That was not part of IGRA which is not part of our um casino income but the online gaming. He's taking and he's distributing it out to different parts, so you guys don't understand he's sitting here saying about the distribution he's also running the casino he's not just sitting here waiting for the casino to give it he's the one causing the problems over at the casino and then complaining about the money that's coming across. IGRA does not apply to the online

gaming so that was a lie and the 14 million dollars that he keeps mentioning was not part of the gaming proceeds that comes from a state compact with the governor Gretchen Whitmer so I don't know how dishonest you can get but I mean it's getting bad. Now the six million dollars that I'm talking about the council is fully aware of that puts our casino in jeopardy. We could lose our compact and I like I said I've been lied to by Dawn McGrady three times, and I've been lied to Mr. Romanelli on tape in front of you guys. There is something seriously wrong here every time I've said something economic it's proved right, I'm telling you I am concerned this guy is a bum thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Chuck you are next in the queue. Could you come to the podium so we can hear you Chuck thank you.

Chuck Fisher: thanks, uh Chuck Fisher 1297. Uhm well there are several things uh basically I'm going to begin by uh addressing the statements by both Shannon and uh Sara which were off the point uh what we're talking about is uh postponing.

Councilor Wolfe: No, we are not postponing.

Chuck Fisher: uh or imposing restrictions on all funding of the tribe uh dedicated to trying to move the uh Muskegon uh gaming proposal forward so uh from from being from a generous perspective uh you could say that you know some of these background issues that were brought up uh in an unprofessional manner so to speak uh were uh do have some bearing on the outcome of this. Uh we've heard several people talk about uh you know, how how and why they're in favor of this and uh I would like to say that we have been on this journey for a long time. We have a lot invested in it. We have a lot of money invested in it, we have a lot of time invested in it, we have a lot of future prospects invested in this to shut this down now uh on the is is to close that door it's to close the door on those possibilities. So, uh I don't know I don't know what else to say. I think this would be premature I think it does have a place a little further on down the line as far as I understand this is still in play. I know there's a lot of people who don't think it's going to happen uh but uh Larry has a meeting on Saturday that'll you know uh help clarify all this. I'm going to ask the council to uh postpone this until uh we have a more concrete more concrete information uh regarding the uh disposition of that possibility which is really important to the tribe and its future, and the future of the citizens as well thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. I wrote you down Matt. Okay first of all we have two citizens that have joined us so I would like to them to identify themselves. First one is Salli Wabsis could you please identify yourself?

Salli Wabsis: Good morning Salli Wabsis 3449 thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning thank you. Chelsea Densmore could you please identify yourself?

Chelsea Densmore: Yep Chelsea Densmore 3225.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you okay next in the queue is Councilor Wolfe go ahead please.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. So, the first thing nothing in this resolution that I said is wrong or misleading. We're looking at the unstable economic climate of the tribe I understand that everyone there actually is no Muskegon gaming proposal on the table then other than in February when this body passed the resolution to submit a new application to take the land in trust for gaming, we don't even have that. We cannot build a casino on land that does not have land in trust for gaming our compact does not allow for two facilities one reason we haven't expanded to intern casino because they're not connected that would be two facilities. We don't have a compact amendment on the table there's there's state legislature that says no more gaming in the state of Michigan the governor did not concur when the DOI gave us the go-ahead. I don't know where you think that there's more or where people are getting mis confused or not understanding there's no possibility of a Muskegon casino. Yes, in my heart everything I would vote I want a Muskegon casino I want to see our people prosperous but the reality and the facial facts of it we don't have any more money to invest in this when it's not gonna happen it's not viable. We've heard that we know from legislature that it's not possible. Yes, our lobbyist said Hey we want to make a bunch more money submit another application we're on a fast track that's what happened in February August not one update is that a fast track six months a fast track for anybody not one update on our application. So where are we going with this? This is to protect the financial assets of the tribe transparency put confidence back in your legislators that have the financial responsibility it's in the constitution who has fiscal responsibility the management of the economic affairs the enterprises all has gone down nothing has been profitable under the rule of this Ogema. 4.2 million dollars last year asking for another 3.1 that's 7.5 in two years out of all the money we've saved in the last 20 is spent and out the door just by projections he said we're very aware of what happens in January. Why did you budget it seven hundred thousand dollars over if you know only thirty thousand is what you average you're playing with numbers you're playing with membership the 14 million dollars everyone has already addressed that absolutely correct that is state tax reimbursement money to the tribe that's the citizens money it was restricted for land purchases we see the economic hardships we see the rise in inflation that's why we decide to disperse a stimulus to the membership to help our people we know everyone the Ogema says it himself you're paying more for a loaf of bread you're paying more for milk we gave our employees a three percent raise that stimulus that was our membership's three percent raise they needed that they deserve that none of that's incorrect and that money was restricted for something out so it wasn't going to help the budget it wasn't earmarked for programs. No programs have been brought forward by the executive for those people most in need we've had members assistance with the same program since they were created in what 2004? not even an increase in the dollar amounts for those \$400 doesn't fix a car anymore you lucky if you get one tire for \$400 if you qualify some people don't qualify because they make \$10 too much for the federal poverty guidelines. None none of what I said in here this is to make this tribe stable again to reduce that unstable economic climate of the tribe there's a lot of funding going out there's a lot of

mismanagement. We have uncertainty of gaming distribution we hear it said every time online gaming's clobbering our brick and mortar and we still have renovations that we need over there we still need roof we still need parking lot re-asphalt all those have to come out of somewhere and two years in a row huge amounts we're dipping in our reserves we're dipping in our coffers 7.3 million dollars in two years out of our coffers. That's why I'm bringing this forward this Muskegon gaming proposal yes it's a want it's a wish pipe dream of the tribe it's not a it's not going to happen if we can get back on track and in two to three years where we're doing successful this over here start a 1,000 aliens come and start spending their money at the casino and we make a bunch more money we can go back and re-look at this. This is just for now in the and we make a bunch more money we can go back and re-look at this. This is just for now in the immediate to get us back right-sided that we're not spending all our reserves we don't have grant writers we can't even draw in money for that we're not generating enough income to make this sustainable this is just a temporary this is not forever but right now there's no possibility of a Muskegon gaming proposal a casino getting authorized by the DOI the BIA or the governors plus how do we know the next governor that's going to elect is going to be on board we had three governors that supported it. We didn't get through this is this is not a permanent. Right here my last now therefore it's finally resolved this resolution will remain in full force and effect until such time tribal council repeals modifies or replaces this resolution. The end of the year maybe things will be different maybe next January we won't have so much snow and we'll do we'll get our projected 700,000 distribution not 30k not 30k for February we can look at it again then this is for the last quarter of the year to restrict that money and keep it in our banks keep it in our coffers that's all I have thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you we have quite the line here, so everybody please be patient um councilor Metzger you are next in the queue.

Councilor Metzger: Uh thank you ma'am uh I was going to make a motion but I see there's a lot of hands up, so I'd like to defer back to the to the general uh tribal membership thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay thank you. Recorder Johnson you are next in the queue go ahead please.

Recorder Johnson: Um so I get what's being said and and I understand that but I just have one question and in looking at and thinking about it um there's one thing that I I guess that hasn't actually been said or answered, but how much money has actually been spent since February on this particular item? That's what I need to know. What is the actual dollar amount and I think for public consumption that needs to be stated. What is the dollar amount that has been spent since February? That's it thank you.

Ogema Romanelli: nope

Speaker Burmeister: thank you.

Ogema Romanelli: You would know uh.

Councilor Wolfe: no transparency the Ogema cannot answer and Pam can't answer the seated councilor she's never requested that before there is.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wolfe you weren't in the queue.

Councilor Wolfe: with I can respond was the question to me Pam?

Speaker Burmeister: I didn't no she didn't say it she said it was an open question.

Councilor Wolfe: Put me in the queue I will respond.

Speaker Burmeister: I will do that okay I have you in the queue Ogema also.

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Um councilor Crampton you are next in the queue go ahead.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, I just wanted to address the unprofessional comments of Mr. Fisher I understand that his allegiance and everything, but this is the membership they need to know we can't keep lying to them like

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Crampton why do you have, I have a question why do you have to add that about anybody?

Councilor Crampton: Mr. Fisher said that about me.

Speaker Burmeister: I'm interrupting him because he's being very disrespectful.

Councilor Crampton: He Mr. Fisher said it about me I know I know that you have a bias, but do you have to be quiet when I'm in the queue now he is all.

Chuck Fisher: What about your bias?

Speaker Burmeister: Chuck you're not in the queue. I can

Councilor Crampton: um he stated.

Speaker Burmeister: I know but I can put you in the queue I'm work if.

Councilor Crampton: Mrs. Speaker okay this is my time.

Speaker Burmeister: Without insulting I'm gonna councilor Crampton are you going to speak without insulting?

Councilor Crampton: Speaker it's my time in the queue.

Speaker Burmeister: Crampton, councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: you don't have you cannot this freedom of speech.

Speaker Burmeister: I know but don't insult.

Councilor Crampton: This is listen he insulted me I'm just giving it back to him so you did not warn him

Speaker Burmeister: Okay!

Councilor Crampton: now stop what you're doing your bias. Now what I'm talking about is councilor Wolfe is absolutely correct, council has all the information there is no agreement in place. What we have is the governor said no in February and January or February um the five council members elected it right before the membership meeting. So Mr. Romanelli could state that we're still active which is not if you read the warning all it is, is doing begging the interior and they won't even look at it because there's been no waiver from the government you need a waiver from the governor each time it isn't standing for the full time so no what we have is another dog and pony show just like Saturday. Everything Mr. Romanelli is doing is running this tribe into the ground have you guys' council sits there and looks at it all the time and discusses it. You guys know that he's just running this place into the ground, and he hides things from the membership. We have that gaming capital group he's trying to hide closed we asked that they give a presentation the membership they refuse because they know how.

Speaker Burmeister: We're getting off topic because here this is public comment type things so

Councilor Crampton: no, it isn't we're talking about his management.

Speaker Burmeister: I'm going to move along which is Sara please keep it to the point that we are discussing go ahead Sara.

Councilor Crampton: you are the worst speaker ever.

Sara Agosa: Speaker Burmeister I'd like to request how you maintain meeting decorum because when another member chastises my comment or any any other tribal members comment. Please call a point of order, being truthful and honest isn't being unprofessional and confronting our elected officials to be accountable isn't unprofessional we're seriously on a sinking ship, does the tribe really need to go down in order for members to wake up.

Councilor Crampton: This is the Manistee 500 Bumbs like Tammy

Sara Agosa: Thank you that is my comment.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay our attorney Carrie Frias has joined so Carrie could you please identify yourself.

Carrie Firas: Yes, Carrie Frias attorney

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you next in the queue is councilor Wittenberg go ahead.

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, uh I'm just going by uh concerning uh new business uh A and to me and restricting I am for it turn around when we turn around and when when and if it does that this uh, we got a shot at it, and it's a more positive and then just everything else and what our compact says. That uh I'm all for it and you can bet and you can believe when that day happens that this nation this tribe a Little River Band of Ottawa Indian will come up with the money you can bet that, and so that's where I'm from and also if that happened before that compact let the members know and read into it that we Little River Band of Ottawa Indians we get to share with the rest of the tribes of uh Michigan. I don't know how many have read it or not or anything like that but if that would happen we'll probably get less than what we're getting across the street, but we're the one they're going to be paying the bill to turn around and have that turned around and built down there so the rest of tribes can turn around and we dish them out the money, that's what it says the way I read it in the compact so yes the things need to be changed and it does say about off-reservation gambling look into it read it see what it's uh actually says and uh and then bring it forward to see in your view of it because we all have different views and as you can see we will always have different views uh that's that's my opinion Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you Matt Chandler I have you next in the queue.

Matt Chandler: Matthew Chandler (Anishinaabemowin) 1687. What um I kind of like looking at the opposite of things and so if uh someone can explain to me if this doesn't pass what is the repercussions of it? what what is the route that we're going that you perceive and causing this action and I think if we can explain what happens if this doesn't pass it may be may make a little bit more sense to those of us that we keep on hearing you know this happened this happened this happened this happened in the past but what is the projection in the future if this doesn't pass Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, okay next in the queue is Kim go ahead please.

Kim McClellan: I forgot to lower my hand I'm so sorry.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you Ogema Romanelli you are next in the queue go ahead please.

Ogema Romanelli: thank you. Uh to answer councilor Johnson's uh question uh there is no clear way to understand how much money has been spent, very little has been spent on

the Muskegon project as we know we co-pay uh for services from our attorneys and from our lobbyists they work for both branches of the government on different issues. So, it's unclear how to project how much has been spent on the Muskegon project uh since February. I about the I would just heard again from councilor Wolfe that this project is not going to happen clearly stating this project will not happen. We've had councilor Crampton state the project is dead we've heard it repeatedly over the last year, year and a half. I can tell you very clearly that is not true the project is not dead. So, when we have elected officials from Little River stating that the project is dead it only hurts to sink that ship and I keep cautioning. Please don't do that. I met with the BIA last week or two weeks ago, I can't remember in Green Bay. I have communications that show that it's an ongoing project from those people that we hire both legislative and executive of the work that we're doing most of this cannot be brought forward. Can I assure this tribe that that casino is going to happen. I cannot never could never have said that it's a sure bet we've invested a lot of money and a lot of time but to continually say from our elected officials that the project is not going to happen and that is dead only hurts our efforts. Now I'm having a meeting on Saturday which was brought up I'm asking you you said that you said that the legislature has not or as. Can I please speak? I know but I can't I can hear that. My apologies but so it was said that the legislature will not approve it uh I want to see that document where the legislature absolutely said they will not approve it because we have not even gone to the legislature yet that would be for a three part or a class three gaming we haven't even got there yet so please show me the document where the legislature uh said they wouldn't approve it. Finally we have Sara Agosa that stated that the way I'm running things is a sinking ship it continues to sink. I just got the court back uh response whereas Sara Agosa and I believe Jolene O'Signac pardon me if I have the wrong O'Signac um yes sure I can but in fact it is not a sinking ship as noted in that court I'll leave it at that thank you very much.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you councilor Wolfe you're next in the queue.

Councilor Wolfe: It's a public law that the Ogema should be aware of. He's saying he has these meetings he has these things going on all those were at expense of the tribe. Hard to calculate when they're not recorded as that none of that updates have been given to tribal council of that gaming to trust application, no financial accountability from the Ogema has been given to tribal council. We're at August 21st and we only have financial reports through March that have been accepted, that is available to membership those are the unstable factors and things of the tribe why we're imposing this. No money needs to be expended to go move forward with the Muskegon casino proposal Muskegon gaming proposal however you want to call it at this time. Distribution what was projected from the casino for 2025, 20 million 222 dollars 204 dollars the budget brought by forward by the Ogema for 2025, 25 million 729 614 dollars. No grant writer since April some of that's not even real those numbers aren't there, we're not going to get those grant dollars in that one that's postponed today 70,000 dollars none of it is it that's all for a staff person, no services no uh supplies to have classes no supplies for prevention activities. Only salary wages and fringes and still going to need a supplement to cover those because of the three percent raise for that employee to make budget on that to pay her, her whole wage so we're just paying her for office work no outreach no

programming. There's other budgets available tribal dollars sure the casino distribution makes us for a 3.1 million 400 499 deficit that's why I'm imposing a restriction. That communication isn't clear we didn't know he was meeting with the BIA two weeks ago; did he have anyone from the legislative go and see and bring that information back to us if he didn't want to share. No. That's what we're doing we're protecting the assets of the tribe for the tribal membership bringing forward and imposing this restriction. There's nothing on the books I can say dead I can say it's not going to happen we all know we didn't get concurrence we all know we after that we put a resolution forward to take that land into trust for non-gaming. Guess what a car salesman does? guess what our lobbyists did? guess what our attorney did? We have another chance do it do it it's a fast track; hurry up we got to move on this. February dead in the water. We're not moving nowhere it's protecting the assets of the tribe it's protecting the tribal memberships money. This money ain't mine. I ain't trying to keep it from Larry if we could if we could have it every way we wanted. I'd give them a blank check, but reality is that's not going to help or benefit our people. We're saddling our next even if this moves forward we're saddling the next seven generations with 280 million dollars' worth of debt to build that facility and if it's managed like across the street and we get a distribution of 30,000 for January how are we going to make ends meet? how are we going to even make the payments? it was viable at one time 2012 yeah it was a support just like councilor Wittenberg said if it came to us and they said here's all your boxes are checked go ahead and do it. We do it you know what we did when the governor said no? The Ogema by himself illegally stopped our payment in lieu of taxes the 6 million dollars Crampton's talking about missing. We didn't pay that to the state. You think the state wants to work with us when we just took away all their funding? you think they're going to say go ahead and move Little River we believe in you. Plus, it's the governor's last term. We got to go lobby the governor all over again that's the reason this is in place. We know how much lobbying costs; we know what we're paying for. No accurate accounting because it's not specific. We sent three people to meet with the BIA partners in action; not one person from the legislative went. We didn't just send three people we sent the three highest paid people of the tribe to that conference. It's all kinds of things in here this is the financial instability climate what this is being brought forward that's what this proposal is for to change it to make this happen. We can't just keep putting our money down putting our money down putting our money down wishing and wishing. We all want to be prosperous. We all think fast money with the casino; there's other ventures out there we can invest in. We've been unsuccessful in a lot of our ventures this is another one that to date is unsuccessful Kern Valley, Diversity Network, Muschigon construction there's a list of them and guess what the end of the day we're not generating revenue. Our EDC doesn't have a dividend plan for the tribe. We've invested millions dollars in property. We don't have a grant writer to draw in and expand program and services. The other tribes are clobbering us because they're taking all the money because we're not applying for them. We just keep going with reoccurring we don't even check and see if our numbers that we're getting reoccurring that the BIA tells us are accurate to our population. Housing. Well, they told us it was 382 but it's not then Tara came back when after I asked that question yeah, we can get it bumped up, we can get more dollars. Those things aren't happening, that's the management we need to be focusing on get this tribe right-sided don't come to us don't present to membership a 3.1 million dollar deficit

and have no way to make it up and keep on asking for spending on the front the 14 million dollar tax team reimbursement that's directly for programs, nothing's been proposed about it except the one I proposed on his recommendation.

Catastrophic relief. When I presented it two weeks after he asked me to, he said I need six months before I can look at it, you wanted it, I wrote it. Gave it to you six months before you can give me a comment to date. I haven't received one comment. I moved it forward three weeks later said I'll give you two more weeks. Still working on it. Get in language all nine of us are comfortable with to get assistance to members to the most in need, to those people that have a house fire, to those people that get struck by natural disaster. Those where we need to prioritize our dollars and like I said this isn't for all the end of time. This doesn't say indefinitely it says until such time tribal council re-evaluates and looks at it that's our constitutional obligation. That's all this is about. I don't know we can go all over all day of what we want and don't want and wish and don't wish. Right now, there's nothing on the table but expense for the tribe to lobby for a Muskegon gaming proposal and at this time. We're not stable enough to continue down that road. That's my comment thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Chuck did you still want to be in the queue? okay you are next in the queue then.

Chuck Fisher: I'd like to uh thank you Julie for the detailed uh uh very detailed explanation uh that you gave related to this particular item. Uh for the most part and I know you have more information than I do uh that's a given you know. So, I I know that you know uh I'm you know kind of out of the loop on on all of this but uh and I agree with everything that you stated uh largely. The the uh I think I understood that too. Uh so I'm not sure that you know everybody that's you know uh listening or the council or you know uh understands what this is doing you know to the prospects of of actually actualizing uh the endeavor that this impacts and uh it doesn't sound like the Ogema and the council have met together; to you know try to you know come to a common a common understanding uh in terms of working you know through this in order to assure you know um the best outcome. Uh I continue to believe that you know in spite of everything that you said you know this is still uh premature and and closing the door on you know those possibilities as remote as they are. Which you know uh there there's not much in the way of indication you know from from what I know that you know this this is you know something that we can you know we can count on; but we've we've we've we've been betting on this for you know a long time. Uh and you know uh from my from my point of view I think we just need to continue to you know uh see this through uh the I understand the shortfalls. Uh maybe maybe that's just you know the effort could be continued with a you know less of a budget uh but just just dropping it uh uh the the if we just drop it the legislature the governor everything else you know that's that you know in case they come in line if we're not trying to push that forward. That's not going to happen either so uh that's just going to make this harder to uh realize so I'm saying just give it a chance thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Lee you are next in the queue go ahead please.

Lee McCaslin: Yeah, and I am a question uh you know I'm I'm looking at the risk that risk and my name is uh Gailey Crane at birth that's old business. You know and uh that old business of that name change and stuff like that. This is new business and I've always spoke about the health safety and the welfare of our people almost every time and the advanced appropriations that are being distributed that are in the wash you know by the executive branch. Um you know how much of those appropriations get washed over to our members that are uh living hand hand to mouth just barely enough to eat or feed. Um we all know uh incidents back there about that and uh you know it's not about pushing your vote that gma it's about riding your own boat and truly respect um the full council for the distribution that came in time of need. You know um but people are still living out there uh hand to mouth and the one percent back there that are ruling um because I'm just a share owner in this. I'm just a shareholder you know of something that was supposed to be really beautiful come together and old business has already taught me already shown me that that passed. You know right now this new business coming up is absolutely beautiful to take back that bill of rights and uh cross-reference that to our own tribal laws and I appreciate Julie much and all council that's coming together um to take care of more than just the one or two percent back there in Manistee. The the same properties as we all most of us had um provided for this opportunity to take care of ourselves. Um you know 21 years ago came to a fork in the road and uh it's it's there and it's not forgotten um with that I'm I'm totally in support of new business of this nature Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is councilor Crampton go ahead please.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you well I just wanted to point out to the membership that I've had hindsight it's 2020 so you might want to rewatch the video again the BIA does not approve a gaming site. That would be the department of the interior. So, I can I appreciate the Ogema meeting with the BIA that is not approval. There's nothing in Mrs. uh council Wolfe's uh resolution that doesn't say that we can't go back if Mr. Romanelli gets a yes and in fact, I mean I would I'll tell you all right now I will um back it up totally if he gets a yes, but the facts are that we have a no. There is no other answer than no. The governor has publicly stated she wants nothing to do with Little River. This is a first year or I'm sorry a second term issue if you note um this is for the membership's consumption because I know some of the people down there don't get this. Um every governor that's approved and back this up has done so in their second term because it's a hot button issue with the second with the other tribes what they want to do is they want to make the decision and then get out of office. They will not make the decision in the first term of office. This governor is a no-go. The next governor will not even touch it for four years; for four years when we had this up and running and we had the um what was it the shoreline task force? um when we went back and looked at the money that was supposed to be spent, we hadn't we have no way to trace that money because nobody followed anything. Mr. Romanelli and the Shoreline task force they were supposed to have meetings to release money and there's none of that. So, that was terrible mismanagement of that first effort terrible mismanagement. This needs to go in place because this is absolute that casino right now is absolutely dead, and I'll tell you why it's dead for all reasons I just told you. Plus, we need a new feasibility study. Mr. Romanelli is

absolutely scared to death of the feasibility study because what he's working off is one that was contemplated before online gaming any new feasibility study will tell you this is a loser from the get-go; it was a winner until online gaming came in. Now you're brick and mortar. That's all the people from the area that you can drive there. There's people sitting in Mexico right now that are probably gaming on Soaring Eagles at the Eagle and even the people in around the area; do they want to spend the extra 50 bucks to travel to a casino when they can go on an app that costs less than 1 million dollars? oh yeah and Sag Chip is uh gonna bring in a record amount this year they've already been publishing it uh that's off their app. So, I'd back this up totally if we have a feasibility study that says what it's not going to say any feasibility study right now will tell you. I don't know how Mr. Romanelli is selling you these used cars that he is but when he's telling you that we're taking a hit from online gaming across the street go back and watch the tape and what he said why would you want a brick and mortar? and those we need a new feasibility study because those costs of building and the cost of the loan and everything we're all based on old numbers. Now since with the economic crisis the building material has gone up labor has gone up everything's gone up. So, you're going to pay four times what we originally have for something that's not going to make any money because online gaming is going to chew it to pieces. The things that have been said here today are just so irrational from the executive it's you need to watch this tape back and people need to really sit down and think, and that house resolution is house resolution 42 it was passed to say no more off-site gaming. That's why all the rest of the tribes and their new compacts are asking for online gaming. So, it's house resolution 42 thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you councilor Metzger you are next in the queue.

Councilor Metzger: I would still like to make a motion. **I'll make a motion to accept resolution 24-0821-146 imposing restriction on all funding and tribes from being utilized, dedicated, or expanded for the Muskegon gaming proposal.**

Councilor Wolfe: support

Councilor Wever: Speaker don't we have two in the

Speaker Burmeister: Sorry about that he made the motion, so we have to go back and and there's.

Councilor Wever: Oh

Speaker Burmeister: Future comments here so I will be calling on those people.

Councilor Wever: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you so um let's see here Sara you're next in the queue. Then I have the Ogema after Sara. So go-ahead Sara.

Sara Agosa: I just need to respond to Mr. Romanelli's reference of a court order. That we have a chance to respond. That's my comment thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead Ogema.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay thank you. Just I I think we spent a lot of time on this and as I suggested you know just voted up or down, I appreciate uh councilor Metzger bringing it to that point. A few things that I I need to cover and again uh these statements are made. Councilor Crampton just said that the governor wants nothing to do with little River Band of Ottawa Indians. That this will not happen future governor who we don't know. I'd like to see that in writing where the governor said that please because when you make a statement like that it's it's crucial. Also, said that the legislature will not approve Little River's uh interest I'd like to see that document. I'm not aware of either one of those. We talk about past investments whether it be the tribe out west or the call center or Muschigon those all happened before this Ogema, and it was stated by councilor Wolfe that the top three employees of the tribe top three paid employees of the tribe went to Green Bay and met with a BIA. Please provide that information to show that because I know that not to be correct. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um actually councilor Wolfe you were I have you written down if you still have a comment.

Councilor Wolfe: So, one thing for clarification that was a conference BIA partners in action that was for tribal consultation again none of the legislator was invited. Why I say the top three paid of the tribe Ogema Romanelli, chief of staff, tribal manager those are the three that traveled there. Maybe they're not the highest paid but they're definitely not the three lowest paid. When we look at this resolution it is just now to bring back a financial economic climate to the tribe, stability for today. Budget season is coming September 15th we're going to get the proposed budget from the Ogema right now has a 3.1-million-dollar deficit projections from the casino, 20 million dollars for 2025 all those are factors. Who would do their personal finances like this? who would use their lifetime savings to go on a dream project that we have no concurrence, we have no agreement. We have a pending application, and you know why we have a pending application because at the bottom of our rejection letter it said if circumstances change. The tribe circumstances hasn't changed the state of Michigan's chances hasn't changed but we went after it again. We took another bite of the apple for what? to put the debt on the next seven generations a debt a huge debt and we're already dipping in our coffers 7.2 in the last two years it's a lot of ways we can generate revenue outside of a casino. We missed the bucket on cannabis. We missed the bucket every month on third party billing. We don't capture all our health care dollars. We don't capture all our housing dollars because we go with status quo. We go with the numbers that are there, when we do something, we do it that's how we've always done it. This is about bringing a positive change for the entire tribe. This is looking at my fiduciary responsibility, that's why I proposed this. There's one, two, three, four, five deficits that I clearly showed you where we're sitting in an uneconomic. It's unstable. No plan came forward and said hey we're going to bring in five grant writers. We try to get grant writers. We called them strategic

planners. 2021 voted down didn't happen. There's all kinds of things we can do to generate revenue, we're not doing it. I'm ready to move on the motion.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Crampton you are next and then we are going to take the vote on the motion that's on the floor. Go ahead please.

Councilor Crampton: Okay thank you. Uh yeah Mr. Romanelli set up a meeting with I think it was called the Charette group and then he left the room. Uh we were all sitting there when Mr. Charette told us the governor wants nothing to do with this so that's uh that's uh just one of the truths that I'm trying to get through the membership and councilor Wolfe brought up a very good um point and something that's been disturbing me greatly. Mr. Romanelli has not only turned in a deficit for the last years he's actually depleting our coffers what we've saved. He's mismanaged for two years, and he's done it so badly that now he's going after our savings. You guys this is not happening in any other tribe. That he would have been removed long time ago if there weren't five people on council, they agree with everything. You're about to learn some things about the last vote they took without a legal review that I don't think any you'll be surprised that it was that and talk about unprofessional. Then there's a couple other ones that you're going to learn too. Mrs. Wolfe is trying to save this tribe and I wholeheartedly agree and I'm telling you go back and look. You can all yell and and say what you want to say. Every time I've said economically it's been absolutely correct. Mr. Romanelli has nothing but hyperbole and lies. House resolution 42 the BIA does not approve compacts, the interior does. Six million dollars is missing. There's no escrow account. We're three million dollars in deficit this year, four million dollars last year. It'll be worse next year. You got a guy that's going on one end running the casino and then coming over here and complaining about how that is horrible you guys. Do you guys see the flim flam game that's being run. If you were absolutely if you knew anything about business and you like you said, we all know that that's our downtime you would be prepared for that. Maybe some layoffs heck no go back and look who all they were hiring and for what salaries and what benefits. That's horrible mismanagement horrible mismanaging. The fact that Mr. Romanelli does not even know that the 14 million dollars was not part of gaming revenue and can never be at the casino is another fact and members need to consider somebody that unknowledgeable of business should not be in that position and the fact that we are just we are into the ground folks. I thought I'd never say this he's running this tribe into the ground. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay we have a motion on the floor um brought forward by councilor Metzger supported by councilor Wolfe. So, recorder Johnson can you do roll call for the item please.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #9

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| S. Crampton- | Yes | P. Johnson- | No | S. Wever- | No |
| G. DiPiazza- | No | M. Silvis- | No | T. Burmeister- | No |
| J. Wolfe- | Yes | A. Metzger- | Yes | R. Wittenberg- | Yes |

Speaker Burmeister: It failed.

Councilor Johnson: Four in favor five against its failed.

Speaker Burmeister: Moving down under new business.

B. Indian Health Services Funding Safety Grate-back-up Generator.

Ogema Romanelli, Gary Lewis and Greg Walters have brought this item forward, so the floor is yours Gary.

Gary Lewis: Thank you everyone. So, this is to um this is initial stages of an MOA so normally we wouldn't actually be here but there's a dollar amount attached to this, and I didn't feel comfortable committing the tribe to cost share without having a resolution done prior to that. Um so generically we would just sign this, and this gets the ball rolling for IHS to come back with an actual MOA and costs and then there would be acceptance of funds but because there is a cost share in this one I brought it forward first before I actually signed it and so this is to install a safety grate and a backup generator for the housing um lift station. The cost is \$3,151 to us.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? councilors with questions? Go ahead councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, madam speaker, uh yesterday I kind of caught that you have two buildings that are not residential that affects the cost and one of those buildings is the

Councilor Wittenberg: Maintenance.

Councilor Metzger: Housing maintenance.

Gary Lewis: Correct.

Councilor Metzger: Is that correct?

Gary Lewis: Correct.

Councilor Metzger: Isn't that part of the residential project?

Gary Lewis: No so they don't they don't they just consider it like the um the dwelling itself that's for occupancy for living so of the houses we have there they separated the pavilion and um the maintenance, maintenance garage itself because you can't live in there.

Councilor Metzger: So, the maintenance garage has its own lift station?

Gary Lewis: No that's it it feeds into the lift station from there but IHS as far as funding they only fund uh dollars for homes so because that's not a home that's not included and

so generically um, they won't fund anything. So, if the casino was part of this and the casino is 98% of our flow they would only fund that 2% so it'd be they would only fund 2% of the 135,000 and we'd have to come up with the rest but in this case there's only two dwellings that aren't homes if that makes sense, I hope I explained that good.

Councilor Metzger: Well, I'm trying to figure it out you know because it does it is tied in.

Gary Lewis: It is tied in yep so; the the pavilion has a restroom in there as well and that goes to the lift station but for IHS funding they won't fund that because it's not an actual dwelling.

Councilor Metzger: All right thank you for that clarification, Gary.

Gary Lewis: In this case it's reversed 99% of the flow is from houses and the other 1% or whatever it comes out to is not from homes.

Councilor Metzger: Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: (Inaudible)

Gary Lewis: Correct.

Councilor DiPiazza: (Inaudible)

Gary Lewis: Correct.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other councilors with questions? tribal citizens with questions? back to council? go ahead councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Mike was uh. Well, make a **motion to approve resolution 24-0821-147 gratification of utility department request and application to Indian health service for a backup generator for the lift station and safety gates.**

Councilor Wever: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Any further questions from council? councilor DiPiazza did you say gates or grates?

Councilor DiPiazza: grates.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Councilor DiPiazza: **Safety grates.**

Speaker Burmeister: Okay any further questions from councilors?

Councilor DiPiazza: Said gates but.

Speaker Burmeister: Citizens? back to council? okay with no further questions recorder Johnson can you do a roll call for this item please.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #10

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| G. DiPiazza- Yes | M. Silvis- Yes | T. Burmeister- Yes |
| J. Wolfe- Yes | A. Metzger- Yes | R. Wittenberg- Yes |
| P. Johnson- Yes | S. Wever- Yes | S. Crampton- Yes |

nine in favor it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you Gary.

Gary Lewis: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Moving down under new business.

C. Adopting the Membership Meeting Procedures Ordinance

this has been postponed. Next item is D approving the budget modification hmm oh I'm sorry Chuck.

Chuck Fisher: (Inaudible)

Speaker Burmeister: No a date hasn't been established because our attorneys have to um, we have to review the comments with the attorney.

D. Adopting the Budget- Appropriations- Act-of-2013-100-04.

This one also has been postponed. Moving down to

E. Approval for Councilor Wolfe to attend Indian Gaming association's mid-year conference & Expo 9/16- 9/18 in Tulalip WA.

councilor Wolfe brought this item forward, so the floor is yours.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. So, this is for myself to attend the Indian gaming association mid-year conference and expo it's a place for leaders in the tribal gaming community. I'm going on behalf of the gaming commission as their liaison for tribal council. Um what it does is it offers learning networking and sharing ideas on the topics in gaming. I'm going to be taking commissioner training level three it is scheduled for Tulalip Washington September 16th through 18th. Um some of the topics there that I went over in the work session um seeds of sovereignty, cannabis in Washington I think that will help us we've defaulted on that because it's legally through state but illegal federal. So, if we see some of the processes other tribes are doing to implement that may be something we can look forward to, plenary note green energy and in Indian country, and plenary note on Wednesday integrating ai and gaming operations and then it has breakout sessions um for navigating state compact negotiations. We'll be up for compact

negotiations in 2024. Um again talking about cannabis solutions for tribes they have um leading the green energy movement opportunities for opportunities for tribes, innovation future innovations and emerging technologies um tribal casino and security um with data and IA enabled marketing overview and efficiency and security on player engagement. no one from the commission is able to attend the conference. So, I will be bringing that back and sharing with them the materials I receive out there and this is my uh travel dollars that are allocated in the budget for 2024 that I will be using. So, it'll be coming out of tribal council's budget and that's all I have.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? any councilors oh councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I'm going to abstain.

Speaker Burmeister: Any councilors with questions? any citizens with questions? back to council? go ahead um councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Yeah, I see no questions or comments out there, so I'd like to make a motion.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, the speaker never called for comments. She called for questions. So, I was waiting for the comments. I fully support this is council Wolfe is our um gaming uh commission liaison and she needs to be up on this. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: okay we have a motion on the floor from councilor Metzger made the motion is there a second on that motion?

Councilor Wever: support

Speaker Burmeister: we probably should vote on the abstention. Yes, let's do that first um okay councilor Wolfe has abstained so we need to do a vote on that abstention. who would like to entertain a motion? go ahead councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Yes, thank you ma'am I'd like at this time I'd like to **make a motion to vote on the abstain the abstention of councilor member Wolfe from this item.**

Councilor Wever: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: okay um any question anybody going to abstain from this abstention? that's okay um councilors with questions on the abstention? councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: So, is there any financial gain with you going to this or is it the only reason you'd abstain, is if there's a financial gain or pleasure it's a pleasure trip? instead of a business trip just my concern.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other councilors with comments? go ahead councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: yeah just after that disturbing and very unprofessional comment if the membership looks back on every time a council member has traveled for the last 20 years 20 years they have abstained.

Councilor DiPiazza: mm nope

Councilor Crampton: so maybe, maybe um councilor DiPiazza wasn't at those meetings because he's rarely there but yeah that's exactly how it goes and that's exactly how this.

Sandy Mezeske: Not true

Councilor Crampton: tribal council in the past um excuse me speaker could you have your friends your family stop commenting thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor DiPiazza you had your hand up go ahead.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well yeah that's not how it's been going for the however long he said so because people have voted on their own travel. So so no it's it's fine and why do I have to listen to the insults? I've been trying to be decent and to be above that it's very difficult but because I I'm a better person I guess, and I can sleep better, and everybody holds me to a higher standard amazing anyways.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead.

Councilor DiPiazza: Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: thank you madam speaker. Uh council member Wolfe I find the action that that that you're proposing very honorable and transparency. You know I can see the conflict that this council has at times amongst itself and to offer a no vote or an abstention is honor. I want to say Chi Miigwech to council member Wolfe.

Speaker Burmeister: thank you go ahead councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, contradicting someone is not um being unprofessional in fact it's the absolute truth and the councilors have abstained because at the end of your closeout unless I'm mistaken you will get money that is not spent and that's the policy of the tribe, as far as I know to date only a couple council members have returned that

money and one being me. In fact, it was the very first one to do so. I went down to Mrs. Gamelin and said how? we're getting this? and she said yes everybody who takes a trip gets the money that's left over, and I said that's not right, and I returned the money. She had a hard time finding a form to do it and I said what's the problem? she goes you're the first one to ever do it. So that's usually why councilors abstain thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you okay we have a motion on the floor recorder Johnson can you do roll call for this motion?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #11

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| A. Metzger - Yes | R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe- abstain |
| S. Wever - Yes | S. Crampton - Yes | P. Johnson- Yes |
| T. Burmeister- Yes | G. DiPiazza - No | M. Silvis- Yes |

Seven in favor, one against, one abstention her abstention's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Um so I'd like to entertain a motion, but Al did it, but we don't have a second.

Councilor Metzger: Shirley yeah.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, Shirley you did? Okay. All right. Any further discussion on that from council? Okay, citizens? Back to council. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: So just to clarify for anybody who's confused, if I have it right, we just voted on the abstention. So, she can? we're voting on the trip? or we're voting on the abstention?

Speaker Burmeister: Now we're voting on approval of her to attend.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Mm hmm you're welcome. Okay, um Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #12

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| P. Johnson- Yes | S. Wever- Yes | S. Crampton- Yes |
| M. Silvis- Yes | T. Burmeister- Yes | G. DiPiazza- Yes |
| A. Metzger- Yes | R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe- Abstain |

Eight in favor, one abstention. Enjoy.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, we are on

IX. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, August 28, 2024

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

Ogema Romanelli, the floor is yours. Thank you.

Ogema Romanelli: I just have one item. I want to announce that to the membership that I am having a meeting Saturday at 1pm. In this lodge room, it will be recorded, and zoom will be available for listening purposes only. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Excuse me, Ogema. What is the purpose of this meeting?

Ogema Romanelli: Yes, the purpose of this meeting is are there is a lot of information going around, whether it's on Facebook or within the government center or on the street that I would like to have clarified. I've invited others. You're welcome to come and let's produce documents behind the statements because a lot of times there's information going out without documentation. As I stated earlier, I'd like to see the document where the legislature has turned down our um Muskegon Casino project. I would like to see the statement where the governor said she does nothing, wants nothing to do with Little River. And I'd like to see this statement, the document that shows that the top three paid employees of the government went to Green Bay. For example, there is the ethnicity question on me that's been thrown around for 17 years uh that I am not tribal, and I would like to see the documentation and I will produce if they produce their documentation, I would absolutely produce mine. One thing I have to mention is the problem with when you say that, especially for the Ogema of a tribe, that that person is not Native American, you talk about creating ill will towards a tribe, that's what you do. We know that the 100% audit is coming up or trying to be brought up and passed. We know that a statement has been made by an elected official that says pretty much half of the tribe should be gone if we did the audit. Those are very, very damaging statements. I'm offering up myself to be the first one that you look at. Just bring the documentation and I will put that rumor to rest. The proper way to do it is to do a mistake of fact with the enrollment board, but apparently that's not the way these people like to deal with it. So just bring the documentation that's been carried around for 17 years and let's get through it. There are other major questions and concerns that are thrown out there and let's let the members see and let's speak face-to-face. That's what the reason is for the meeting.

Councilor Metzger: Miigwech.

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you for the personal invite.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Councilor Crampton. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Well, despite that, unless the members haven't been paying attention for the last 20 years, Mr. Romanelli does it before every election to try and throw shade on people he doesn't like. It's usually an informational meeting or something like that. There's nothing going to be hashed out. It's a dog and pony show. He stood on stage and said 100% audit, bring it, and then acted like he was terrified and fought against it as hard as he could. Just elect. Let's um do this. Let's pass the enrollment audit because other tribes don't have ah saying things about their Ogema because their Ogema doesn't fight an enrollment audit and five of its council members don't run like they're scared to death. That's what happens in other tribes. No, I won't be attending any dog and pony show that proves nothing or you're just your election campaign thing and it should be looked at as an election interference. He does this every time there's an election. He's fooling no one. He's mismanaged this thing into the ground. He's looking for an escape. Let's just do the enrollment audit. How about this, Mr. Romanelli? Uh let's do the enrollment audit. Me and you are the first ones. Me and you. Other than that, have fun Saturday.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Sara.

Sara Agosa: In response, I'd just like to say that Mr. Romanelli controls the documentation. Additionally, information requests go unanswered. So how can we provide documentation if we can't even get our information requests fulfilled? In response to Mr. Romanelli's enrollment, if there's controversy around your enrollment, just show your documentation. There doesn't have to be a match. Just show it. Put the rumors to rest. That's what any other tribal chairperson would do. I'm really concerned about this meeting. In addition, I saw the announcement and it appears as though you will not allow us to interact in the meeting. You've shut us out, the majority of the tribe, once again. And it appears as though Zoom will not be utilized. And that's just absolutely not okay. That is not a proper meeting when over half of the tribe can't even interact. So, I don't think a lot of people really want to participate in this meeting. Thank you. That is my comment.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Lee. Go ahead please.

Lee McCaslin: Yeah, is that invitation open to the press? Um to the Ogema? Does that extend to the to the press coverage?

Councilor Wever: He said no.

Speaker Burmeister: Lee, I don't know, but he said no.

Lee McCaslin: Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Yeah, um this is an obvious dog and pony show. How much is it going to cost the tribe to do Mr. Romanelli's campaign thing that he does every

year? Like I've said before, there's a cost associated with this. And usually, it's an informational meeting right before an election so he can try and protect the people that protect him on council. And he can run out the people that actually want for things. You see who he's named. He does it constantly. The problem here is Mr. Romanelli has become the uncle who does the finger trick. The first time you see it, it's kind of like amazing. After the third or fourth time, you're kind of like, um yeah. So yeah, that's all I want to say about Mr. Romanelli. And I won't be there for your dog and pony show, so have fun.

Sandy Mezeske: Called gaslighting.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, your next Ogema.

Ogema Romanelli: I'm sorry. Uh heck, I forgot why I came up here. I really did. (Laughing)

Councilor Metzger: The question about the press that Mr. McCaslin

Ogema Romanelli: Oh, yeah, I'm sorry. The press will not be invited. The press is not invited. (laughing) I'm sorry. Some of the comments that come out, you know, unbelievable. But thank you for allowing me to respond.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, we are moving down to

C. Legislative Affairs Update

1. Tammy Burmeister

I'm listed first and I don't have any updates for this week. Recorder

2. Pam Johnson

Your next on the list. Nothing? Okay, moving down to councilor

3. Julie Wolfe

Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. So first, I want to um talk about what the election board has announced the 2025 regular election that was announced on August 19, 2024.

They did send an individual mailing out that was mailed from them. So it should be reaching all tribal members. Um if you have any questions, contact the election board. Also, another notice from the election board during the implementation of changes for voter registration and its regulations, it was brought to the election board's attention that there were areas that were not clear regarding regulatory requirements for registration. There is clarifying language adopted to address these concerns. Number one, voter registration enacted will not affect the October 2024 membership meeting. Citizens have until November 1 to register, which is clearly after the date of the membership meeting, but the board added language to clarify that this voter registration process will apply for the April 2025 membership meeting. Tribal ID expiration dates will not impact voter registration eligibility until July 2025. This language was added to clarify that any citizen that files a voter registration within the timeline will not be rejected for an expired tribal ID. The addition to the effective date provides citizens and enrollment department a full

year to update any expired tribal ID. The board added language up to 50 days prior to election as the filing deadline for any voter registration forms. This means the deadline to register for the primary regulation regular primary and regular elections is now November 1, 2024. If a citizen misses the November 1 deadline, they can still vote in the regular election by making sure to file their registration form by February 14, 2025. There will be no time left to fix a registration form that may need attention if the forms are sent at the last minute and received on February 14. Please make sure to send your registration forms in ASAP. The regulation changes are immediately in effect as the board proved the clarifying language on July 26, 2024. Anyone who anyone that has not filed their voter registration form must do so to ensure they will be eligible to vote in the 2025 primary and regular regular elections and that is from the election board. Um the other one I have is a free community event. It's Manistee County Annual Suicide Awareness and Prevention event. Um It's a wellness event for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Um It starts at 6:30 and goes to 6 p.m. They're going to have some speakers, awareness, education, health booth, um 4:30 to 6 p.m. I don't know if that's what I said. Um free chair massages, support circle, balloon artists, door prizes. Um they said Dial-A-Ride was going to operate free to and from the event and it's sponsored by LRBOI, Be da Bin Behavioral Health, Manistee Friendship Society and the Manistee County Suicide Awareness and Prevention Coalition and then the contact person for that I believe is from Manistee Friendship Society and that's Cassandra and the phone number listed for her is 231-398-0434. And that's all I have. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

4. Gary Di Piazza

you're next in the queue.

Councilor DiPiazza: Hmm. Well, I just wanted to say I'll be out at Cora tomorrow. My apologies. So, but Cora's a good thing to have for our treaty rights. That and uh I believe Sunday I'm going to be pulling a hive and extracting honey if anybody would like joining an adventure. Make sure you got your epi pen though if you're coming and you're allergic to bees. But just an offer. Everybody knows how to get ahold of me. Should have about 150 pounds of honey this year.

Councilor Wever: Wow.

Councilor DiPiazza: The sweet success of it all. Anyways, Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: thank you. Councilor

5. Shirley Wever

you are next in the queue.

Councilor Wever: First of all, um I want to let you know that um I'm the queen of yard sales. I have been yard sailing over 50 years. Let me tell you, I got one laughing over here, but I have found over the years a lot of treasures. And if they if my son thinks that it's worth any money, he comes and takes it. But anyways, you know, last week we had

the meeting on the black bears. And I just thought it was something odd. And maybe um someone was looking after us, but this is what I found last weekend, the black bear. So I think that's telling us something. And now he can't have it, but I'll put it down by Gary. (Background noise not picked up clearly) but anyways I thought that was a little odd that you know that I would find that last week which I haven't come across bears in a long time. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

6. Al Metzger

you're next in the queue. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Chi Miigwech council member Wever. It's very beautiful.

Councilor Wever: Thank you.

Councilor Metzger: Uh I want to uh maybe answer Mr. Chandler's question earlier, how much we've put into Muskegon. Well, just in taxes last year was close to 300,000. So, figuring that out, I figure about 4.5 million just in taxes on that property alone over the last 15 years. That's the only figure I can come up right now. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, councilor

7. Ron Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, Miigwech for the day, uh we've been having quite a few tribal members take that journey. And I know there's a fire going on over at the lodge today, which today is the end of that for that one. And forgive me for not knowing the name they told me, but it didn't register. But I do know we had one take that journey, Carol Ann Chabot. And the the service is at the gravesite to my understanding this coming Friday. But the thing about it is, it's not those ones that go on the other side, but it's those that are left behind. So, my thoughts and prayers for both families for their family, friends and loved ones. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

8. Misty Silvis

you are next in the queue.

Councilor Silvis: No updates this week. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

9. Shannon Crampton

you are next.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Uhm the Forest Area County Potawatomi, uhm which we partnered with a couple times on a couple issues, just signed a compact with their self-government's compact with the U.S. Department of Transportation. And four of the tribes have done so as well. Uhm that might mean something that we look forward and then maybe another venue that's opening up. Uhm also, the Democratic National

Convention has been going on. And uhm so far, the Native American Caucus has showed up in strength and is backing the Wallace Harris ticket. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, we are down on

D. Public Comment Period

Uhm I'm going to start with uhm back in March, we had a council meeting that was very long, March 27th. And there during uhm open session, there were enrollment folders from a 2004 audit that we believe were for enrollment. There were two folders that were we were in a heated discussion. And those were brought in and uhm thrown on the table. And I'm going to try to make this short. We had councilors that left, and we lost quorum and the rest that remained there did not want to touch those files because we didn't know what was in those files. And we never reviewed those files. So, we had called public safety to come in and get those files. So, they did come in, they got the files, we asked that they be put in the evidence room. And then on Friday, we were uh there were four of us that went over to public safety and wanted to have an investigation started because there were accusations from tribal citizens that said that those files had been turned over to the US Attorney's Office. So, we didn't know if this was true or not true. So, we asked public safety if they could do an investigation because that's where it starts the process. And so, uhm I asked Robert to come in today, uhm I asked him if he had a report on that, I asked him the status of it. And so, he came in today, and he has a report on those files, and he will be returning them. So, Robert, I'm going to turn the floor over to you.

Director Medacco: Okay, council, I'm just gonna, I don't usually talk about cases. So, I'm gonna make it short and sweet. So, we were uh advised that somebody was in possession of possible stolen items. And these items were these documents here that was uh allegedly the 2004 audit. Uhm after reviewing the documents that were recovered by one of my officers and doing the investigation, this is more or less an enrollment. When I took over, there was a stack of papers on my desk before SORNA was enacted. So, this is like reference material to create an ordinance. This is not an audit whatsoever. There are some documents in there that would probably be used as reference material. Those documents that were in there that specified maybe two or three families were self-filled out. They were not from an audit firm whatsoever. Uhm obviously, these two folders, which are substantial to say the least, but they contain emails and even stuff from Little Traverse on their enrollment situation, but by no means was anybody in possession of any stolen items. This is just a reference material that any council member could have access to. So,

Councilor Wolfe: (Laughing)

Director Medacco: it's not an audit whatsoever. I don't have possession of an audit with, Uh I mean, I'm gonna shoot for even back then, 2004 probably around 3,000, 4,000. Like I said, this is substantial paper, but definitely not 3,000 pieces of paper.

Councilor Wolfe: (Laughing) according to

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead councilor Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Thank you.

Councilor Crampton: Oh, I had my hand up there, Speaker.

Councilor Wolfe: He did. Shannon wants to defer to him.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Crampton. I'm sorry about that, Councilor Wittenberg. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Well, it's not wanting to defer. I was in the queue first. That's the appropriate thing. Uhm, I like the explanation that Mr. uh the director's giving, Robert's giving, but I don't think that there are a lot of things that need to be considered. Council has asked for a federal investigation on how they even get out of there, considering that if they were enrollment files, the director's mother is an enrolled member. So that would be a conflict.

Director Medacco: The director's mother is not contained in this document, unfortunately.

Councilor Crampton: I'm sorry. Please uh observe the queue. Uhm, I don't care whether she's in there or not. There's still a conflict of interest, and we've asked for the feds to investigate. To what you're watching right now is a story being made up by the people who took council, and they just admitted that four people went over there. That's not council. That's not council. So public safety acted on four people. We need an investigation on how those documents got out of there, how four people can just call public safety and public safety take them out. If we call us four a call and tell you to take things out of council chambers, are you going to do it? If me, Julie Wolfe, uh Wittenberg, Metzger call you and say take papers out of council chambers, are you going to do it?

Director Medacco: Yep.

Councilor Crampton: Okay, us four will do that. We'll get an enrollment audit for you, buddy. Thank you.

Director Medacco: You've done it a hundred times so far, so I don't know what you're talking about.

Councilor Crampton: What are you talking about a hundred times? Explain yourself.

Director Medacco: You filed on your on behalf of yourself.

Councilor Crampton: What do you mean file on half of myself? What are you talking about? Please elaborate.

Director Medacco: The court, the investigations that I've, that our department has done on your behalf.

Councilor Wever: Uh oh you got the mama.

Sandy Mezeske: (unaidable)

Councilor Crampton: On my behalf

Director Medacco: just go please.

Councilor Crampton: (laughing) This is very unprofessional. Get your mom up there, Robert.

Director Medacco: Do not talk to me about unprofessional. First of all, the

Councilor Crampton: Look at the way you're conducting yourself is very unprofessional. You should be unbiased.

Director Medacco: Don't talk about my mother.

Sandy Mezeske: You're an asshole.

Councilor Crampton: Look at you, guys. This is the 500.

Director Medacco: It's not about 500. I'm not even from here.

Councilor Crampton: Please detective Mrs. Mezeske.

Director Medacco: I'm not even from here. Thank you.

Councilor Crampton: I'm not even asking you.

Director Medacco: Get your facts straight.

Councilor Crampton: Control yourself.

Director Medacco: I'll control myself. I'm sorry, council. This is, this is, these are simply the facts. I don't know about an audit. This is what I was given. My officer responded to a call. He was given these documents. That's all we did. Whether or not it's what you wanted it to be, I can't make it anything else. There's no reason to turn this over. This is what this is. This is simply this.

Councilor Wolfe: We didn't hire an audit firm.

Councilor Crampton: There's already been a vote. It's already getting turned over.

Councilor Wolfe: Saying there's no audit firm information in there. There's not going to be any.

Director Medacco: No, no, no. What I'm saying is this.

Councilor Wolfe: That's what you said. You might change.

Speaker Burmeister: Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. Okay, we're getting carried away.

Councilor Wolfe: That's what you said.

Speaker Burmeister: Let Robert finish and then I don't have you in the queue, but I can put you in the

Councilor Wolfe: Been nice. If you guys would have did an internal discussion with the body of tribal council, not bring it at public comment.

Speaker Burmeister: Julie, please.

Director Medacco: I was requested by.

Speaker Burmeister: You're not in the queue.

Sandy Mezeske: That's what you guys do all the time.

Speaker Burmeister: but I'm in charge of the meeting here.

Councilor Wolfe: Go ahead, go ahead.

Speaker Burmeister: So please be quiet.

Councilor Wolfe: C'mon do something Tammy.

Speaker Burmeister: You can.

Councilor Wolfe: Do what you're going to do.

Councilor Wever: I want to recess.

Councilor Wolfe: Tammy, be in charge. Do something

Councilor Wever: Tammy

Speaker Burmeister: Are you done?

Councilor Wolfe: No, I'm not done.

Speaker Burmeister: You're not done.

Councilor Crampton: you know, there's an investigation. You guys are trying to throw.

Councilor Wolfe: The body before you guys take action. You guys continually do that. No, I don't.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay

Councilor Wolfe: Oh, please. Come on.

Councilor Wever: Can we have a recess.

Councilor Wolfe: Gary, come on. Let's go.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Stop.

Councilor Wolfe: What do you want? You done want to open in your mouth.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh my god

Councilor Wolfe: You wasn't in queue. You wasn't in queue. So what, it'll always

Councilor Wever: Speaker!

Councilor Wolfe: it'll always be.

Councilor Wever: I want a recess.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, time out. Time out for you guys.

Councilor Wolfe: Control the meeting, Tammy. Come on control the meeting.

Speaker Burmeister: Julie, be quiet.

Councilor Wolfe: C'mon Tammy control everybody.

Speaker Burmeister: I can't control you people because you people are.

Councilor Wever: crazy.

Councilor Wolfe: Mute me, mute me.

Speaker Burmeister: Julie, stop. This is very unprofessional.

Councilor Wolfe: Because you guys went behind everybody's back.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay 10-minute recess. We will be back here.

Councilor Wever: Thank you. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Well actually, we will be back at uhm.

Councilor Wolfe: Uh huh.

Speaker Burmeister: Quarter to one.

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah, we're going to be back quarter to one.

Speaker Burmeister: Blow your steam outside.

Councilor Wolfe: Blow your steam outside. Yay.

(RECESS)

Speaker Burmeister: Hello, everyone. We are back. It is 12:50. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call to establish quorum please.

Recorder Johnson:

| |
|------------------------|
| T. Burmeister -Present |
| R. Wittenberg- Present |
| S. Crampton - Present |

Shannon Crampton, oh I forgot I put that on there.

Shannon Crampton: That's pretty tricky of the recorder. Please don't do that to the members or keep muting council members and ask for their attendance. Thank you.

Councilor Wever: What?

Recorder Johnson:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| G. DiPiazza - Present | M. Silvis - Present |
| J. Wolfe - Present | A. Metzger - Present |
| P. Johnson - Present | S. Wever - Present |

We do have quorum at 12:50.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. We are on public comment. So, the person in queue is Councilor Crampton. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, just to make a few observations, uh uhm Mr. uh or I'm sorry, Robert Medacco was correct. Director Medacco was correct. There is no outside agency. The 2004 audit was an internal audit. Everyone knows that. One of the first lines on the audit was do not show to the FBI or BIA too many mistakes. (laughing) But we've already offered an investigation that should be going to the feds very soon on how those left council chambers, because I do not believe council actually put that in the chambers. I don't believe four people can uhm take them out of council chambers. And I also believe that if I heard Mr. Medacco correctly, or Director Medacco, I apologize, correctly, uhm there was he got a complaint that there were stolen files and that did not happen to be the case. That's called filing a false police report. So, if I heard him correctly, I'm gonna go back and watch the tape as soon as it's up. But if I heard him correctly, we had four council members file a false police report. So, I'll be checking into that. Now also be checking on status of our FBI investigation on how those got out of council chambers because I have a sneaky suspicion. That's what this is all about. And you're all terrified of that. That's why Mr. uh Medacco was saying there doesn't need to be an investigation. Well, you should have thought about that before you did it. And I'll be following up on the filing the false police report. If you did, then that's crime. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Sara. Go ahead, please.

Sara Agosa: I would like to say some words in honor of Carol Ann Chabot, our beloved tribal elder who left this world and returned to the infinite cosmos. I'm very grateful for Carol Ann's diligence, determination, and dedication to our tribe. She honored our ancestors and left good seeds for the next generations. Carol Ann left a legacy for all of us to continue to seek justice and to work for the betterment of all tribe citizens. And we will continue forward as she would want us to. And I just want to say rest in peace, Carol Ann. We will always remember you with gratitude. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Ogema Romanelli, you are next in the queue.

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you. The last couple of meetings that I've attended with tribal council, uh it has resulted in the same type of behavior. At the work session the other day with people from the resort, again today, it's one thing to call another elected official names and disagree. That's fine. But we need to stop making references to our hardworking employees, both at the government and at the resort. Specifically, Councilor Crampton has done this repeatedly. He interrupts. He calls liars. The other day he called our CFO from across the street a liar, thief, sneaky. And this should not be allowed to happen in our meetings. I'm begging this council to please cease that behavior. If I were running the meeting, I would absolutely remove those people when they first made a statement such as being called a liar. I would remove them for the rest of the meeting. It's one thing to say you disagree or it's misinformation. That's fine. But when you say they're a liar, you're attacking the person. And this happens week after week, month after month. And it's not only Councilor Crampton. There are others and they know who they are, but specifically him. I want to ask this council one more time to please stop allowing

councilors to insult, degrade, whatever, our hardworking staff. Our staff is very well equipped and very much overworked. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Brenda, I have you next in the queue.

Brenda Cogswell: Ani Brenda Cogswell, 0829. Uhm first and foremost, Miigwech to all of our elected officials. You have stepped up and gone into a firing line that's heated. My comment is not directed at any one person. And it is not to also diminish your passion or commitment. Uhm this would be my first Tribal Council meeting that I have attended in over 20 years. I uhm I sat in the back of the room and very familiar with Robin rules of order. And I believe that's what you have attempted to run your meetings by. And I very easily grabbed one. It says a quorum must be present for a business to be conducted. All members have the right, equal rights, privileges and obligations. No person should speak until recognized by chair. Personal remarks or side discussions during debates are out of order. Only one question at a time may be considered. And it just goes on. Uhm and that's all I have to say, based on the very short period of time that I've witnessed Tribal Council meeting. That I would like it if you would try and treat each other with more respect. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Lee. Go ahead, please.

Lee McCaslin: Miigwech, speaker. I'm thinking about that Isko day that's out back at that fire, that sacred fire, the heart. And uh and Carol, Carol Ann and uhm her family, you know, in that grief. And no matter what society, if it's Midewiwin. You know, if it's the sun dancers or if it's the people of Longhouse. The cultural war that's been going on here is, you know, tremendous. And, uh you know, some of us practice our culture in a great way. And others, you know, nine 21 years ago, I had nine years of surveillance under my belt as being a supervisor in surveillance. So, all those little bits and pieces that you pick up along the light highway is an experience. The old business right there on that day when I was tending fire. To my release of, you know, your judicial system that was the assistant prosecutor at the time had relieved me of my duties for the river. And, uh you know, we're coming to that four days, one year, and then four years later. And all those traditional settings and all those different meanings along that Me this show. And to see this, uhm people poking that fire, them are our children. Those embers. And Julie, I really appreciate you trying to remove people poking that fire. Because it's untraditional to continue to poke that fire. And, uh you know, asking about the press, I didn't think that that was too far out of the line. PBS does great stations and great stories on real, real traditional values. And, you know, in those lodges, we always meet people along the way. And there are helpers, you know, Dennis Banks, uhm a great leader, uhm you know, a mentor. Uhm and we're losing so many that's walked away from that Disco Day or had that Disco Day put out. Uhm but we do have that connection to PBS. We do have those other bands out there that we're lodge friends with. You know, and uh Sam George, he don't believe in this gaming bit at all. And the Onondaga and the Longhouse, you know. And right now, I'm over mind uh McCaslin versus McCaslin and Manistee County there, whatever they do. You know, about taking my land or taking our land or what's this or what's that? You know, it doesn't, it does matter when it starts talking about your treaty

rights. And it does matter, you know, to keep our traditional values and our people awake. Because, you know, when we go back into the old business, that's 2020. I've been listening to that even when I was there presently in the chambers there. 2019, I was there uh this last year, that whole year, that cycle, you know, an honored vet. And then uh seeing the whole town of Manistee get locked down. Uh June, you know, 17th, 2023. Uhm, you know, and what part is the tribe holding on that? That whole bit, that uh that dysfunction, you know. And I just wanted to uh give thanks and my deepest condolence to Carol Ann. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Jolene. Go ahead, please.

Jolene O'Signac: Yes, I just wanted to say Miigwech to Julie for her beautiful prayer. To Lee and uhm Councilor Wittenberg for their kind words. And I greatly appreciated Sara's brave and eloquent words and tribute she laid down for my beloved cousin, Carol Ann Chabot. She was an important part of our tribe, and our tribe was a huge part of her life. I just want to thank everyone for their condolences and good thoughts. And let you know that Carol Ann's uhm services will be this Friday at 2 o'clock at the Lakeshore Cemetery in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Anyone that wishes or can attend, please feel free. The family would love to have you. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Jolene, for that information. uhm go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. I have a couple of things. Well, first off, I want to just mention the best.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Crampton, you're fading in and out. Just so you know.

Councilor Crampton: I know. I'm trying to get my words. I'm sorry.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Councilor Crampton: Uhm Carol Ann was an elder that I first met. She was the first person that I formed a relationship with down there in 2005. She supported everything I said. We just had a talk a few days before she passed. She supports everything I do. She wants this tribe cleaned up. She wants an enrollment audit. She wants the lies to the membership to stop. I'm committed to that. It's taken me a couple of days, and it affects me like this when to lose people like Roberta Tate, Fran Pitts, Theresa Baker, Aunt Judy. I have to just be by myself for a couple of days. But those days are over, and I'm committed to everything that I promised Carol Ann. This enrollment audit needs to come forward. Council has information that our 4/4th is not constitutional. Never has been, never will be. There's an immediate need for an enrollment audit. Now, I understand Mr. Romanelli does not like being called a liar, but when you lie, that's what you are. When he told me that I would have those escrow numbers that day, we have still not gotten them. I understand that. I'm pretty sure that Ted Bundy didn't want to be called a murderer either, but that's what he was. And when you tell me you're going to give me

the numbers from the escrow account and you don't, that's a liar. Now, you may uhm talk about your employees across the street. I don't expect those guys to come in here and tell me a load of bull. If they were professional employees, when they said three times, oh, y'all send them right over, have them that day. We have still yet to receive them. That's 6 million dollars. She's a liar. Mr. Romanelli is a liar. I don't care if they like being called it or not. That's what they are. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Are there any other public comments that people would like to speak, Matt? And then I have you, Boo, after Matt. Okay.

Matthew Chandler: Matthew Chandler, (Anishinaabe), 1687. Uhm first, I'd like to thank Elder Wittenberg. Uhm each week, I've been noticing that he's been giving us all a lesson. And that lesson is silence. And the strength of silence. Of not letting your emotions come out when you're angry or you disagree. You sit there, and you listen, and you be silent. And you let those words in so that you can digest them. Rather than react to them. So, I'd like to say a huge Miigwech to Elder Wittenberg for giving us that lesson. Uhm my question deals with policy and procedures. And I know we have a lot of policies and procedures and a lot of uhm stuff that uhm and I'm hoping they're all passed by ordinance or something like that. Do you, as elected officials, and I'm talking council. Do you, as elected officials, have to follow those policies and procedures? Or, because you are an elected official, you can kind of deviate from it? Uhm and I'll just kind of leave it at that. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Boo, you are next in the queue.

Boo Battice: Boo Battice, 2644. Fisherman since at least 2001. I'm still looking for help. (21:09) I couldn't even get batteries probably two, three years ago. Got some help now, 2017. Or, 07, which would be 17 years ago. Or, very close. Uhm My boat needs a lot of work, probably refurbished and everything. A brand-new boat. She was built in 1948. So, I'm just here to say I'm looking for some assistance on getting my boat back up to par. And after that, getting back on the water properly with a place to take our fish so we're not charged with want and waste and things like that. Uhm, we need an ice machine. We need a place to park the boat. We, as in there are other fishermen. And we need to all be able to utilize something like that. Other tribes have fishing organizations that's got fishing operations that everybody gets to utilize. Uhm Instead of spending all the Great Lakes money on, you know, police tires. Can we get me back on the boat so I can uh feed the people? And I'll never get the understanding of paying back a gift. If it's a gift, it's a gift. A grant is a gift by definition. Uhm So, for me to pay back something that I'm going to gift the fish to tribal members because the gift should be passed along. It's not for me. It's for all of us. As I've once said and I've always said, the Eagle is the name of my boat. Our boat. Excuse me as I'm trying to get rid of my I's you because we need to get us and we in there. Uhm, we need to get the Eagle back out there flying again. She needs a paint job and everything. She's not looking good on the tribe as a whole. And they did dig up all of our forefathers when they put that place in there. All our wise men from all three fires were carried to that sacred hill. You could see Baldwin. They cut a third of that hill down. It wasn't that low. It was taller. They had to fit the size of the

reservoir in there. And when they did, they dug up hundreds of our forefathers that were standing tall. We didn't bury them laying down. But it wasn't just wise men from right here. It was from the Grand River to Canada. All three fires met right there at that power hill. It was a power hill to us too. And it still is. And the power should go back to the people. And that's by feeding them so they're not so hungry. They got that monkey on their back every month for a little bit of energy that was stolen. I'd like to feed them some energy so they can get some energy. And there's a red road by Grant's, which I said is a gift. So hopefully I can sit down. I would like to thank Julie for handing me her card before I got up here. And gave me a little bit of words of wisdom on the we's. And we can work together. So hopefully uhm I can talk with her later. But I would like to talk with all of you. Because tomorrow's the future and yesterday is already gone. And I don't want to see the Eagle drowned. You know It's a bird. It's a high-flying bird. But she hasn't been able to catch her fish. Kind of hungry and wants to feed her children. Thank you very much.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Chelsea, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Chelsea Densmore: uhm thank you, Madam Speaker. I saw a resolution online that I can't find on the website. And I was just wondering if anybody had any information. So, it's resolution 24-0403-062. And it was talking about councilors being in person. But it's not on the website. And I thought maybe it had been rescinded. But I wasn't sure. Does anybody have any information on that? Or was it maybe just missed and not posted on the website?

Speaker Burmeister: Chelsea, that resolution hasn't been rescinded. But I'm not sure uhm about the website. Because of the transition of going to the new website. Why that wouldn't be on there?

Chelsea Densmore: Okay. I just I noticed all the other ones were up through like June. But I didn't see that one. So, I thought maybe it had gotten pulled back. So, I wasn't sure. So uhm

Speaker Burmeister: I'll follow up on that.

Chelsea Densmore: Okay.

Speaker Burmeister: Did you want a uhm did you want me to send you that by email?

Chelsea Densmore: That would be amazing. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: I will do that.

Chelsea Densmore: Okay, thank you so much.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Chelsea, can you repeat the number?

Chelsea Densmore: Yes, I'm sorry. It was 24-0403-062. And when I looked on the website, 061 and 063 were posted. But not the other one. So that's why I was just confused is all.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. I will look to that. And then I will send that to you.

Chelsea Densmore: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: You're welcome. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton Yes, uhm Ms. Densmore brings up a good point. Something that needs to be fixed almost immediately. It's been put off forever by the recorder. But I've never seen the minutes this far behind. And we're missing a whole bunch of minutes. The crashes that have happened under I.T are just catastrophic. There's a lot of information that's missing. Uhm, we need to sit down to formulate how we're going to repair that. Before you guys get your new system that's going to screw everything up again. So maybe the members wouldn't have a hard time finding things if we actually fixed it. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Shirley, do you have a?

Councilor Wever: Yeah, I just wanted. To a oh we got to wait.

Speaker Burmeister: No, you go ahead.

Councilor Wever: Oh, I was just going to make a **motion to end first open.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Uhm councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Recorder Johnson. Can you do roll call, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #13

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|----------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| M. Silvis- | Yes | T. Burmeister- | Yes | G. DiPiazza- | Yes |
| A. Metzger- | Yes | R. Wittenberg- | Yes | J. Wolfe- | Yes |
| S. Wever- | Yes | S. Crampton- | Yes | P. Johnson- | Yes |

Nine. We are done at 1:18. What time do you want to reconvene?

Speaker Burmeister: Uhm we can reconvene at 1:30.

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.

XI. Open Session

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, there we go.

Councilor Wittenberg: I got to do it again.

Speaker Burmeister: Yep

Councilor Wittenberg: I'd like to make a

MOTION TO GO BACK INTO SECOND OPEN SESSION AT 3:03

I see.

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Recorder Johnson, can you do a roll call.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 14

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| A. Metzger- Yes | R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe- Yes |
| S. Wever- Absent | S. Crampton - Yes | P. Johnson - Yes |
| T. Burmeister- Yes | G. DiPiazza - Yes | M. Silvis - Yes |

We do have quorum. Eight present one absent.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay .Thank you. Okay Open session

A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session- minutes and materials shall remain and shall remain in confidential.

- 1. Ratification of five-year agreement with North American video for a synthetic synergy secure software maintenance and remote technical support in the amount of \$16,020 annually.**

Go ahead councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Yeah, thank you, ma'am. Uh all I see here is a gaming resolution.

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah, we don't have one.

Councilor Metzger: And I don't see any other resolution supporting this or supporting documents.

Councilor Wolfe: We don't have one for us to adopt.

Councilor Metzger: So, at this moment. I would like to postpone it.

Speaker Burmeister: What happened.

Recorder Johnson: Didn't we ask for that on Monday?

Speaker Burmeister: I thought so.

Recorder Johnson: I don't have the rest of my stuff here.

Councilor Wolfe: We don't have one to adopt.

Speaker Burmeister: No, we don't. We just have their resolution.

Recorder Johnson: Yep

Speaker Burmeister: Gaming resolution.

Recorder Johnson: Howd, we miss that on Monday.

Speaker Burmeister: I

Councilor Metzger: Howd, we miss that earlier.

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah.

Recorder Johnson: That to. Cuz, we saw the gaming and just.

Councilor Wolfe: I read it I didn't look at it or had a number up there.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Recorder Johnson: Postponing it.

Councilor Metzger: I'd like to make a motion to postpone this item **Ratification of five-year agreement with North American video for a synthetic synergy secure software maintenance and remote technical support in the amount of \$16,020 annually.**

Councilor Wever: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Councilor Metzger: Do clarify why.

Speaker Burmeister: Yes

Councilor Metzger: Because we do not have the resolution concerning this item.

Speaker Burmeister: Mm hmm. Okay recorder Johnson Can you do roll call to postpone that please.

Recorder Johnson: Mm Hmm

Roll Call # 15

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| S. Wever- Yes | S. Crampton- Yes | P. Johnson- Yes |
| T. Burmeister- Yes | G. DiPiazza- Yes | M. Silvis- Yes |
| R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe- Yes | A. Metzger- Yes |

Nine in favor to postpone.

Councilor Wolfe: Wow.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay actually number two is postponed also. Mm hmm indicated. Okay so number two is postponed

2. Ratification of approving Lease agreement with Gaming Capital Group.

3. Gaming Commission Closed Session Report July 2024

Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain? Go ahead councilor Metzger you had your hand up.

Councilor Metzger: Yes, thank you uh. Thank you, Madam Speaker at this moment I'd like to make a **motion to accept gaming commission closed session report July 2024**

Councilor Wolfe: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Recorded Johnson Can you do roll call please.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 16

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| S. Wever- Yes | S. Crampton- Yes | P. Johnson- Yes |
| T. Burmeister- Yes | G. DiPiazza- Yes | M. Silvis- Yes |
| R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe- Yes | A. Metzger- Yes |

Nine in favor they been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, Thank you. Moving down to

ADD: 4. Binojeeuk Commission Closed Session Minutes July 2024

Will there be any tribal councilors that are going to abstain? Okay, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item?

Recorder Johnson: No, we need a motion.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, madam speaker.

Speaker Burmeister: Sorry about that.

Councilor Metzger: This moment I'd like to make **motion to accept the Binojeeuk Commission closed session meetings for July 2024.**

Recorder Johnson: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Now, recorder Johnson can you do roll call for this item please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 17

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| S. Crampton- Yes | P. Johnson- Yes | S. Wever- Yes |
| G. DiPiazza- Yes | M. Silvis- Yes | T. Burmeister- Yes |
| J. Wolfe- Yes | A. Metzger- Yes | R. Wittenberg- Yes |

Nine in favor they been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Did we receive anything on that resolution? That was regarding, I'll go check it, make the motion.

Councilor Wolfe: Did you get it from Chantel now?

Speaker Burmeister: Mm-hmm.

Councilor Wolfe: Where is it at? I'll make the motion.

Recorder Johnson: Right here. Pass it around.

Councilor DiPiazza: There you go.

Speaker Burmeister: Updated.

Councilor Wolfe: Now the other one.

Speaker Burmeister: So, we don't need to rescind the appropriation, do we?

Councilor Metzger: Yes, we do. We need to repeal that resolution. Well, repealing it would rescind it.

Councilor Wolfe: This certification of funds is out of the LACCFARC.

Recorder Johnson: No, actually, that's something that's something I sent to her.

Speaker Burmeister: That, yeah, I know that one we have to change.

Councilor Wolfe: I think we have to do both of them. I'd like to make a **motion to repeal resolution 24-0814-138, ratification of agreement with Arctic I.T to contract for the enrollment platform.**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Recorder Johnson: What was that number?

Councilor Wolfe: 138. We do them both.

Councilor Metzger: (inaudible)

Councilor Wolfe: Mm hmm.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, is there uhm.

Councilor Wolfe: Ron supported.

Speaker Burmeister: Ron

Councilor Wittenberg: Mm hmm.

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah. Okay Ready? All right, we can have a discussion on that because that's a new item. So, uhm Julie, did you want to talk about that

Councilor Wolfe: Well, the reason I bring it forward for repeal that resolution is because it was coming out of that LAT

Speaker Burmeister: CF

Councilor Wolfe: CF funding ARPA dollars. And at this point, because of the master service agreement that was in place, it's not eligible. There's some other work that needs to happen. And so, we have to send it back and redo that part. So, we're repealing that one and the supplemental appropriation until we can get appropriate resolutions.

Speaker Burmeister: Any councilors gonna abstain from that item? Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you, speaker. Well, just to clear up what Councilor Wolfe was saying that uhm we had the council vote without a legal review, then the legal reviewing came in and said that no, it wasn't ARPA eligible. So now we have to correct it so that it is. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other questions or comments from tribal council? Citizens? Back to tribal council? Okay, with no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 18

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| S. Wever- No | S. Crampton- Yes | P. Johnson- No |
| T. Burmeister- Yes | G. DiPiazza- No | M. Silvis- No |
| R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe- Yes | A. Metzger- Yes |

Five in favor four against. It's passed. It's been rescinded.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: And I want to second to make a **motion to approve resolution 24-0814-137, approval of supplemental appropriation 2024-11, 3rd quarter to fund the Arctic IT Enrollment Database Software in the amount of \$172,679.** This appropriation was from the LATCFARPAR Fund 452-900-1600.

Councilor Metzger: Support

Recorder Johnson: for repealing?

Councilor Wolfe: Mm-hmm, to repeal.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, is there going to be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any Tribal Councilors with questions or comments?

Recorder Johnson: What was that number?

Speaker Burmeister: 137.

Councilor Wittenberg: 137?

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah, mm-hmm. Any citizens with questions or comments? Okay, back to Tribal Council. Okay, with no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 19

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| T. Burmeister- Yes | G. DiPiazza- No | M. Silvis- No |
| R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe- Yes | A. Metzger- Yes |
| S. Crampton- Yes | P. Johnson- No | S. Wever- No |

Five in favor, four against, it's passed.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor DiPiazza.

XII. Adjourn

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make a motion to end, second Open.

Councilor Wever: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 20

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| R. Wittenberg- Yes | J. Wolfe - Yes | A. Metzger - Yes |
| S. Crampton - Yes | P. Johnson - Yes | S. Wever - No |
| G. DiPiazza - Yes | M. Silvis - Yes | T. Burmeister- Yes |

Eight in favor one against, we are adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chantel Gamelin
Transcribing Assistant



Pam Johnson
Tribal Council Recorder