



**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**

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**APPROVED**

11/9/97

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1997

I. PRAYER. The prayer was given by Lavern Oren.

II. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Guenthardt at approximately 12:15 p.m. at the Tribal Office located at 310 Ninth Street, Manistee.

B. ROLL CALL. Roll call was done by Chuck Fisher. Council members present: Bob Guenthardt, Kathy Berentsen, Chuck Fisher, Steve Parsons, Don Koon, and Bill Memberto (arrived late). Absent: Kim Kequom.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA. Moved by Kathy to add to the agenda E. Ghost Supper Hunt under Old Business, seconded by Steve, all in favor (5), (0) opposed, (2) absent. Motion carried. Moved by Steve, to accept the agenda with one change, seconded by Don, all in favor (5), (0) opposed, (2) absent. Motion carried.

D. ADOPTION OF MINUTES. No one had changes to the minutes. Moved by Steve, to accept the minutes without changes, seconded by Don, all in favor (5), (0) opposed, (2) absent. Motion carried.

E. FINANCIAL REPORT. Chris handed out the reports to the Council and said that every committee has spent what they have budgeted for so there isn't really much to comment on. He said that the only revision he had to do is program #270, Contract Health. The amount budgeted that we will need through December doesn't equal to what is budgeted to Contract Health through IHS. Chris said that IHS gave us \$683,800 and we estimate to spend approximately \$431,000. Moved by Chuck, to accept the financial report, seconded by Steve, all in favor (5), (0) opposed, (2) absent. Motion carried. (Bill M. arrived.)

F. STAFF REPORTS. No one had any questions or comments regarding the staff reports. Moved by Don, to accept the staff reports, seconded by Steve, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.



G. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS. Bob introduced Bill Parsons as the newly hired Tribal Wildlife Biologist. He also introduced Richard McLellan of Dykema-Gossett from Lansing and Mike Malik of North American Gaming.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. SUBMISSION OF REVISED ENROLLMENT ORDINANCE FOR REVIEW.

Bill B. explained that at the last Council Special Meeting this was submitted and asked to be tabled so that revisions could be made. Since then, he and Diane have gone over the ordinance and made the addition that a tribal directory would be made listing members' names and addresses. Diane would send a card to each adult member at their last known address to notify them that if they don't want their name and address in the directory they need to specify by a specific date otherwise it would be included. It would also give the member an opportunity to give any other information they would like added to the directory such as their home phone number, family information (names of children, spouse), etc. He said that after the directory is compiled any member who would like a copy can get one from the office. Bill B. said that another revision deals with the appeal of dis-enrollment. The last change was the statement of the process for membership relinquishment. Moved by Steve, to support the Tribal Enrollment Ordinance No. 97-200-01, seconded by Kathy, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

B. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTION AND REQUEST FOR SECRETARIAL ELECTION. Bill B. said that he put this on the agenda in hopes that the BIA would have completed a review of the Constitution. He found out that they had a mechanical problem at the Department of the Interior building and the staff there was evacuated from the building for a week until the problem was taken care of therefore, the review was not completed. Bob asked for a motion to table this until a later date. Moved by Kathy, to table a review and possible approval of the constitution and request for a secretarial election until a later date, seconded by Steve, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

C. JUDGMENT FUND DISTRIBUTION PROPOSED PLANS. It was brought up that the trust fund issue needs to be looked into as to how the Tribe plans on setting up the trust funds. Discussion was lead as to what other Tribes have planned for their share of the Judgment Fund. It was asked if the Tribe needs to decide on a Judgment Fund plan by a certain date, and the answer was no. Also, it was asked if we know an approximate date the actual payment is going to be and the Council said no, not until a plan is decided upon and the Judgment Fund shares are distributed to the Tribes. It was mentioned that all quarter bloods and up and all ages would be eligible for the payment, with the money being put into a trust fund for those 18 and under. Chris reminded the Council that they also need to decide where the votes are going to be sent to so that a tally of the votes can be done when the time comes to decide on which plan.



Moved by Bill M., to set up an ad hoc committee consisting of the Tribal Chairperson, Tribal Attorney, a CPA and two appointed Tribal members to set up the organization for the Judgment Fund Distribution, seconded by Steve, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

(Bob said that Andrea needs to leave, but first has an announcement. She said that the S.H.A.R.E. program is now in operation and they are looking for people to sign up for it. All it takes is two hours community service and \$15.00 to receive a food package [not government food] worth \$40-50.00.)

D. COMMITTEE COMPLIANCE PLANS. Bill M. asked if the committees that are not in compliance are still able to operate. Bill W. said of the ones he knows, yes they are still operating fine such as the Cultural Preservation Committee. Moved by Chuck, to table the review of the Committee Compliance Plans until the October 26, 1997 Council Special Session, seconded by Don, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

E. GHOST SUPPER HUNT. Tom said that we have two Ghost Suppers scheduled--one in Manistee on November 2, 1997 and one in Muskegon on November 9, 1997. He said that he would like the Council's approval for members to get two deer and two turkeys per supper. Moved by Bill M., to support the Ghost Supper Hunt, seconded by Don, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried. John Koon mentioned that the Natural Resources Commission needs a list of people willing to hunt so that they can take turns when a hunt is needed. Tom said that they also need to be aware that the deer/turkey needs to be cleaned and processed as well.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

Bob said that Richard McLellan and Mike Malik would like to give an update on the what is going on in Lansing and on the gaming issues. Richard said things are going slow, but he thinks that the Tribe will prevail. He said that the mayor of Detroit and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe are the ones trying to prevent the four Tribes' from getting their casinos. He also said that the compacts were out of committee in the Senate about two years ago, but continue to languish in the legislature. It is frustrating because the four Tribes don't seem to have enough political clout compared to the mayor of Detroit. Richard said he is fairly confident that they can get it through the Senate but they will not pick it up unless they know the House will go through with it. Discussion was lead regarding the casino and members expressed their opinions regarding the gaming issue and the legislature.

A. NEED TO REMOVE BILL BROOKS AND JAY SAM FROM CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE AND TO RECRUIT TRIBAL MEMBERS TO SERVE ON COMMITTEE. Moved by Kathy, to remove Bill Brooks and Jay Sam from the Child Welfare Committee and for Kim to recruit tribal members to serve on the



committee, seconded by Steve, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

B. PROPOSE STARTING A RETIREMENT PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES PER PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS. Chris said the information was included in the Council packets and explained that the Council needs to review the information for approval. Moved by Steve, to approval of an employee retirement plan, seconded by Don, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

C. SETTING OF DATE FOR FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. Bob said that the date has pretty much been set for November 8, 1997 at the Civic Club and this just needs to be formalized by a motion. Kathy expressed her opinion that all of the Council needs to be informed when decisions like this are made. Moved by Steve, to set November 8, 1997 as the fall membership meeting date, seconded by Chuck, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

D. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO FILL ELECTION BOARD. Moved by Chuck, to appoint Jay Sam, Bob Hardenburgh, Tammy Carter, Diane Lonn and Dan Bailey to the Election Committee, seconded by Bill M., all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

E. BEGIN DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE CHANGE OF TRIBAL NAME TO REFLECT TRIBE'S RIVER HERITAGE. Many of the Council members asked where this came from because they were not aware that anyone wanted a change. It was explained that they would like a change because we all are descendants from the Grand River Band. Bob said he thought that this has already been voted upon long ago and Little River Band was decided upon by the Council. Bob suggested that this be discussed at the membership meeting. Moved by Don, to table this discussion until the membership meeting, seconded by Bill M., all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

F. REPLACE A NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSIONER. Tom said that Jay Sam resigned from the Natural Resources Commission and they would like to replace him with Pat Ruitter. John Koon said that there a few provisions that still need to be made with this appointment but they were not done in time so he would like to request that this be tabled until the November 9, 1997 meeting. Moved by Bill M., to table this until the November 9, 1997 meeting, seconded by Kathy, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

G. COPS GRANT. Bob said that this grant has been filled out but has not been approved yet. Tom said this would provide a maximum federal contribution of 75% of the approved salary and benefits of each officer over three years. He said that the grant is due November 14, 1997. Moved by Bill M., to support the COPS grant, seconded by Don, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.



H. TRIBAL ELDERS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM THROUGH THE NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING. Chuck said that this has been discussed earlier and at the last Elders meeting they reviewed the program including job descriptions. He is asking for approval to start implementing the program. Moved by Bill M., to approve the Tribal Elders Employment and Training Program through the National Indian Council on Aging, seconded by Don, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

I. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL COUNSEL STATEMENTS OF FEES AND EXPENSES. Bill B. said that in each Council packet are documents stating the requests. One is for fees to Marc Slonim for working with the Natural Resource Commission and the 1836 Workgroup regarding the litigation on inland hunting/fishing rights. Moved by Bill M., to support Resolution #97-1012-02, seconded by Chuck, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried. Bill B. said that the second one is for fees and expenses on Marc Slonim's time for fiscal year 1997. Moved by Steve, to support Resolution #97-1012-03, seconded by Bill M., all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried. Another is for fees and expenses to Murchie, Calcutt who have helped with the paperwork for fees and financing with the MESC and Forest Service Building as well as the Joint Venture with DeVere Construction. Moved by Bill M., to support Resolution #97-1012-04, seconded by Steve, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried. Bill B. said that another one is for Patty Marks for attorney time for preparatory work for the recent trip to Washington D.C. Moved by Kathy, to support Resolution #97-1012-05, seconded by Steve, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried. Bill B. said that the last one is for MILS (Michigan Indian Legal Services) for their help with Indian Child Welfare and Battle Point Cemetery. Moved by Kathy, to support Resolution #97-1012-06, seconded by Chuck, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

J. APPROVAL & ADOPTION OF HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES. Bill W. explained that this would help Tribal members with improvements to their home whether it be roofing, windows, well, septic, etc. It was mentioned that "points" are scored for certain things such as income level, household size, age, etc. and then the "points" will be tallied to see who ranks highest according to "most in need." Moved by Bill M., to approval the HIP program, seconded by Kathy, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

## V. CONCLUDING BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT. Janine expressed her opinion regarding the hiring of Tribal and non-Tribal members regarding the past and current job positions. Other members expressed their views. Tribal members present expressed their views/opinions regarding various subjects.



B. NEXT MEETING. The next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 1997 which is a Tribal Council Special Meeting.

C. ADJOURNMENT. Moved by Bill M., to adjourn the meeting at approximately 4:15 p.m., seconded by Steve, all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

D. CLOSED SESSION. Moved by Steve, to move into closed session, seconded by Bill M., all in favor (6), (0) opposed, (1) absent. Motion carried.

10/31/97--vc