

Approved  
12-10-03



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2002  
LITTLE RIVER BAND COMMUNITY CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Community Center on October 19, 2002. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

**I. Opening Prayer**

The Tribal Council engaged in a silent prayer.

**II. General Business**

**A. Call To Order:**

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting of Saturday, October 19, 2002, was called to order by Speaker Parsons at 10:20 a.m.

**B. Roll Call**

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

Quorum established.

Others Present: Matthew Stratton, Candace Chapman, Kenny Pheasant, Jo Anne House, Kathleen Block, Bob Davis

Parsons stated Carol Bennett did call and stated she was ill. Chuck Fisher is not available due to CMT obligations involved with the artwork project.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

McCatty asked to add under other entities: Summer Youth Employment Report.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF  
OCTOBER 19, 2002 AS AMENDED; by Kleeman; supported by  
Ruiter.**

**Roll Call**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**D. Public Comment Period**

Chapman asked the Council if they were aware of a memo from the Gaming Commission talking about a regulation that they plan on passing that incorporates everyone employed with Tribal Government from the Tribal Ogema on down, not to be able to gamble at the casino. Parsons hadn't seen it, but heard about it. Porter responded the memo was regarding the regulation, and the memo was posted for comments on the regulation, and these comments were to be sent to the Gaming Commission, via Cy Hill.

Stratton spoke of the wood splitter that was being requested by the firekeepers. Stratton stated this will be bought through the SAGE Council.

**III. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**A. Language**

Kenny Pheasant stated it is important that each department is able to speak to Tribal Council regarding their activity. Pheasant distributed a report to the Tribal Council. Pheasant does a quarterly report to the Ogema and to the Director of Operations. Pheasant stated there is a language class every week. Pheasant stated there is a language hotline, which is also manned by the students. Pheasant stated they had a very successful language camp this summer. The Casino donated 50% of the food for the Language Camp and Cultural Preservation paid for the other 50%. Cultural Preservation also pays for Elder's lodging. Pheasant stated \$1,700 was raised from T-shirts sales. Medahko asked who did the picture on the T-shirt.

Parsons asked Pheasant to update the Council regarding the program at one of the local elementary schools. Pheasant responded with positive remarks about how he is received by the schools. Pheasant informed the Council that he was invited by the schools to work with the classes. Pheasant stated he got started doing awareness programs in school when his son came home one day from kindergarten wearing a hat that read "I sailed with Columbus." Pheasant related the story to the Council about how he called his son's teacher and asked her if she realized there was a Native American in her classroom. His ancestors did not sail with

Columbus, they were already here in America. Pheasant indicated that's how he started providing awareness programs. Pheasant stated his program is very welcomed by the teachers and Board of Education. Porter asked for a copy of the curriculum.

Parsons spoke of the website and stated there was a language portion on it that he was very impressed with.

Chapman asked how many Tribal children are involved in the schools. Pheasant responded that he did not have that information from the schools. Pheasant stated the Tribal children are very proud because someone is coming in to talk about "who they are."

Davis stated the benefit of this program far outreaches Tribal kids and reaches all the kids in the community.

Pheasant stated the staff is very excited about the language class also.

Jonnie Jay Sam, II arrived at 10:43 a.m.

Pheasant is looking at interviewing and recording on video/tape our Elders with a chance to tell their story. Pheasant stated if someone has passed, we will have someone else who knows that person's story tell it on tape. This will be presented to the Elders in November. Porter stated this is very important. Medahko thanked Pheasant for recognizing that need. Medahko stated even if the Tribal member spouse went through the western door there is another spouse left with Tribal children.

Pheasant told of an elderly woman that came to him years ago and asked him to come tape her story as she was going to die soon from cancer. Pheasant spent the day with her, taped and listened to her stories. Pheasant told a story of when grandchildren hear their grandparents voice once they have passed—there is something in that voice. It is very powerful and unscripted.

Stratton stated he has called Pheasant at 9:30 at night or on the weekend and he is also there for the students at all times. Stratton thanked Pheasant for his hard work.

Medahko asked if anyone can come to the Language Camp even if they are non-Native. Pheasant stated anyone is welcome. Medahko spoke of special needs of children and the importance of having them attend Language Camp—to also hear the drum. Medahko asked that Pheasant work with someone to help translate a song into the Native language.

Parsons told Pheasant he is doing a fantastic job and we're very lucky to have him here.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE WRITTEN AND VERBAL  
LANGUAGE REPORT PRESENTED BY KENNY  
PHEASANT; by McCatty; supported by Porter.**

**Roll Call**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**B. Community Relations Department**

Chapman stated there is no dramatic increase for the newsletter. Chapman stated it's been hitting households the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> of the month—her goal was the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. Chapman stated the cost is \$1.00 per page. Chapman stated she did receive questions regarding Tribal Council minutes and forwarded those people to Kathleen Block. Block stated she has not received any comments. Chapman stated she is working with the Housing Department regarding the housing project and getting some pictures from start to finish.

McCatty asked for Chapman to clarify the cost of \$1.00 per page. Chapman stated this \$1.00 includes supplies, copying and postage for all the membership and divide by the membership. McCatty asked if she gets a report from the accounting department directly. Chapman stated this is sent directly to the Director of Operations. McCatty stated in the financial statement it does not reflect the total cost that Chapman is speaking of. Davis responded that the October newsletter bill was \$2,200 because the newsletter was about half the size due to no inclusion of Tribal Council minutes. Davis stated the August status report, with the September payment, have already reached our budget and expenditures of total postage and printing costs. Davis stated will have to have a supplemental appropriation to continue through November and December. Davis stated may have been close to the budget if the Tribal Council minutes would not have been included at the request of the Council. Davis stated in conversation with Chapman, she did get several phone calls of why minutes were not in the newsletter. Chapman stated the membership likes to see the minutes.

Recorder Sam stated under the purchasing policies there are certain authorizations and to get a list of department directors. Sam asked who

has the \$500 sign off authority. Porter spoke of Chapman cutting costs and asked if we could cut the minutes. Chapman stated she tried that but did receive complaints. Davis stated Chapman did footwork and looked at several different printers and remain the lowest price and get good service. Davis stated we have the least expensive cost we can get with the current printer. Sam asked who does the printing for the newsletter. Chapman replied Lee Printing from Muskegon.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE VERBAL REPORT FROM CANDACE CHAPMAN; by Kleeman; supported by Porter.**

**Roll Call**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**IV. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS  
 A. Report of the Tribal Ogema**

Jay Sam stated he will be bringing in a clean copy of the tax agreement, which is about 85-90% completed. The Ogema stated he would like to discuss this with Council. The timeline is to have the draft next Tuesday and finalize by October 29. The Ogema stated there is a refund system based on a tax table and adjusted gross income.

The Ogema stated he has also been involved with CORA and stated the lakes have been overfished for \_\_\_\_\_ by CORA. Parsons asked \_\_\_\_\_ . The Ogema stated \_\_\_\_\_ .  
*[Jay Sam inaudible on tape]*

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE VERBAL REPORT FROM THE OGEMA; by McCatty; supported by Medahko.**

**Roll Call**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**1. Financial Report**

Parsons asked when the Council should receive the August and September financials. The Ogema stated that the August report is

almost complete and September report should be completed by October 27, 2002.

Sam, in brief review of the Financial Report, has three things—two are related to the report itself and a question. According to the cash receipts report, there was a 1.9 million dollar change in the funding account, that there's no cash receipts reported for the month. Sam was wondering where the money went. Secondly, on the cash report, it is showing 28,792, 321, but the balance sheet is showing 28,791,219, which is a difference of \$1,102. Sam thought someone needs to verify the balance sheet and the cash receipts report for accuracy. The third thing, Sam has a concern that the August report wasn't finished yet and the September report would be completed shortly, but in the last newsletter, in the Accounting Department, there was a release of August numbers. Specially, Sam stated she met with Dan Broton in a separate meeting, the Construction Maintenance Company was showing a \$27,000, more or less, expenditures for the month of August, and there were some other numbers represented through the month of August. Sam was wondering how information gets reported in the newsletter that hasn't been accepted by the Council yet. Sam would appreciate if someone could follow up on those things.

McCatty stated there is a section of the book missing which is the cash receipts report. McCatty stated also have not received the cash receipts for June. Kleeman stated on tab 12, it says that a check for Walters Fisheries was cut for earnest money for \$10,000.

The Ogema explained *[Jay Sam inaudible on tape]*

Kleeman responded with a comment about the expenditure report for the Little River gas station. Recorder Sam commented on the revenue and expenditure report—that account had to be created—there shouldn't be any activity on it. That would be the questionable thing if there's activity on that fund.

McCatty commented on program 4104, Contract Health, the extended health assistance program is showing up within this program and requested from the Ogema and set this up as it's own program with its own dollars. Davis asked if this was for the sake of clarity that this be a line item under Membership Assistance and was presented in the 2002 Budget that way. McCatty stated the money was actually in the contract health stuff and should not be mixed together. Recorder Sam asked if going to do the same thing for family services dollars.

Recorder Sam asked for an update on the Helping Hands Program, she's been out for a week and she heard rumors—the program being shut down, there's no money left, members are being turned away. Sam has gotten calls at home and she hasn't been able to respond.

The Ogema responded....*inaudible on tape*...so Don Koon suggested suspending this program until sure. Temporarily suspended operations until could come to a consensus of how the program currently stands and ask for appropriate modifications made to use the helping hands program until the end of the year and re-evaluate at that point. Recorder Sam asked what steps Administration is going to take to get a baseline of where this should be. Recorder Sam asked maybe we would want to look at where the overages were and evaluate that. The Ogema stated there have been over 200 applications for this program and had been running this at \$100 earlier in the year and between the two periods the amounts went over.

Recorder Sam stated the Director has asked for a reduction in this program to change to \$50 and this occurred even before the Ogema was sworn in. Recorder Sam stated the recommendation to decrease the amount of this benefit and then to have this balloon, she was hoping the evaluation would get to the bottom because we need to understand that.

McCatty stated the membership assistance, department as one program and 1.3 all in a line item for members assistance in the service area and 0 for out of the area. McCatty would like to see this outlined and rework this as this is supposed to be for all members. Davis believed this was already done. Davis will look into getting this fixed.

House responded to the statement by Janine Sam regarding Sherri Ivens presentation to reduce the Helping Hands fund \$50, was in relation to the scope of all the membership assistance programs that were being presented. Because there was a greater range of benefits that could be potentially tapped into, was determined that Helping Hands may not be the most necessary or accessed, it was a program of last resort. Looking at it in perspective, it wasn't simply, if there's only Helping Hands—we need to reduce it because no one is accessing it, it was in the nature of all these other programs that are being created, so Helping Hands won't be the first resort or only resort. The other thing is to point out that those are the live reports—the resolution that we presented wasn't until probably late September or late August to

do that. It won't show up on those printouts, it will show up on the next financial report.

Medahko asked if a meeting was held with the membership assistance people. The Ogema stated two meetings were held with Don Koon, Sherri Ivens, Bill Willis, Jessica Burger, Cris Curtain ...*Jay Sam inaudible on tape* ..... Medahko asked if this program is still suspended. The Ogema stated it is no longer submitted. Recorder Sam asked if benefits been reimplemented and have or haven't determined the funding adjustments. The Ogema stated the 1.3M and is being reallocated among the five non-health programs that the ordinance empowers and not necessarily the seven or eight that was projected. Davis stated there will still be money in the programs that have yet to be implemented. Kleeman asked when they will be up and running. Davis stated the programs will probably not be up and running. Recorder Sam stated there is a limitation in scope of the program in order to make that change and this would need to come to the Council for approval. McCatty stated in the budget—membership assistance money was under health services and was for the whole program. Davis stated he was going to bring this to the Council anyway by resolution.

Kleeman asked for the programs that are not up and running yet. Davis stated there was an appliance, relocation, new jobs, culture education and mortgage assistance. Kleeman asked if mortgage assistance is being done now through rental/mortgage assistance. Davis stated this is correct.

Davis stated we completed our first home repair for a Tribal member. Davis is waiting for a report on how many are left. Recorder Sam asked if the member may consider including a report in the newsletter with pictures.

McCatty asked that the expenditures for the housing actually came out of the grants and would like clarification from the Ogema's office.

**MOTION TO POSTPONE UNTIL ALL THE QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED;** by McCatty; supported by Porter.



**Roll Call**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

McCatty asked that it not take until next month's meeting to receive this information.

**B. Director of Operations Report**

Parsons stated it is nice to see Bob Davis is back and in good spirits as he has been off for medical reasons. Davis stated he is here to state he has no report for this meeting. Davis stated the report will be forthcoming.

Chapman stated she was scheduled through Sheri Hunt to report at this meeting. House stated this would be under the agenda under department reports in the previous item.

**MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE UNDER DEPARTMENT REPORTS, B. REPORT FROM COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT;** by Parsons; supported by Kleeman.

**Roll Call**

C. Bennett – Absent	C. Fisher – Absent	T. Kleeman – Yes
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – No

Motion carried (6-1-0-2)

McCatty asked for Bob Davis to review what employees are retaining in their annual leave bank to ensure that no one has over the 80 hours that can be carried over because she has received some comments from staff that they have supplemental hours.

**C. Attorney Report**

Medahko asked about the memo from Nancy Kida to Helen Ann Yunis and has never seen this before. Medahko would like more detail regarding this. House stated this was a new item that occurred last month. The Ogema stated Nancy had received two specific requests for parole hearings coming up and requests were specifically for the Tribe to provide a letter to the governor's office stating that we would have and would take over the counseling required for this individual. The Ogema stated in discussions that we would not provide this for persons in the State Prison.

McCatty also had a comment on the legal assistance program. McCatty stated there were 57 individual cases handled in 11 days. McCatty asked if this is maximizing all the time she has available and may need to have a second person on board to assist.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT FOR FILING THE ATTORNEY'S REPORT;** by Kleeman; supported by Ruiter.

**Roll Call**

C. Bennett – Absent	C. Fisher – Absent	T. Kleeman – Yes
L. McCatty – Yes	P. Medahko – Yes	S. Parsons – Yes
E. Porter – Yes	P. Ruiter – Yes	J. Sam – No

Motion carried (6-1-0-2)

**V. ACCEPTANCE OF COMMISSION REPORTS**  
**A. Enrollment Commission – September 2002**

Kleeman raised an issue of the meeting held on September 17, 2002 and whether the commission was eligible for the stipend. House spoke of the statement that is included on all the Enrollment Commission minutes. House stated she has mentioned to the Enrollment Commission of deleting the statement from their minutes before--it causes a lot of misunderstanding. If they don't understand the applications of the stipends, House is happy to attend their meeting to clarify that for them. House agrees with McCatty's concern. House thinks the Tribal Council should request the liaison to the Enrollment Commission to clarify this matter.

Parsons stated there is a Council member who needs to leave.

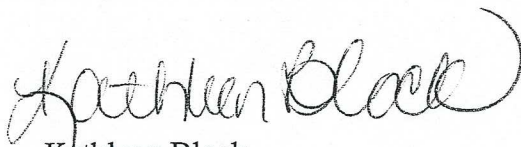
The meeting was recessed at 12:11 p.m.

Reconvened the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

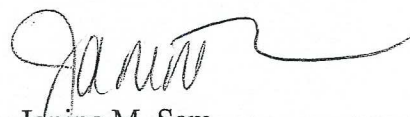
The meeting is now over because there was not a quorum present when the meeting reconvened.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathleen Block  
Transcribing Assistant



Janine M. Sam  
Tribal Council Recorder