

# ***Little River Band of Ottawa Indians/Election Board***

## ***Open Meeting Minutes***

November 15, 2023

### **I. Call to order**

Kathy Gibson made a motion to call to order the Open Meeting of the Election Board at 7:15 pm

Roll Call:

Kathy Gibson – Present	Laura Echelbarger - Present	Janine Sam – Present
Shawna Gonzalez - Present	Lee Iverson - Present	

**II. Members in attendance:** Martha Howell, Staci Cheney, Sara Agosa, Karol Ann Chabot, Jolene O'Signac, Charmaine Elliott

### **III. Discussion Period**

- a) The survey spreadsheet was broken down to present to the membership to review all asked questions that were included in the surveys that were sent back. Noted to the membership was the color definitions of any question listed in blue as a constitutional change and yellow were to address specific questions asked to the Election Board.
- b) Laura Echelbarger explained the layout of the spreadsheet that was shown to the membership via Zoom.
- c) Q) I support enrolled members having to file to vote and to be 21. Maybe 18 is too young to understand all everything is that goes on but definitely to file. A) This is a constitutional change to raise the age to 21. We did see this come up several times in this survey, but this would be a constitutional change.
- d) Q) Need current mailing address on file. Need Photo card. Need to fill out application to vote. A) We have been doing a lot of discussion regarding what the process could look like but we have been discussing photo ID's. Address changes are something that has to go through enrollment, and we have been discussing this as well.
- e) Q) Tribal members should have some responsibility for their actions if you move to a new town or township you have to file for voter registration. A) That is true but also within our own enrollment records, it is really the expectation that the member themselves will make sure that their addresses are updated. We do know that this is an issue with some of the member

addresses that there is a problem with, they tend to come back, or they aren't updated. Their per cap checks are probably direct deposited. This is something that Janine started talking about as soon as she joined the board, that she wanted to get with those members to get them updated as quickly as possible.

- f) Q) Better Bio's, Debates, Campaign Details! A) You'll see this comment all through these comments, everyone wants debates, better bios and more access to candidates. This is something that the Board has been discussing for several months.
- g) Q) More time is needed from when you mail forms out to households for us to receive them and get back to you. Don't count nonresponses to this survey as a yes. A) Within the last set of regulations, this is something that we did address by making some changes to the timelines by adding more time to the members benefit so the vendor would give the member more time in getting their ballots earlier, to the time frame of when the member had to request a ballot so the member would have more time to request. We extended those dates so we could give the member as much time as possible but unfortunately there is only so much we can do with moving dates, but this is something that is important to us also.
- h) Kathy Gibson pointed out that some of the verbiage and the spelling in the spreadsheet was incorrect, but the spreadsheet was made directly from what the member sent to us from the member.
- i) Q) We should know where they live. They may have changed their citizenship, we should know they are still a citizen of another country. We as the government of Little River Band of Ottawa Inds have the right to know who is voting to govern us as a sovereign nation. A) Going back to the last incident of residence, when packets are dropped off with a copy of a driver's license, with an address that's listed in the packet, we ask for 2 forms of bills that has the address listed, that is about as far as we can take it. We understand where this comment is coming from but really our hands are tied in that regard and there really isn't a whole lot more that we can do. If someone has an idea, we will obviously listen to it though.
- j) Q) Enrolled members, I believe should take the time to register. Maybe during the registration time the election board could give information on our elections status and updates a lot of members are always complaining they don't know what is going on with our tribe and council and so forth. A) We do try to give as many updates as we can throughout the whole election process but there are definitely look at adding more info when possible. We do genuinely try to give out as much information as possible. Again, every request for more information on candidates, we can really see through this survey that it is imperative to members who are passionate

about voting. It's definitely something that we are trying to add to help out with that.

- k) Q) The Muskegon casino, is it still happening? Per Cap Increase. All tribal members deserve respect. People in other counties need to be updated on all actions and programs. Many Elders can't make it to Manistee and feel left out. They deserve appreciation, or something extra nice. Send a gift! Is Quantum level going to change? For example, I am a member, but my son is not considered a member. A) All of this really isn't something that we can speak to.
- l) Q) But would a constitutional be needed? A) No a constitutional change would not be needed if we were to go back to registration.
- m) Q) Would love to see more 'get out the votes efforts or campaigning to encourage voter participation. Currently it seems like negative reinforcement is promulgated ('only 100 members voted')—would rather see encouragement, positivity, and better efforts to encourage participation. A) We all agree and there are things that we are talking about that we would really like to implement. We would like to impassion people to get out to vote. Its not so easy, I think we all know.
- n) Q) Please do not disenroll members from voting rolls if they do not vote in each election. The tribe seems to be on a perpetual voting cycle. Every time I turn around it seems as if there is another election for one position or another. This is why we need to be registered or constantly enrolled. A) The tribe does seem to be on a perpetual voting cycle, and we have for the last couple of years.
- o) Q) Random selection of tribal members to count votes. A) I think this is really where we wanted to express that during an election the election board members do not count votes. That is something that the vendor does. The only thing that the board members might do is to slice open envelopes, but we do not count votes.
- p) Janine Sam asked if we knew how many surveys we received back in total. Laura answered that we received a little less than 400 answers back.
- q) Staci Cheney asked what the total was that came back. Laura answered a little under 400. Staci asked if we had these available at the membership meeting and we answered that we did. She then asked how many we received back and Laura answered 5.
- r) Q) Check blood quantum by blood test. A) That's not something we can do.
- s) Q) It would be nice to get more information on candidates, maybe on the tribal website. Adding a page during election time for candidates information on Little Rivers government site would be fairly simple and

easy for whoever to update it. A) That is something that we are constantly talking about and trying to work toward a better solution.

- t) Q) Eliminate the form of 3 tier government, return to a 1 tier where the Ogema and Council set at the same table, working as one unit. A) That is a constitutional change.
- u) Q) Free and fair election, term limits for Ogema and board members. Make sure all ballots go out in a timely manner, so everyone has a chance for their vote to be counted. A) You'll see a lot of comments throughout regarding term limits but those would be a constitutional change.
- v) Q) For those of us that live out of state and across the country to be able to learn more about the one that are running for election so that we may be able to make the choice that needs to be made. And if there are ways of doing so to let us know where to go to find that information on the last election, I was able to find some things on the internet but I don't believe it was enough to make the right decision. A) That is always something we thing about. I am also outlying so I understand the difficulty. Its something we are talking a lot about. Using myself as an example, when I was running I knew that I really had to be the one to get my info out to the members because it really is up to the candidate to do so but on the other hand if there is a way we can find to help facilitate that, we want to do so.
- w) Q) I think we need to make available a hard copy ballot as well as electronic ballot on the government tribal web page. This will enable all members the opportunity to use the ballot they feel most comfortable with and trust their vote is being processed appropriately and confidently. They should be able to log in to the tribal web link and have a link available to take them to a secure and confidential election ballot. A) We are coming up with a new RFP, I know that Lee has been working on that, and we will be looking at some vendors and the technologies they can use. There are things that we really want to get from a new vendor that we weren't able to get with the last couple of vendors so we will be looking at all technologies that will make it easier and better for the membership.
- x) Q) Voter verification of each vote received. 2) Provide a website and mailed information flyer that provides candidates running for office with background and their stance on issues facing the tribe, along with how they would try to correct, or fix said issues so we can make an informed vote. A) I can let Janine speak to this because she has had some ideas on this. Janine-Actually what I would like to do is modify our regulations to publish after every election the participants whose ballots were actually returned. We can't obviously see how people voted but when we get the ballot list returned from the vendor should be published, whatever the voter list is, whoever got ballots mailed out to them and whether or not that ballot was returned and counted. That way citizens will have that reassurance that

their ballot did make it back and it did get counted in the election. Then people can also see who is not voting and who is not participating. I think that will help resolve a lot of the issues with allegations that people aren't getting their ballots, or we will be able to show that one was mailed and if they don't make contact with the election board, we would know who is voting and who is not. Not how they are voting but who is voting and who doesn't. Laura-I would love to see the ages of people who are voting so we could try to drive those voting efforts. Staci-I think that's a phenomenal idea and breaking it down by age is a great idea too because it will let us know who we need to go after in order to get them involved in voting. That would be really helpful to those of us who aren't necessarily working on promoting candidates but working on promoting voting.

- y) Q) I would like to see the geographical guidelines for voting gone. Get rid of 9 county, outlying members and term them Little River Council members, then represent all and all members should be able to vote for all, same as they vote for Ogema. We are one and should not be divided. A) This is a constitutional change and if people want that it needs to be a secretarial election.
- z) Q) There has to be a way to utilize Zoom or Teams or something similar for membership meetings to establish a quorum. The way it is now the membership will never have a vote or voice other than voting for Council (which I have no confidence in). A) Everyone loves that idea, right? The only problem is if you establish quorum is the most important thing is maintaining quorum and what was problematic for the last time quorum was established, was that they lost quorum. So, Teams and Zoom would be great to access members but using it to establish quorum and not losing quorum where it gets super sticky. Janine-And we could just disconnect people, so you have to trust the person running the technology. Laura-Even Council, with just 9 people, they have lost quorum recently in the last few months at least two or three times. They've lost quorum from Zoom and that's only with 9 people, imagine 1000 people trying to maintain quorum in Zoom. Martha Howell-Well, for something like that, even in person for electronic voting, wouldn't there be a way to air drop a verification and login to everyone who was using their own personal phone could verify through their own phone and then vote through that. Using that somehow where you really wouldn't be able to manipulate that because it would be verified through your phone, and you could even use Microsoft authenticator somehow. It verifies that it's you and it verifies your location and everything and to utilize that technology. Laura-That is definitely something to think about and there is a lot of technology that can be used but it's that quorum thing and making sure that the person is wherever they are supposed to be and maintaining that quorum so that whatever is being voted on doesn't get taken to court and tossed out. There are so many things that we want to look at.

- aa) Q) I support whatever process legally allows voters to be counted in quorum. Please provide context behind the surveys in the future. Asking questions without full transparency is deceitful, even if done unintentionally. Explain the 'why'. A) At first when we were working up the survey, one thing that we really did not want to do is to make it seem like the 5 of us were somehow directing the survey to state our own opinions of what we wanted the survey to be so we tried to state it as clearly and concisely as we could without leading it at all and we probably didn't give enough context on the survey so we will look at that in the future.
- bb) Q) Registered voters, in my opinion, care more about the membership. We have taken the time to follow the rules and do what is necessary to vote/cast our say. Why waste your resources on members who don't respond? A) So when we are sending ballots out to say...3700 people and then changing that quantity to maybe around 1300, that would make it for a less costly ballot bill. That is something to consider. Laura-So there were 128 surveys that came back with comments.
- cc) Discussion:  
Staci-So there were about 400 returns, could you give us a break down of how many people said they would like to go back to registered voting and how many said they would like to keep it as is, or do you not have that yet?  
Laura-We do have that.  
Staci-Can you share that?  
Laura-So it's about 330 yes and to about 90 no. So, it is exceedingly more people stating to keep it as is. I will say though that there have been many comments from people not understanding what that meant and maybe it was too generalized, and they didn't really understand what yes meant. We have had a couple of comments that said they didn't understand what yes meant so they wanted to clarify it.  
Kathy-So basically, we just wanted to get membership input to see if they wanted to go back to registration or keep it as is. **(Clarifying this number- 3680 were sent out, 390 were sent back, 303 yes-keep registration as is, 86 no-make registration manual, 1-didn't mark yes or no)**  
Sara-I wanted to make some comments regarding the logistics of the survey. Some of the concerns I have about the administration of the survey, first of all, for me as a tribal member, I experienced a lot of confusion, and this is a suggestion I did make but it would have been very helpful if a cover letter could have been used to discuss the purpose of the survey. What posed a barrier for me was I found two different surveys circulating and that was very confusing, it would be helpful if the surveys could be coded so members could keep them separate.  
Laura-It was that first one that was still on the website, but we didn't put the 2<sup>nd</sup> one on the website because we mailed them out.  
Sara-I would like to make a suggestion, any survey that is posted across all venues or that if it's mailed out its still posted electronically as well so there

is some continuity. We are looking at a membership that acquires information in different ways, we have a lot of members who still don't really use computers or phones or even can't afford them, even some of the elders like the currents to still be mailed. Some still might use something like Facebook but the majority of our members still are not subscribed to Facebook pages. Other members like to access information on the website, I'm one of those members, I do frequently access our website, but I don't think that's the most common route. So, I think if a survey is mailed that it's also posted in other places. That's just some feedback that I would like to give.

Kathy-Can I just comment too, this survey was mailed, and we also took it to the membership meeting, we took it to the elders meeting, no matter where we went, we took it. Some members even called for it or emailed to get it.

Sara-In response to that, I don't attend the elders meeting and I don't attend the membership meeting, but I did watch the video in hindsight, I don't remember seeing the survey in the presentation, but I could be wrong.

Kathy-Sara, can I ask you if you received the copy in the mail because it was mailed to everyone 18 and above? Did you get it?

Sara-Yes, but it caused me a great deal of confusion when I found the other survey on the website.

Kathy-Can I ask why you did not reach out to us?

Sara-I did, but I'm just giving the feedback overall that this did pose a barrier because it was very frustrating for me to try to reach out and try to get clarification. I ended up not returning the survey, I gave us because it seemed like too much work. I'm not sure if a lot of members were aware that they could submit their surveys electronically. Additionally, a concern I have is that a stamp was not included in the return envelope and that was a really big barrier for me and I heard from other tribal members. Stamps are really expensive right now. They're 60 cents. I received feedback from one tribal member, she went to three different stores and was told she can't buy a single stamp and had to buy a book. Those are 13.20 a booklet so she was not able to do that. I'm not sure if she knew she could submit hers by email but that is also a barrier to that because she would have to modify the survey to a pdf converter or scan it and that is an additional step that a lot of members experience hardship in having to do that. So that's one of the reasons why I wasn't able to return mine, I just didn't have time.

Shawwna-Sara, can I ask you where you would want it sent then, Facebook? Is that what you're talking about?

Sara-In my situation, I actually ruined my survey so I did have to request a replacement. However, the stamp issue, not getting a stamp to return the envelope, that also would have been a barrier for me.

Shawwna-Ok, I just wanted to ask if you had any suggestions, I can only think of Facebook but that would be easier to do it electronically and return it that way.

Sara-Well, it would be easier if the survey was electronic like through Survey Monkey, and this was discussed in a prior meeting . For me personally as a member I would prefer an electronic survey personally but I know that a lot of our members that might be a hardship. We are looking at a very mixed use electronically for our membership.

Staci-I believe that the election board is the best communicator in the tribe, I'm going to bring this up to the tribal council at least, the Ogema may not want to hear that, but I think you guys do a wonderful job. I think that your approach is very positive also. When I received the survey and read the one online, I thought it was very positive. You were encouraging in the way that you had questions and stuff, I found it very positive. The only question I have is that there were two surveys. That was a little confusing. When everybody received their survey that was mailed to them, the other one was up until three days before it was due. I don't know if you realized that there were two on the website.

Laura-Yeah, we didn't realize both were there.

Staci-I know there is a lot of IT issue's now. The one that was posted on the website was which one?

Laura-That was the one that we initially said that if you contacted us for the survey and returned it we would send you a gift which was the one we sent out the water bottle stickers.

Staci-I thought that was an excellent survey, it was very comprehensive and something that I thought was very helpful is that you did ask for the name and ID number, you're not taking that and sharing that with the membership right now, you took that off and you're just sharing the comments. I thought that it was great because you're seeing that not one person was filling out 50 of them. And I thought that it was helpful because a concern I had, the other one that didn't require a name and an ID number, for somebody that's really passionate about making sure that we get to change registration they might actually spend the time filling several of them out and sending them back and you would never know if it was one person that filled out several of them. So that was a good suggestion.

Laura-That's a very good point, and just to be clear, the survey was a way to gauge what the membership is thinking about this topic, but it isn't a ballot, it was to give us ideas and to give us something to think about when we are trying to come to a decision about what we think we should do.

Staci-I think that's an excellent that you're actually asking the membership what their thoughts are on this because ultimately its up to the election board to make this decision. And we have to just entrust you guys to make a good decision for us. The fact that you're asking, I really appreciate as a citizen myself. Another thing is that I do think Sara had a good suggestion to put a cover letter on there just to help with confusion, just explain a little bit and explain the intent and maybe even how to fill it out because I know that when we did the candidate website, we showed them how to fill out a ballot and we took it step by step and made a video. That's just a

suggestion. And I'm happy to send back some feedback to the election board based off of what I was able to gather by doing that election candidate website, how many people access the website online and how many people didn't which is why we didn't do it again. Because what I've learned that this is very much a community that is not an online community, they like it to be mailed. I do have some statistics if you guys are interested in it, on how many people accessed the website. I couldn't put it on our tribal website because it was just a citizens group that did it, it was cheaper to do it that way because a lot of candidates did participate in it. If the election board did it though you might get it from a lot of people and it was very cost effective for the candidates too since they are spending up to \$5000, and they are able to get it out to many. All in all I thought it was a very positive survey and I appreciate you guys doing what you did so thank you.

Laura-Thank You, Charmaine go ahead.

Charmaine-I was actually going to echo the same sentiments that I appreciate you guys sending out the survey to give the citizens a chance to give feedback. I'm wondering if anyone knows what the response rate is when a survey is sent out and there is money at stake. For example, when the funds were given out not too long ago, how many of those people actually sent back their surveys and is there a way we can try to encourage people to participate even when it doesn't include a check? Does anyone know the results of that was? Would that be beneficial for people to understand, because I honestly believe when there is a will there is a way. I wanted to fill out that survey so when I didn't get it in the mail, I made a point to have it sent to me and I sent it right back. I think that when people want to be involved they will be involved and when they don't want to be they are just going to lay out excuses on why they couldn't send it back in.

Laura-Agreed.

Janine-This is Janine and it's a joke so I don't want anyone leaving this meeting running with it but one of the things I had mentioned that when we were doing those earlier surveys and we were offering the response check that we were paying for peoples data I had told the election board maybe we could get the casino to spring for some freeplay and that we would be able to do a free play raffle or award for every voter that returned their survey they would have a balance put on their players card but it was just a joke. I do agree that when there are finances at stake or an incentive at stake and we just have to be very careful, even though I was joking about it, it could be considered to be an inducement or bribery. The other thing that I wanted to mention is that I had just gotten on the board, the survey process was just coming forward and I think we ended up mailing the survey because that was the feedback we got initially from when we were trying to hand the surveys out, was that well, if we don't mail it to everybody how are we going to be sure to get everyone's voice. I know that when we contemplate these mailings, we have limited funds in our

budget as well, so we have to be cost conscious also. I'm all about trying to figure out the technologies and I agree with what Staci was saying, keeping it to when people have to identify themselves by number. Some employers have anonymous ethics hotlines, and you can call in and make allegations and you can just say whatever you want. There could be 5 separate complaints and when it is tracked down it could be one person making 5 different complaints. So, I agree with Staci and we want to make sure that the system isn't getting abused. So, I just wanted to make those comments that the whole purpose of us mailing it and a cover letter is a good suggestion, we decided to spend the money because we got feedback that people wanted us to mail it out so that's what we did.

Laura-I kind of agree with the stamp and even my own daughter questioned why we didn't add it. Well, we got less than 400 back, 390 or something, it was less than 400 from 3680 and that is a huge difference in stamps that would have gone unused. Which is unfortunate but speaks directly to those members that are engaged in their government and what goes on with their tribe as opposed to those members that aren't and it's very difficult to get them engaged. I don't know what the secret is beyond money, really, I don't know what that secret is. Sara, I agree with you with the stamps and apparently my family does too, but it would have been a very different price point.

Sara-Yeah, I need to respond about laying out excuses in not returning a survey and my perspective is that it's definitely not excuses, but barriers and hardships, which ultimately impact the results of the survey. I have concerns with that because I definitely think if data is collected there should be absolute integrity with the results in terms with how the survey is administered. Even the elimination of members participating, which I am one of them because of these barriers which ultimately impacts what data is collected. One question, I have, I'm not sure this was raised already, because I have been writing notes, but with the survey, I don't believe that the name and ID of the participant was required to return it.

Laura-It was not.

Sara-So how have you, or will you ensure that one person for example didn't turn in 10 surveys or 50 surveys or maybe someone who isn't eligible to turn in surveys.

Laura-Just to go back, the survey is not a vote. The votes will come from the election board members but the survey is not vote, the survey is information coming from the tribal member about this topic, if that makes sense.

Kathy-If I may, just to reiterate what Laura just shared, this was just to gather information and to get the members input. This is why we did this, it's not like we were having the membership vote on something. It was just to gather the information, therefore that's why we did not ask for tribal members name or id, some of them included that on there and I would say the ones that we did get back, 99% of them came in their own envelope

with the return address. So, that's just my comment.

Janine-I do have a comment also. So, with the information we had and we sent the surveys out to the addresses that we were provided by the enrollment office, if a tribal citizen chooses to share their mail with someone that isn't a member, that isn't something we can prevent. I can say the same for the ballots, I can't tell you that the person who cast that ballot are the tribal citizens, they are coming from that address in the included envelope, but at the end of the day that some of that integrity that we need has to come from the citizens as well. So, as an entity that is trying to gather information from the public and make sure we have input from the public, the mechanisms that we have are sometimes hindered, I don't disagree with the comments about barriers, I think that's a good comment to make but I also want to make the point that we can't solve all of the barriers for every single citizen, we can only try to do the best that we can for as many citizens as possible through the mechanisms that we can afford. So the election boards budget did get a substantial cut this year and I'm not making excuses for it but I'm just saying when we have to consider mailing a direct mailer to the whole tribal citizenship, all of the households, that has a cost and we have to really be mindful of that cost. Again, the survey is to gather data, if we were going to do something mathematic or we were going to do something more than a public opinion pulse type of issue, then we would probably be asking for different mechanisms and maybe hiring a different company so we are using a survey methods that are scientifically proven but for now we are just trying to get engagement. When was the last time 400 surveys got returned to anybody in our tribe? That's another point I want to make, as we continue to do these things and get better at them, we are just doing the best that we can. That's why there were election board members at the elders meeting because many of the elders do not participate online. I'm happy to see Karol Ann and Jolene participating the way that they are. I have someone in my house right now, my husbands grandma who is a citizen of our tribe and this venue that we are talking about right now would never address her or her individual needs as a citizen. So, there is a big difference to me between an individual citizens needs and the global needs of the people and trying to reach as many as we can doing the best that we can. I really do appreciate all of the feedback and the comments. Cover letter...check. Stamp on the envelope....check. As we get better at these things, maybe we can even find a way to use that authenticator as Martha suggested, I'm not sure that I'm there yet on voting yet but at the same time I did just give a reason why it would work better than the paper ballots we are mailing out. So that's my comment.

Laura-Sara, go ahead.

Sara-Well, I would just like to make the point that the potential for duplicating the surveys, even if you're not voting, this isn't an action of voting that the potential that duplicates surveys were submitted, or one person submitted a lot of the surveys....that potential would impact the

results. And even with voting there are mechanisms in place where the ballots aren't duplicated and that is taken very seriously, from what I understand the ballots are tracked. So that is tightly monitored and for me I feel a survey should also have the same protections or mechanisms in place. Because ultimately it will impact your decision, and this is a really serious decision that I don't think the membership fully understands if this change takes place what that really looks like in terms in making changes for the tribe and membership meetings. I would like to provide the feedback that earlier you mentioned trying not to...basically...facilitate bias, bias with the survey and I really appreciate that. That was a conversation and discussion and that's super important, but I would like to provide feedback with the presentation, or even things that have been said in meetings, with the numbers in particular at the membership meeting given what it would look like if there was automatic registered voting, or automatic voters as opposed to having to be registered. That is a significant difference for me personally as an outlying member. I have really big concerns that, these are the numbers at the membership meeting, 1104 versus 450. I was just looking up in the election board regulations that if it was reduced to around 450 that an action could be taken on an ordinance or motion and I don't feel that its ahigh enough number to represent the interest in its entirety of the tribe, especially with outlying members. So, that is why a cover letter would have been very helpful even to explain exactly what the impact potentially is, because I don't know if members fully understand the gravity if this was changed. So, that is my comment. Thank you.

Kathy-I just have another comment and the other election board members will have to help me remember but in 2016 when we did the secretarial election, there were members registered, that might have been registered about 900 and only approximately 387 voted.

Laura-337.

Kathy-That vote changed enrollment and it closed enrollment. So, I just wanted to make that comment that it was out there and it was on the ballot and people had to register to vote. 900 registered to vote and only 300 and some voted, and closed enrollment. That was the membership that closed our enrollment. I just wanted to make that comment, thank you.

Laura-Did you want me to pull up the numbers of members voting from that spreadsheet?

Kathy-I don't think that's necessary, it's about 830 so if we can take the comments.

Staci-I was just going to say that there is a lot of factors that goes into who votes in a secretarial election, so if you look at all of them...2016 and 2004 secretarial election and who votes in that, that's why its specific who can vote in that and who doesn't. And how basically, usually, all of the amendments usually pass for that. There is a lot behind that. Thank you.

Kathy-Anyone have last minute comments, questions or concerns?

Laura-I'm just going to share this so we can all see it (list of who is voting

from membership meeting). So, if you look at this, a third of the membership votes, regardless. That's kind of what we determined from the numbers we put together. A third, whether they are registered or registering.

Staci-Have you seen a increase in the voting recently? Laura-There is an increase from 2021 1127 voters and then in 2023 1312 so there is a slight increase.

Janine-Thank you, Chi Miigwetch to everyone who joined us this evening and offered your comments and feedback. Like Shawwna, I was taking notes and making sure that I could capture as much as possible, but it is very helpful to have other peoples viewpoints and other peoples perspectives so we can try to make a good decision in the future.

Lee-I'd like to add fully that as well, to the individuals to come on and participate and give us some feedback, very good feedback on the delivery of the survey, some of the confusion that it may have caused, as we all know the 2023 strategic plan for the tribe itself, I believe the tribal council has a survey that is set for 2024 so perhaps this feedback can be provided to them as well as an initiative in giving the membership information.

Sara-I really appreciate all of your hard work and trying new things so thank you very much and I just have one last question. Will you be issuing a report or will these findings be available and where?

Laura-Are you talking about releasing the report publicly?

Sara-Yeah, or even just a write up or summary of the results.

Laura-We haven't talked about it, that's what this meeting was sort of meant for. WE haven't talked about writing it out and putting it anywhere. It's a topic that we are hotly discussing, every meeting we discuss this and we have been discussing for months really from the point that we all five came together. It's something we can talk about and determine if we want to do that or not. The only thing that would hold me back, I know names are connected to these comments, if we were going to post the comments I would have felt better if we had let the membership know that in advance. I'm a little unsure of that. It's something that we can discuss and put something together, especially as we are making a determination and voting on this finally.

Staci-This is just something that I wanted to make a comment, this is just the first time I have been able to attend a meeting. You guys are all on your camera on zoom and I want to tell you that it really does make a difference. Its really nice, it seems like you guys are all on the same page and Wow. Sara was telling me that she loved the meeting that she attended last time and the vibe is so different, there is no tension in the air and it is amazing to see the difference. So, I go to the council meetings and there is always this discussion but just as a side note, I was nervous going into this meeting tonight and I'm totally relaxed now and I feel really optimistic and I just want to say thank you.

Laura: Thanks!

Staci-Wow, do I have a different view or how Zoom can work.

Laura-Sara, I want to say thank you to you because I think you mentioned it during one of the work sessions and you complimented us for using our cameras in meetings and we really appreciate you stating that in the meeting. I will say, we are 5 very different women who are not always on the same page but never have we been at odds with each other or disrespectful. This group, the five of us, I feel like we are so fortunate in that these 5 women, so I absolutely appreciate that, especially coming from what we did have to this is just amazing. Thank you for saying that Staci, I feel the same way.

Shawwna-Thank you from me.

Laura-The 5 of us can do big things and I think we all feel that way.

Staci-I feel very optimistic and proud of you guys, so thank you.

Kathy-Thank you everyone that attended too. If you have questions or concerns too you can always email us. We are always checking email or phone messages. We want to do the best that we can for the membership and with what the membership wants. Thank you.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Laura Echelbarger made a motion to adjourn open session at 8:36 pm. Seconded by Kathy Gibson.

Kathy Gibson – Yes	Laura Echelbarger - Yes	Janine Sam - Yes
Shawwna Gonzalez - Yes	Lee Ivinson - Yes	