



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
2608 Government Center Drive
Manistee, MI 49660

Resolution # 22-0209-017

#3 Limited Scope Investigation Government Financial Reporting 10/08/21.

WHEREAS, the status of the *Gaá Čhíng Ziibi Daáwaa Aníshinaábek* (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) as a sovereign and Treaty-making power is confirmed in numerous treaties, from agreements with the initial colonial powers on this land, to various treaties with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Tribe) is descended from, and is the political successor to, the Grand River Ottawa Bands, signatories of the 1836 Treaty of Washington (7 Stat. 491) with the United States, as reaffirmed by federal law in P.L. 103-324, enacted in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted a new Constitution, pursuant to a vote of the membership on May 27, 1998, which Constitution became effective upon its approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on July 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted amendments to the Constitution on April 26, 2004, which became effective upon approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on May 13, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted amendments to the Constitution on July 11, 2016 which became effective upon approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on August 24, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council adopted, in accordance with Article IV, Section 7(a) of the Constitution, and the Government Business and Accounting Act of 2010 which identifies the need for investigations; and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller General has performed Limited Scope Investigations as requested by Tribal Council.

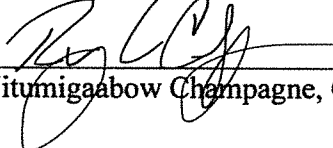
WHEREAS, the Comptroller General has prepared and presented the Limited Scope Investigation and supporting documents to the Tribal Council on October 8th of 2021.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby accepts the #3 Limited Scope Investigation Government Financial Reporting 10/08/21 dated October 8, 2021 and authorizes their dissemination to individuals as deemed appropriate by the Tribal Council.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 6 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 1 ABSTAINING, and 2 ABSENT at a Regular Tribal Council Meeting of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on February 9, 2022, via ZOOM, and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Government Center, with quorum being present for such vote.


Julie Wolfe, Council Recorder


Nitumigaabow Champagne, Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Council Records
Tribal Ogema
Tribal Court



Office of Business and Accounting

2608 Governmental Center Drive

Manistee, MI. 49660

Phone: 906 398 6837

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Limited Scope Investigation to determine why Government Financial Reports/Reviews were not available to Council or Membership from January 31st 2021 thru September 20th of 2021.

Investigation performed by Bradley R Pringle, Comptroller General

Objective/Description

Tribal Council nor Membership had access to Government financial reports for at least seven months. What reporting status were violated? What can we do to curb future issues?

Investigation Scope

Auditor will review the Regulations and Ordinances to determine what requirements are and what violations occurred. Auditor will examine the time lines to determine how many monthly financials reports/reviews were missed. I will review how employee turn has affected these reports/reviews. I will discuss processes with applicable management representative, as necessary.

Findings

Review of monthly Government financial presentation timelines to Council.

Tribal Council last received a January financial review presentation from the LRBOI CFO on March 8th, 2021. The next financial review is scheduled for October 7th to cover February, March and April Financials.

Tribal Council presentations are seven months behind. Traditionally the October review would be covering August Financials.

Review of posting of Government financial reports for Membership review.

During multiple council meetings, during public comment, concerns were raised almost monthly about financial reports not being posted to website. As of time of this report, only the January financials are posted for Membership to view.

It would be fair to state that postings to Membership are still seven months behind but I also cannot find any LRBOI requirement to post these monthly for membership!

Response from the Executive Management.

The Tribal Ogema and CFO have replied at several Public sessions that the tribe does not have a Controller, so work is backed up in the Accounting Department. During several meetings, the CFO has expressed that the Tribal annual external audit was a priority

Timeline of for filling the Controller position.

The prior Controller did resign/retired her position as of March 31st of 2021 with full and prior notice. The LRBOI HR department posted the Controller job opening about July 1st. The Tribal Executive/CFO hired a new Controller around July 30th with a start date of August 16th 2021.

Review of LRBOI Constitution, Ordinance, Regulations and Resolutions

Constitution,

Section 5 Powers of Ogema (a) 5. Requires Ogema to "prepare monthly reports for the Council."

Found no other financial reporting requirements under Tribal Ordinances, Regulations or Resolution.

Future expectations-

It appears that Government financial reports are the "Controllers" work. For the 5 months LRBOI was without a Controller, this work was not a priority. Unless something changes, the monthly reporting does not take priority during times of turnover.

Recommendations

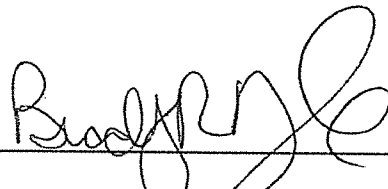
The LRBOI Constitution says that the Ogema must give monthly reports to "Council". It also appears that seven months without a Government monthly report/review is unacceptable by just about everyone standards. I would like to see Accounting develop a backup plan, for financial reports, in case of employee "Controller" turn.

Review this document at round table and determine Councils next steps.

Corrective Action Plan (As Needed)

(TBD)

Auditor Signature: _____


Bradley R Pringle

Date: 10/8/2021