

# ***Little River Band of Ottawa Indians/Election Board Open Meeting Minutes***

July 22, 2021

## **I. Call to order**

Val McDonnell called the meeting to order at 5:15

## **II. Roll call**

Val McDonnell called the meeting to order. YES Val McDonnell YES Mike Ceplina  
YES Karen Love YES Kathy Gibson YES Laura Echelbarger

## **III. Attendee's:**

Responses from attendee's:  
Chelsea Densmore-3225  
Susan Thull-3727  
Dawn Moneyhan-5088  
Jolene Osignac-3866

## **IV. Open Issues: emailed questions from members**

- If the membership desired to recall every election board member, simultaneously, what would be the procedure for that?  
*If you look at our regulations section 10, Recall Election, page 36 it goes into detail as to what needs to be done. Tribal Constitution page 44, article 5, it talks about resignation, recall, or remove of elected officials.*
- What would that look like? *Referencing section 10, in the recall election, page 36 of our regulations and article 5 on page 44 of the tribal constitution, those questions are answered.*
- Who would preside over that recall effort? *It states the answer in those pages in the constitution and the regulations.*
- Who would the membership take their disputes to under those circumstances? *Again, it is stated in the pages referenced above.*
- Which body of government governs the Election Board? *We are elected by the tribal membership.*

- Which body of government has the authority, outside of a recall effort, to enforce rules/regulations/laws of and over the Election Board? *We are an independent body elected by the membership.*
- What legal authority does the election board have (where is this written) to govern themselves in situations of complaint or conflict of interest? *That is in our regulations and in our code of ethics.*
- The LRBOI tribal constitution clearly defines 3 branches of government. If the Election Board is not a branch of government, then it must be ruled under the authority of a branch of government. My questions to this point seek to identify that specific branch of government. *We are not under a specific branch of government and are independent under the constitution.*
- If simultaneous recall petitions are circulated, can they all have the same sponsors or must each petition have a different set of sponsors than the others? In our regs it does state that there should be two sponsors.
- Can circulators circulate more than 1 petition at a time? *This is answered in our regs, they can circulate more than one but must be through the principal sponsors. There must be two sponsors to a recall and there is no limit to the number of recalls.*
- Is there a limit of how many at once? *No*
- I heard there was an issue with the ballot box being left unattended at some point during the last election. Has this been addressed, and if so, how can the membership be insured this won't happen again? *That did not happen.*
- I would like to suggest/request the election board schedule more than 1 meeting a month so all of the membership questions can be addressed and answered promptly without running out of meeting time. Typically there are only two or three people that attend meetings but we would entertain the idea of additional meetings if there was a need.
- When there is an Election and ballots are mailed back, do the EB have access to the ballots until Election Day or are they secured at the post office? *The ballots are secured at the post office and the election board does not check that until 12 noon when we go to the post office. One eb member and a security officer picks them up. They are sealed with a strap, and they are cut off when we are ready to count the ballots.*
- Why isn't the EB website secure/password protected like the rest of our website? You can pull the entire website up from a Google search. This is very misleading to the membership for I have always logged into the website to navigate to this webpage

thinking it was secure. *The LRBOI site has several area's that are open and that is up to IT and the Ogema.*

- The Regulations state that the EB may decide to broadcast the ballot count. I -as well as other members- requested this for the Regular Election and it was denied. What is the rationale for not allowing Outlying members to view this important event remotely? I would like to revisit this issue again for the Special Election. *That is something we are considering and working toward.*
- The Regulations state that attendance will be taken of members attending the meetings. I would like to request that Larry identifies which meetings he's been attending (and I think the ULD too) and that their names are recorded in the attendance of these meetings for proper record keeping purposes. *We will ask at the beginning for names and tribal id #'s.*
- I would like to ensure that all members either state their names or they are announced by the Secretary (per the Regs) at the beginning of the meeting, and that all anonymous phone numbers are asked to identify themselves. *See above.*

## **V. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Val McDonnell at 6:21, seconded by Kathy Gibson. YES Val McDonnell YES Mike Ceplina YES Laura Echelbarger YES Karen Love YES Kathy Gibson

Minutes submitted by: Laura Echelbarger