

Approved 04/09/2025



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 02, 2025
LITTLE RIVER BAND
VIA ZOOM
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on April 02, 2025. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning, everyone. We are here for our regular scheduled tribal council meeting for April the 2nd, 2025. We will begin with

I. Opening Prayer

I have asked Councilor Silvis to say the prayer for the month of April. So, if you're able to stand, please stand.

Councilor Silvis: Creator, I thank you for all we have been given and I ask for your protection over our tribe. Let your peace reign in our hearts and lift up those who are struggling within our tribe. I pray for peace and blessings for all. Miigwech. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: I will call this

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

at 10:02. Next, we will do Zoom. If you are a tribal citizen, please list your name and your tribal ID. If you are an employee, please list your name and the department that you work in. Thank you. Annie Perry, please identify yourself.

Annie Perry: Annie Perry, Legislative Council.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Delia Ross, please identify yourself. Delia Ross, please identify yourself.

Delia Ross: Sorry, it wouldn't unmute. Delia Ross, 2446.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Gary L., please identify yourself.

Gary Lewis: Gary Lewis, Utility Director.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Mark Huddleston, please identify yourself.

Mark Huddleston: Mark Huddleston, 3230.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Kathleen Bowers, please identify yourself.

Kathleen Bowers: Kathleen Bowers, Budget Coordinator.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Kim, 2918, please identify yourself.

Kimberly McClellan: Kimberly McClellan.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. LeeAnn A., please identify yourself. Leanne A., please identify yourself.

LeeAnn Austin: LeeAnn Austin, 3878.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Legi Assistant is Chantel Gamelin. Martha Howell, please identify yourself.

Martha Howell: Martha Howell, 3635.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sandy Mezeske, please identify yourself.

Sandy Mezeske: Sandy Mezeske, 0018.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sara Agosa, please identify yourself.

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa, 4478.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sky Gonzalez, please identify yourself.

Sky Gonzalez: Sky Gonzalez, 1042.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Susan Thull, please identify yourself.

Susan Thull: 3727.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Tina McClellan-Payment please identify yourself.

Tina McClellan- Payment: 2917.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Phone number 1-906-458-4757 please identify yourself.

Vicki LaPorte: Vicki LaPorte, 3384.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down on the agenda, General Business

B. Roll Call

Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #1

T. Burmeister - Present	G. DiPiazza - Present	M. Silvis - Present
R. Wittenberg - Present	J. Wolfe - Absent	A. Metzger - Present
S. Crampton- Absent	P. Johnson - Present	S. Wever- Present

Quorum established.

We do have quorum.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. And just a note, Councilor Wolfe is on work travel to a Binojeeuk conference. So, I just wanted to state that for the record. Moving down under General Business

C. Approval of Agenda

Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from the agenda? Councilors with questions? Citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council with no questions. I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Recorder Johnson, go ahead.

Recorder Johnson: I'd like to make a **motion for approval of the agenda for Wednesday, April 2, 2025, with the following. Uh BIII, continuing business B#2 has an add acceptance of funds from the Department of Health and Human Services, Elder's Meal, Older Americans Act, Title VI, Part A (OATA), and approving modification to the operating budget MB2025 in the amount of \$53,463. Um and that is it.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any further questions from Tribal Council? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council with no questions. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the agenda, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #2

R. Wittenberg - Yes	J. Wolfe - Absent	A. Metzger - Yes
S. Crampton- Absent	P. Johnson - Yes	S. Wever - Yes
G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Seven in favor. Two absent. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down under General Business

D. Tribal Council Minutes 02/14/2025 Emergency Meeting Outline

Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from these minutes? Councilors with questions? Tribal citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council. Okay. With no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion. Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. At this time, I'd like to make a **motion to accept Tribal Council minutes for 2-14-2025 emergency meeting outline.**

Recorder Johnson: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Tribal Council have any further questions or comments? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council with no questions or comments. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #3

S. Crampton- Absent	P. Johnson - Yes	S. Wever - Yes
G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister - Yes
J. Wolfe- Absent	A. Metzger- Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Seven in favor. Two absent. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay. We have two citizens that have joined us. Beth McClellan, please identify yourself.

Beth McClellan: Beth McClellan, 2915.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Alicia Goff, please identify yourself. Could you? Okay, you raised your hand. Thank you. Moving down to

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts

There is nothing listed under that.

B. Budget Modifications

Postponed	1. Approval of Budget Modification MB2025-__	Tribal Ogema
	Authorizing a modification to the 2025 Tribal	K. Bowers
	Crime Victim Services Grant	M. Ludwig

Moving down to

Add	2. Acceptance of funds from the Department of	Tribal Ogema
	Health & Human Services- Elder Meals- Older	K. Bowers
	Americans Act Title VI, Part A (OATA) and	V. Sam
	approving a modification to the Operating Budget	
	MB2025-__ in the amount of \$53,465.00	

So, Vicki, the floor is yours.

Vicki Sam: Good morning. This is just a partial of our yearly grant we always get. They did this to last year as well, where they gave us half now.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you

Vicki Sam: And in theory, we're going to manifest it half later. And we're putting 47,465 into client services for food, 4,000 into tribal activities, and 2,000 in travel. They have notified us in the grant to have funds for travel in case they need us to come help them stand up for our program. And I also wanted to mention I finished our end of year report, just so you guys' kind of get an idea of the numbers, because we're all about numbers. Um last year, we served 19 home-delivered meals and grab-and-goes. This year was 44. Last year, it was 3,760, 3,760 meals for at home and grab-and-go. This year, it was 6,119. Our numbers are going up, especially with the price of food and everything, and 2,363 in person. And those numbers went from 27 to 53 people. So funding is needed, wanted, and appreciated.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Vicki. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Councilors with questions? Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Yeah, thank you, ma'am. Uh good morning, Vicki.

Vicki Sam: Good morning

Councilor Metzger: Uh We've been having elders more and more utilizing your program. Have you gotten in touch with enrollment to see what the next five years are going to bring you?

Vicki Sam: I have not

Councilor Metzger: A Projection? Or you know

Vicki Sam: That's my goal, is to get a hold of them, because we have to apply for our grant, the next three-year grant cycle this year, and we are now allowed to use our enrolled elder numbers.

Councilor Metzger: So, can you use those numbers, say, three... two years from now, people that are going to be reaching the elder status? Are you able to use those, or do they got to be?

Vicki Sam: They have to be the numbers in December, because we had to fill it out in December. So, if we have more people turn elder age between now and December, we can use their numbers.

Councilor Metzger: All right. Thank you.

Vicki Sam: You're welcome. I've met quite a few of the elders that are the soon-to-be elders, and they are so excited for this program, and I'm excited to have them, too.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Vicki, question for you. Um is this like a first-time payment, or first time? Because I know the other years we received more funding. So, will we do you know offhand if we'll receive more than 53?

Vicki Sam: That is up in the air right now. Yesterday, we very nearly lost our program. Like people aren't going to know how close we came to losing this program last or yesterday. But as of right now, it is part of the continuing resolution on the that they just accepted in. So, we're hoping we get more. And this is part of that big hundred. I think last year ended up being \$133,000 altogether.

Speaker Burmeister: Mm hmm

Vicki Sam: And we're hoping for that again. And then we should still theoretically be getting the Nutritional Supplemental Incentive Program money.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay um second part of the question, do you know approximately how long the funds that we've received thus far, how long that'll take you into the year?

Vicki Sam: This I can probably stretch out, because what you guys gave me and funded me with, thank you so much. We're still utilizing that as well. This I can probably get us to about June or July with.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Silvis

Councilor Silvis: She you actually asked one of my questions. But um your years, is that from April to April? Is that how your year?

Vicki Sam: It's from April to March.

Councilor Silvis: From April to March 31st. Okay, that's what I was wondering. So, this is a pretty accurate number for what you've already served then. So

Vicki Sam: Mm hmm

Councilor Silvis: okay, that's all. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other questions? Okay, Tribal citizens with questions? James

James Greene: Hello, my name is James Greene, Tribal Member 3760. I'm not here to give a question. I'm here just to make a quick little statement on how desperate and how needed this program is. Uh I was cut off by the United States government for my uh benefits, unlawfully. I had to get a team of lawyers from Bay City from the Veterans Association. And uh during that time, I didn't have any money coming in for food. And if it wasn't for this program, chances are, you know, I'd have been walking the streets looking for something. And uh they were nice enough to provide me with enough meals to carry me through until I got my benefits back. And I did get them back. And now they owe me a whole big bunch of money. So that's a wonderful thing. I love it when they owe me. But I just wanted to say, it is extremely needed. And I...I...I said I

wasn't going to interfere and say anything today. But I couldn't help myself with this one, didn't know how important it is to a lot of us, for whatever reason, we actually utilize these programs. And this is one of the ones that I admire the most where they actually do something for our elders, including myself. So, thank you for allowing me to speak. Thank you, Vicki.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Mark, go ahead please.

Mark Huddleston: Yes, I was wondering if Vicki could elaborate on how we almost lost our funding yesterday.

Vicki Sam: It was just federal government doing their roller coaster. But we

Mark Huddleston: Thank you

Vicki Sam: We flooded them with emails and calls. We're good. We're good.

Mark Huddleston: Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other tribal citizens with questions or comments? Back to Tribal Council? Okay. With no further questions or comments, I'd like to entertain a motion. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. At this time, I'd like to make a **motion to accept Resolution 25-0402-070, Acceptance of funds from the Department of Health & Human Services- Elder Meals- Older Americans Act Title VI, Part A (OATA) and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB2025-10 in the amount of \$53,465.00**

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any further questions from Tribal Council? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #4

G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister - Yes
J. Wolfe - Absent	A. Metzger – Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes
P. Johnson - Yes	S. Wever - Yes	S. Crampton- Absent

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Seven in favor. Two absent. It's has been approved.

Speaker Burmeister; Thank you.

Vicki Sam: Chi-Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Vicki. Okay. We have someone else that has joined us. Ron, or Ron. Don Reinhard, could you please identify yourself? Don Reinhard, could you please identify yourself? Yeah. He is HR. Yeah. Okay. Okay. Thank you. Okay.

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

There is nothing listed under that.

IV. Old Business

Remains	A. Approval of Budget Modification MB2025-__;	Tribal Ogema
Postponed	Authorizing A modification to the 2025 Tribal Victim Services Grant.	K. Bowers
		M. Ludwig

Moving down to

B. Ratification of Gosling Czubak Contract for a water/	Tribal Ogema
Sewer rate study in the amount of \$17,120	G. Lewis

So, Gary, the floor is yours.

Gary Lewis: Yes. Thank you, everybody. So, this is to enter in a contract with Gosling Czubak to upgrade our rate study. Um last one that we had done that was in effect was uh prior to 2018. The last one we had done was in 2020, and we want them to upgrade this because we've um... um done a lot of changes to the plant. So, there's a lot of data and information that we have to collect and get to them. That takes probably take about a good four weeks to do that. Uh we have some uh new customer rates that's coming on, and it gets a little trickier to um how we charge them. Um so, we want Gosling Czubak to uh flush out a rate structure for that as well. And so, this is to enter into the contract for that.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Gary. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Councilors with questions? Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I see they're down there moving a lot of dirt and stuff. Has the sewer line been put in? That you know of

Gary Lewis: Um so, they're working on the uh water sewer infrastructure down there. They did put a manhole and tie into our lateral. Well, they tied into a manhole that we have down there. They did a core on there. And so, the... the base infrastructure is being installed as we speak so

Councilor DiPiazza: Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Any other councilors with questions or comments? Okay, Councilor DiPiazza?

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, if there's no further, I'd like to make a motion

Speaker Burmeister: Okay

Councilor DiPiazza: **motion to approve resolution 25-0402-071, ratification of Gosling Czubak contract for a water sewer rate study in the amount of \$17,120. On page two at the top that has 24, that could be changed to 25.** Page two. Hmm

Speaker Burmeister: Any further questions from Tribal Councilors? Tribal Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Uh so, Gary, I'm looking at your... your last survey that you had done. And it was a 10-year uh projected survey. And I see the increase in residential went from 392 up to 527. Uh you know my stand on that, I don't believe in uh increasing Tribal members' rate, if anything, increased commercial. That's all I got to say. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other councilors with questions or comments? Tribal Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #5

P. Johnson - Yes	S. Wever - Yes	S. Crampton- Absent
M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes
A. Metzger - No	R. Wittenberg- No	J. Wolfe - Absent

Motion carried (5-2-0-2)

Al, did you say yes or no? Okay, I thought so. Just wanted to make sure it was kind of on the low side. Five in favor two against two absent, it has been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Thank you, Gary.

Gary Lewis: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Moving down to

V. New Business

Nothing is listed under that.

VI. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, April 09, 2025

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business

Ogema Romanelli: Good morning. I just have a couple announcements. We have the spring membership meeting coming up this Saturday. Ogema meet and greet on Friday night, uh starting at seven. We have a special start at six. Thank you. A little voice in my head just said it starts at six. So, uh but yeah, we have a special speaker this year at the spring membership meeting. And it is DJ Vanas, who is an internationally known, I believe he's international, at least nationally known speaker. He happens to be a tribal member of Little River as well. So, uh he'll be speaking in the morning at the spring membership meeting. So, that's just a couple of notices. The other thing is, and I see

Boo's here, uh I want to thank council for getting the catastrophic uh program in place. And I've also authorized the members of assistance to um start taking applications. And then the last thing I have is that speaking at the food program in Muskegon, it was requested that we try and make more room for the elder's meals program. And we used to be able to get about 12 people in there if we were lucky. Uh now we can get about 30. I think you crammed in 18 to 20 sometimes, but it was very tight quarters. So, I think you get about, I looked in a room and you can get probably 25 to 30 people now. And if you're just uh having someone speak, you could probably get 40 in there. So, I want to thank the maintenance department for taking care of that. And that's it. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Ogema. Um Recorder Johnson.

Recorder Johnson: Um Ogema, I have a question for you. Um have you currently with the way the weather has been and stuff, have you had any members reach out for assistance or anything or of any type of need currently that you know of?

Ogema Romanelli: That I know of uh through the catastrophic fund, I believe there were two people that reached out. So yep.

Recorder Johnson: Is there um been anybody else just in general for any uh like shelter supplies? I know last week we had a couple of fires happen. Um so, just wondering if like they had reached out for any housing or members needs outside of that app.

Ogema Romanelli: From the different weather that's gone across the nation, I haven't had anybody reach out to my office other than, you know, we have the local fires that have happened. There's always something going on and always a need. But um no, other than the two, I have not had anybody else.

Recorder Johnson: Thank you

Ogema Romanelli: Your welcome

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Sara

Sara Agosa: I have a couple questions. My first question is how has the catastrophic emergency fund been advertised? Because a lot of people might not even know it is available. I haven't seen anything. I don't recall seeing anything in the most recent currents. So, that is my first question. And then my second question is about the membership meeting. I did see an advertisement that the EDC um is going to have a meeting, but I didn't see anything on the ad that Zoom will be available. So, I just wanted to verify if that meeting will be available via Zoom. Those are my two questions. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead Ogema

Ogema Romanelli: Yes, the EDC has requested some time uh at 8 o'clock on Friday night to meet with the membership. And I've also asked them to uh stick around for questions and answers on Saturday so that people can uh ask any questions from Friday night or anything they have available. So, the EDC should be there on Saturday as well during question and answer. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Sara

Sara Agosa: My question really was is Zoom being made available on Friday, especially when the EDC has their meeting? That was specifically my question. I don't think it was answered.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead Ogema

Ogema Romanelli: I'm not familiar with what the EDC has set up. I know that they'll be in the same room. Uh that's as much as I know. They've taken care of all the arrangements for their meet their part of the meeting. So, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Recorder Johnson, go ahead, please.

Recorder Johnson: Um to your other question, Sara, about the uh application. Um I don't see it on the Facebook that it's been mentioned, but that doesn't mean it's not there. Um I will see if it's online on the website in like the featured area to make sure that it is aware. But it has been announced. Um and I know it was sent out to a few individuals that were looking for it um just as a notice.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay. Let's see. Moving to C, legislative aff- Oh, go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Uh this is a short question for the Ogema on your uh guest speakers. It's DJ Vanas, unlike JD Vanas.

Ogema Romanelli: Oh, yeah. It's DJ

Councilor Metzger: What's his topic or his forte, if you don't mind?

Ogema Romanelli: Sure. No, uh I think his topic, he deals with a lot of different topics. But I think he's uh the title is The Warrior Within, which he wrote a book about. And I guess it's just uh operating in Indian country and understanding our ways and traditions and going through that. So, I don't know any more than that because I didn't want to guide him in any special area uh other than to come and speak with the tribe. And uh I think he'll do a good job. Several of our people have um listened to him talk out of town. I was in Las Vegas one time. I heard him speaking there, did a good job. People from the resort have uh heard him speak. So, yeah, he does a good job.

Councilor Metzger: All right. Miigwech

Ogema Romanelli: Mm hmm.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay thank you.

Ogema Romanelli: Oh, may I say one more thing?

Speaker Burmeister: Sure

Ogema Romanelli: I was given notice that the Ogema's meet and greet and the uh spring membership meeting have two different Zoom numbers. It's on the front page of our website just for people's information. So, just so they're aware of that. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. So, moving down to

C. Legislative Affairs Update

1. Tammy Burmeister

I don't have any updates for this week.

2. Pam Johnson

Go ahead please

Recorder Johnson: Uh so...So, first off, um I just hope everyone is safe from this weather that we've had since Friday. Um I know several have had some, are still without power, and I hope they have been able to find some resources. I am so thankful that Odawa had... had opened up their um casino area and have let in several, um have let people come in as a warming place for them or to charge their phone or what have you that they may need up there. So, I am grateful for that, that they have allowed that because obviously we have members up there and stuff. Um and then, of course, any other members, um I know we've had several that were in areas of nine tornadoes. There was nine of them that hit um Saturday. So, um I haven't heard of any of our members being hit by any one of those um to this point. Of course, I did just find out that it was nine. And um I know over the weekend I heard there was two, and then I just recently heard that it was nine confirmed. So, I know some of our members from the two were safe that I've heard of, um and I just hope to continue that the rest of them, anybody else that was hit by the storms this weekend, and hopefully this one keeps to being um not as drastic, um not as bad as what Saturday's storm was in that our members continue to be safe. Um and uh then just one last comment or note is uh the campground opened up yesterday. I do not suggest being out there right now, um but it is open, and of course, the bathhouse is not available until April 18th. So, Um I don't even know if they even put the port-o-potties out there yet. I know they were supposed to get some out their um for anybody that does stay, but I hope nobody is considering the weather that we are having right now. Um and that is it for me.

3. Julie Wolfe- Absent

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

4. Gary Di Piazza

go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, the only thing I, there's uh going to be a spring fire in the lodge behind the C-Store. I believe it's going to be a fire we struck tomorrow morning at sunrise, and then we let go out Sunday. So, if you'd like, stop by. I don't know about any teachings. I'm sure there'll be some, but no nothing planned other than a spring fire for the citizens as they come in for the meeting. That's all I have.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

5. Shirley Wever

You are next. Go ahead please

Councilor Wever: I would like to say that I hope everyone comes to the membership meeting. Um I know Dr. Wever has a lot of nice uh things he's given away. So, I would uh just want to warn you, you better come, because it's going to be nice. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Uh Councilor

6. Al Metzger

you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Uh this is uh for the veterans. It's from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. Due to Michigan's recent ice storms, thunderstorms, and tornadoes, we'd like to remind veterans about the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund intended to help eligible veterans overcome an unforeseen situation causing a temporary or short-term financial hardship. For more information and eligibility, for more information and eligibility requirements, please visit michigan.gov-MVDF. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay next in the um is Councilor

7. Ron Wittenberg

Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wittenberg: Uh, nothing at this moment. Yeah, nothing at this moment.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Councilor

8. Misty Silvis

you are next. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Silvis: No update this week. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

9. Shannon Crampton

is not here. Um so, we will move down to

D. Public Comment Period

Do we have any um questions for public... public comment period? Go ahead, Mark.

Mark Huddleston: I have a question for uh Pam or Speaker the Speaker, maybe. Um in December of last year, we sent a letter to uh the Treasury on the hearing for the General

Welfare Act. Um and I think the uh, outlying council attended that meeting. I was wondering if uh you heard anything about the proposed uh revisions that they had planned on that from him or any feedback you got.

Recorder Johnson: Um so, Mark, to your uh to answer that, no, I have not heard anything yet. We're still kind of waiting to see um any, um, what has come out of that. When we do, we'll let everyone know. Thank you for that at the top of the list, though. Thank you.

Mark Huddleston: Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Any other questions or comments? Go ahead, Vicki.

Vicki Sam: I wasn't going to. I'm sorry. Not sorry. Um, I just had a question for our tribe. In light of recent cuts and everything going through on the federal level, I would love to see us stand on our own and fund our own programs, but we're not ready for that yet. We don't have that capability, I don't believe. So, is our tribe going to make a statement on how important these programs that we do utilize federal funding for, how important they are? Like, are we going to make a statement on that? Have we?

Speaker Burmeister: Vicki, we haven't. Um we were just talking about that this morning. So, it will, but it was only a few of us talking about it. So, we will need to have those discussions.

Vicki Sam: All right

Speaker Burmeister: Further discussions

Vicki Sam: because it makes it a lot easier to fight for your programs if you have backing from leadership. So, I was just curious about that because we're, there's a lot of them facing cuts, and I watch this every day as much as I don't necessarily want to. That is not how you de-stress, but I really believe that they're going to make a name for our tribal programs first. They've already kind of proved that. So yesterday was enough to make me a little bit uh nervous. So just a thought. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, Any other comments or questions? Boo

Boo Battice: Boo Battice, 2644. Just keeping an update. Yep, the eagle's still under the water. I'm still pursuing the same dreams. I don't believe that it should have ever been this far as I've been pursuing it for 20 years, and I'd still like to sit down with people and set up some kind of program. Um conundrum, trying to get the fundings and stuff to get it up, but I'd rather spend time with my people because the political thing like we're just talking about, we're going to survive. We're going to survive. We've always been survivors, whether we're uh on paper or not, we're still here in blood. So as long as we stick together as people, uh we can make our voices heard, whether it's political or not. Um yeah, so the conundrum of picking up my boat, even if I do get enough money, that's all political and stuff. I don't think I should have to be picking up. So, I plan on coming

and spending time and telling a little bit of my story at the membership meeting so more members can understand what it's like to be here. As a fisherman, I've always been here, and I've never really left the area. I've been taught that as I dug up our forefathers at Consumers Power Hill, that hill was two-thirds bigger and we could see wat, or we could see Baldwin and we had annual meetings there every fall from the three fires. And it's still something it might not be in history books, but it's in my storybook and there's no hearsay as I'm here saying it. So, I'd like to say that again at our membership meeting and um a fisherman still trying to um live for the rights our forefathers died for and things and feed our people. And a lot of things have happened throughout history when it comes to sturgeon and logging and all that. And that's all you know divide and conquer and all that mon- I still believe Algonquin. I still believe in the original first people. And so, it's very hard for me to get with the Roman Catholic stuff because they try to flip it upside down. You know we're the original first people. So, I'll see you guys at the membership meeting. Thanks for opening the campground and giving information about the water. Thanks for inviting DJ Vanas so we can learn different learnings and teachings. Um Al, thanks for mentioning some kind of discount on water. Water is life. Yeah, if we're doing these programs and stuff we should. That's part of us growing as a group, as members. Of some kind of organization. Yeah, we should get our own discounts, especially when, you know, it's within our culture, our belief system. Um I'd like to thank Vicki for all the work she's done. She helps so many people when it comes to the elders and just people walking around. It don't matter. She figures out a way to help people. She walks around with a smile. And if there's no sunshine where you're at, I enjoy you. I invite you to make some. As for the application, um I was kind of expecting someone to call me and let me know that it was ready and different things. I...I keeping on it, keeping on it. It's very, very nice that people are getting done, but, you know, the reciprocal thing didn't seem, you know, a teamwork. Um I'd like to thank you all for showing up and um thank Julie for whatever she's doing in Washington or whatever. Um April showers bring May flowers. So, I'm waiting for the sunshine, and I'll see you. I'll probably be at the campground lot, so I'll see you guys over there if you guys want to stop over and visit, but I'd like to be fishing and hopefully we can sit down soon and do that. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Diana you are next.

Diana Harris: Diana Harris, 2404 on the congratulatory note. I want to thank everybody here. A lot of you have put so much time in and you've been dedicated, and you have come through for a lot of people. And I don't think you hear very much. I thank you. A Miigwech, uh happiness, joy. Personally, I'm with joy that I'm here and able to speak to you. I am given a light. Continue to follow the direction of the path of your heart and your minds. Aho

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. All right. Any other further questions or comments? Councilor Metzger, go ahead, please.

Councilor Metzger: Ms. Harris, Miigwech. Don't be blowing kisses at me, ma'am. I'm a happily married man. Thanks for your kind words.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Oh, any further comments? Go ahead, Councilor Silvis.

Councilor Silvis: With no further comments, I'd like to make a **motion to end first open**.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead Ogema Romanelli

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you. Um yeah, my apologies. Uh there was one concern that was brought to my attention uh by the enrollment department, and it has to do with enrollment commission or enrollment commissioners being sent a letter. And I don't know all the specifics about being removed, that they've actually been removed. Could we get a little clarity on that? Because it's concerning, if that's true, that it happened by one council person with the help of one of your attorneys. And what happens with the commission at this time? So, if I could get those answers, I do appreciate it. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: So, hmm. it's not closed, though. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, there was nothing closed about it because it was announced in a couple meetings when the membership was on there. As far as I recollect, there was no official action taken by tribal council to do such a thing or give that councilor the authority to send letters out. They're not removed. It was misleading in the letter. There's some other problems in them letters. Um biggest thing is, without the commission, who takes over? Who gets to paw through all your records? That would be council, so they think. But there is no official action, no official vote. Per the Constitution, we only take action by motion, resolution, and ordinance. So as far as I'm concerned, what was sent out, there's some massive problems, especially somebody going a little rogue. So as far as I'm concerned, they're null and void because it was not done the way it should have been. That's all I have.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wittenberg, did you have a? Okay. Yes.
Okay. I want to make sure that if you had a question. Um go ahead. Go ahead, Annie.

Annie Perry: I just wanted to know if tribal council wanted me to give maybe like a little bit of a legal explanation of how that letter was sent, just because the Ogema mentioned that they had an attorney that was not me do that.

Speaker Burmeister: Yes, please. Okay

Councilor DiPiazza: It wouldn't hurt

Annie Perry: Okay, so um I you know read the letter that was sent to a commissioner. I'm not even sure if all three commissioners received a letter, if one did, but um I was not willing to send that letter because I didn't feel it was legally accurate. And that then led to

one councilor getting outside legal counsel to update the letter and send it. And then yesterday there was a conversation between me and the outside legal counsel on the legality of a letter going out to notify a commissioner of a hearing for removal. And so, the law, I think is very clear, the tribal law that says when there's a request for removal, the tribal council must vote on whether to hold a hearing. The outside council disagreed with me, said that there was some wiggle room, and that tribal council could go ahead and send letters about a hearing, but then they could vote later to hold the hearing or not. So, there was a legal disagreement between your in-house legislative council and the outside legal counsel. I don't know if that helps at all.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Annie. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza, and then I'll take Sara after you.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, the letters had a date and time for the removal hearing. So yeah, that presents a problem. Now, if you're saying that one was trying to skate around our laws, that presents a massive problem.

Annie Perry: It to me, very problematic. Yeah, that a letter would go out um scheduled with a date and time of a hearing and then um you know allow tribal council to vote on it after the letter is sent. To me, that is unacceptable. Um but you know as with the law, there's often differing opinions. Um so yeah, I'm in absolute agreement that it's incorrect to send a letter about a scheduled hearing before tribal council has voted to hold a hearing.

Speaker Burmeister: Gary, I'll put you back in the queue. Um go ahead, Sara. Sara, you are next to the queue. Are you there?

Sara Agosa: Did you say my name?

Speaker Burmeister: Sara, it is storming here. Um so, if you could speak a little louder so we can hear you, that would be appreciated.

Sara Agosa: Okay, just to let you know, it seems like the sound is going out a bit. And I do have my microphone on. So, I hope I'm not blasting everyone if I speak up louder. Uh can you hear me?

Speaker Burmeister: Somewhat.

Councilor DiPiazza: Keeps freezing

Sara Agosa: Okay, well, I just won't continue if you can't hear me because there's inclement weather down here as well. I will send council an email. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you, Sara. Um Councilor Metzger, you are next. All right. Thank you. Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Am I on? Oh, sorry. All I can say on that, you know, we hire outside legal and in-house legal. Their duty is to keep us out of trouble, to make sure what we're doing is correct. Not it'll be okay. You can go around, skate around it. No. So that's, to me, very problematic. The whole situation is because it was never voted on as a body to send them out. Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Metzger, you are next.

Councilor Metzger: Yeah, thank you. I withdrew my... my uh statement earlier, but I'm going to uh respond. You know, I just heard that legal counsel is supposed to keep us out of trouble. And I agree with that. Uh but prior to our court decision 23-105GC, I didn't see any legal advice concerning any other. I voted in

Background on zoom interrupting

Councilor Metzger: My understanding when the court in closed.

Someone on Zoom: Somebody has to turn the mic off.

Councilor Metzger: That's straight across the board. We got 15 years of voting in closed. So, I think all those cases need to come forward and... and they're probably unconstitutional just from that uh 23-105GC, read that case yourself. It doesn't say specifically that case, but you cannot vote in closed. That is unconstitution... unconstitutional. So, there is a dilemma, a very legal dilemma. Uh some of the decisions that came down, we're going to have to abide by. And that one I fully understand it says, simple, you cannot vote in closed. That is unconstitutional. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor DiPiazza, go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: Yeah, give me one second. Because the constitution also states ex facto, uh what's the exact words? Basically, in the constitution, you can't write a law or pass anything that would make it retroactive. That would be from that point forward. So, to go back and vote on these letters that were sent out, you can't do that. It's too late. Cat's out of the bag. You can't pull them back. You can't vote on them to say, hey, it's water under the bridge. Cuz that's then yeah, you can't do that. I'll find it here in a second. I'm good right now.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, go ahead. Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Yeah, well, you just heard from council member De Pazzi about the ex-facto.

Councilor DiPiazza: DiPiazza

Councilor Metzger: Whatever

Councilor DiPiazza: DiPiazza

Councilor Metzger: Please don't –

Councilor DiPiazza: No, it's not whatever

Councilor Metzger: interrupt me. I have the floor sir

Speaker Burmeister: Please stop otherwise, we're going to end this. Please, both of you, Gary and Al.

Councilor Metzger: You know, uh that's passing law. 2305 G.C. did not pass a law. It enforced our constitutional rights and our constitutional duties. When council took it upon themselves to go in to closed and vote in closed, that was their decision to break the law, to disregard the constitution, which is the law of the land. All ordinances, resolution and motions have to be constitutionally. It is a problem. There's 15 years of closed sessions that were voted on in closed that haven't the membership don't even know about it. That's a concern. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Did you want to Councilor DiPiazza. I have you next in the queue.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well

Speaker Burmeister: Lets

Councilor DiPiazza: Nah I'll let it go

Speaker Burmeister: Okay

Councilor DiPiazza: It's fine

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. All right. So, we did um Councilor Silvis.

Councilor DiPiazza: *Anishinaabemowin*. Ill support her

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Councilor Silvis: And just no other questions. I'd like to make a **motion to end first open**.

Councilor DiPiazza: *Anishinaabemowin*. (Support)

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call on this item?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #6

A. Metzger – Yes	R. Wittenberg- No	J. Wolfe - Absent
S. Wever - Yes	S. Crampton- Absent	P. Johnson -Yes
T. Burmeister - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Silvis- Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Seven in favor two absent. We are done with first session at 10:58.

The purpose of closed session is to discuss business matters considered privileged or confidential involving consideration of bids/contracts, pending legal issues, and/or personnel matters.

Councilor DiPiazza: Make a **motion to go into second open**

Councilor Wever: support.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Recorder Johnson can you do a roll call.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #7

R. Wittenberg - Present	J. Wolfe - Absent	A. Metzger - Present
S. Crampton- Absent	P. Johnson - Present	S. Wever - Present
G. DiPiazza- Present	M. Silvis - Present	T. Burmeister - Present

Quorum established.

Seven is present, two absent at 12:07

Speaker Burmeister: All right um Councilor Metzger

Councilor Metzger: I'll make a motion to adjourn Wednesday council meeting April 2nd

Speaker Burmeister: Misty, yeah, Misty did have. I didn't even read um

VIII. Open Session

**A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session-Minutes and Materials
Remain Confidential**

Um I know, councilor Silvis did have her hand up so go ahead.

Councilor Silvis: I wanted to make a **motion to amend the agenda.**

Councilor Metzger: Told you

Councilor Wever: Do you want a support

Councilor Wittenberg: Call me if you wanted support

Councilor Silvis: I'm going to make a **motion to amend the agenda...** agenda to approve the Tribal Ogema's Execution of Employment Contract with William Cataldo as Tribal Prosecutor

Councilor Weaver: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Yep. Just let me know when you're ready. We have to make. We have to vote on amending the agenda first.

Recorder Johnson: Mm hmm

Speaker Burmeister: Recorder Johnson, can you do a roll call to amend the agenda please

Councilor Metzger: Isn't there discussion? Motion, ordinance or resolution. Discussion on amending the agenda.

Recorder Johnson: Yeah, it is just a motion

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Will there be any councilors that I forgot to do this, that are going to abstain from this item. Councilors with questions. Rec- Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Oh yeah you want to amend the agenda to bring forward an emergency meeting that was scheduled for tomorrow.

Councilor Silvis: Yes

Councilor Metzger: Why, what's the hurry of bringing the contract it's already scheduled. It's already scheduled for tomorrow, for an emergency meeting.

Councilor Silvis: Would you like me to answer

Councilor Metzger: Is there a court case. Is there a court case coming up that that needs his attention today.

Councilor Silvis: Would you like me to answer

Councilor Metzger: Not really.

Councilor Silvis: Okay

Councilor Metzger Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor DiPiazza your next in the queue. Go ahead

Councilor DiPiazza: If anybody hasn't noticed the weather. It is raining and freezing rain. What's going to be tomorrow. So, it should have been added back on because Council did remove it

Speaker Burmeister: Okay go-ahead Councilor Wever.

Councilor Wever: Yeah, I just want to say that I see no reason why you can't make a motion and do this today because, who knows, I, you know, I'm not worried about the weather. I can call in but what happens if we don't make quorum for tomorrow. We've done this many times in the past so we're all here. Let's do it. Right. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other councilors with questions or comments. Okay citizens go ahead, Sara.

Sara Agosa: Well, first of all, my concern is I couldn't hear the motion. Is there any way to restate it.

Councilor Silvis: Motion is to amend the agenda

Sara Agosa: I know but I couldn't hear the motion it was honestly, you kind of mumbled a little bit Misty, I really couldn't hear it.

Councilor Silvis: So, the first one we're only voting on just the motion to amend the agenda

Sara Agosa: Motion to amend the agenda for what though.

Councilor Silvis: So, the second part will be a separate vote. And that will be to approve the Tribal Ogema's Execution of Employment Contract with William Cataldo as Tribal Prosecutor

Sara Agosa: Okay, so as I understand, there is a meeting tentatively tomorrow to review this and my concern is that two of my representatives are not here today and I definitely would like them to provide feedback and be able to vote on something so important. So, if a meeting has been scheduled I think that it should be adhered to so that all representatives have an opportunity to attend. That's my comment. Thanks.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, so Recorder Johnson. Can you do roll call to amend the agenda.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #8

J. Wolfe - Absent	A. Metzger - No	R. Wittenberg- No
P. Johnson - No	S. Wever - Yes	S. Crampton- Absent
M. Silvis – Yes	T. Burmeister - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes

Motion carried (4-3-0-2)

Amend has or the agenda has been amended. Four in favor, three against, two absent

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead

Councilor Silvis: then I'd like to make a motion to approve the Tribal Ogema's Execution of Employment Contract with William Cataldo as Tribal Prosecutor

Councilor Weaver: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, go ahead

Councilor DiPiazza: Do a resolution

Speaker Burmeister: No, she didn't

Recorder Johnson: Need a resolution number

Councilor Silvis: Like to make a motion to approve **resolution #25-0402-072 approving the Tribal Ogema's Execution of Employment Contract with William Cataldo as Tribal Prosecutor**

Councilor Weaver: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Tribal council with further questions?

Councilor Metzger: can't. It's Closed no discussion

Speaker Burmeister: Yes. Oh, never mind. Recorder Johnson can you do roll call for the item.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #9

S. Wever - Yes	S. Crampton- Absent	P. Johnson -No
T. Burmeister - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Silvis- Yes
R. Wittenberg- No	J. Wolfe - Absent	A. Metzger - No

Motion carried (4-3-0-2)

Four in favor three against two absent it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor DiPiazza go ahead please.

IX. Adjourn

Councilor DiPiazza: make a **motion to end second open.**

Councilor Wever: Support

Councilor DiPiazza: **At 12:15ish**

Councilor Wever: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Okay Recorder Johnson can you do roll call please

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #10

T. Burmeister - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes
R. Wittenberg - Yes	J. Wolfe - Absent	A. Metzger - No
S. Crampton- Absent	P. Johnson - Yes	S. Wever- Yes

Motion carried (6-1-0-2)

Six in favor, one against, two absent. We are adjourned at 12:15

Respectfully Submitted,



Chantel Gamelin,
Transcribing Assistant



Pam Johnson,
Tribal Council Recorder