



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024  
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 February 7, 2024. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Speaker Burmeister said good morning everyone. Burmeister said they are here for their regular scheduled Tribal Council Meeting. Burmeister said it is Wednesday, February 7, 2024 and the first thing is she has asked Shirley to say the prayer. Burmeister said so Shirley she has the floor.

**I. Opening Prayer**

Shirley Wever, Tribal Elder, offered the Opening Prayer. Wever said they don't really need it...is this on.

Dear Heavenly Father, Creator.

First I want to say thank you for the mid-winter thaw.

Its beautiful and thank you.

For those of us that travel many miles or even just a few to get to work each day or weekly this truly helps and protects.

When the roads can be very, very dangerous to many commuters thank you.

Secondly please father protect us all, their staff members within the Government Building.

Unfortunately many tempers and anger arise very rapidly during our meetings and are very, every day duties at the Government Center.

Please Lord protect and shelter us all.

Its truly a shame our behavior.

And please Lord love, protect and forgive us all.

Amen.

Thank you.

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Speaker Burmeister said they will start it all by ZOOM members identifying themselves. Burmeister said if they are a Tribal citizen please list their name and their Tribal I.D. Burmeister said if they work in a department please list their name and the department that they work in. Burmeister thanked them. Burmeister said Steve Cogswell please identify himself. Burmeister said oh, she is sorry. Burmeister thanked Recorder Johnson. Burmeister said ah, let's hear it. Burmeister said Stewart Cogswell please identify himself.

Stewart Cogswell said hello.

Speaker Burmeister said okay they can hear him now can he please identify himself.

Stewart Cogswell said okay he's Stewart Cogswell I.D. number 2137.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said Jim La Porte please identify himself.

Jim La Porte said Jim La Porte Member number 3383.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said Bill Ossiginac please identify himself.

Bill Ossiginac said Bill Ossiginac 3877.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said Chelsea Densmore please identify herself.

Chelsea Densmore said Chelsea Densmore 3225.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Grace Hendler please identify herself. Burmeister said okay she doesn't have her...she is going to go to....she sees that. Burmeister said um, Janine Sam please identify herself.

Janine Sam said Boozhoo, Janine Sam....*spoke her Tribal I.D. in Anishinaabemowin (0148)*. Sam said Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Jolene O'Signac please identify herself.

Jolene O'Signac said Jolene O'Signac 3866.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Karol Ann please identify herself.

Karol Chabot said Karol Ann Chabot 3742.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said Keegan Bordeaux please identify himself.

Keegan Bordeaux said Keegan Bordeaux Legislative In-House Counsel.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said Laura Echelbarger please identify herself.

Laura Echelbarger said Laura Echelbarger 2276.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said good morning. Burmeister said Lee Iverson please identify herself.

Lee Iverson said Boozhoo, Lee Iverson I.D. 99.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Martha Howell please identify herself.

Martha Howell said Martha Howell 3635.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Roy Vanas please identify himself.

Roy Vanas said Roy Vanas 4906, good morning.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said good morning. Burmeister said Sandy Mezeske please identify herself.

Sandy Mezeske said Sandy Mezeske 0018.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Sara Agosa please identify herself.

Sara Agosa said Sara Agosa 4478.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Shannon Crampton please identify himself.

Councilor Crampton said Shannon Paul Crampton, Outlying Tribal Council Rep 1747.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said Shawna Gonzalez please identify herself.

Shawna Gonzalez said Shawna Gonzalez Tribal number 4700.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Sky Gonzalez please identify himself.

Sky Gonzalez said Sky Gonzalez 1042.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said Staci Cheney please identify herself.

Staci Cheney said 992.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Tina M. can she identify herself please.

Tina Bray said Tina Bray 3287.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Tina Mc Clellan-Payment please identify herself.

Tina Mc Clellan-Payment said 2917.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said Venus Torres please identify herself.

Venus Torres said staff and Tribal member 1102.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Victoria Well please identify herself.

Victoria Wells said Victoria Wells 4841, Elders Meal Coordinator, good morning.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said good morning. Burmeister said um, phone number 1 906 458-4756 please identify herself.

Vicky La Porte said Vicky La Porte 3384.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said Drew can he please identify himself.

Andrew Jeurink said Andrew Jeurink um, Interim IT Director, Security Admin.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said anybody who has not muted themselves um, kindly please mute themselves so they don't hear any background noise. Burmeister thanked them. Burmeister said moving down to B. Roll Call.

The following members and staff were in the audience at the meeting:

Stephanie West  
John Pabami  
Kelly Maser  
Angela Schwandt  
Gary Lewis  
Tara Bailey  
Joanne Green  
Corey Wells  
Jon Robertson  
M Ch\_\_\_\_\_ *cannot make out the name it wasn't written clearly.*  
Brad Pringle

**B. Roll Call**

Speaker Burmeister said Recorder Johnson can she do roll call please.

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

Quorum established.

Recorder Johnson said they do have quorum.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

Speaker Burmeister asked will there be anybody abstaining from the agenda. Burmeister asked any Councilors with comments on the agenda. Burmeister asked any citizens. Burmeister asked again any Councilors. Burmeister said she would like to entertain a motion for the approval of the agenda.

*Tribal Councilors were speaking in the background on the ZOOM recording but it was too low to be heard clearly.*

Speaker Burmeister said Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe said she will make a motion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup> WITH THE FOLLOWING EDITS OR CHANGES; UNDER II. GENERAL BUSINESS D, TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES ARE POSTPONED, ITEM III. CONTINUING BUSINESS 2. RATIFICATION OF WOLVERINE POWER SYSTEMS 3-YEAR CONTRACT FOR GENERAL MAINTENANCE 24, 25 AND 26 IS REVISED CONTRACT, BUDGET MODIFICATIONS B.1. ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT HEALTH FUNDS FROM THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE-**

**OFFICE OF SELF-GOVERNANCE AND APPROVING MODIFICATION TO OPERATING BUDGET MB-2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,948 REMOVED, ITEM 2. ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-FDPIR NUTRITION EDUCATION AND APPROVING MODIFICATION TO OPERATING BUDGET MB-2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$79,000 REMOVED, ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (MDHHS) CRIME VICTIM SUSTAINABILITY FUND GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,179 REMOVED, 4. APPROVAL OF BUDGET MODIFICATION OPERATING BUDGET MB-2024 TO REDUCE THE VOCA VICTIM SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF 50,179 REMOVED, 5. APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION 2024 FIRST QUARTER TO FUND BATHWORKS COMPANY SERVICE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT \$9,959.99 REVISED RESOLUTION, C. APPROVAL OF BUDGETED EXPENDITURE 1. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT OF DUES TO THE NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION POSTPONED, IV. OLD BUSINESS B. ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY FOR CORONAVIRUS CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND AND APPROVING MODIFICATION TO OPERATING BUDGET REMOVED, V. NEW BUSINESS B. APPROVAL OF RE-APPOINTMENT OF VIRGIL JOHNSON TO THE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION IS REVISED, VIII. BIDS & CONTRACTS C.2. APPROVING EXECUTION OF SPECTRUM SERVICE ORDER CONTRACT FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT ELDERS APARTMENT COMPLEX AT 2679 EAST MAW GAW NE QUONG MANISTEE MICHIGAN 49660 REMOVED, UNDER E.7. STONE BURMEISTER v. LRBOI TRIBAL COUNCIL CASE #24-008-GC IS REMOVED, SECTION VIII. OPEN SESSION A. ITEMS MOVED FROM CLOSED TO OPEN 2. APPROVING EXECUTION OF SPECTRUM SERVICE ORDER CONTRACT FOR THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT ELDERS APARTMENT COMPLEX AT 2679 EAST MAW GAW NE QUONG MANISTEE MICHIGAN 49660 IS REMOVED; by Wolfe; supported by Metzger.**

Speaker Burmeister asked any further discussion on the agenda. Burmeister said Councilor Di Piazza go ahead please.

Councilor Di Piazza said he has to ask why all these were removed because there is a Budget in play per the Court Order that was issued on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Di Piazza said so there is a Budget in play and he will be voting no on it because there is one in play.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said go ahead Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton said ah, as usual Council was advised that that's incorrect. Crampton said um, and they all were there. Crampton said again, Mr. Di Piazza does this all the time he brings up false information to the membership trying to fool them of what they have been appraised of in Chambers so. Crampton said he just wanted to correct a statement there. Crampton thanked them.

Speaker Burmeister said go ahead Councilor Di Piazza. Burmeister thanked Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Di Piazza said he didn't need his correction of the statement. Di Piazza said one other did anybody get....did anybody on Council receive their pay for January if so there is a Budget in play. Di Piazza said also what out trumps a resolution. Di Piazza asked anybody. Di Piazza said that would be an ordinance. Di Piazza said there is an ordinance in play that structures how a veto transpires. Di Piazza said so....he good.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said go ahead Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton said um, he doesn't want to keep this going but Council.... um, Speaker she is aware of what they were appraised of her....the incorrectness of what he is stating so please don't allow this to continue. Crampton said its just another dog in point show for the membership so if they could do without that and um, Mr. Di Piazza doesn't control what anybody says and so ask these questions that irrelevant in trying to play Doctor Bill Nye the Science Guy.

*Councilor Wever was saying, "oh," in the background on the ZOOM recording.*

Councilor Crampton continued. Crampton said it really slows everything down so if they could just keep things moving if the Speaker would watch those comments. Crampton thanked them.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said um, next in queue is Councilor Metzger. Burmeister said go ahead Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger said ah, yeah, he feels the ah, he believed the Ogema filled under this Section 5 ah, Part C ah, tribal Council with seven days provided and this is where the Ogema failed specify his or her objections. Metzger said his or her objections has never been specified so to him that means that there is no Budget in play. Metzger thanked them.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said go ahead Councilor Wever.

Councilor Wever said no, she will let it go for now.

Speaker Burmeister thanked her. Burmeister said okay um, Councilor Di Piazza he is next.

Councilor Di Piazza said he just wanted to say Miigwech for that compliment because he does have a lot of Science Projects. Di Piazza said that's what he works on and they are very exciting. *Di Piazza made one further comment but it wasn't loud enough to make out clearly on the ZOOM recording.*

Speaker Burmeister said okay let's move along. Burmeister said go ahead um, go ahead Roy.

Roy Vanas asked do they think they can conduct themselves a little more professionally instead of the personal attacks from Councilor Crampton to any Tribal Councilors. Vanas said because if he is going to voice an objection to something voice the objection please without the personal attacks. Vanas said take a little bit of professionalism. Vanas said that's all.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said so Recorder Johnson can she do um, roll call on the....roll call on the agenda please....oh, Roy was he finished with his question. Burmeister said okay. Burmeister thanked him again. Burmeister said go ahead Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton said yeeeah, again if um, he doesn't think Mr. Vanas is fooling anybody he hasn't saying anything about Mr. Di Piazza trying to lie to the membership and being caught. Crampton said he's got an agenda and he thinks everybody is aware of it so if they could just....maturity would be moving past that Mr. Vanas. Crampton thanked them.

Speaker Burmeister thanked him. Burmeister said um, Recorder Johnson can she do roll call on...on the agenda please. Burmeister said oh, will there be anybody abstaining from the agenda before roll call. Burmeister said okay, with no abstentions Recorder Johnson can she please do roll call.

**Roll Call #1**

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

Motion failed (4-5-0-0)

Councilor Wever said she didn't get to say what she wanted to say.

Recorder Johnson said four in favor and five against it's not been accepted. Councilor Wever said she knows they haven't got a meeting but can she say something,



Speaker Burmeister said go ahead....,

Councilor Crampton interrupted. Crampton loudly said no, there is no meeting  
Speaker its over.

Speaker Burmeister said Councilor Wever....

Councilor Wever said yes.

Speaker Burmeister continued.....she can't say anything.

*The rest of the agenda items were not acted upon but are included below.*

Speaker Burmeister asked Recorder Johnson do roll call please.

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

Quorum established.

Recorder Johnson said four are present and five are absent they do not have quorum.

Speaker Burmeister thanked Recorder Johnson.

Roy Vanas said this shows who works for their Tribe.

*The below agenda items are included but were not acted upon by Tribal Council.*

**D. Tribal Council Minutes    ☐ 3/22/23**

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

**1. Approval to apply to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services-Behavioral Health Initiative as part of the Mental Health Block Grant**

Notice received on 1/18/24 that this application is due 2/16/24. The program has received this grant since 2016 and it funds the Tele-psychiatric in the Be Da Bin Behavioral Health.

**2. Ratification of Wolverine Power Systems 3-year Contract for Generator Maintenance-2024, 2025 and 2026**

Annual Maintenance on Generators.

**B. Budget Modifications**

1. **Acceptance of contract funds from the Indian Health Service-Office of Self-Governance and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2024-\_\_ in the amount of \$7,948.00**  
Acceptance of funds. This item was removed from the agenda in Agenda Review by Tribal Council.
2. **Acceptance of funds from U.S. Department of Agriculture-FDPIR Nutrition Education 2024 and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2024-\_\_ in the amount of \$79,000.00**  
Acceptance of funds. This item was removed from the agenda in Agenda Review by Tribal Council.
3. **Acceptance of grant funds from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)-Crime Victim Sustainability Fund Grant in the amount of \$50,179**  
Acceptance of grant funds from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)-Crime Victim Sustainability Fund Grant in the amount of \$50,179. This item was removed from the agenda in Agenda Review by Tribal Council.
4. **Approval of Budget Modification to the Operating Budget MB-2024-\_\_ to reduce the VOCA Tribal Victim Services in the amount of \$50,179**  
The MDHHS has requested that a reduction of \$50,179 be made to the 2023-2024 VOCA Tribal Victim Services Funds so those funds can be Placed in a new fund for Crime Sustainability Fund 2024. This item was removed from the agenda in Agenda Review by Tribal Council.
5. **Approval of Supplemental Appropriation 2024-\_\_-1<sup>st</sup> QTR to fund Bathworks Company Service Contract in the amount of \$9,959.99**  
To use the money in the Elders 10 Complex for remodel of a shower.

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

1. **Authorize Payment of Annual Dues to the National Indian Gaming Association**  
Payment of Annual Dues to NIGA.

**IV. Old Business**

- A. **Operations Report**  **December 2023**
- B. **Acceptance of funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury for Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund and approving a modification to the Operating Budget**  
Acceptance of funds. Tribal Council removed this item at the 1/17/24 TC Meeting.

**V. New Business**

- A. Adoption of Edits to the Gaming Ordinance #10-400-01 and Authorization for Legislative In-House Counsel to submit to National Indian Gaming Commission for review and approval**  
Tribal Council has reviewed and updated Gaming Ordinance #10-400-01 that incorporates the final rules published by the National Indian Gaming Commission.
- B. Approval of Re-Appointment of Virgil Johnson to the Natural Resource Commission**  
Re-Appointment of Virgil Johnson to the Natural Resource Commission. This is for Seat #4 with a term ending 9/20/2027.

**IX. Concluding Business**

- A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, December 6, 2023**
- B. Legislative Affairs Update**
- 1. Tammy Burmeister**
  - 2. Pam Johnson**
  - 3. Julie Wolfe**
  - 4. Gary Di Piazza**
  - 5. Shirley Wever**
  - 6. Al Metzger**
  - 7. Ron Wittenberg**
  - 8. Misty Silvis**
  - 9. Shannon Crampton**
- C. Public Comment Period**

*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.*

**XI. Open Session**

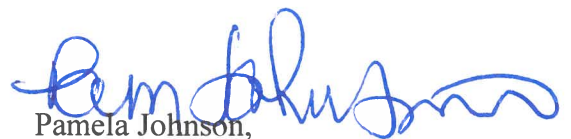
- A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session-Minutes and Materials shall remain confidential**

**XII. Adjourn**

Respectfully Submitted,



Grace A. Hendler  
Transcribing Assistant



Pamela Johnson,  
Tribal Council Recorder