



Approved 07/16/2025

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025
LITTLE RIVER BAND
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on February 26, 2025. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning, everyone. We are here this morning for our regular scheduled tribal council meeting for Wednesday, February the 26, 2025. We will begin the meeting with an

I. Opening Prayer

Councilor DiPiazza will be saying the prayer. So, if you're able to stand, please stand.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, boozhoo everybody. Anyways uh. *Prayer in Anishinaabemowin* What I said is I pray to our creation that we can all work together to give us all a better way of life for our nation and our people. With that being said, Miigwech, Miigwech, Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay we are in

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

I will call this meeting to order at 10:02. Next, Zoom users, if you are a tribal citizen, please list your name, your tribal ID. If you are an employee, please list your name and the department that you work in. Thank you. Jim LaPorte, please identify yourself.

Jim LaPorte: Jim LaPorte 3383

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Frank, please identify yourself.

Frank Beaver: Good morning, Frank Beaver with the Tribal Natural Resources Department.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. Alicia Goff, please identify yourself. You could raise your hand. I know it says you don't have a mic. Okay, thank you. Annie Perry, please identify yourself.

Annie Perry: Annie Perry, Legislative Council.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Antonio Romanelli, please identify yourself.

Antonio Romanelli: Antonio Romanelli, 3954.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Cindy Dunham-Tozer, please identify yourself.

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: Cindy Dunham-Tozer, I'm the controller.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. DeAhna, please identify yourself.

DeAhna Underwood: DeAhna Underwood Maintenance Department.

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

Delia Ross: Delia Ross 2446

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

Gary Lewis: Gary Lewis, Executive Lead.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Let's see Kathleen Bowers, please identify yourself.

Kathleen Bowers: Kathleen Bowers, Budget Coordinator.

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

Kimberly McClellan: Kimberly McClellan.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Larry Olson, please identify yourself.

Larry Olson: Olson, 1532.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Laura Echelbarger, please identify yourself.

Laura Echelbarger: 2276.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Lee Ivinson, please identify yourself.

Lee Ivinson: Good morning. Lee Ivinson, 99.

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

LeeAnn Austin: LeeAnn Austin 3878

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Legi Assistant is Chantel Gamelin. Um she has no mic, so just letting everybody know who that is. Martha Howell, please identify yourself.

Martha Howell: Martha Howell, 3635.

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

Sandy Mezeske: 0018

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

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478

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

Shawna Gonzalez: Good morning, 4700.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. 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. Jolene O'Signac, please identify yourself.

Jolene O'Signac: Jolene O'Signac 3866

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Recorder Johnson: Cindy Tozer

Speaker Burmeister: yeah, I got it. Moving down on the agenda, um under General Business

B. Roll Call

Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call, please?

Recorder Johnson:

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

We do have quorum.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down under General Business

C. Approval of Agenda

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

Recorder Johnson: So, I'd like to make a motion for Wednesday, February 26, 2025, the agenda with um an add at II. D um one set of minutes II February 5, 2025, down to continuing business under budget modifications. Uh number one has an updated resolution. Uh going over to IV.B, under old business, um that was updated. And then down to V, new business, D, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, Tribal Fish Passage Grant. Um that was added to the agenda on Monday. And also on the list, it should also be Alexis as well, besides just Frank. And then in closed session, we are removing what was that number?

Speaker Burmeister: VII

Recorder Johnson: Under E, number VII, that is being removed. And that's it.

Councilor Metzger: Support

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

Councilor Wolfe: So, with on number, the updated from old business, the ratification of the real estate purchase, I don't believe we received the appropriate photos. What was explained to us in work session, a staff was there and going to take photos and we would see pictures from what the staff presented as they visited the land. What we received were more internet screenshots.

Recorder Johnson: Mm hmm

Councilor Wolfe: Um so, I would still like to recommend as I did in the work session to postpone this item. I don't see what the rush is for us to have to approve this today.

Recorder Johnson: Um

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah, we can postpone. Yes.

Recorder Johnson: Okay um do we

Councilor Wolfe: Can we wait till we get to the item? I just wanted to-

Recorder Johnson: Yeah okay

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Um any other comments from Councilors? Tribal Citizens? Back to Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the agenda, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

R. Wittenberg- Yes

J. Wolfe- Yes

A. Metzger - Yes

S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever - Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down under General Business Tribal council minutes. Since these are for three different years, we'll do these each separately. So, the first one, um actually all three of them are for

Add D. Tribal Council Minutes ☐ 10/25/2023 ☐ 02/21/2024 ☐ 02/05/2025

So, um will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain for the 10/25/2023 minutes? Any Councilors with questions or comments? Tribal Citizens? Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll just make a **motion to approve Tribal Council Minutes for 10/25/2023**

Councilor Wolfe: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Any further questions from Councilors? Citizens? Back to Council? Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for those minutes, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor they been accepted

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next minutes are for 02/21/2024. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from these minutes? Councilors with questions? Citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council? With no questions, I'd like to entertain a motion. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make a **motion to approve Tribal Council Minutes for 02/21/2024**

Councilor Wolfe: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Any questions from Councilors? Back to citizens? Councilors? With no questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for these minutes, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. They've been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Last of the minutes is for 02/05/2025. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from these minutes? Councilors with questions? Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor DiPiazza?

Councilor DiPiazza: I'd like to make a **motion to approve Tribal Council Minutes for 02/05/2025**

Councilor Wolfe: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Any questions from Councilors? Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. They've been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts

There's nothing listed under that.

B. Budget Modifications

Updated Resolution 1. Acceptance of contract funds from the Indian Health Services- Office of Self-Governance and approving a Modification to the Operating Budget MB2025-__ in The amount of \$2,487,036 **K. Bowers**

So, Kathleen, the floor is yours.

Kathleen Bowers: Thank you. Um you did receive, hopefully, an updated uh resolution. Um there was an error. That was my error um for the dental. So, what's going into contract health is \$1,013,223. In the clinic operations, \$1,391,207. In behavioral health, \$82,606, for a total of \$2,487,036. Um and Councilor Wolfe had a question about what OEHD stands for, and that is the Office of Environmental Health and

Engineering. Uh and that is providing optimum availability of functional, well-maintained health care facilities.

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

Councilor Wolfe: So, Kathleen, I had asked about it in the work session, the um just over about the \$18,000 going into dental under the clinic, and we have no dental facilities?

Kathleen Bowers: Yeah, I clarified that. I thought in the resolution, um that was an error on my part. That was supposed to go into 4104 not 4103. It was supposed to go into 4103, not 4104. So, that has been updated on the resolution on where those monies are going. That is for contract health.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, because it was really hard to hear you, so I didn't understand everything that you had said and noticing that change. So

Kathleen Bowers: sorry about that.

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah, it's kind of echoey for you. That was my only question. I had those two, and I believe you fixed it. So, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other Councilors with questions? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: With no further questions, I'll make a **motion to approve Resolution 25-0226-041, Acceptance of Contract Funds from the Indian Health Service Office of Self-Governance and Approving a Modification to the Operating Budget MB2025-06 in the amount of \$2,487,036.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Any further questions from Tribal Councilors? 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 #

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

**2. Approval of supplemental appropriations
2025- 1st QTR to fund the Elders Meal Program
in the amount of \$13,885.**

**Tribal Ogema
V. Sam**

So, Vicki, the floor is yours.

Vicki Sam: Good morning. This is just asking for you guys, for the tribe to help supplement our program with \$12,000 under client services so that we can continue feeding the elders until our new grant funding comes in in April. The food prices have gone up significantly. And this also, since we're losing our full-time employee as she was a grant-funded position, and that grant is running out and it's not a renewable grant, this bumps up my part-timer up to the full allotment of hours we can give her. And it's also \$1,000 for tribal activities, just so we can keep doing activities with our elders, which totals \$13,885.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Councilors with questions? Recorder Johnson, go ahead, please.

Recorder Johnson: Um how, um wondering, how much have you spent to date on food services?

Vicki Sam: I do have the last since November, November through January, if that helps. And from November to January, for food alone, it was \$13,454.40.

Recorder Johnson: 13,454?

Vicki Sam: Yep.

Recorder Johnson: Okay. Um and you're only asking for 13?

Vicki Sam: That is correct. That was what I was authorized to ask for.

Recorder Johnson: Okay. So, um we had gotten, just received our budgets, or the May, excuse me, June um monthly report for last year. And this is still putting you, in comparison, because you're asking for June, that would put you at a total of what you've already spent and what you're asking for at \$27,339. When you look at the June monthly report, you're still a good \$5,000 off from...uh from June of last year. And you're like \$2,000 above what you spent in 23. Um why didn't you at least ask to match last year's?

Vicki Sam: I was authorized to ask for up till April. And this is in hopes that the federal government gets a budget approved so that our grant funding's released in April.

Recorder Johnson: How many members are you feeding right now?

Vicki Sam: Right now, November through January, our numbers for homebound deliveries and grab and goes were 1,361. And for congregate meals, November through

January was 448. And then there was 30 congregate meals served at Hackley and 41 takeouts.

Recorder Johnson: How many? 30 what?

Vicki Sam: 30 congregate in person and 41 takeout. Our numbers are starting to grow down there.

Recorder Johnson: Cool um, I don't know about everybody on...on here, but I would think we should add an extra \$5,000 to this budget to at least match what she had last year. But by looking at June's budget to be able to feed and with the cost of everything, to at least get her through till June. We know everything's on hold. I don't know what everybody else's thought is.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Well, I'm not in disagreement with adding more funding so that our elders can continue to receive the elders' meals from the elders' meals program. But what she's asking for Pam is first quarter that only goes till April.

Recorder Johnson: Mm hmm

Councilor Wolfe: So, she would have to come back after April or in second quarter for more funding to take her through July. But that brings me to my original question. Have you? But you're throwing me off because it's 2025. And you're reporting December and November and December until all your numbers and accurate what you're asking for us. And we're only January and we're right at the end of February. So that would be the two months instead of the four how you're reporting it the way you're asking for the funding because November and December already closed, they would be in the 2024 budget.

Vicki Sam: I did do-

Councilor Wolfe: So that 13,000 or whatever you reported for that, we take two months away from that moving forward. And then would are you have you expended some of this \$12,000 for January and February and you're bringing this to us now because it's not there. There are grant dollars to cover it. So just from March to April 1, one month, you're going to be \$13,000 short on food.

Vicki Sam: No, I came to you guys before I ran out of funding. I just used the last of my purchase orders this last week. And I believe I have about \$1,000 left in one of my other accounts for food and then that is it. And then I have nothing more to purchase with. And for January, I do have the food tally number for January, which was \$4,153. I guess for me, my grant year is different from our budget year. So it's-

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, that's what I wasn't understanding.

Vicki Sam: my budget

Councilor Wolfe: Recording these numbers and I was like

Vicki Sam: my grant year goes from April till March.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, that makes sense to me. I don't have any more questions.

Vicki Sam: It gets confusing on my end to

Speaker Burmeister: Does any other? Oh, go ahead councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, I say at this time, this is what's in front of us to get... get you going. And then come April, the government last year approved the budget. So, I think a lot of that funding still going to flow through could be wrong, but next year may be a different issue. But right now, I think this will get you through and if you need more than we'll address it at that time.

Vicki Sam: My budgeting money for 2025 is going to be released in April. And that can only be released if the budget for 2025 on a federal level gets accepted in right now, they have not come to an agreement on a federal level, they're still very much trying to get it pushed through. And they are actually looking at a government shutdown on March 14. And my grant keeps me informed of this. And that's what they told me because I emailed them and asked them about, hey, is there any promise of our funding coming through in April? And they said until a budget gets approved in Congress? No. If that helps. And what I have left in this funding covers my part timers in uh my part timers pay, and then my pay and everything to do with that. With our pay her and me. That's the rest of my funding. I can keep borrowing from there. But then if it goes on any longer than we're in a real big, real big boat of trouble.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor DiPiazza, did you have your hand up?

Councilor DiPiazza: Yeah, I'm just the same comment. This is in front of us, I suggest we do this. And if a dilemma arises before April, or if they don't approve it within that timeframe, we can deal with it.

Speaker Burmeister: Mm hmm

Councilor DiPiazza: Deal with it then. Not saying you don't need funding to keep it going. But right now, you know, just never know what's going to happen on the federal level.

Vicki Sam: Plan for the worst and hope for the best.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Silvis.

Councilor Silvis: I just wanted to say that yesterday, the house did um vote for approving the budget. But again, I agree with Councilor DiPiazza, because this is here and you're running out of funds, I think it needs to be pushed right now. If something else comes up, don't hesitate to come back in my view to ask for more funding. Thank you.

Vicki Sam: I appreciate that. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other comments from Councilors? Okay. Um Tara, you have your hand up.

Tara Bailey: Just a clarification. Um if she receives this funding, um is she eligible to hold on to this and say use all of it up? Um so that her funding that she gets in April could hold her over for next fall or next. The last quarter?

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah were-

Tara Bailey: First quarter of our fiscal year, next year? You know what I'm saying? Or would she if she doesn't use it all up by April 1st? So, she have to refund it back to the tribe back to the general fund? Or could she hold on to it and use it? Hold it on to more of her grant dollars to extend to hold her over until April of next year?

Councilor Wolfe: I don't I don't think it would be available, Tara, because our budget cycle closes, and we would be closed out by February 20.

Tara Bailey: Right, but that's what I'm saying. You could use this up until it's used up, and then start using her grant dollars, even if she gets it in April.

Councilor Wolfe: Oh, I think that would be her individual discretion to do that. Because when we appropriate it, it's in the line item for expenditures.

Tara Bailey: Okay, I just wanted to know if she had to give it back if she didn't use it by April 1st. I just wanted to use that as a clarification.

Councilor Wolfe: No, because these will be general fund dollars. That's what she's requesting.

Tara Bailey: Okay

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

Councilor DiPiazza: The only thing is, if you don't expend them, then they go back into the general fund at the end of the year so.

Vicki Sam: I have no doubt we will definitely.

Councilor DiPiazza: Absolutely.

Vicki Sam: Uh and one more thing I wanted to throw out there too. A lot most of the last three years, in fact, last year was the first year this happened, our NSIP funding, our Nutritional Supplemental Incentive Program funding that we get through Title VI, it went from \$10,000 and \$11,000 a year down to \$2,500. Title III received so many cuts last year to their budget that they couldn't afford to give us any more money. And how that works is that because they utilize our tribal elders' numbers in their censuses and everything in their data, then our kickback is that little bit of money they send back to us for allowing them to use those numbers. And so, this actually lines up to how much I'm short of because every year that's what we used in this in-between grant periods was that NSIP money. So that was painful.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Vicki. Councilor have. Any councilors have any further questions? All right. Um I'd like to entertain a motion for this item, please. Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: Make a **motion to approve Resolution 25-0226-042. Approval of Supplemental Appropriation 2025.** Is it 01?

Councilor DiPiazza: Mm hmm

Councilor Wolfe: **1st quarter to fund the Elder's Meal Program in the amount of \$13,885.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any councilors that have further questions? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. it's been accepted.

Vicki Sam: Chi Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down under Budget Modifications

**3. Approval of Supplemental Appropriation to
fund the Catastrophic Disaster Relief Assistance
Program in the amount of \$45,000.00**

J. Wolfe

So, Councilor Wolfe, the floor is yours.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. Um Tribal Council established the Catastrophic Disaster Relief Assistance by Resolution 24-1211-243. Um we need a budget modification because in the 2025 um budget passed, this program was unfunded. We've had it in place now for um just over three months. We were waiting on getting um program application and regulations accepted by Tribal Council, and if I could ask the Ogema for an update on those. Um but for this \$45,000, it would be coming from the Unrestricted General Fund Balance to fund the fiscal year 2025 Catastrophic Disaster Relief Assistance. This would be going into the Members Assistance Fund under Client Services to fund that program. Um this would cover 15 Tribal members to access the program. So just that update, if the Ogema can provide one, where the regulations, program application, and guidelines are.

Speaker Burmeister: Ogema do you have an update on that?

Ogema Romanelli: What was the question, or what were you looking for?

Councilor Wolfe: So, we passed the program amendment to the Membership Assistance Ordinance in December. It was left on to the Executive to create the application, program regulations, and guidelines for it. That's why it was unfunded in the 2025 budget.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay

Councilor Wolfe: We're looking for an update on how close we are to having those documents ready so the program can be fully implemented with this funding.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay, I asked for the CEO to be on today to answer questions like that, so is she on? Okay, maybe she could assist.

Councilor Wolfe: So, it would be program regulations. The last I heard from the coordinator before they left the position was that it was forwarded to the Ogema's office in legal review from the Executive.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay, and I'm not sure I can ask with, uh probably forwarded to Elise. I'll check with Elise.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you

Councilor Wolfe: So, if he's willing to check on that and get those updated and stuff, I don't have a problem funding the program. It would be just one step less that we have to do once they are adopted. The money would sit there in the line item of client services until the program is ready to be fully implemented by the Executive. So, I'm just asking full support of Tribal Council to get this benefit in the line item so membership can access it.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Tribal citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: And I just noticed that I missed on the program title, on the resolution title, that I have to have the Supplemental Appropriation 2025-02. So, if someone makes that in the motion on the floor or I can make the motion.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. No further questions. I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Oh, go ahead. Go ahead, Ogema Romanelli.

Ogema Romanelli: I just found out that uh Jessica Steinberg has a draft ready uh that they are looking at, but they don't have a final approval yet. So that's where they're at. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay. I'd like to entertain a motion for this item, please. Councilor Wolfe?

Councilor Wolfe: I'd like to make a motion to approve Resolution 25-0226-043, Approval of Supplemental Appropriation 2025-02 to fund a Catastrophic Disaster Relief Assistance Program in the amount of \$45,000.

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Does Tribal Council have any questions or comments? Back to citizens. Any questions or comments? Oh, go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Did you state 0-2, first quarter in that? Okay. In the last certification of adoption, it's still dated February 19th.

Councilor Wolfe: Oh, this. I think that's the day I did it.

Councilor DiPiazza: You can correct that, please.

Councilor Wolfe: Yep. So, I'll restate the motion with these corrections. Um it motion to approve Resolution 25-0226-043, Approval of Supplemental Appropriation 2025-02, first quarter. I don't think I'm having the first quarter. All right. Let me start over. Sorry. Got distracted. um **Motion to approve Resolution 25-0226-043, Approval of Supplemental Appropriation 2025-02, 1st quarter to fund the Catastrophic Disaster Relief Assistance Program in the amount of \$45,000 with under certificate of adoption, changing that date to February 26.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any Councilors with further questions or comments? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council? Recorder Johnson, go ahead, please.

Recorder Johnson: Just in thinking, because we're almost at the end of first quarter, should it not be second quarter, being um bless you. Um being that we don't have the paperwork completed, like it's there's a draft, but um just thinking, should it not be for second quarter?

Councilor Wolfe: I think it would fall under the same caveat as the previous item. It's going into the first quarter. That's when we're making the budget modification. It would stay there until funding is expended or we bring back forward appropriation after it's all expended.

Recorder Johnson: Okay

Speaker Burmeister: Any other questions? Okay. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Before we move on, we have a few Tribal citizens that have joined us. Um Corey Wells, can you please identify yourself?

Corey Wells: Corey Wells 4839

Speaker Burmeister: Okay

Councilor Wolfe: I couldn't hear anything.

Corey Wells: Could you hear me?

Speaker Burmeister: Corey, could you please do that again? It was really low.

Corey Wells: Corey Wells 4839

Speaker Burmeister: Okay thank you. Roy Vanas, please identify yourself.

Roy Vanas: Good morning. Roy Vanes, 4906.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Michael B., please identify yourself. He's still on, Pam?

Michael B., please identify yourself. Phone number 2317940066, please identify yourself.

Michael Burmeister: Michael Burmeister 945

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Angela Rabb, please identify yourself.

Angela Rabb: Angela Rabb, Finance Department.

Speaker Burmeister: All right. Thank you. Moving down to

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

1. Appropriating Funds for Expenditures during the Second Quarter of FY2025 B. Pringle

So, Brad, the floor is yours.

Brad Pringle: Sure. Once again, thank you, Tribal Council membership via Zoom. This uh resolution, looking for resolution approval for the appropriation of funds for expenditures during the second quarter of FY 2025, whereas section 5.7 of the Budget Appropriations Act of 2013 requires Tribal Council appropriating funds for expenditures for the following fiscal quarters by March 1st, June 1st, September 1st, and December 1st of each fiscal year, whereas the comptroller held work session on February 18th um for Tribal Council to review and discuss. Now, it, therefore, resolved that the Tribal Council, of Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, hereby appropriates the amount of \$5,672,228.25 for expenditures during the second quarter beginning April 1st of 2025. This consists of quarter gaming distribution at \$2,836,114.12 and quarter gaming per cap at \$2,836,114.13.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: I just have the same concerns that I noted last week. We are um nine months behind in financials. We haven't closed out fiscal year 2024. We did get some communication from the executive side that the reports, um they're working on July of 2024 and soon we would receive June 2024 and not till the end of March will it catch up the other August through December, but that still doesn't address this quarter in the year that we're in with budgetary items because there's no timeline or date for January or February, but this time I can't support appropriating this fund's expenditure. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other tribal councilors with questions? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council. Okay, with no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion please. Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make the **motion to approve resolution 25-0226-044 appropriating funds for expenditures during the second quarter of FY 2025.**

Speaker Burmeister: Any questions? Any further questions from tribal councilors? Back to citizens. Oh, go ahead Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Um I did misspeak once. We did get notice also um in that communication that January and February tentatively be done at the end of April which would bring us into that quarter, but these, um everything's tentative due to ongoing issues so it doesn't mean that they're going to be complete on that timeline. That's just a projection and everything that we've gotten from the executive branch according to financials has been late or delayed or not provided at all. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other councilors with comments or questions? Citizens? Go ahead Staci

Staci Cheney: um yes, I was just going to say I agree with Councilor Wolfe. It would be inappropriate to approve this since you haven't had financials for nine months. That's my comment. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other citizens with a comment or question? Go ahead Ken. Can you come up to the podium please?

Ken Metzger: Uh Kenneth Metzger 0889. Um I'd like to know why is this an ongoing problem. We're trying to get things done here. That's, you know, for the last, since I've been coming to um council meetings here, it's been a problem. Uh what's the holdup on all this? That's what I'd like to know. Thank you. Chi Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other council or any other tribal citizens with a question or comment? Back to tribal council. Okay, with no further questions or comments, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (5-4-0-0)

Five in favor, four against. It's been accepted.

Brad Pringle: Thank you, Tribal Council.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad. Moving down to

IV. Old Business

- A. Supplemental Payment of General Welfare Assistance
Program 2022 COVID-19 Pandemic Assistance Program
utilizing the remaining ARPA funding of \$894,287.94**

J. Wolfe

So, Councilor Wolfe, the floor is yours.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. So, this one I had presented to fund that um supplemental payment to tribal members. I did go through all the numbers based on all the information that was provided by the CFO, um came up with this dollar amount. We did have um information provided on December 9th that showed this dollar amount of \$894,287.94 available. Um we did have a proposal that came forward with an emergency meeting called by the Ogema on December 31st that asked for \$884,200. Out of this same account, the ARPA dollars are restricted. Um and then, as recently, we started in after the program passed for the supplemental payment. In January, the Speaker started communication with the CFO to get a certification of funds and a dollar amount in there. We weren't able to receive one until we subpoenaed the item. We got a certification of funds, and it tells us that there are zero dollars unobligated in the ARPA fund as of December 31st, 2024. To me, that cannot be correct because we did not pass all the resolutions to allocate and unrestrict the money and apply for expenditures. So, um Tribal Council has been working diligently on this and having work sessions. There is an upcoming meeting for some discussions to get better information or clarification between the legislative and executive attorneys. So, at this time, I want to make a **motion to postpone this item.**

Councilor DiPiazza: Support

Speaker Burmeister: All right any further questions or comments about postponement from Council? Tri- Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, has anybody actually went back through and pulled up all the resolutions since it was a restricted fund and did your own calculations? That would be my question. Maybe you want to task the uh comptroller with such a chore.

Speaker Burmeister: Are you set, Gary? Councilor DiPiazza?

Councilor DiPiazza: Yeah

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: That is one of the things that I did at first when we got the report from the CFO and the zero report, and then we had our first official meeting, and that's the first assignment that I gave our comptroller to figure out which one of these and which one we could have missed or might have missed, and he's working on that. Provided an update in this work session, he had about uh 12 out of the 17 resolutions documented for us. We're still waiting on some to find them and that other meeting schedule.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead. Go ahead, Councilor Campton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Um I just want to point out for the membership that I don't think anybody checked in December either when they brought forward the \$800,000. Nobody checked back then and there was five Council members ready to give it to the casino. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any further questions or comments? Okay.
Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for postponement of this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor, one against. It's been postponed.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. We have a couple citizens that have joined us.
Um Scott Wahr, can you please identify yourself?

Scott Wahr: Scott Wahr, 4689.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Thomas Guest, please identify yourself. Thomas Guest, can you identify yourself? He fell off the call. So, moving forward, we are on um

Updated **B. Ratification of Real Estate Purchase Agreement** Tribal Ogema
with J. Phillips. E. McGowen-Cuellar

So Elise, the floor is yours.

Councilor Wolfe: I had made a motion at the agenda review-

Speaker Burmeister: Okay

Councilor Wolfe: To postpone this item when we got to it.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: I don't believe Tribal Council has enough information and I don't see the rush when we requested that information to have it available. So, at this time, I'll make a **motion to postpone this item, ratification of real estate purchase agreement with J. Phillips.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Any questions from Councilors on the postponement? Tribal citizens, back to Council. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for postponement of this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (7-2-0-0)

Seven in favor, two against. It's been postponed.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

**C. Approval of State of Colorado PR Tax Withholding for Tribal Ogema
Legislative Employee. C. Dunham- Tozer**

So, Cindy the floor is yours

Cindy Dunham- Tozer: Thank you. This is Cindy Dunham- Tozer controller. Um this item is to approve the state of Colorado payroll tax withholding account application for the legislative employee recently hired Annie Perry. State of Michigan is not in an agreement with the state of Colorado regarding payroll tax withholding. Therefore, we must abide by the state of Colorado's requirements when paying a resident-

Speaker Burmeister: Excuse me Cindy, I don't mean to interrupt you, but we're having a hard time hearing you. Could you um try to speak up a little bit, please?

Cindy Dunham- Tozer: Yes, ma'am. Um this item is to approve the state of Colorado payroll tax withholding account application for the legislative employee recently hired Annie Perry. The state of Michigan is not in an agreement with the state of Colorado regarding payroll tax withholding. Therefore, we must abide by the state of Colorado's requirements when paying a resident of Colorado. Because Annie Perry is a resident of Colorado and working remotely for LRBOI, we are required to withhold state payroll taxes from her pay and submit those funds on a quarterly basis to the state of Colorado. Um I've included a copy of the Colorado sales tax and withholding account application that has been completed with the necessary information on LRBOI. I ask that you approve and allow the Ogema to sign this document so it can be submitted to the state of Colorado. We will receive an account number allowing us to submit funds withheld from Annie Perry on a quarterly basis. This is a one-time application and does not need to be completed any other time. Once we receive the confirmation from the state of Colorado, in the event Annie Perry is no longer employed with LRBOI, we will complete the final return and at that time we'll inform the state of Colorado Department of Revenue that it is our last return.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Cindy. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Councilors with questions? Tribal citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council? With no further, go ahead Councilor Metzger. Okay, I'd like to entertain a motion. Councilor Metzger, go ahead please.

Councilor Metzger: At this time, I'd like to make a **motion to approve Resolution 25-0226-045. Approval of State of Colorado PR Tax Withholding for Legislative Employee.** Do I have to say a name?

Councilor Wolfe: No

Councilor Metzger: Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Any councilors with questions or comments? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council? Go ahead. Go ahead, Diana. The resolution number 25-0226-045. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: All right, thank you.

Cindy Dunham- Tozer: Thank you, Council.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Cindy. Moving down to

Postponed **D. Enrollment Commission Minutes** ☐ **December 2024**

Postponed **E. Natural Resource Commission Minutes** ☐ **January 2025**

Moving down to

V. New Business

A. Approval of Revised Gaming Commission Regulation **J. Wolfe**
#R400-04: GC-06-Chapter 6-Gaming Vendor Licensing

So, Councilor Wolfe, you have the floor.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. Um bringing this forward on behalf of the Gaming Commission as the liaison for the Gaming Commission, um specifically what it is, Gaming Commission ordinance requires all Gaming Commission regulations to be adopted by the Gaming Commission by written resolution and filed with the Tribal Council Recorder. So, what we do have is the substantive changes to the Gaming Vendor Licensing Regulation is in um page 7, section 9.1, and page 8, section 10.4. What we're doing is we're going from an annual renewal to a biannual every two years. Um we've had a work session on this. Um what it does is streamline the process for improving efficiency and reduce the cost, um plus man hour and material cost, and it should provide a savings of \$26,585.33 based on um past history. Vendors and their control person have continuing ongoing duty to report any material changes to their application, including acquisitions, legal proceedings, structural changes, disciplinary action, arrests, and change in personal information. Gaming vendors are vetted in hundreds of jurisdictions, state and tribal, and sometimes both. Many jurisdictions use a repository and may renewal every two years and some less frequent. Um if there's some questions or concerns that come up with the vendor, we always have the responsibility and authority to investigate. The Gaming Commission does. That's the- we I'm saying in that comment. Um so just bringing it forward for acceptance by Tribal Council.

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

Councilor Metzger: Uh yeah, I can't seem to find a resolution for this one for this item. Just with the gaming.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead Councilor Wolfe

Councilor Wolfe: Well Resolution was actually emailed in their original submission. Somehow it got left out. It was re-forwarded by Pam and Kelly yesterday. Um for some reason it didn't get printed as a add to the packet, but it was just left out on error on Friday. So, I do have the resolution um here and um I can read it. It's just um accepting for filing the revised Gaming Commission Regulation for R400-04-GCO6 Chapter 6 Gaming Vendor License. And then the whereas says whereas Section 604 of the Gaming Commission Ordinance permits the Gaming Commission to promulgate regulations and internal operational policies and procedures for the Gaming Commission and its staff. Whereas the Gaming Commission has determined revisions were necessary to better serve the regulatory function of the Gaming Commission and specifically moving forward the renewal processes for vendors from annually to every two years. Uh the Gaming Commission Regulation Chapter 6 Gaming Vendor License was approved by the Gaming Commission on February 4, 2025, by Gaming Commission Resolution what you see in your packet GC-2502-400-01. Whereas the Gaming Commission Regulation Chapter 6 Gaming Vendor License is now being forwarded to Tribal Council for the filing in accordance with the Gaming Commission Ordinance R400-04-Section 6.04. And then the final now therefore it's resolved that the Gaming Commission Regulation R400-04-GCO6 Chapter 6 Gaming Vendor Licensing is hereby accepted for filing by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you

Councilor Wolfe: No that wasn't a motion I was just answering your question.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you much.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead Councilor Wolfe

Councilor Wolfe: And then since I do have it up, I'll go ahead and make that motion. Uh make a **motion to approve Resolution 25-0226-046 Acceptance for Filing the Revised Gaming Commission Regulation R400-04-GCO6 Chapter 6 Gaming Vendor Licensing.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Okay thank you. Um will there be our Tribal Council do you have any further questions or comments? Tribal Citizens questions? Back to Tribal Council

with no further questions. Recorder Johnson can you do roll call? Oh, sorry about that Councilor Crampton go ahead please.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you, Speaker. So, to clarify for the membership what this would be doing was uh now we don't have to check for license or re-license them after a year we're gonna let them go for two. Okay with our Gaming Commission I'm not I'm not down with this. Um has the case gone forward against them?

Councilor Wolfe: Yes

Councilor Crampton: Okay so we have a case against them and we're giving them more leeway. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Is there any other comments from Councilors? Okay with no further comments Recorder Johnson can you do roll call for this item?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor one against it has passed.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down under new business

B. Approval for the Housing Department to apply an application to MSHDA Tribal Nations Housing Development Assistance Program Pre-Development

T. Bailey

so, Tara the floor is yours.

Tara Bailey: Good afternoon. Uh or good morning sorry. Um in January of 2024 MSHDA formed this formed this Tribal Nations Housing Development Assistance Program to um better relations between the state of Michigan and um Tribal Nations and the state of Michigan. Um so, they have this pre-development uh grant that's available uh to assist us in building homes things like that. Uh so the I'm asking for approval to submit this application for pre-development to MSHDA uh for amount of \$75,000 and we'll use it to um get a consultant in to help us develop a home ownership program.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you Tara. Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Councilors with questions? Go ahead. Go ahead Councilor Campton.

Councilor Crampton: Uh well, I know I brought this up before and I tried to bring something forward. This would be um MSHDA this would have the same guidelines they wouldn't be our regulations right it'd be um federal regulations.

Tara Bailey: This is. Sorry uh it's just a grant

Councilor Crampton: Mm hmm

Tara Bailey: For us to develop a program um and I want to do it as a pre-development and to figure out how we could go about doing a home ownership project um and the funding sources that we use for that project

Councilor Crampton: Yeah

Tara Bailey: further down the road will determine the basis of the rules and regulations we got to follow at that point.

Councilor Crampton: Well is there any been any thought by the Housing Department of going forth what I was talking about earlier is I know we have this all this funding in place for people who can get loans and when you're talking about home ownership program that's what's going to happen is they're going to have to take these classes and they have to try to bring up their credit scores to where they could get a loan.

Tara Bailey: Right.

Councilor Crampton: Not everybody I'm trying to um help out the people who've been inundating me with calls that not everybody can do that not everybody's in that position.

Tara Bailey: Right.

Councilor Crampton: So, we need to provide something for those people who can't get there and for them to take classes many times they're presented with the option of you have a week or a month to move or you're going to buy the house.

Tara Bailey: Mm hmm

Councilor Crampton: Okay well we're not creating we're not helping people or creating more homeless people so I'm just is there anything to pick up the people who really need the help the people who can get the loans I don't see them needing that much help

Tara Bailey: well-

Councilor Crampton: the members who can't get the loans are the ones that need the help.

Tara Bailey: So are you thinking for an immediate answer that we would need something where we could offer-

Councilor Crampton: Well, I know you were talking about expanding the um down payment assistance from uh I think it was five to ten. Okay something like that I mean we

just need two venues there's one for these people that you get loans to access that funding-

Tara Bailey: mm hmm

Councilor Crampton: We need something to where the other people who can't get um they can access that funding that's what I'm saying.

Tara Bailey: Okay.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you

Tara Bailey: This is this is just something for us planning like down the road

Councilor Crampton: Okay

Tara Bailey: like to get us in part of the pre-development and part of the homeownership project will be to help with uh homeownership counseling

Councilor Crampton: Mm hmm

Tara Bailey: Um getting them prepared um things like that.

Councilor Crampton: All right thank you

Tara Bailey: I mean I don't have it fully developed in my head that's why we need a I need a consultant to come in and that has an expertise um has done homeownership projects on in other areas. This is-

Councilor Crampton: All right thank you

Tara Bailey: And when and when we talk to them, he might have some ideas that will better assist us with your question too that we could do immediately.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay thank you. Any other councilors with questions or comments Tribal citizens 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 approve resolution 25-0226-047 approval of housing department to apply an application to MSHDA Tribal Nation Housing Development Assistance Program pre-development with corrections through certificate adoption. Uh the date change we have February 19th I'd like to change that to February 26th.**

Councilor Wolfe: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Any councilors with further questions or comments Councilor DiPiazza go ahead please.

Councilor DiPiazza: I want to say Miigwech for bringing this forward because even if you have a low credit score you can still get funding to purchase the problem is they're just going to be it's going to be a higher interest rate so and that can really jeopardize people so Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you any other councilors with questions or comments go ahead Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Well, I don't believe it to be entirely true it doesn't matter what, um what you're going to accept is your interest rate there are people that flat out when they see the credit score, they're going to say no absolutely thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you any other councilors with a comment or question. Okay with no further comments or questions um I'd like to entertain a motion please oh sorry yeah, we do have a motion Recorder Johnson can you. oh, I'm sorry go ahead Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Um Tara, I don't remember when you said we would get award notice if we were um received the grant.

Tara Bailey: I do not have an answer to that I'm not sure what their process is at the state of Michigan. I even asked to make sure that they still had the funding available, and I was told yes but I don't know what their timeline is for accepting or approvals.

Councilor Wolfe: So, is this like a grant that's available all the time or is there a deadline when you could apply?

Tara Bailey: Um they want us it's not a first-come first-served basis, so they want us to apply as soon as possible they want to get the funds used up.

Councilor Wolfe: So once the funds are used and essentially the grant closes

Tara Bailey: correct

Councilor Wolfe: and then they make awards

Tara Bailey: yeah

Councilor Wolfe: continuously is what it sounds like okay thank you.

Tara Bailey: To received that they um a grant from the federal home loan bank of I forget how much it was a million dollars or something to help with this project um to help build the relationship between the tribes in the state of Michigan and MSHDA.

Councilor Wolfe: And this one is going to nine county service area so we may develop, or it may come back that we want on our 1855 reservation of housing development not just focusing on here what's currently in place.

Tara Bailey: Right yep

Councilor Wolfe: Okay thank you

Tara Bailey: You're welcome

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other comments or questions from councilors? Tribal citizens? Back to tribal council with no further questions or comments. Recorder Johnson can you do roll call for the item please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. it's been accepted.

Tara Bailey: Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Thank you, Tara. Moving down to

**C. Ratification of Contract with Grand Valley
Automation Inc**

**T. Bailey
D. Underwood**

So DeAhna the floor is yours.

DeAhna Underwood: Thank you and good morning. Grand Valley Automation designed and installed the government center's smart building automated system also known as the BAS. The BAS operates and monitors the HVAC system. The current agreement expires at the end of the month. This is a sole source contract and a 2025 budgeted expense and will be budgeted in the 2026 budget expense. Sorry. Um I received this contract on February 3rd and the legal review was conducted on February 5th and the work session was held on February 20th. Grand Valley will provide on-site biannual preventative maintenance services in the spring and in the fall. These services are designed to extend the operating life of the building's automated system. The PM tasks are on the proposal under the preventative maintenance plan. The contract will auto renew at the end of year one when pricing changes are required beyond the inflationary 3%. A notice of price changes will be presented 75 days prior to renewal. Year one and year two annual total amounts are \$10,540.85. The estimated two-year total amount is \$21,081.70. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, DeAhna. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions or comments? Tribal citizens with questions or comments? Back to Tribal Council. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: So, when they're doing the updates and stuff, they do update it every... every time they come in or just check it?

DeAhna Underwood: Um

Councilor DiPiazza: Do we get notice of what was updated and altered?

DeAhna Underwood: Um they make necessary software patches and do updates um as needed. So, they'll come in and check the system. Um and if there is something wrong, they will um fix it. Um I haven't gotten the um the worksheet like of what the... the PM of what they've completed in the past, but it is something that I can ask for.

Councilor DiPiazza: Okay. Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe. Any other comments or questions from Tribal Council? Okay, with no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: I'd like to make a **motion to approve Resolution 25-0226-048, ratification of contract with Grand Valley Automation, Inc.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Does Council have any further questions or comments? Tribal citizens? Back to Council. With no further, go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Just one comment or question. This is a specialized system that this tribal government has, and we've been using it since the building has been opened. So, they have continued to provide the preventative maintenance and um the needed repairs and necessary to keep this updated. Thank you.

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

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, I was going to say it is geothermal. So, there's a lot to the computing to keep everything going the way it should, so and that field's out back. It's quite huge, so please don't dig any holes back there. That was it.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other comments from Councilors? Okay, with no further comments, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Thank you, DeAhna.

DeAhna Underwood: Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Moving down to

**ADD D. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA) Tribal Fish Passage Grant
Application**

**Tribal Ogema
F. Beavers
A. DeGabriele**

So, Alexis, the floor is yours.

Alexis DeGabriele: Thank you. I'm Alexis DiGabriele. I'm the aquatic biologist wetlands and I'm representing the Natural Resources Department. We were asking for Tribal Council's approval to submit a grant application to NOAA for the amount of \$1,120,000. This would be for a Tribal Fish Passage grant. Um this would be for the Maple River, which is a branch of the Muskegon River. It was formerly uh flowed out of the Muskegon and back into the Muskegon, and it was cut off during the logging era. And since then, um its impeded fish passage, as well as um there's a very important manuman wild rice stand there. And this project that we're proposing would be a feasibility study and some baseline monitoring for us to evaluate um the reconnection and to put everything in place that if the reconnection were to happen, we would have all the design in place. I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

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

Councilor Metzger: Uh thank you, ma'am. This is more on our structure. Are we making a motion to make a motion or motion for a resolution? Because I don't have any paperwork concerning this matter.

Recorder Johnson: It was uh sent out to everybody

Councilor DiPiazza: mm hmm

Recorder Johnson: um and then-

Councilor Wolfe: Well Chantel didn't give us a packet this morning.

Recorder Johnson: Right, she didn't give a packet. I don't know if she missed it or what, but we did get it sent to us, and then Frank did send some uh

Councilor DiPiazza: logistics.

Recorder Johnson: Yeah, some budget narrative items this morning. He did send them out late though. um, I just noticed them, so after being in here, that we didn't have them

Speaker Burmeister: Well, I was going to have two hands up. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe, and then I have

Councilor Wolfe: *Speaking but mic is turned off*

Alexis DeGabriele: Yeah

Councilor Wolfe: *Speaking but mic is turned off*

Alexis DeGabriele: Yeah, our apologies for that late submittal. Um this has been a massive grant application that we've been working with different partners which have been doing a lot of the writing, and so we didn't get the final version until, uh yeah, until we, right before we send it to you, um but the budget, uh the full grant application is due um tomorrow, so that's where the um the urgency is, and our apologies, we couldn't get it to you sooner.

Councilor Wolfe: *Speaking but mic is turned off*

Alexis DeGabriele: Yeah, we're working with the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, is our main partner, and through them, we've, we work with Dr. Marty Hultgren, um who would be, who's also a separate contractor as well, um and also the University of Wisconsin, so those are the main partners on this, and um yeah, the proposal hasn't changed. Um it's the same one that we showed you at the work session last week. It's just been a draft that's been edited and made more, um you know, it's more updated now, but it's the same thing you saw last week during the work session.

Councilor Wolfe: *Speaking but unclear through zoom*

Alexis DeGabriele: Yeah, just more fleshed out now, and yeah, thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger, did you have your hand up too, also? Okay, okay, go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Yeah, I was going to say this is due tomorrow, but, um and it is a big task to get involved with NOAA, so I'm ready to make a motion on the item.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, we do have a citizen that has her hand up. Um go ahead, Sara

Sara Agosa: I'm having a hard time hearing Pam and Julie. Can you make sure your mics are on? Thanks.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Sara. Okay, any other questions? Councilors? Tribal citizens? Back to Council? Okay, with no further questions, I'd like, go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: With that, I'll make a **motion to approve Resolution O2-0226-049, approval for the NRD to submit an application for NOAA, which is National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Tribal Fish Passage Funding for 1-1-26 through 12-21-2028. 12-31.** I should know that, shouldn't I? You guys always have a meeting on my birthday. Anyways, **on 1-1-2026 through 12-31-2028.**

Speaker Burmeister: Any councilors with further questions or comments? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe

Councilor Wolfe: *Speaking but mic turned off so unclear*

Alexis DeGabriele: No, I think we just said draft resolution pending the addition of the resolution numbers. That's the only reason I titled it that way, but

Councilor Wolfe: *Speaking but mic turned off so unclear*

Alexis DeGabriele: yeah, that's true. That's, yeah, we can add those if we prefer.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other comments from Tribal Council? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council? Councilor Wolfe, go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: I would just consider this one of the ministerial duties of Tribal Council for seeking grant approval to make the application, so I'm in support of it. I know there's some people there, I'm seeing what they do tomorrow, I think this gives you the authorization to apply for the grant, so I'm in support of it. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Thank you, Alexis.

Alexis DeGabriele: Thank you very much

Speaker Burmeister: Moving down to

VI. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, March 05, 2025

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

Ogema, do you? Thank you. Moving down to

C. Legislative Affairs Update

1. Tammy Burmeister

and I don't have any updates for this week. Recorder

2. Pam Johnson

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

Recorder Johnson: Um, so not really an update, just, um, we will get those signed here when we, um, take a break after open session, and we'll get those minutes signed, and they will be posted on the website soon, so probably before the end of the day, they should be there, um, just so members are aware.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

3. Julie Wolfe

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

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. Um, just want to know, the House of Representatives voted on Tuesday night. It was a 217 to 215 to advance the GOP's budget plan, um, and Donald Trump's priorities on the border of defense as lawmakers move forward to comprise the deal with the Senate. Um, it was passed mostly along the party lines, with every Democratic voting against a measure, one Republican voting nay, so that is, um, this is the Medicare spending and cuts that's being, um, that passed, so voted, so that will be, um, affecting the children, families, people with disabilities, um, hospitals and nursing homes, all of those have an effect in that with this funding, um, passage and, um, following the Trump administration's plan. Um, the other one, I wanted to talk briefly about the Michigan Court of Appeals upholds Enbridge Line 5 tunnel plan, which that means the Court of Appeals has upheld the permit for Enbridge energy plan to bury oil pipeline beneath the, um, Straits of Mackinac, so it looks there's going to be more action, and I know tribes are not done fighting, but currently right now the three-judge panel voted for um Enbridge to move forward with their tunnel. Um, and then a few other updates, um, just a reminder again, government offices will be closed tomorrow, Thursday, February 27th, um, notice out I had said about the, um, Easter egg hunt that's happening at the housing, um, pavilion at Aki maadiziwin on Saturday, April 12th, that's for youth and elders, registrations beginning at 10:30, um, and then the egg hunt itself is starting at 11, and then we are just about 25 days away from our annual round dance, we have that scheduled for March 22nd at 5:30, with the doors opening at 5:30, fees to follow that, so, um, everyone's welcome to attend that, and we still are looking for volunteers that we may need that evening, um, and I think we are moving forward, we do have, um, save the date flyer being prepared, and our annual Jiingtamok. will be 4th of July weekend, we're having that on the 5th and 6th of July, so that should be out too, so just put in a reminder for save your date, we were unable to secure any discounts for tribal members that weekend, um, versus the casino policy, but we're still looking into

that and see if we can't make something else happen, um, so that's my legislative update for today, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

4. Gary DiPiazza

you are next in the queue, go ahead please.

Councilor DiPiazza: Yeah, keep, uh, keep Sault Ste. Marie tribe in your thoughts, because they got hacked by some, evidently it's Russian hackers, and they've been shut down, they're just opening, I believe it's today, one of the casinos, and the rest will be opening next week, so if you get an email, please, it doesn't look familiar, spelled funky, don't open it, even on your own personal equipment, it only takes them a second to get a virus in there, and a Trojan horse, and you've got problems, and keep all your information secured, you know, we get them, I get them now and again through the government ones, very seldom, but now and again, one sneaks through, be diligent, it's spelled wrong, looks funny, don't open it, because that'll go right in the mainframe. The other thing is, this Sunday, March 2nd, there's going to be a candidate forum down in Muskegon, hosted by uh Michelle Gibbs, and the address is uh 5201 Airline Road, Fruitport, Michigan 49444, and that's from 1 to 4 on March 2nd, and on a side note, I had put in for a forward request on some of the Grand River information, because my mother has listed in their application for federal recognition, I finally got a response after almost two years, they're getting my information I requested, so that'll be interesting. With that, Miiigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

5. Shirley Wever

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

Councilor Wever: Yes, I just want to uh bring up, last week, I'm sure most have heard about our meeting, the dog and pony show. Well, you know, I just want to say, I can take the threats and the criticism, and our hairdos, last week, it was about our hairdos, and the name calling, but I want to say, you know, I'm always careful in this building, but you know, I felt safe, I felt safe last week at our meeting, I didn't even give it a thought, I mean, we had a lot of commotion going on over here, and the public safety, and I mean, we were all there, everyone, but I-

Councilor Wolfe: That was after the meeting

Councilor Wever: Pardon

Councilor Wolfe: That was after the meeting, what you're talking about was after the meeting.

Councilor Wever: After the meeting, okay, after second open

Councilor Wolfe: Mm hmm

Councilor Wever: oh, okay, well, the dog pony um started then.

Councilor Wolfe: And Tammy wasn't here, that's what she wanted to say, comment, she wasn't here last week.

Councilor Wever: Oh, and Tammy wasn't here, okay, so anyways, when everything finally got calmed down, I thought, well, I'm going to go close the door to the office. Well, I wasn't ready for Shannon Crampton, he was waiting for me, and he said to me, I hate you the most. And you know, all this time, I thought he hated uh Gary DiPiazza the most. I didn't like that. And he told me I'm stealing from his kids. Well, I just want you all to know, I had the worst weekend ever, because I'm always careful around here, but I let my guard down. I let my guard down. And I was sick the whole weekend. So, when he's in this building, I'll make sure Gary or someone or Steve walks me out or walks me to close my door. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um I'm going to move down on the list. Yeah, I Councilor Crampton, when it's your turn. So go ahead, Councilor

6. Al Metzger

you are next in the queue.

Councilor Metzger: Chi Miigwech. Speaking Anishinaabemowin

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

7. Ron Wittenberg

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

Councilor Wittenberg: Nothing at this moment.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

8. Misty Silvis

go ahead, please.

Councilor Silvis: No updates at this time. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Julie shh. Go ahead, Councilor

9. Shannon Crampton

Uh yes, uh that was an obvious lie. I left after the meeting. I think I was with Brad. Uh I was showing a guitar to uh Al. It's absolute nonsense. Um but I'd like to move on to actual business. Um there was a Cherokee mother, I think her name is Robann Sunday Allen. And she was named the mother of the Year. She's going up for the 87th National Mothers Convention. I think it's gonna be held next Sunday. And they're going choose who is the national representative, but she's from the Cherokee Nation. And I think it's the first time an indigenous mother has been put up for the award. Um secondly, I'd like to move on to the um EPA. The EPA just issued a warning that uh right now most of the disasters that we're experiencing are being caused by global warming. The EPA just

issued a report to the United States that they're drill baby drill. And knocking off the EPA is you're going to create more disasters and you're not having somebody to respond to them. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to the

D. Public Comment Period

Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. Um I announced this last week, I want to announce it again. Um we're having a silent auction bake sale fundraiser to recover the vessel the Eagle. That's happening March 5th from 11 to 2 in the lunchroom here at the Government Center. Proceeds will be used to assist the retrieval of the sunken tug vessel the Eagle out of the Pier Marquette Lake. On 11-2-11-25 our tribal member fisherman Boo Batiste's vessel sunk and now needs to be recovered from the bottom of the lake. Boo used this vessel to feed his family and many members of the community. If you would like to make donations, any items to the auction or baked goods, they can be dropped off in the lunchroom on Wednesday 3-5 at 8:30 in the morning. This is being sponsored by Quaywook of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. And also, if you would like to make a cash donation, there is a bank account that has been opened at Filer Credit Union for this fundraiser. That's what I wanted to share. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other public comments? Go ahead Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, just given the recent stories and the political um BS that's being tried, Um I don't think it was too long ago everybody wanted me to be here. I'm here. Since I walked in the door, I've had things tried left and right, so I leave quick as possible. That's the only reason that they uh wanted me here was to try stuff like you saw today. But it's not going to happen. I'm going to do my job for the people. They can play the political games they want. And I do not mean Councilor Metzger, Councilor Wolfe and Councilor Wittenberg. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead Staci. You are next in the queue.

Staci Cheney: Thank you. I actually want to thank Gary DiPiazza for the warning regarding the viruses that are out there. I um got one on my work email, so they are real. And thank you for the warning. Um I wanted to also say Miigwech to Pam because you're doing a great job getting those videos up their um for us to be able to see the Council meetings if we miss them. And then I wanted to say um Shirley that I think that was a completely inappropriate time. I don't know if you understand um what the legislative review is, but it's not for you to tattle on people. But um yeah, that was inappropriate. And then I um also was hoping that um the speaker could give us an update because I know last week we were told that the sanctions were lifted. But I did some research, and I was wondering, um does that mean there's no penalties to our tribe? Because after doing some research, I found out that sanctions can be lifted, but that

doesn't mean that our tribe has not been penalized with the funding. So, I was just wondering if you could answer that question for us. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Ogema did you want to respond to that?

Ogema Romanelli: Sure. And then I also want to be in the queue about the other issue. Want me to speak now?

Speaker Burmeister: I have you written down in the queue. So, I'll go to, we had a tribal citizen with their hand up in the audience.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay

Speaker Burmeister: So, I'll get her first and then I have you.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay. thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Diana, do you still have a question or comment? Okay.

Diana Harris: Diana Harris, 2404. Um going back to Shirley's comment, I just wanted to ask her a question. If she feels in fear of her life, that's all I have to ask.

Councilor Wever: Well, I don't want to be alone when Shannon Crampton's around. That's all. Thank you.

Diana Harris: Okay. So, um can we have an escort for her when she leaves the building? And um also, when she comes in, maybe she can call ahead of time. But if it's giving her emotional issues, then we should take note. Don't let our councilors um be treated in an incorrect way. We're here to be peaceful and we all have to get along. And that's what we need to do. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Ogema Romanelli, you are next in the queue.

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you. I'll answer the tribal members on the calls question. The uh fact that we are not going to be sanctioned is one thing. There will be findings. And depending on what those findings are, uh there could be some kind of uh steps taken to rectify that. As we know, there are some things that are still pending. And uh so, we'll have to wait and watch. But basically, the sanctions are off. Now, when we go into situations like this, it can affect future grants. I think they take a look at things like that. So, um are there some things that could still happen? Yes, I believe so. And I think we have to look at what those what those um what those findings come down to. And I think both the executive and legislative need to work together, as I stated, uh both the CFO and the uh comptroller specifically should be working together. And I'm not sure that happened in this last one, but let's hope it does going forward. As to the councilors comments earlier, this uh some of the actions that happened, you know, after the meeting, I'm not aware of. But that gets back to some of our employees hear some of the things

going on. So, I can only take it as rumor. Uh but some of the actions that happened within the Tribal Council meetings, whether it be second open or first open, cause uh concerns for employees. I'm left in a bad situation because Tribal Council wants staff to appear in person, they want them to come to the uh the podium, they want to have them come to work sessions, etc. Many times, when they come to these places, they feel intimidated, threatened, etc. They do. So, I'm left to say now what do we do? I don't think anybody should uh feel as uh Councilor Wever does. And I get complaints from my staff on a regular basis as to having to appear. Now, nothing in the Constitution that I see requires us to be attending work sessions. What it requires is if that we have something on the agenda, that we submit the information. We submit it in a timely manner, usually by Tuesday at five o'clock, so that the council has time to review. If they have a question or concern at that time, they're free to email the director or the person that's involved and get the questions answered. The way it's done now, we submit the information and then we're requested to attend a work session or two or three and then attend the um agenda review and then still get questions once they get here. Some of those questions are inappropriate. They just are. Some of them are legitimate, but that should have been worked out at the work session. When you get here, it's my belief that much of that stuff should have already been worked out. There's no need to intimidate, threaten, humiliate, or anything else our staff. And so now I'm faced with, because of the latest thing, what do I do? I've already, and it was misreported, that I told people to hold back financial information. I did not tell them that. I told them they do not have to attend work sessions if they feel uncomfortable. And I'll continue that going forward. So, and attending in person. You see, there are times where they don't want to attend in person, and I don't mandate that they attend in person either. I think that over the years, from what I see, these uh council meetings have gotten down to a very low point as far as uh respect. And we say the prayer before the meeting, and we talk about working together. We talk about the seven grandfathers' teachings, but little do I see of that. It doesn't take five minutes to get into a situation where we're laughing, smirking, uh all the different things that go on here on a regular basis. That's not to mention the things that happen outside on Facebook. So, I'll make a decision on where I'm going uh with the staff. We have 170 staff members in this building and in other buildings, and it's my opinion that they submit the information. Uh they do it thoroughly. They submit it to council. Council has a problem. I think that council can then uh do an email exchange back and forth, and uh we'll go from there and see what we need to do. Now, it's been talked about that if I do not have them attend work sessions, that they will pull each item from the agenda, which has happened in the past. Excuse me, I'm still speaking, and that's another thing that happens. Constant interruptions, depending on who it is. I've been interrupted. Okay, I am done. I'm telling you that I will not put up with this for me or my staff, and it's the same people that are offensive every time. Thank you. Have a good day. Chi Miigwech

Speaker Burmeister: Next in the queue is Councilor Crampton. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Well, I'd just like to point out that the person who tried to attack a tribal member last week was Ogema Romanelli. So, when we're talking about violence in these meetings, I think that's where it comes from. Um I went back, and I tracked the emails. This whole thing about employees not coming to a work session happened right

after Angela Rabb stood up and said that the Ogema told her to illegally move money, and then all of a sudden, we started getting his uh reports of abuse from tribal council. Absolutely not. Uh when I first came down here, I made a police report to the police about Shirley Wever. If she's truly a scared uh afraid of me, why do you come up to me and tell me you like me and try to hit on me?

Councilor Wever: *Stated something but not clear on zoom*

Councilor Crampton: No, I'm in the queue.

Speaker Burmeister: Can we please not get, let's not get personal.

Councilor Crampton: You just let-

Speaker Burmeister: I know.

Councilor Crampton: You just let it happen.

Councilor Wolfe: Just like everything else

Councilor Crampton: You just let it happen. I'm responding. I'm responding. So, after there was a report of her hitting on me, now she comes back up with this. I think that's the fear around here. If we're going to have stuff like that, I think we have sexual I think we have sexual abuse and harassment as one of our main things around here.

Councilor Wever: *Stated something but not clear on zoom*

Councilor Crampton: Speaker, could you please? Anyway, sexual harassment is one of our biggest things around here. I filed that. Now, she's saying all these things after I filed that. Like I said, if you're really scared of me, don't come up and try to hit on me. Councilor Wolfe was right there and saw the whole thing. So, I really don't like coming down here because this is what I have to deal with. I would like to do the professional thing and there's nothing you can't do on the internet that we don't do here. But what happens here is that you get here and then you get the um political things like Mr. Romanelli come up saying after Angela Rabb told us that he illegally moved money and told her not to say anything. Now, we get him come up here and saying, well, my employees can't meet with you. They're being abused. They're being asked questions. No, they're saying things that he hasn't approved is what's happening. And the whole political thing with Ms. Wever, I wish I never had to see her ever again. That's not somebody that would even be at my dinner table. My friends and I wouldn't even let her close to us. That's not my social circle. I don't slum. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Recorder Johnson, you're next in the queue.

Recorder Johnson: Um so, uh Councilor Wolfe, uh on your comment that you made about having um with a fundraiser next week and the account at Filer, um could you do

something up or get with Joe and have something so we can have that post online to be able to share? So, people want to because it's easier or whatever... whatever maybe they have to do to partake in that in a different um way without um having to come in or whatever. They can just make a donation to that account or something. So that way, um members can see that regardless of where they're at, if they want to help support that with... with Joe. Just wondering, it was a thought that the more I got thinking about it that that would be a good thing to post to have out there for um the different members and whatnot. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Wolfe, you are next in the queue.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, I'll address. I don't know. I'll address the Ogema's first. You know, he said, employees are intimidated and this and that and my staff, you know what, this is Little River Band, Ottawa Indians, and we're a three-part government. That staff is managed or overseen by Larry. It's not his staff. It's the people staff. We work for the people. We as legislators sit up here and serve in a role as legislators for the people. The court works here for the people. For them saying we can't come to a meeting, we can't this or that. Where's the court case that files were hostile Tribal Council members? Where's the court case that says we're not doing our jobs? Councilor Crampton said it right away. He doesn't like what's being said to Tribal Council. Did you hear a person at the podium? This is all I was authorized for. Not what I need. This is what I was authorized. There's fear and intimidation. We all know it happens. And for him to say, my employees, my employees, we're one nation. We're Little River Band. We're a tripart government. He manages and oversees employees, but those are shared employees that have a duty and obligation to this Tribal Council. So, for him to go on with that, yeah, I get like, what's going on here? Why are you allowed to say everything you want to say with no regard to actual facts? I present facts. When I'm here and I'm representing, I have a lot of facts. I have a lot of reasons behind me. And I ask the hard questions. And when you don't want to hear them, or you don't want to answer them, it doesn't stop me. I treat you the same when I see you in the lobby or in the kitchen or, you know, uh when you come back for your office. A lot of times I'll ask the hard questions. The camera will go off. We'll be laughing and joking because it's not personal for me. It's about the best goals for the tribe. And I operate that way. Um so, I wanted to answer Councilor Johnson. I can give the information to um Joe for an update. And it would be nice when it was originally posted on the website, the government Facebook page. It didn't have the account information to it. But since I've added in an updated that, so I'll resend out the flyer with the account. It will just be on the post, not actual. I won't update the flyer, but reposting and then we can share it back out again. And I'm all set. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Wittenberg, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, Miigwech. Talking about um I can go back to uh when we first got going and I talk about particular one council member where the council member, this is supposed to be behind our sacred area. And any time one comes back here, you're in our areas. And how many times as uh the Ogema turned around and made that

approach? Oh, no, I don't want to say nothing. I want to point fingers. But nothing is addressed that way. Now we got turn around and we got citizens that are turn around and do the same thing. But they turned around. Oh, no, it's councils. And would that scale ain't balanced at all. Oh, I forgot. Somebody is going to say it's election season. So, we're going to turn around and shoot this way and shoot from the hip. You turned around, you cried the blues because it wasn't here. And he turns around and comes in. You're still crying the blues. Still crying the blues, wah, wah, wah. No, some of you uh don't know what you want. You talk about the seven grandfathers. What about the twelve commandments? Because when I go to ceremony, I only see a handful of people there. So, it must be either the one uh seven grandfathers or the twelve commandments or just plain old respect. You don't need none of them. Respect. No, we got our own agenda. And, uh you know, that's where I see it. So, let's look at the real deal. There's no balance. No balance at all. So those are my uh words on that. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Ken, I have you next in the queue. I'll put you in the queue, Boo.

Ken Metzger: Ken Metzger, uh 0889. Um first of all, I'd like to say uh thanks for the Housing Commission putting a cap on the houses here on the tribe. Um that was one of my biggest pet peeves when I moved around here. I didn't find this out until about a year ago because uh I had a lot of other issues dealing with divorce and losing job and a lot of money and stuff. But I'm glad that we got a cap on it. But it's not enough, you know, because we got elders that only get like five hundred dollars a month and then they get penalized when they get their per cap. Instead of being a gift from the tribe, our payments allocated as per caps. Um I'd love to see that change someday so they don't get penalized every time they make a little extra money. And then uh feeling threatened and intimidated. I don't know if anyone was here last week, but I was, you know, when Larry blew up at me for chuckling. And I wasn't laughing out loud. I just, but he seemed to point at me for some odd reason. I don't know. And then he doesn't stick around to the end of the meetings like usual. You know, he either hears what he wants, leaves, and if you don't hear what he wants, he'll leave anyways. He never sticks out the full meeting. So, when people are talking online and that, he's already gone. Yeah. And then there's another thing with the EDC getting blended in with uh Little River Holdings, you know. Sounds like their Little River Holdings gonna leave us holding a bag when they pack up and leave us. How much money have they received from our tribe since their conception? I can't even get a roundabout estimate. But uh we got him and another uh council member that seemed to be running EDC, and uh now they deny it. But as you can see, when the Constitution was changed in 04, we should have had a tribal audit before then. I feel that every time the Constitution been changed ever since, it was illegal because it was illegal people changing it. Now, you know, target people wobbling their heads and huffing. I see it when I come here, you know. Um pretty pathetic as grown adults, but uh when we're talking millions of dollars, not just 100,000, not 400,000 for a tribal audit, which would be pennies compared to the people that are illegally on our tribal roll. And I know they're illegally on our tribal roll because we haven't had an audit in over 20 years. And there's people that do not want to see an audit here because they know they're part of the situation. Yes, there is going to be a lot of people. There's going

to be relatives that are going to probably be dismissed. But if you're illegally, if you illegally got on tribal roll, how come we can't legally kick them off? It's plain and simple. There's got to be, we got to have an audit, tribal audit, blood quantum, because I feel a lot of injustices that's happened here in Manistee County. The worst thing that I have seen here is the buying and selling of ancestral properties and rebuying and selling them again. It's a monopoly and it's been going on for a long time. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, next in the queue, um Roy, I did have you, but I know you lowered your hand. Do you still have a comment?

Roy Vanas: Uh kind of, you know, I see people uh making threats online and one of them just left the podium and I hear the... the ridiculousness of someone sexually assaulting uh someone who's just smarmy. It's just uh I can understand someone being afraid of someone and yeah, they should, you know, be careful because no matter how much a snake smiles at you, it still will bite you. That's about all I got to say. The rest of its kind of a moot point.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Council Wever, I do have you next in the queue. Do you still have a question or comment?

Councilor Wever: I don't know where to begin. Um I won't lower myself to call names, but I sure would like to. I just want to say that I would never lower myself to Shannon Crampton's, um I don't know what you want to call him, but he can continue calling me a liar and I had forgotten all about that he had pressed charges against me. I hope he pays \$60 every time he runs over there because that's what it should be. I'd like to see that he does pay his um fee, but I just want to say if I were to make up a lie, which I'm not a person that lies and I think that's what gets me into trouble all the time, is because I don't lie, but I could come up with maybe a better story than him telling me he hates me the most and I'm stealing from his kids. And for him to say I'm lying, now I know for a fact that he does say that all the time. They're lying, they're lying about me. And like I said, I just thought everything was okay and safe until I walked by his office and that still bothers me. And I think it will for a long time. And for him to say we all want him down here; I get along with all these people here. I love them. I love coming to work and seeing Ron, Al, Julie and Tammy and Pam and Gary and Misty. They have a lot of respect for me and for all of you. But that one on the end, no. And for him to say we want him here, it's just like the rest of us. We're all here, aren't we, Julie? Well, shouldn't he be here? But he causes trouble. So, you know what? I don't want to say anything about the election, but if he doesn't get elected, wow, we're going to uh we're going to go to the election board. We're going to sue them. And maybe I'll be here for a little longer. Who knows? Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor DiPiazza, I have you next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: All I can say is after the camera went off in second open last week, it was very disheartening to hear what was coming out of some people's mouths and what

they were actually up to. Because poor Chuck never hurt a fly. Everybody needs to watch that video. The disrespect that was at the table after the camera was off. The snide laughing or whatever that was. Yeah.

Staci Cheney: Speaker it's actually on camera.

Councilor DiPiazza: I have the floor, but I guess that doesn't matter anyways. Anyways, I'll revert to people to resolution 17-0503-163. That was the audit for the 2000 2016, which was a 100% audit of them newly enrolled citizens. Pull that resolution up because it hasn't been 20 years. We're five years behind on an audit. The next one's not due. Next five years due in 26. So no, and I'm really hoping that charges get filed on some of these that transpired last week because there was a citizen out here hearing it all. It might even be in a body camera. Hmm that would suck, wouldn't it, for some. Other than that, it's, yeah, I'm good.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. Boo, I have you next in the queue. Yeah, I have him next. After Boo.

Boo Battice: Boo Battice 2644. Yeah, I'd like to say uh the eagle did go underwater, still underwater. I'd like to get it back up and breathing again. Um It's a lifestyle. These kinds of things do happen. Um It takes weeks to get the equipment that we don't have to recover this kind of vessel. So please have an understanding that it might take another week or two as we're trying to figure things out. Um I'm not really apologizing as these things happen and the speediness of fixing it. I apologize and I wish things could have happened a little bit faster. We had more of a foundation. Um I would like to thank Julie especially for helping out. Any help is possible. Anyone who wants to donate to what Julie set up. It's going to go towards the better of all the fishery because I don't plan on leaving anywhere. Um I plan on making that boat float. Everybody's heard the phrase, you know, repair the holes in your ship. I mean, that reason's around for a reason. It can be easily repaired. Um I just don't have all the equipment for that, but I've got a lot of help coming in and we're doing it as fast as possible. And it is a lot of heat, and I respect you guys for taking all the same kind of heat. As I'm not bragging about any certain or other, but the other guy about got hit in his ear because of the positions you guys play. Some people, our president, he's flying this ship right now, but our president, you know, got shot at. And I respect all of you because that is what you guys are doing, getting shot at every time. As we're battling, we're shooting at each other. I like what Ron said where we need to find this balance to get on the same goal to work together as a whole. AS a whole we're never really getting ahead as a whole because we're too busy doing the divide and conquer thing, the Gregorian thing, the Roman thing, the old, you know, we should learn from our mistakes and try to fix it and keep moving forward. I'd like to thank everybody for having an understanding that I'm still pursuing fishing and that's a lifestyle and that's just a thing that happened. I'd like to thank Julie and all of you for participating. Hopefully some donations can help out. And then I would like to say thank you, Shannon, for bringing up something for people with no credit for the housing thing because as fishermen and being part of the food industry, there's hard building those establishment taxes and different things because it's a food and it's a farm. It's considered

fish farming. So, to be able to build these credits, I've never been able to have the ability to even build these credits because I can't claim it the same under the as a fisherman. So even if I was fishing fully, I would still have to build it without the fishing thing a little bit because it's grants and fish and food and farming. So, the credits don't ever really come. So, it's hard to build credit even if you have all the money. You still got to have credit to get things. You can have a whole bunch of money, and they'll say, well, what do you have for? And you know, just my abilities and things. So, thank you, Shannon, for bringing that up because there is people out there that really need the help and just can't get it. And when they do try to get it, it takes five years, three to five years to even because you got to create EIN numbers and have these different regulations. You got to follow regulations and rules that's just been in place. And it's really hard for us as a whole. Um I hope everybody's surviving the turn up of the of the frequency. I know I've seen a lot of people getting... getting the lung congestion. I hope everybody's recover and handling it fine. But we are going to 589 the color of light so they can laser us. It's not going to be just radio waves. Um yes, I'm asking for any help and all to get the eagle up. And I'm still pursuing the same dream. And hopefully we can ...we can uh move forward and make it look better for all of us. Thank you all very much. And hopefully everybody recovers well from the... the turn up. Have a great day.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. You also. Next in the queue is Councilor Wittenberg. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, Miigwech uh I just want to retract my statement. I said the 12 commandments and I didn't realize there's only 10. So don't take me to the cross and nail me up because uh I seen the book, but I'm not too familiar with it, but I am familiar with the teachings. But the bottom line, it's all connected if one chooses one another. And it goes back to uh different views. We can all sit in here and watch the corner and turn around and see an accident and uh more than half of us will see something different. And that's uh what it's all about. So, since the one shared what he saw, I'll share what I seen where that gentleman could have just kept on going or come out this door and not even gone out in the back. That person is the one that stopped. And I seen the look on that person's face where I turned around and I seen something that wasn't right. And I was definitely right about that because you can tell look on somebody's face what is going on. But we don't want to say that. So, look at the camera. Oh, no, it was after the meeting. So, it was uh deleted as most things. So those are the things you people want to turn around and point, point, point, point. Well, then how come we lost this video or didn't do this or do that with the video? Think about it. That's all I got to say. And oh, yeah, I forgot we got cameras out there. Whether they work or not, I don't know because I know even across the street, a lot of their cameras don't work. And so, what is and what ain't is working here. There's a lot of things that people have turned around and look at it with an open mind. You know. So that's all I got to say. I'm ready for a cinnamon roll. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Susan, you did have your hand up. Do you still have a question or a comment? Okay, she dropped. All right. Councilor Crampton, you are next. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Well, I'd like to thank Councilor Wittenberg and uh all the members that recognize the pathetic uh political ploys that keep getting put forward up here every week because they are pathetic. Um right now, if you go over the agendas, you're going to find that Councilor Wolfe and myself are the most productive council members on this council. You're going to find that Councilor Wever and most of the others that support her, absolutely nothing in four years, not one work product. And you're paying how much annually for nothing that you get up here and do pathetic political ploys. Those are on your agendas. That's not he said, she said. That's something you can look up at what council members put what things on agendas. Like I said, not one thing in four years. So, when you think you're getting used and you look at what you paid for four years, you paid for four years of nothing. That's not he said, she said. That's factual. And there's whole bunch of them sitting up here that do the same thing for two years now. And I can show you on the agenda for two years, not doing anything, but they get off a mouthy on a Wednesday. And all they have is political ploys and lies. Like I said, you've all seen my wife. Do you think that I would do anything like that? Absolutely not. I don't eat dog food when I have filet mignon at home thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, Councilor Wolfe, you are next in the queue.

Councilor Wever: Trash

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. This goes to the citizen that came up. I think it was a few weeks ago he came up and you said I want to know what how much EDC is had and what the profitability is. I'll start with the profitability. Never a profit always operating the red. The last time they gave us their presentation when it was time of their five-year autonomy to be up, and they had to start developing their dividend plan and pay dividends to the tribe so we can support more tribal services. \$95,000 in the red after five years of autonomy. I got seven resolutions here. I went and looked them up for you. Didn't calculate the numbers because I've been kind of busy finding other numbers for the stimulus payment. But in 17 enabling resolution, estimated quick review 7.5 million in assets and properties and uh infrastructure, governmental investing, old and old infrastructure, all of these things, 7.5 in 2017. And they're enabling res, I'm gonna give you these. Uh then also in the same resolution, we authorize them a \$5 billion line of credit. How much of it they used, how much do they owe? This was in 17. Okay, next resolution is an 18. We transferred two more properties at 135,800. 2019, we give them their supplement, they got a distribution for economic development out of the casino revenue. 2019, we gave them \$1,130,791. 2020, we gave them that same funding \$1,336,183. Plus, they asked for \$413,333, which was budgeted in the Commerce Department. We haven't had a Commerce Department since 2020. Okay, here's another resolution from 17. Transfer of Little River Trading Post, \$1,127,888.09. Another resolution, 2018, authorization transfer 215-acre golf course property. Subject to final auto determined by CFO, \$600,000 was estimated that property. In 2019, confirmation existent need and role of the uh entity as a nation is the last resolution. That doesn't have a dollar amount in it, but it talks about how they came to be. So, I got these seven resolutions. I pulled them all offline. These are all open in public documents that are

listed under resolution. But I pulled them off and printed because you wanted to know. So, I did that for you because that's how important one citizen is to me. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Metzger, I have, no, okay. Um Sara, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Sara Agosa: My comment is about, sorry, I've been recently sick. My comment is about cybersecurity. I want to go back to the recent hack at the Sault Ste. Marie tribe. I checked the tribal website and there are numerous job postings and for our end IT. The positions that are open, help desk technician, operations engineer, system security administrator and technician. So, my question is, has Mr. Romanelli come forward with a plan to avoid a risk like this in light of this recent hack? That's my question. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Well, I can answer that. No, he has not. He hasn't come forward with a plan. You have an answer to go ahead Councilor Crampton

Councilor Crampton: I got to back up the Speaker. I don't think he's brought forward the forward, but I know that the last time I think it was George LaVassar and I think that it was kept up to subscription. Our uh we are subscribed with Sophos, which is what the federal government uses for their uh internet protection. I think it costs \$10,000 a year for the subscription. So, we're in pretty good hands. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'm going to say some of the resolutions she brought up. The C-Store that transferred to the resort along with the property, the golf course. So, they haven't been funded in the last three years, two years, three years since 21. So, they've been, they've been holding their own, the EDC. So, yeah. And that 5 million was

Councilor Wolfe: Went bankrupt

Councilor DiPiazza: 5 million line of credit was never, never used.

Councilor Wolfe: Yes, it was.

Councilor DiPiazza: No, it wasn't

Councilor Wolfe: Yes, it was.

Councilor DiPiazza: Okay

Councilor Wolfe: Not the maximum, but it was used.

Councilor DiPiazza: I have the

Speaker Burmeister: Wait, Wait, Wait

Councilor DiPiazza: floor

Speaker Burmeister: I have you in the queue

Councilor Wolfe: You didn't do any research, but you're going to conflict everything that I just said.

Councilor DiPiazza: No, that's fine. You're correct.

Speaker Burmeister: Please

Councilor DiPiazza: You're always correct. So, you continue on leading them down the bunny hole. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wever, go ahead.

Councilor Wever: Yeah, I don't see any hand speakers. So, may I make a **motion to end first open?**

Speaker Burmeister: Yes, Please

Councilor Wever: Pam

Speaker Burmeister: Silvis Okay. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for, um to end first open?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor, one against. We are done at 12:18.

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.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, Misty, go ahead. Councilor Silvis

Councilor Silvis: Yeah, I'd like to make a **motion to end closed session and go into second open at 2:46.**

Councilor Wever: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Recorded Johnson Can you do roll call please

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. We are in second open and 2:47.

Councilor Metzger: *Mumbling something but wasn't clear in zoom*

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Um number

VIII. Open Session

A. Items from Closed to Open Session- Minutes and Materials shall remain Confidential.

There is nothing listed under that. But moving down to

IX. Adjourn

Councilor Silvis

Councilor Silvis: I'd like to make a **motion to adjourn at 2:47.**

Councilor Wever & Recorder Johnson: Support

Recorder Johnson: Shirley

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

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

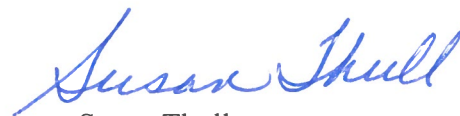
Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor, one against. We are closed at 2:48.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chantel Gamelin,
Transcribing Assistant



Susan Thull,
Tribal Council Recorder

