



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2017  
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 1, 2017. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

**I. Opening Prayer**

Chuck Fisher, Warriors Society Chaplin, offered the Opening Prayer.

Creator, thank you.

Thank you for another day. I try to thank you every day for each day. I sometimes forget to be thankful for all that you have given me for the life that I have and for the opportunities I have within that life.

Help me with this.

Help me see the world through the eyes of our Elders and Ancestors.

Help me remember the many joys of life.

Help me reach the potential each day brings.

Help us all.

Help us all bless one another with kindness and respect that we each deserve. That we should take the opportunity to express.

Please bless those who are most in need.

Those who have passed from this world to the next. Especially bless their families and friends. Ones that are left behind.

Help us as individuals.

Help our families.

Help the Tribe, our people, our Nation and the world.

Bring peace and joy to our lives and the lives of the ones we love.

Put love in our hearts and help us create more love in our lives and in the lives of the ones we meet.

Thank you, Creator. Miigwech, Miigwech, Miigwech.

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

**B. Roll Call**

J. Riley - Present	Vacant	F. Medacco- Present
S. Crampton - Present	G. DiPiazza- Present	M. Wabindato -Present
R. Wittenberg-Present	V. Johnson - Absent	S. Lewis - Present

Quorum established.

Others Present: John Pabami, Kerry Pabami, Kelly Maser, Boo Battice, Jennifer Crampton, Jason Cross, Steve Parsons, Ron Pete, Connie Waitner, Allison Smart, Frank Beaver, Bill Willis, Diane Lonn, Del Peters, Tom St. Dennis.

Others Present That Did Not Sign In: Grace Hendler, Mike Walters, Mary Thomas, Ogema Romanelli, Officer Patrick Gilles, Elaine Porter, Rebecca Liebing, Caitlin Rollins, Chuck Fisher, Jake Kequom.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2017 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES; V A, MOVED TO CLOSED; V B, ADD; VII A, ADD; VII B, MOVED FROM OPEN; by Lewis; supported by Wittenberg.**

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anybody was going to abstain and is there any discussion on this item.

**Roll Call #1**

J. Riley - Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Absent	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1)  
 1 Vacant

Acting Recorder Di Piazza noted the agenda is approved for February 1, 2017.

**D. Tribal Council Minutes  1/25/17**

**MOVE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 1/25/17; by Lewis; supported by Wittenberg.**

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anybody was going to abstain and are there any questions or comments on this item.

**Roll Call #2**

J. Riley -	Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco-	Yes	
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Absent	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1)

1 Vacant

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said the minutes for 1/25/17 are filed.

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

**1. Approving the Submission of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Education for the 2017-2018 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant not to exceed \$135,000**

This grant will fund opportunities for academic enrichment, provide additional services to complement academic programs, and offer families opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education.

Jason Cross, Family Services Director, represented this agenda item. Cross said this is a five year grant of \$135,000 a year and there is no match from the Department of Education. Cross said this grant is to be used for purposes of providing academic enrichment opportunities including Tutoring Services and also provides an opportunity to provide additional services to children and their families to help families help their children with education.

Acting Speaker Riley said he is looking for a motion or any questions on this item.

**MOVE FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #17-0201-037; APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2017-2018 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS GRANT NOT TO EXCEED \$135,000; by Lewis; supported by Di Piazza.**

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anybody was going to abstain from this and is there any discussion.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza asked when the grant is due.

Jason Cross answered the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.

### Roll Call #3

J. Riley -	Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco-	Yes	
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Absent	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1)

1 Vacant

Acting Recorder Di Piazza confirmed Resolution #17-0201-037 is passed.

#### B. Budget Modifications

1. **Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2017-\_\_ in the amount of \$321,557**

The Contract Funds are awarded as part of the 2017 Self-Governance Compact.

Bill Willis, Budget Coordinator, represented this agenda item. Willis said this is the first appropriation, if they will, of the 2017 Self-Governance Compact with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Willis said the funding is broken down into three components one being base funding in the amount of \$86,467. Willis said Public Safety has a share of \$79,928 and then the balance of the funding \$155,162 is dedicated to Contract Support Costs.

Acting Speaker Riley said he is looking for a motion or any discussion on this item.

**MOVE FOR THE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #17-0201-038; ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR-BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE OPERATING BUDGET MB-2017-04 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$321,557; by Lewis; supported by Medacco.**

Acting Speaker Riley asked if there are any questions or comments on this item.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza asked if this was like extremely early for funding.

Bill Willis said yes extremely early. Willis said typically April or no, beyond is when they would see any funding. Willis said in fact last year they didn't receive any until July or August so this is quite early.

Acting Speaker Riley asked if there are any other comments or questions.

**Roll Call #4**

J. Riley -	Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Absent	S. Lewis -
				Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1)

1 Vacant

Acting Recorder Di Piazza confirmed Resolution #17-0201-038 is passed.

**2. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2017-\_\_ in the amount of \$26,740**

The Tribe has received additional funding for Indirect Costs for EPA-PPG.

Bill Willis, Budget Coordinator, represented this agenda item. Willis said this is additional funding that the Tribe has received for this Performance Partnership Grant. Willis said the funding runs through 2018 and this funding is specific to Contract Support Costs Indirect and runs through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**MOVE FOR THE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #17-0201-039; ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FROM THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY-PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP GRANT (PPG) AND APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE OPERATING BUDGET MB-2017-05 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,740; by Lewis; supported by Medacco.**

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anybody was going to abstain and is there any questions or comments on this item.

**Roll Call #5**

J. Riley -	Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Absent	S. Lewis -
				Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1)

1 Vacant

Acting Recorder Di Piazza confirmed Resolution #17-0201-039 is passed.

**3. Approval of Supplemental Appropriation 2017-\_\_-1<sup>st</sup> QTR to fund Improvement Costs associated with the Gathering Grounds in the amount of \$404,107**

Tribal Council has received a Certification of Availability of Funds #2017-001 from the Accounting Department signed by the Chief Financial Officer.

Bill Willis, Budget Coordinator, represented this agenda item. Willis said he has been working with Steve Parsons on this since the fall of last year. Willis said there has been a couple or a least one work session and several discussions regarding future improvements on the Gathering Grounds. Willis said this is a preliminary Budget that was provided by Steve Parsons which includes a 10% contingency. Willis said Steve Parsons is here to answer any questions Council may have.

Acting Speaker Riley asked Steve Parsons if he could give them a quick run-down of what this project would entail.

Steve Parsons, Planning Coordinator, said basically this is the first phase of, he believed, a three or four phase project that is going to be carried out over a number of years that have yet to be determined. Parsons said what this first phase will do is put in permanent parking lots one just out there where the old parking lot was and another one over by the current restroom facilities are at the Gathering Grounds. Parsons said it will basically fix the roads put down the aerate base then they will be paved the roads that they have now. Parsons said there will be improvements to the campground itself. Parsons said they will run electric properly underground that will then go to each individual campsites and the additional electric that they need essentially for the Gathering Grounds area. Parsons said also the water and sewer systems will be run there as well so instead of having a separate water well, like a drain field, whatever they are using now for the restroom facilities will be hooked up to the Wastewater and Water Facilities over across the street. Parsons said there is probably some things they will need but that is essentially what it is basically a general improvement of the Gathering Grounds and Campground areas with putting paved roads and parking lots. Parsons said this Budget and the amount that Bill Willis mentioned is the original Budget estimate for the non-BIA funded parts of the improvements. Parsons said the BIA will pay roughly for \$900,000 and thinks he sent them a Budget this week. Parsons said the balance of that they won't pay for because all they will really pay for is any work that is done in the Right of Way which is the roads and parking lots that they are working on. Parsons said for example they are paying entirely for the electric to be put in or that kind of thing but anything outside of the Right of Way they won't cover. Parsons said for the entire Phase 1 to be done there will have to be a Tribal contribution in terms of Tribal Funds that will go toward that project and that is what this appropriation is for because with this money they will get this project done yet this year. Parsons said the goal is to have this done prior to this year's Jiingtamok if things work the way they hope they are going to work this will be done by mid-June. Parsons said they should be in good shape to go for the first summer activities that they have this year.

Parsons said that is probably too much but if they have any questions he would be happy to answer those as well.

Acting Speaker Riley said no it is great and it will be a great opportunity for them to show it off at their Jiingtamok this year.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza asked where on this map is the Government Building so people have a.....over here correct. Di Piazza asked if he is looking at it upside-down. Di Piazza asked if that was correct. Di Piazza said just reference where the Government Building is.

*Steve Parsons showed them where on the map the Government Building was located.*

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said just so members can place it.

Acting Speaker Riley said he is looking for a motion or questions.

**MOVE FOR THE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #17-0201-040;  
APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION 2017-01-1<sup>st</sup>  
QTR TO FUND IMPROVEMENT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH  
THE GATHERING GROUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$404,107; by  
Lewis; supported by Di Piazza.**

Acting Speaker Riley asked if there are any questions or comments on this.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said just one more. Di Piazza said they are going to pave around the circle, correct, for outside the circle.

Steve Parsons said when he says circle he is talking about the road that goes around that circle.

Acting Speaker Riley asked Acting Recorder Di Piazza if he meant a side walk.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza agreed, the side walk. Di Piazza said around the Pow Wow Circle.

Steve Parsons said he doesn't think that is in the plans but it might be. Parsons said it is his understanding that they are basically looking at paving the existing road structure and then putting in two permanent parking lots on either side of that.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said maybe that is in Phase 2.

Steve Parsons said it might be but maybe something he missed or overlooked so he can get back to him on that. Parsons said he didn't think they were doing that.

Chuck Fisher, from the Grants Department, asked if there was a second phase.

Acting Speaker Riley asked Chuck Fisher if he could come up to the microphone so they can hear him on the minutes.

Chuck Fisher, Tribal #1297, asked if the second phase is planned as well. Fisher asked if they are moving right into the second phase or how is that.

Steve Parsons said that is a very good question. Parsons said the second phase has been tentatively been planned out. Parsons said Phases 2, 3 and 4 but they are a little more involved because it actually involves, probably spilling the beans here, it is a public document so they can see it. Parsons said this was done back in 2013 so things may have changed between now and then. Parsons said essentially the phases 2, 3 and 4 involved putting in additional campground spaces and they were also looking at possible RV Park and some possible permanent structure cabins in the back. Parsons said those are fairly costly.....they are expensive. Parsons said it was decided to break it up into phases so when Phase 1 got done and there was a decision by a future Tribal Council that Phases 2 and 3 didn't need to be done then they would stop there. Parsons said in terms of the financial commitment for Phase 1 that is in place particularly if this motion gets approved. Parsons said beyond that it is going to depend on basically where things are and how the Council wants to proceed then any funding that might be necessary for that. Parsons said what he can tell him is that it is very likely the additional phases will probably not involve that much in the way of BIA Road Funding. Parsons said most of it is going to be spent in Phase 1 because that is where a lot of the work is done in terms of the actual roads structure and the parking lots. Parsons asked Chuck Fisher if that makes sense.

Chuck Fisher agreed that makes sense. Fisher said part of the reason he raised that question is because it sounds like a grant opportunity as well.

Steve Parsons said oh, okay, well they will definitely keep that in mind. Parsons said he wanted to apologize to this Council because he is not sure how much they were aware and knows they have a lot of things going on in the back of their minds in terms of the additional phases to this project. Parsons said what they can do certainly at any time and (reiterated he knows they have a lot going on) whenever they feel the time is right and they have time that they want to do this he can bring Ken Ockert in and they can sit down and look at the plans that have been done already and kind of where this may go in the future. Parsons said they then can make decisions based upon that because he knows that finance will certainly be a big part of that. Parsons said he thinks the first Council was asked to really think outside the box and looked at this. Parsons said in a perfect world what would they like to do and how would they like to see these grounds improved. Parsons said so realistically and financially some of it may not be and in that case they can sit down and revisit this at any point and time. Parsons said



they will connect to the first phase which is going to get the basic work out of the way but beyond that they will certainly leave that up to their decision.

Johnny Pabami, Tribal #2978, said so if he is understanding correctly they received a Budget of \$900,000 that is going to pay for this for beautification of the Tribal Grounds, correct.

Acting Speaker Riley replied \$900,000 is the grant portion and the \$400,000 that they are appropriating right now is the Tribal match portion.

Johnny Pabami asked if they are going to sit there and put \$400,000 into a campground that has a Jiingtamok once a year and when that \$400,000 could be used somewhere else more constructively. Pabami said he doesn't understand it.

Acting Speaker Riley said yes. Riley said that is what is happening, the roads are going to be paved, and he just heard what.....

Johnny Pabami asked why do they need roads out there. Pabami stated it hasn't been a problem since it has been opened.

Councilor Crampton said if they go to other Tribes they would find that, particularly the Fire Keepers, their Tribal Grounds are usually a symbol of the health of their Tribe. Crampton said theirs is sorely lacking than if they went to every other Tribe. Crampton said he just recently went to Grand Traverse which is way above them, everybody is, if they don't take pride in their traditions.

Johnny Pabami said first they got to have the Tribal citizens who campground out there take pride and make sure that they take care of the areas where they are camping at. Pabami said just him personally he just thinks it is unexpected and an unneeded expenditure. Pabami said he personally doesn't think there is anything wrong with it. Pabami said people have to camp out there every year anyways and it is always full so.....that is just his opinion.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said the intent would not be just the Pow Wow but there are other functions that need to happen and.....

*Comments were being made from the audience and they were not picked up on the tape recording.*

Acting Recorder Di Piazza went on to say that the Pow Wow but the grounds are used for a lot of different functions.

Councilor Wabindato offered the Language Camp.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said there are gatherings out there underneath the arbor, Easter Egg Hunt, and all kinds of things that involve their youth and such.

*Johnny Pabami said from the audience that is why they need roads out there.*

Acting Recorder Di Piazza asked if Johnny Pabami went to Gun Lake.....Gun Lake's Pow Wow.

*Johnny Pabami said from the audience that he didn't care about none of that he cares about the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.*

Councilor Crampton said he just wanted to say.....

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said no, if Johnny Pabami is going to be continuing he needs to be at the podium, and he is going to hit the five minute button on him.

Acting Speaker Riley said he thinks everybody said what they needed to say on this and it has kind of devolved into an argument now. Riley asked Councilor Crampton if he had anything to contribute.

Councilor Crampton said he just wanted to mention that when he goes to other Tribes and to their Pow Wow Grounds he sees that.....he learns what they are saying about other Tribes that it is a representation of the health of their Tribe. Crampton said he walks around their Pow Wow Grounds and he talks to people but also listens to what they are saying and it is never missed that they have a ramshackle set up with somebody sitting up there in a folding chair and bucket. Crampton said people are commenting about the conditions of their Fair Grounds not too favorably then they go visit another Tribe where their Pow Wow Grounds are beautiful. Crampton said everybody enjoys them and everybody loves them. Crampton said it is just being responsible about their Tribe.

Acting Speaker Riley asked if there is any other discussion on this item.

Councilor Medacco said the only thing he has to say on this is that with their Tribe, they know, they always try to look good for everybody else and this is what they are trying to do because they had all kinds of multiple buildings around town so what do they do.....they built this building. Medacco said their casino was being.....wasn't looking the best so they invested in their building and that is what they are doing right now is investing in their campground and their area over here so that way they will show people that they are doing good and this is who they are. Medacco said they take pride in the things they do and their upkeep.

Acting Speaker Riley said if there is nothing further.....Acting Recorder Di Piazza do a roll call please.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said certainly.

**Roll Call #6**

J. Riley -	Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Absent	S. Lewis -
				Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1)

1 Vacant

Acting Recorder Di Piazza confirmed Resolution #17-0201-040 is passed.

**4. Approval of Supplemental Appropriation 2017-\_\_-1<sup>st</sup> QTR to fund Operational Costs associated with the Child & Family Development Center in the amount of \$566,645**

Tribal Council has received a Certification of Availability of Funds #2017-002 from the Accounting Department signed by the Chief Financial Officer.

Bill Will, Budget Coordinator, and Jason Cross, Family Services Director, represented this agenda item. Willis said a request has been made by the Family Services Department to.....for a Supplemental Appropriation for the Operational Costs of.....more specifically personnel related both salaries and fringes. Willis said he thinks there is \$10,000 in there for food for the Child & Development Center which will be located in the Interim Casino. Willis said Jason Cross is here to answer any questions.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said he has one and he doesn't know if Bill Willis can answer it. Di Piazza asked if they had a lot of interest in it from people wanting to enroll their kids he guesses.

Jason Cross said they currently have over 20 applications in right now for children. Cross said recently they planned on one GSRP Room which is four year olds. Cross said they picked up a second GSRP Room so there is two of them now and that represents 32 children. Cross said those children are paid for directly to them by the State and that is roughly \$90,000 that they will get in the first year from the State just for four year olds. Cross said the 20 children they have and in addition to that infant and toddlers, then the three year olds, and the school age room. Cross said they foresee.....in their Budget Projections that he did this morning on a 70% occupancy rate that makes the center self-sustaining.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said so what is that 32 applicants so far did he say.

Jason Cross replied over 20 but in addition to the 20 they have 32 four year olds that will be attending the school.

Acting Speaker Riley said okay he is looking for a motion on this item.

**MOVE FOR THE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #17-0201-041;  
 APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION 2017-02-1<sup>st</sup>  
 QTR TO FUND OPERATIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH  
 THE CHILD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THE  
 AMOUNT OF \$566,645; by Lewis; supported by Di Piazza.**

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anybody was going to abstain from this item. Riley asked are there any questions or further discussion.

**Roll Call #7**

J. Riley - Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Absent	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1)  
 1 Vacant

Acting Recorder Di Piazza confirmed Resolution #17-0201-041 is passed.

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

Acting Speaker Riley noted there is nothing under C.

**IV. Old Business**

- A. Financial Report  
December 2016  None Submitted**
- B. Health Commission  
December 2016  None Submitted**
- C. Commerce Commission  
May, June & December 2016  None Submitted**
- D. Natural Resource Commission  
December 2016  None Submitted**
- E. Elders Committee Minutes  
November 2016  None Submitted**
- F. Little River Casino Resort Preference Report  
October thru December 2016  None Submitted**
- G. LRBOI Tribal Government Preference Report  
May thru December 2016  None Submitted**

Acting Speaker Riley noted they have nothing submitted. Riley said under F. they had figured out that the Little River Casino Resort Preference Report is actually submitted in Closed Session as part of the Directors Monthly Report so they will be releasing just that portion for the public to be able to view.

**V. New Business**

**B. Approval of Right of Way for the Gathering Grounds Project-Phase 1**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs requires that the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians approve the Right of Way for the roads portion of the First Phase of the project that is needed in order to proceed with the project.

Steve Parsons, Planning Coordinator, represented this agenda item. Parsons said two things really quickly that he wanted to say about this. Parsons said first he appreciates their adding this agenda item as late as they did. Parsons said they didn't get all this nailed down with the BIA until Friday of last week. Parsons said it is something that he felt was time sensitive and they needed to get this approved as quickly as they could and thanked them for that. Parsons said secondly he apologizes for the convoluted nature of this agenda item. Parsons said he barely understands it himself in the beginning. Parsons said it is a requirement that the Bureau asks of them whenever they are doing a road construction project on Tribal Trust Land. Parsons said unfortunately in those situations the Federal Government is a player in this because the land is held by the U.S. Government in trust for their Tribe so technically since the Federal Government is the landowner if they will they have to be involved in any Right of Ways going either way with this. Parsons said essentially what this is a resolution from Tribal Council that grants a Right of Way and an Easement to the Bureau of Indian Affairs who will then, once this is finished and approved, grant Right of Way and Easement back to the Tribe through the Tribal Transportation Program Department. Parsons said that way they got....they are involved in terms of granting the Easement so that this work could be done. Parsons said the resolution is kind of wordy it's a little bit out of the norms of what they would normally have in resolutions. Parsons apologized for that because it was kind of clunky. Parsons said they did say it needs to look just like this because they are really sort of clamping down on these documents so he guessed instead of being audited they wanted to make sure that they are satisfying what they need to satisfy as far as this type of process is done. Parsons said with that being said he will just kind of drop it there. Parsons said basically what this does is it gives them the Right of Way and Easements that they need to be able to do the road construction part of the Gathering Grounds improvement.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said so basically it kind of keeps track of where that \$900,000 is going.

Steve Parsons said he doesn't know if this directly is related to that necessarily. Parsons said they will do that anyway just so they know but he thinks this is more the legalistic part of it so that they got all the proper documentation that allows them to proceed.

Acting Speaker Riley asked are there any questions, comments or a motion on this item.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #17-0201-042;  
 APPROVAL OF RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENT FOR  
 CONSTRUCTION OF GATHERING GROUNDS ROADS AND  
 PARKING LOTS; by Di Piazza; supported by Lewis.**

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anybody was going to abstain. Riley asked is there any discussion on this item.

**Roll Call #8**

J. Riley -	Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Absent	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1)

1 Vacant

Acting Recorder Di Piazza confirmed Resolution #17-0201-042 is passed.

**VI. Concluding Business**

**A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, February 8, 2017 10:00 a.m.**

**B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update**

Ogema Romanelli said he doesn't have much on his agenda today. Romanelli said the first thing is they have a lot of internal issues that they are dealing with the government and employees, etc. Romanelli said that is what they are going through. Romanelli said they have a Valliant Study that they did and they are still trying to make sure that is flowing in the proper direction and he is working with Council on that. Romanelli said he did want to address the Old Business under Item C and Item G. Romanelli said the Preference Report when they see this come through and this was just brought to his attention. Romanelli said when they have reports that are not being turned in on a regular basis and when they are going back to May 2016 that is a problem so they know that they had some issues within their HR Department that needed to be corrected but when he sees Preference Reports that far behind it is a problem for him. Romanelli said then they go up to the Commerce Commission, again which is under the Tribal Council, they see May, June and December that are missing as well so just for their information when it comes to his attention he thinks those need to be pretty regular on both sides of the aisle. Romanelli said the other thing is they have, and everybody is aware of this, it was brought to his attention by the Enrollment Department, they have a lot of people passing away. Romanelli said they had more in just this first month of January almost about 1/2 or a 1/3 of what they had for the whole year last year. Romanelli said that is unfortunate for a number of reasons. Romanelli said he hopes that everybody keeps everybody's family in mind as to what is going on and prayers be with everybody because it rough for the community. Romanelli said the only other thing is he is trying to figure out a way to get information to the membership, they know, has been an ongoing thing

for a long time. Romanelli said they changed their website and he doesn't know if they needed to change it or not but they did. Romanelli said he is still trying to get accumulated to it. Romanelli said he wants to change his web page for the Ogema's at least so that they could have a *fact checking* because when elections come around sometimes there is misinformation that goes out and he doesn't like for himself to get on Face Book but stuff comes to him all the time. Romanelli said some of it he would like to be able to *fact check* and respond to but he would like it more condensed to their membership so he is thinking about doing something like that. Romanelli said he was also thinking about having another Informational Meeting and he catches hell for this but he absolutely thinks it is the right thing to do. Romanelli said to have some kind of Informational Meeting and he was kind of looking at February 18<sup>th</sup> and there are those three things they have to stay away from. Romanelli said they have to stay away from court actions, they have to stay away from personnel issues, and they have to stay away from contracts that are under negotiation. Romanelli said he would really like to get information to their membership somehow and he had Informational Meetings before and he thinks they were great. Romanelli said he has been told he has been full of bull or whatever but they can always go back because they are recorded. Romanelli reiterated that his Informational Meetings are recorded people can review them. Romanelli said if they find something that is incorrect in them, fine, let him know or let somebody else know but for the most part he believed they go right to the heart of the issue. Romanelli said they usually are documented by documents to show the true story because sometimes it gets out of whack so he likes these Informational Meetings and is thinking about doing another one here. Romanelli said now the problem is when having an election going on as well and he doesn't want to interfere with the election one way or the other but he sure likes giving the correct information. Romanelli said whatever that takes he is willing to do but that is what he is looking at now. Romanelli said he is going to try and use the Ogema's Web Site and if they go on there now it's like a year or a year and half old and trying to get the right processes in place but if they do it right and he asked he should be able to update it every week. Romanelli said if he sees something that was sent to him that he thinks is incorrect he could then put the correct information from his standpoint and if somebody disagrees they can.....are welcome to add their comments as well. Romanelli said that is where he is trying to go anyway. Romanelli said that is the end of his report.

Councilor Crampton said he just wanted to point out that their largest form of communication is under the control of the Ogema and that is their newspaper the Currents. Crampton said if they open it up and compare it to other Tribal Newspapers they will find a drastically lacking in content of information to the membership so that should probably be utilized first and foremost.

Acting Speaker Riley said to Councilor Crampton just to respond to that he doesn't think it is necessarily an issue with it being under one Branch or the other he thinks it is because it is not an independent paper. Riley said if the paper in the United States were run by the government they would get a slanted version of the

information and that is just the reality here. Riley said until they can find a way to independently have a paper outside of the government to report on government actions then they really are never going to have a completely unbiased view.

Councilor Crampton said it could be a free press at any time all the Ogema has to do is release control and make it that way.

Ogema Romanelli said he is absolutely willing to look at that because it has been talked about before and again, it gets to who is in control of what. Romanelli said first off the Currents is not current as far as getting the information out, they know that, when he came into office that was one thing he hoped to change. Romanelli said they found out that it can't be current because by the time they get the information into to the person that puts the stuff in print and then they get it to the printer and the printer gets it back then sends it out it is already a month old. Romanelli said that is not the most current that's why they have the Rapid River News for example for that goes out on a weekly basis. Romanelli said when he is thinking about Informational Meetings two times a year they report to their membership. Romanelli said he has an Ogema Meet and Greet. Romanelli said he thinks those are pretty good and informational. Romanelli said those are one on one and people can ask him questions. Romanelli said they might not like the answers but it is there. Romanelli said as far as the paper goes he tries to stay out of it and be as unbiased as he can. Romanelli said he is asked to do an Ogema's Report and he does that and tries to stay out of the controversial things which he dislikes doing but he does. Romanelli said Council is free to put in their own information and \_\_\_\_ too. Romanelli said he thinks they just have to do it carefully but he means here they go again. Romanelli said who is in control. Romanelli said when they do this and say all the information goes over to here that is not correct. Romanelli said they are all responsible for putting out information, correct information, and as Elected Officials he thinks they should. Romanelli said there are various means to do so. Romanelli said so he says they can either have Special Meetings, hold Special Meetings, they can do so right here and they can do it through the newspaper. Romanelli said the newspaper is not the end all and he thinks they just need to keep going forward and try to get that information out. Romanelli said he is willing to look at the paper. Romanelli said if they have some ideas on how they can change the paper please let him know because he would be more than happy to. Romanelli said there is a cost factor that goes in with that and there are some other things that they have to be careful of. Romanelli said he is willing to spend the extra money if need be and they can put it under their Budget to make it go faster. Romanelli said there was talk about doing a.....like a.....what do they call it.....a special mailing but that costs.....ups the costs by twice the amount so that it can go out faster. Romanelli reiterated that he is willing to look at it. Romanelli said to Council to send him anything they want and they will kind of look at that.

Acting Speaker Riley said he thinks the issue here is that it is not even really a newspaper it is more of a newsletter just to let people know what is going on with



the government so its purpose isn't necessarily to report on happenings or controversial issues one way or the other it's just a flat telling people what is going on so.

Ogema Romanelli said quite honestly they have had people wanting to put some really derogatory, nasty stuff in that it was not even true. Romanelli said then they have to utilize their common sense to say they are not putting that in then they are accused of stifling their members from knowing the real thing and if people want real truth he suggests they put documents in so.

### **C. Legislative Affairs Update**

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anybody had anything.

Councilor Crampton said President Trump has put forth his Supreme Court nomination who is Neal Gorsuch. Crampton said he is a conservative who has a wealth of experience but he is going to be shaping, if selected, is going to be shaping America's path for the next few decades so take a heavy look at that. Crampton said what is really troubling about the issue that is going on at Standing Rock right now is if they look at the House of Legislators in Dakota they have just put forth, redacted it, but they put forth a Bill that would give oversight control to the State of Dakota. Crampton reiterated that it was redacted but it was an attempt which is exactly like the Bill that went forward as soon as the Attorney General's opinion came out that Tribes grow Marijuana there was a Bill that was redacted but it still came forward and it shows intent. Crampton said the Bill was to say that if they did grow Marijuana as a Tribe they would no longer receive Federal Funding and that would cripple this Tribe. Crampton reiterated it was rescinded but the intent was there. Crampton said this could come back at any time same thing with South Dakota.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said just let alone him firing the Attorney General. Di Piazza said it is troubling.

Councilor Crampton said well the thing about the Marijuana Laws is that that was an opinion of an Attorney General and was not codified law that could change at any second. Crampton said if Tribes invested a \$100 million into a grow facility and that opinion changes overnight they are out that \$100 million. Crampton said until it is codified law it should really not be talked about.

### **D. Public Comment Period**

Boo Battice, Tribal #2644, said he just has an opinion on the Medical Marijuana and it is not so much as going in as growing as a Tribe. Battice said he thinks they should first take a step towards people who use it at night time or something just for employment reasons so they are not stopping people from trying it. Battice said that is way down the line and by that opinion might change next year

if it all becomes recreational they don't know. Battice said the thing is just leaving a little bit open maybe a little bit stricter testing because this 30 days.....they know.....they test positive from 30 days and they just need a better device or something because there are a lot of people dying out there take more severe things. Battice said he has saved multiple people himself and they don't die from Marijuana like these guys walking around all pale and drooling out of their mouth and can't even hold Gobstoppers in their mouth in front of him but then they can't hire people.....but they hire these guys because it is legal and they are jeopardizing more so he believed. Battice said that is just his opinion.

Acting Speaker Riley said to Boo Battice just to respond to that. Riley said they are having another work session because they did have the one the other day so he keeps an eye on the calendar it will be within the next couple of weeks so if he wanted to attend that.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said he believed it was.....

Acting Speaker Riley said to Boo Battice that Acting Recorder Di Piazza is looking it up right now for him. Riley asked if there are any other public comments today.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said hold on he got it.....this stuff is slow this morning. Di Piazza said he thought it was Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Acting Speaker Riley reiterated Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

***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.***

**MOTION TO END FIRST OPEN SESSION AT 10:47; by Lewis; supported by Wittenberg.**

**Roll Call #9**

J. Riley -	Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco-	Yes	
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Absent	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1)

1 Vacant

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

**VIII. Open Session**

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 1:41 p.m.

**MOTION TO GO INTO SECOND OPEN AT 1:41;** by Medacco;  
 supported by Wabindato.

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anybody was going to abstain.

**Roll Call #10**

J. Riley - Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Absent	V. Johnson - Absent	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (6-0-0-2)

1 Vacant

Acting Speaker Riley asked Acting Recorder Di Piazza if they had anything to move to Open Session.

Acting Recorder Di Piazza said yes they do.

**A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session**

**MOTION TO MOVE MOTION AND ROLL CALL ONLY ON B.1a, C.1, C.2 AND C.3 AND RESOLUTION, MOTION AND ROLL CALL ON B.1.a AND C.4;** by Di Piazza; supported by Medacco.

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anybody was going to abstain.

**Roll Call #11**

J. Riley - Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Absent	V. Johnson - Absent	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (6-0-0-2)

1 Vacant

*The following motions and roll call votes were moved from Closed to Open Session.*

**MOTION TO SUPPORT GOING FORWARD WITH THE DUE DILIGENCE AND BRINGING IT BACK BEFORE COUNCIL FOR AN APPROPRIATION;** by Crampton; supported by Medacco.

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

**Roll Call #C-3**

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes
V. Johnson - Absent	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Yes

Vacant	M. Wabindato– Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes
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Motion carried (7-0-0-1-1)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 17-0201-043,  
 AUTHORIZING AN OPERATING TRANSFER OF \$2,049,756 TO  
 LITTLE RIVER CASINO RESORT FOR PAYMENT OF 2016  
 BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD CLAIMS RUN OUT;** by Medacco;  
 supported by Wabindato.

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

**Roll Call #C-4**

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes
V. Johnson - Absent	F. Medacco – Yes	J. Riley –	Yes
Vacant	M. Wabindato– Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1-1)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 17-0201-044,  
 APPROVING CONTRACT WITH GOOGLE AND PROVIDING  
 OFF MADISON AVE PERMISSION TO ENTER INTO  
 CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE RESORT;** by Medacco;  
 supported by DiPiazza.

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

**Roll Call #C-5**

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes
V. Johnson - Absent	F. Medacco – Yes	J. Riley –	Yes
Vacant	M. Wabindato– Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1-1)

**2. Contract between LRRCR and National Cred-A-Chek for lines of credit hosted services**

**MOTION TO TABLE C2;** by Medacco; supported by Crampton.

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

**Roll Call #C-6**

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes
V. Johnson - Absent	F. Medacco – Yes	J. Riley –	Yes
Vacant	M. Wabindato– Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-1-1)

*The following resolution, motion and roll call vote was moved from Closed to Open Session.*

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 17-0201-046,  
APPROVING TRIBAL OGEMA AND STAFF TO EXECUTE THE  
AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC – GREAT  
LAKES ORGANIZED CRIME LAW ENFORCEMENT  
NETWORK; by Medacco; supported by DiPiazza.**

Acting Speaker Riley asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

**Roll Call #C-9**

R. Wittenberg - Absent	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes
V. Johnson - Absent	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Yes
Vacant	M. Wabindato - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (6-0-0-2-1)

*This concludes the items moved from Closed Session to Open Session.*

**IX. Adjourn**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 1:43; by Medacco;  
supported by Wabindato.**

**Roll Call #12**

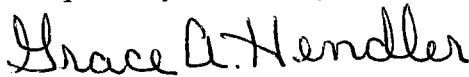
J. Riley - Yes	Vacant	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Wabindato - Yes
R. Wittenberg - Absent	V. Johnson - Absent	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (6-0-0-2)

1 Vacant

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grace A. Hendler  
Transcribing Assistant



Gary Di Piazza,  
Acting Council Recorder