



Approved 4/27/22

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022
LITTLE RIVER BAND
VIA ZOOM
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on February 16, 2022. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: good morning, everyone we're here on Wednesday February 16th for a regularly regular scheduled tribal council meeting at 10 am via zoom um item

I. Opening Prayer

If councilor Wittenberg if he so chooses, he could offer that to us.

Councilor Wittenberg: Yes (*Offers prayer in Anishinaabe*) We thank you for this day we ask that you to be with all of us guide our heart our mind help us to walk in a good way, think in a good way within Aho. Miigwech! Miigwech! Miigwech! Aho!

Acting Speaker Wolfe: thank you for that next item of business we have to check online and comment if an attendance is eligible to be here so I will do that at this time at this time when I read your user handler, please identify yourself with your tribal id number and if you are participating as staff then just identify yourself as staff. So going first um we have in the zoom chat Antonio's iPhone

Antonio Romanelli: yeah Antonio Romanelli 3954

Acting Speaker Wolfe: next one looks like Laura Echelbarger

Laura Echelbarger: Laura Echelbarger 2276

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Vicki

Ron Pete: Ron Pete 4158

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay then we have phone number 2312152739

Karen Love: Karen Love 2494

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay then we have 2316903498

Ogema Romanelli: that would be the Ogema

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay then we have 2317940066

Michael Burmiester: Michael Burmiester 0945

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay then we have 9064409257

Brad Pringle: Brad Pringle comptroller general staff thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Ah Chantel Gamelin

Chantel Gamelin: Chantel Gamelin staff

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I think it moved, just scroll down. So, then we have Al Metzger

Al Metzger: yes

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Please identify yourself for the record with your tribal id number

Al Metzger: Al Metzger 890

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Then we have uh councilor Champagne. Cindy Champagne

Councilor Champagne: Yes, councilor Champagne

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Connie Waitner

Connie Waitner: correct I'm here it's 0022

Acting Speaker Wolfe: You have to go down so I can see who's next. Corey Wells

Corey Wells: Corey Wells 4839

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Elise McGowan

Attorney McGowan: Staff attorney

Acting Speaker Wolfe: grace h

Grace Hendler: Grace Hendler 4121

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Janine Sam

Janine Sam: Janine Sam 150

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Then Jessica Steinberg

Jessica Steinberg: Ani! Jessica Steinberg 0148

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Kevin Tyler

Kevin Tyler: Kevin Tyler 2987

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Kim Hinmon

Kim Hinmon: Kim Hinman 3445

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Krystal Davis

Krystal Davis: Krystal Davis 1100

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Larry Olsen

Larry Olsen: Larry Olsen 1532

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Rebecca Groh, Rebecca please identify yourself for the record as a tribal member or if you're attending as staff. okay we can come back to you at the end I don't know if you have voice capability, I don't think you have in the past I would believe that's Rebecca Groh tribal member and staff. We move on to Roberta Davis

Roberta Davis: Roberta Davis 2234

Acting Speaker Wolfe: council woman Lewis

Councilor Lewis: yeah, tribal council Sandra Lewis

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Sandy M. Sandy M please identify yourself for the record

Sandy Mezeske: Sandy Mezeske 0018

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Sara Agosa

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Susan Thull

Susan Thull: good morning Susan Thull 3727

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Thressa LaHaye

Thressa LaHaye: Thressa LaHaye 4651

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Tina Payment? Tina Payment, we didn't hear if you responded? still not unable to hear. I will allow it to attempt because I also do believe that that's a enrolled tribal member I don't know if her user handler has a tribal number. Valerie Chandler

Valerie Chandler: Valerie Chandler tax officer and also tribal member 236

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Venus Torres

Venus Torres: uh Venus Torres legislative director one and tribal member 1102.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay I do believe that that is everyone on the list for this meeting and they're all eligible to be here. We're asking for two new phone numbers I believe that have joined we want a clarification on those. Phone number 231-233-3255 please identify yourself for the record?

Samantha Shoup: Samantha Shoup 3989

Acting Speaker Wolfe: and then phone number 2316701050

Kristy Fowler: Kristy Fowler 4701

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay thank you so the next order of businesses is. okay we have three more people in the waiting room that will be letted in that I will be asking to identify themselves for the record so the first one I believe was Delia Ross, please identify yourself for the record

Delis Ross: hi Delia Ross um 2446

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay and then we have Staci Chaney

Staci Chaney: Staci Chaney 992

Acting Speaker Wolfe: and then Alicia Knapp

Councilor DiPiazza: she, she said she doesn't have a camera or microphone

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Alicia Knapp?

Councilor DiPiazza: Yea, she sent an email. Didn't mean to interrupt

Chelsea Densmore: you missed me too Julie it's Chelsea Densmore 3225

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay I think we're gonna move forward with that I think everyone that I see on the list is available and able to attend so um that moves up onto item

II. General Business

um in action of the Speaker I will be calling the meeting to order as Acting Speaker for today just want to make a brief statement. Tribal council is in receipt of opinion of the tribal court in case 2022-013-GC. The tribal council intends to comply with and appoint a pro temp recorder by resolution during today's tribal council meeting to remain in effect until otherwise amended or upon resolution of the previously cited case. So, with that um Pam if you can do roll call, please

B. Roll Call

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call

T. Guenthardt -Present	C. Champagne -Present	S. Wever -	Present
G. DiPiazza - Present	P. Johnson - Present		
R. Wittenberg- Present	J. Wolfe - Present	S. Lewis -	Present

Quorum established.

um eight presents zero at 10:11

A. Call to Order

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay so we have a quorum established at 10:11 a.m. next item of business we have an add

C. Approving Recorder Pro Temp for 2/16/22 Tribal Council

so, as I just read in that statement the necessary need to put in a pro temp recorder for the duration of this court hearing court case um, so I'll open this item up for discussion for tribal council? any discussion by tribal council for this item? are any members of tribal council going to abstain on this item? so I'll open this up to the matter on the floor for questions or discussions from tribal members? We need to make a motion.

Councilor DiPiazza: Madam Speaker I'd like to make a motion

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay go ahead

Councilor DiPiazza: **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 22-0216-021
APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR PAM
JOHNSON AS TRIBAL COUNCIL RECORDER PRO
TEMPORE; By DiPiazza; Support by Guenthardt.**

Councilor Guenthardt: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: We have a motion made by councilor DiPiazza supported by councilor Guenthardt is there any questions or discussions on the motion on the floor?
Hearing none roll call on the motion

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #1

T. Guenthardt – Yes	C. Champagne – No	S. Wever -	Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes	
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-1-0-0)

)
seven favor one against motions passed

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay then that brings us on to the next item of business of

D. Approval of Agenda

Councilor Wittenberg: I'd like to make uh

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Go ahead

Councilor Wittenberg: okay if there are no other questions, I'd like to make a

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2022, AT 10 AM WITH THE
ADD II C: APPROVE RECORDER PRO TEMP FOR 2/16/22
TRIBAL COUNCIL AND ADD V.F: NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMISSION; By Wittenberg Support by
Wever**

Councilor Wever: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: we have a motion on the floor for approval of agenda by councilor Wittenberg support by councilor Wever. I'll open item up for discussion from tribal council. Are any tribal council members wishing to abstain on this item? I'll open up to the floor to questions or comments from tribal members? Seeing none Pam do a roll call please

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #2

T. Guenthardt – Yes	C. Champagne – Yes	S. Wever - Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	P. Johnson - Yes	
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-0)

Eight in favor it has passed

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay so that moves us on to general business item

E. Tribal Council Minutes

we have minutes submitted from 11/ 3/2021 and 2/02/ 2022.

Councilor DiPiazza: Madam Speaker I'll make that motion

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay

Councilor DiPiazza: Make a

**MOTION TO APPROVE TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR
11/03/2021 & 02/02/2022; by DiPiazza supported by Guenthardt.**

Councilor Guenthardt: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: We have a motion on the floor to accept tribal council meeting minutes from 11/03/21 and 02/02/22 that was made by councilor DiPiazza and supported by councilor Guenthardt. Any tribal councilors wish to abstain from voting on this agenda item? seeing none I will open it up for discussion from tribal council on this agenda item? any comments, questions, or concerns? I'll open it to the floor to tribal members. Seeing none their Pam do a roll call

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #3

T. Guenthardt – Yes	C. Champagne – Yes	S. Wever - Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	P. Johnson - Yes	
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-0)

Eight in favor it's passed

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay that moves us on to section

III. Continuing Business

We have items

- A. Grants & Contracts**
items
- B. Budget Modifications**
items
- C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**
- D.**

There are no items listed under those. So that moves us onto section

IV. Acceptance of Reports

- A. Report of the Tribal Ogema**
 - 1. Operations Report** ☐ None Submitted
 - 2. Financial Report** ☐ None Submitted

Do we have any comments on that uh from tribal Ogema?

Ogema Romanelli: Nope we're good

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay seeing, hearing that response then that moves us onto section

V. Acceptance of Commission Reports

- A. Binojeeuk Commission** ☐ Jan 2022

Any councilors wish to abstain on the item of acceptance of report from the Binojeeuk Commission? Seeing none I'll open it up for discussion on the item for tribal council. Seeing none or hearing none then I'll move it to the opportunity for tribal members to have discussion on the item. Hearing or seeing none I'll entertain a motion

Councilor DiPiazza: Madam Speaker

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Go ahead

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make a

MOTION TO ACCEPT BINOJEEUK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR JANUARY 2022; by DiPiazza supported by Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay we have the motion on the floor by councilor DiPiazza supported by councilor Wittenberg. Is there any follow up discussion by tribal council? Seeing none or hearing none Pam do a roll call

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #4

T. Guenthardt – Yes	C. Champagne – Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes	
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-0)

Eight in favor

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay moving on to

B. Enrollment Commission

☐ None Submitted

is there any comments or discussion from tribal council? Seeing none that moves us onto item

C. Gaming Commission

☐ Jan 2022

I'll open up for discussion from if any tribal council wishes to abstain voting on the agenda item? Seeing no abstentions, I'll open it to discussion or questions from tribal council? any comments or questions from tribal council? seeing none I'll open it up to the floor for questions or discussions from tribal members? Do you have one person in queue Sara Agosa you have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478. Can I please get an update on the recent issue that I brought forward regarding the gaming commissioners and um compliance with the gaming commission ordinance thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: any of the gaming commission liaisons wished to respond? Okay

Sara Agosa: let me ask can I please ask this as a follow-up question has any con

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Go ahead

Sara Agosa: has any contact been made with the gaming commission communicating the concern I raised

Councilor Wittenberg: What?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: With the concern that she raised.

Councilor DiPiazza: can you, can you repeat what your question may have been for us please

Sara Agosa: my question and concern is which I have emailed tribal council as well as the liaisons and I've also raised this issue in tribal council meetings, is that according to the gaming commission ordinance and the gaming ordinance employees who work under the Ogema are prohibited from being appointed to the gaming commission and the last time I raised this issue in council meeting I asked if the liaisons could address this issue I don't feel it's appropriate nor is it my responsibility to go to the gaming commission. As tribal council liaisons I feel it's more appropriate for the liaisons to address this issue with the gaming commission, so I just wanted an update thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay so so I can give a response on that in review of the seated commissioners and the organizational chart of the tribal government none of them are out of compliance with that particular section of the ordinance that's my comment. Any additional

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478. I'd just like to respond that I disagree with that based on my reading so I will follow up with you Julie just to get more information thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: any additional comments by tribal council or tribal members in attendance? seeing none will roll call please Pam

Acting Recorder Johnson: We have to make a motion

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Oh! We need a motion for acceptance of the report

Councilor DiPiazza: Madam Speaker I'll make a

**MOTION APPROVE THE GAMING COMMISSION MINUTES
JANUARY 2022; by DiPiazza supported by Wittenberg.**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: We have a motion on the floor from councilor DiPiazza support by councilor Wittenberg. Any additional comments or questions from tribal members or tribal council or tribal members in attendance? Seeing none roll call please Pam

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #5

T. Guenthardt – Yes	C. Champagne – Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	P. Johnson - Yes		
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-0)

Eight in favor its passed.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay that moves us onto item

D. Health Commission

☐ Jan 2022-No Meeting

That moves us forward to item

Acting Recorder Johnson: Um they had a meeting in January this happened in February to approve January's minutes before being passed to us sorry I kind of spoke on Monday, so they didn't have a meeting for February to approve just minutes, make sense

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay so there's a clarification comment from the health commission liaison any other discussion by tribal members or tribal council? Seeing none roll call please

Councilor DiPiazza: Theres none to accept

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Ope sorry so we need a motion for acceptance of the health commission report. Oh, all right so we're on to item

E. Housing Commission

☐ Jan 2022

any tribal councils wish to abstain from this? okay we'll open it up for discussion before tribal council. Open it up to discussion for questions or discussions from tribal members in attendance? Seeing none I'll entertain a motion

Councilor Lewis: I make a **MOTION TO ACCEPT HOUSING COMMISSION UH REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2022**; by Lewis supported by Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: we have a motion on the floor by councilor Lewis support by councilor Wittenberg. any follow-up discussion or comments? Seeing none we will have a roll call

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #6

T. Guenthardt – Yes	C. Champagne – Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	P. Johnson - Yes		
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-0)

Eight in favor motion passed

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay thanks that move is on to

F. Natural Resource Commission

☐ Jan 2022

any tribal council wish to abstain on this item? seeing or hearing none I will open it up for discussion through tribal council. okay hearing none from tribal council it's open to the floor for questions or discussions for tribal members. Okay seeing none I'll entertain a motion

Councilor DiPiazza: Madam Speaker I'd like to make a
**MOTION TO APPROVE THE NATURAL RESOURCE
COMMISSION MINUTES FOR JANUARY 2022;** by DiPiazza
supported by Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: we have a motion on the floor by councilor DiPiazza support by councilor Wittenberg any follow-up discussion by tribal council or tribal members?
Seeing none Pam please proceed with the roll call

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #7

T. Guenthardt – Yes	C. Champagne – Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes	
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-0)

Eight in favor motion is passed

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay that moves us on to our next item on business section

VI. Acceptance of Committee Minutes and Other Entities

A. Little River Casino Resort Preference Report ☐ Jan 2022

do any tribal council members wish to abstain from this item? seeing none I will open it up for discussion with tribal council? Seeing or hearing none I'll move the matter to the floor for questions or concerns from tribal members? Seeing none I'll entertain a motion

Councilor DiPiazza: Madam speaker I'd like to make motion,
**MOTION TO APPROVE LITTLE RIVER CASINO
RESORT PREFERENCE REPORT FOR JANUARY
2022;** By DiPiazza; support by Guenthardt.

Councilor Lewis: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: so, we have a motion on the floor by councilor DiPiazza support by councilor Lewis. open it up again oh councilor Guenthardt sorry.

Councilor Guenthardt: I raised my hand saying so

Acting Recorder Johnson: he was raising his hand saying it.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: so, I have a motion on the floor by councilor DiPiazza and support by councilor Guenthardt. I'll open it up for further question discussion or comment by tribal council and or citizens. Seeing none Pam please do a roll call

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #8

T. Guenthardt – Yes	C. Champagne – Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	P. Johnson - Yes		
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-0)

Eight in favor its passed

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay so then that moves us on to item

B. Biskaabiiyang Committee

☐ None Submitted

that moves us on to

VII. Old Business

A. Payment of 2022 dues to the National Indian Gaming Association

Payment of 2022 dues- Postponed until budget is approved

B. Approve ARPA fund use toward the completion of the Food Distribution Center Construction Project

Previously approved CARES funds cannot be used because the project will not be completed until later in 2022. ARPA funds are also eligible to be used on the project and can be used through 2024. Postponed until budget is approved.

C. Authorizing the Ogema's Execution of the Tribe's Master Service Agreement with the Conservation Resource Alliance for Pere Marquette River Habitat Restoration and Protection

Collaborative project between LRBOI Natural Resources and Conservation Resource Alliance to restore and protect Pere Marquette River habitat. Postponed until budget is approved

Councilor DiPiazza: Madam Speaker someone has there hand up, sorry madam Speaker to interject.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I'll entertain a comment from the tribal member Sara Agosa you have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my questions regarding the NIGA membership renewal. I thought in a prior meeting it was stated that this membership is required to keep our casino in compliance with IGRA can you please confirm this information thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: so, this item was put on by the tribal Ogema Larry do you have a response?

Ogema Romanelli: no, I think council can answer since they're holding the uh the item up

Acting Speaker Wolfe: so, with that response Sara I probably I do believe that it is in need to keep the casino open but there's not funding in the budget as it currently stands for the entire yearly payment to make for that dues. so, it is on hold until the budget can be postponed you can't pay a bill if you don't have the money in the budget to pay the bill

Ogema Romanelli: I do disagree with that we have a continuing resolution that we could draw from

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay so we'll go with who I see next in queue Jessica Steinberg

Jessica Steinberg: thank you Madam Speaker um 25 US code chapter 29 subsection 2717 says that the dues are not to exceed eight percent of the gross revenue excuse me 0.08 percent of the gross revenue and then there's a graduated fee schedule. Failure to pay dues and subsection 4.1 can be grounds for revocation of the approval by the chairman of any licensure for the gaming operation and if the dues are beyond 90 days there's a 25% penalty. So, I really hope we can resolve this issue because the dues schedule um those are usually forwarded out in November of the previous year based on gross revenue from that year uh clock's ticking thank you Madam Speaker

Acting Speaker Wolfe: thank you

Councilor DiPiazza: Madam Speaker I'd like in the queue

Acting Speaker Wolfe: thanks for your comment I see the next person in queue Sara Agosa

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 that was exactly my question, I just wanted to clarify um my question was is our membership currently expired? So, if it was supposed to be renewed in November then when is the expiration date thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay next in queue we have Michael Burmiester

Michael Burmiester: thank you Madam Speaker ah with the continuing budget I don't see any reason why not to approve these things yeah you have to pay them you have to pay those that's all I have to say

Acting Speaker Wolfe: thank you moving on to next in queue uh Connie Waitner

Connie Waitner: thank you Speaker um actually I appreciate everybody else's comments because those were mine, Jessica took the words out of my mouth and so did Michael Burmiester I'm not sure I quite understand why these dues cannot be paid at this time because again it's a continuing resolution and these same dues were paid last year, and I can't imagine the ramification or the fines that would exist if we don't pay them in a timely manner and quite actually, it does not look good because there's detailed bulletins and reports and fines that reported on NIGC's website so I would highly encourage tribal council to please, please allocate the monies for these these dues thank you

Councilor DiPiazza: I would like to get into the queue please

Acting Speaker Wolfe: you are actually next in queue

Councilor DiPiazza: thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: so, the floor is yours councilor DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: um well we did extend the budget from 2021 and the line item under the opener the executive side 5302 has the \$15,000 in there for these dues. So, for me we already extended the 2021 budget which has that funding in there uh me personally I would really like to probably get this passed today the other two I'm not real concerned but this one could be a little concerning. I believe the moneys in the budget if we're extending the 2021 budget this would rectify the situation today

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay thanks for your comment. Continuing on with queue we have Ron Pete

Ron Pete: uh thank you Madam Speaker um I was just going to say actually that Jessica so eloquently put the took the words right out of my mouth. I mean these are mandatory dues they have to be paid and I'm not sure what the price tag is on this one if it's \$15,000 or something like that that's a small price to pay for us to keep keeping compliant and the same thing with Gary I mean I think that we should pay this thing and we should pay it immediately the other ones I think could slide but I I implore tribal council to please pass this so we are in total compliance thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay next we I have in queue Chelsea Densmore, Chelsea you have the floor.

Chelsea Densmore: 2225 um yeah, I agree with every what everybody's saying but you still don't have a 2022 budget, so I do think it's crazy that you would be paying 2022 fees out of a continuing 2021 budget. I agree that it's important I agree it has to be done now but literally everything for the budget has to be done now like I think it's crazy that we're still here at almost the end of February two months in to a 12-month year without a budget still without conversations about a budget or anything so that I find really frustrating. I definitely think that if we need to pay it, we need to pay it and maybe you guys need to allocate funds so that you know you're not paying 2022 out of 2021 but either way like it it's incredibly frustrating that we are still here without a 22 budget at the end of February going into March thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Councilor DiPiazza has a response to that comment

Councilor DiPiazza: um I I too am concerned that budgets were into February if anybody was on the call Friday right right. I can't remember uh you heard that some want to push it all the way out into June now so they can get the rebuttals or whatever in um you push this out into June any of this work but I'm ready to make a motion to approve this out of the 2021 budget somehow today to rectify this problem.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay that was your response we'll continue on what I have in queue Sara Agosa

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 I agree I think that the 2022 budget should be passed in order to pay these dues um to me that's the priority and I don't think exceptions should be made. I feel it's a grave injustice to me as a member that the 2022 budget is still being blocked and held up. I thought good changes were coming down the pike for the benefit of members. So, I would like to ask council to please pass the 2022 budget with the proposed changes thank you that is my comment

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay moving on next in queue Janine

Janine Sam: Miigwech Madam Speaker um I know that we're all upset about the budget and the process and however, I'm just going to make a slight point of clarification. The item I'm looking at on the agenda says National Indian Gaming Association, which is a voluntary organization headed up by Ernie Stevens they can't close our casino they can't issue fines against us now if the agenda item's mistitled and it's the regulatory fees due to the National Indian Gaming Commission then I would say you have an issue because they do have the ability to affect our property but I also feel that dues to a voluntary organization are not any more important than the education benefits to our citizens, health care benefits to our citizens and all of the priorities um need to be falling back to the citizens. So, if the agenda's mistitled and it's the NIGC fee I'm sure there's notices somewhere already because they don't mess around with that if you don't pay it on time, you're getting a first notice if it's to the National Indian Gaming Association that is a different involuntary issue, and the tribe has no mandate to be a part of that organization thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay thanks for your comment next in queue Antonio Romanelli

Antonio Romanelli: Hey Antonio Romanelli 3954 I agree if uh these are due, and they are necessary that they should be paid we have a uh the ongoing budget from 2021 and I think it needs to be paid

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay thanks for your comment. Next in queue Michael Burmiester

Ogema Romanelli: Julie can you also put me in Larry

Acting Speaker Wolfe: sure

Michael Burmiester: thank you again madam recorder uh the continuing 2021 budget doesn't mean that you're paying things out of the 2021 budget you're just following the budget that was passed in 2021. Everybody's getting paid. Now if I'm not mistaken the resort is sending their money over to the tribe so I don't see what the problem is, you have the money to pay that, you have the money to pay everything you're just choosing not to, council just choosing not to pay it because we don't have a budget that that's that's bad business thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay thanks for your comment next in queue we have Staci you have the floor

Staci Cheney: thank you um actually I was wondering if Janine's um question could be answered um is there any clarification of who it is that's trying to be paid?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: any tribal council for a response? Larry's next in queue do have a response this is your original agenda item

Staci Cheney: I think it's really important that that gets deciphered

Acting Speaker Wolfe: from the paperwork that I received back in January I do believe Janine is correct and that it's just an association it's not the Gaming Commission. I don't think there's an error in the title that is my response

Staci Cheney: okay so thank you for that clarification and I think if we look back from the last couple of weeks um this is sort of a matter of principle if we don't have a budget for 2022. Then I think that what council is trying to do is stand their ground and say look until we negotiate the terms of the budget, we're not going to pass things because then there's no pressure to continue to um negotiate the contract if we just let things slide then what would be what would be the purpose of what would.....what would be the purpose or what would be the um the stress of making it so we do. So, we do have the pressure of negotiating the contract. I know that somebody came in last week and asked for their grant to be approved and this is something that's annual and we held off on approving that because we're not doing anything with this budget this year so if this is just a annual

thing that is an association how can you say that yes, I'm gonna vote for that but then last week you turned down a grant that's annual that costs the tribe nothing um I think that it's really important to be consistent and I think that it's also important for our executive side and our legislative side to sit down and negotiate a contract and that's all I have to say

Councilor DiPiazza: Madam Speaker

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay next in queue. You have a response?

Councilor DiPiazza: Kinda

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Go ahead

Councilor DiPiazza: the members

Ogema Romanelli: This is the Ogema

Councilor DiPiazza: Oh, I'm sorry

Ogema Romanelli: No go ahead

Acting Speaker Wolfe: The Ogema is next in queue, but Gary wanted to make a response

Councilor DiPiazza: Most everybody

Ogema Romanelli: Yes, go ahead Gary

Councilor DiPiazza: Was on the court proceedings the other day did you not hear that they want to push it out till June?

Staci Cheney: I actually was on the court proceedings and um I heard the judge say that not June, I heard her say May and she said that that would be something that would be unacceptable and that they want to push it a lot closer, and I also believe that the whole judge proceedings are going to um change real quickly but I'm not going to say anything further than that

Councilor DiPiazza: well, I I I'm not going to imply upon your speculations but I'm going to tell you I heard June so

Staci Cheney: but either way May or June either is unacceptable

Councilor DiPiazza: Okay well

Acting Speaker Wolfe: do you still have comments? You still have the floor Staci

Staci Cheney: well, I appreciate you listening to me I just know that I don't think it's right for us to be inconsistent if we're turning down people that are coming to us with a presentation and with grants that have already and they're on a timeline and that it's not something that's even impacting our budget but we're saying look we're taking a stand as a legislative unit and we're saying no, we can't pass this because we're waiting until we get our budget approved and then today somebody says well I want to pay my union I want to pay my dues for the year those are pretty much similar things, and I don't think it's right to be inconsistent either we're going to pass these things through or we're not but don't do one for one person and not the other that's all

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay so we have a housekeeping matter I do have Larry in the queue next. We do have three people in the waiting room that we're gonna join to the meeting give them a second to join when I call your user handler, please identify yourself with your tribal id number. First one we have is Marcella. So, looks like we have Matt U, please identify yourself for the record

Matt Umlauf: Matt Umlauf 0498

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay then we have phone number 2312997355 please identify yourself for the record? phone number 2312997355 please identify yourself for the record

Janae Shaw: Janae Shaw 4641

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay thank you so then that moves us back to where we have in queue, and I have Larry Romanelli next in queue you have the floor

Ogema Romanelli: thank you I just want to speak on this issue with the dues to the National Indian Gaming Association is what it's labeled so those are yearly dues that we pay every year it was put in the budget it really shouldn't be held up in my opinion uh as we know there was discussion just earlier that said that there are no talks going on with the uh with the budget that's not true as you know we're in court and we know that the attorneys unfortunately because it is in court are discussing on a regular basis uh we also know that the judge would like to get this cleared up. As well if anybody was listening in court um and if you also know I'll call you Madam Speaker at this time, and you know that I sent an email to you yesterday to offer to meet on the budget. Uh the only one I heard back from was Ron Wittenberg did not hear anything back from you and I think it's important that we at least try to sit down and talk and I even offered to do it without the attorneys in the room, they can be available if we need them but I think we could move this thing forward personally but that's my comments thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay next in queue we have Sara Agosa and then I'm going to speak myself and then finish with the queue of Susan and Janine. Sara, you have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478. I just want to state that the reason why I asked this question is because I was given the impression in a prior meeting that this membership to the NIGA was required and there was urgency. So, what I'd appreciate from the Ogema

is if um he just states matter of factly and right away the distinctions between these memberships or gives me an explanation um because I didn't know there was a difference between the NIGA, and NIGC memberships thank you that is my comment

Ogema Romanelli: okay well that's part of the problem is that if you're comment, commenting on this and you don't know the difference between the two that's a problem that continues to be a problem. The the issue here is that we're trying to get a second casino in Muskegon if for no other reason to pay our dues on a timely manner. I would think that would be it plus we put this casino at risk when we're not um paying our dues as on a regular basis. So um again I didn't get an answer to why I didn't get a response to the budget uh email that I sent to council and to Julie as a whole um if I could get a response to that but yeah, I mean it's important uh to pay your bills whether you call them uh a necessity or something that you whatever bills you have to pay we should be paying them, so I'd like to answer to the question as to the email that I sent asking to meet on the budget thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: councilor Wittenberg wishes to respond

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, I want to see Miigwech on that and personally my view on that on the budget of how many times that it was put out for the invitation when we first started out with the budget and the only thing, I heard on uh your end uh was vetoed twice and so now we're all going to court, and we got that going on. Each side not agreeing with the other and so now we want to go and finally put out that I want a meeting with you on concerning the budget and personally myself I would have thought that would have been started when the budget first come to the table. It's just my view on it thank you Miigwech

Ogema Romanelli: I'd be willing to answer that as well uh you're correct I did veto the budget because the budget that council brought back was not the budget that the executive side presented. I had the duty to veto, and it was the legislative branch's duty to override the veto if they didn't like it, that didn't happen. We're now in court and there are other things going on. Again, I asked to meet very reasonably yesterday by email and I'm still not getting an answer to to why I didn't get an answer from the officer of council as to why thank you

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah

Acting Speaker Wolfe: You can respond

Councilor Wittenberg: I'd like to respond to that if you don't mind Miigwech that uh yes you did veto it yes uh that is your right and that's as far as it went but the question is here is even before you vetoed it there was no presence and that's where I would seem to think uh your presence could have been there before you even vetoed it to see what you were vetoing and said well I'm just gonna let council do it and uh that's me uh like anybody if uh I don't care for it then I'll just veto it and.....and that's what I'm going back to your where you emailed me where I'm open to it to be sitting but the bottom line to me is we

should have been sitting from day one and then we could turn around and to me have a more firm foundation as to what is going on so just my thought Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: so, then I have myself in queue to respond to your email notification requesting an opportunity to discuss the budget that has been sent to me less than 24 hours with the transition in turmoil and the tribal council I have not had time to directly respond to you or coordinate with all the rest of the tribal councilors when their availability is and I don't think it's fair to say that you made some great grand gesture and extended that you wanted to have in continued discussions for the first time since you vetoed the budget in January, and your veto simply stated it was unconstitutional so there is the response of why you haven't got the meeting coordinated because it hasn't been time. You know that we had other obligations and to do and handle before now and we did not I was acting recorder from when you sent the mail the email until now when Pam was accepted pro recorder, so someone had to continue with all the functions of tribal council so it will be responded to, but I don't think a 24 hour less than 24-hour response is needed on that question or comment. So, my original comment in this agenda item for postponing until the budget is approved everything that was explained to me in the budget process with the continuation for January and February that you only have two months of your 2021 budget to spend. Gary said that we had \$15,000 in this line item if what's available on the continuing budget is \$12,500 per month that means we only have \$25,000 in the line item to pay \$15,000 bill that doesn't work for tribal council so I believe it should continue as postponed until the budget approved because the funding is not available by procurement and procedure policies of the tribal government that is my comment. Continuing on with queue we have next Susan Thull

Susan Thull: thank you uh Susan Thull 3727. I was at the court hearing on the other day that uh Gary is speaking about, and it seemed to me that it was the uh lawyers that were representing um uh Stone et al and uh Romanelli that were okay with extending that uh out to May or June it was not the tribal council lawyer so um and...and I think that they probably are okay with just continuing....continuing this on. This seems to happen in our courts often where uh it takes forever to get anything accomplished um and uh, I believe that the council would have to overrde that veto if someone hadn't issued a stay and to me those employees that went to the court for this had privileged information that they shouldn't have had. When an employee when your employees get together, and um decide that they're gonna uh stop our government's function and then we're going to blame tribal council for this put the blame where it belongs. Someone leaked that information the casino workers don't want to uh be employed in a different position at the casino um they don't want to take a cut and pay they you know what for whatever reason they decided to um go to court. For one thing that was privileged information they shouldn't have had it in the first place. I commend those councilors that are are conducting themselves in the correct way and following those rules and laws that we have. That budget was supposed to be approved a long time ago and you can't keep on uh going on with continuing uh funding. You don't pay the bills put the blame on who it really should be on who's not coming to the table who's not cooperating? it's the Ogema plain and simple tribal council you're doing a great job. Thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay thanks for your impute next in queue is Janine Sam

Janine Sam: Miigwech Madam Speaker. I just want to go back to the agenda item um I I forget there was a comment earlier about a continuing budget and continuing resolution and I just want to point out that the tribal con the tribal government as a whole whether it's Ogema council whoever we have to abide by Gasby standards. Gasby published a specific rule that applies to tribal governments it does require a budget to be approved that's....that's a measure that will be applied to us when the annual audit single audit act um which is an OMB circular that also applies to us. We also have to abide by generally accepted accounting principles that is incorporated through many of the grant funding agencies that we are partnered with in the acceptance of grant funds so to say that we really don't need a budget to spend money a tribal government has to have a budget enacted to spend money because they are required by law to compare that final budget with their final expenditures on an annual basis and these things are all controls that are beyond the controls that we have so I guess you know getting together or passing that budget um I do agree um that the stay by the court was premature because they interrupted the process the tribal council if the Ogema vetoed whatever amendments were done that should have had a vote that process should have completed itself and then if the people want to challenge the actions that's when the situation is right that's all here and or there because we're in that situation now but we definitely have to have an approved budget and monthly financial statements quite honestly. Those are also required not only by our constitution but by all of these standard boards that I'm referencing and so when we talk about the Muskegon property and what we need to do for that I'm pretty sure not having monthly financial statements and not having an approved budget and having all of this turmoil isn't going to help our....our arguments at all and that's my comments

Acting Speaker Wolfe: thanks next in queue I have a councilwoman Champagne

Councilor Champagne: thank you Julie. Yes, Ogema Romanelli says now he wants to have a meeting in regard to the budget. How long has that budget been on the table? and how long has Mr. Romanelli just ignored the council's request to get this budget passed? He says he....he vetoed it because it wasn't the budget, he put forward. Yes, it wasn't the budget he put forward because council felt that we had to do more for our membership, and we did a lot of concessions on that um budget. He could have been at the meetings and talked about why or why not the uh concessions were good he didn't bother to come now when he thinks he's got a weaker council he's going to come forward and wants to try to push us into voting for his budget. He still will not be willing to make concessions will you Mr. Romanelli? that just seems like your way it's either your way or no way and I'm sorry, but I hope this council sticks to their guns and tries to get a budget that's going to benefit the membership. The membership that's what we're here for that's who put us in place that's all I have

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay thanks. I see councilor Wittenberg next in queue.

Councilor Wittenberg: yes, I want to say a Miigwech for everybody that cheering for listening and for uh sharing without uh throwing daggers at each other but I will say

during the Christmas holiday when everybody was off council was sitting at the round table not all council but there was quite a few council that turned around and worked on the on the budget and I say I Miigwech to them. uh I wasn't there for New Year's Eve because I had to find opportunity to take in our uh (*Anishinaabe word*) our eagles at down to represent Little River down at the uh Battle Creek uh sobriety Pow wow but uh and that's why I wasn't there but there were and people stayed in the evening here quite late to get the first one going to not....not to have it vetoed and like you say didn't even go through the full process and it was stopped on a dime and so uh I just wanted to share that with the people of just how much involved of trying to get the budget and going through everything of uh only to have a veto Miigwech

Ogema Romanelli: okay Julie can you put me back in

Acting Speaker Wolfe: sure, I don't see anyone else before you have the floor Larry

Ogema Romanelli: okay thank you. I appreciate that. Well, I wasn't going to say anymore but you know that's a bunch of horse crap to be quite honest with you you know I we talk about the council coming in on New Year's Eve and during the holidays and working on this budget the executive side did too. I was on those calls when Ron wasn't he was delivering a staff eagle staff to some other place. We were on those calls. We submitted a budget we also allowed the council to resubmit it back to us with some changes that's the one that we negotiated and sent back when we sent it back the council changed it all up again so you can't say that either and you can't say this is the first time I've been wanting to negotiate the budget that's just not reasonable it hasn't been reasonable since the last end of the last quarter of last year. We worked very hard on those budgets. We did it in a normal process and I'm not going to sit here and allow the council to make those kinds of statements and so I'm done now thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay Mr. Wittenberg you can respond

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, I'd like to go back there and say Miigwech to you and uh you say you....you were working on it but uh in all my times of being here I didn't hear no phone call or see your presence that's all I got to say on this budget on what we were working on Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay continuing with queue I see Michael Burmiester you have the floor

Michael Burmiester: I don't disagree that that council was there working uh during the Christmas holiday, but I will say Mr. Wittenberg that many fine people were over at the casino working on Christmas day new uh New Year's Eve, New Year's Day uh so that you know there's other people that work too and how is everybody getting paid? if we don't have a budget, how are we getting paid? and how's that gonna affect per cap? I'd like to know that? you gonna pay per cap? that's all

Acting Speaker Wolfe: so, my only comment in response as tribal Speaker acting tribal Speaker is we do have a continuing resolution for a budget in place that allows for January and February to continue on the operating budget that was approved for fiscal year 2021.

Councilor DiPiazza: Madam Speaker

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Councilor DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: I want to retract my statement of even trying to get anything accomplished with this. I know it's in the courts at some point in time they're probably going to do something nobody's gonna like um and also hey it was my birthday in Novem on December 31st, guess where I was, I didn't go out and had no fun so I'm sorry

Acting Speaker Wolfe: so, I think we've exhausted our queue on this discussion I think items a b and c are continued to be postponed until the budget is approved that moves us on to item

VIII. New Business

A. Approval of Big Fire Law Invoice Totaling \$29,534.26 for December 2021 Legal Services

Tribal Purchasing Regulations requires all \$25,001 and up invoices must be authorized by Tribal Council Resolution.

The December Big Fire Law invoice #2419 total invoice is \$29,534.26

I believe I will refer to Brad for your explanation on the item

Comptroller Pringle: This is

Acting Speaker Wolfe: we've heard you for one second and then we lost you

Comptroller Pringle: Hello council this is comptroller general Brad Pringle can you hear me?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Yeah, we can hear you

Comptroller Pringle: okay this is for the December invoice for Big Fire law firm this is for the December bill which will be paid out of the 2021 budget, so we need to get this processed as soon as possible and there was a uh work session for that yesterday

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay thank you. That concludes the presentation of the item. I will open it up and ask if any tribal are going to abstain? Seeing or hearing none I will open it up for discussion for tribal council on the agenda item? Seeing no comments then I'll open it up for tribal council and or tribal members for questions or discussions on the agenda item? seeing none I'd entertain a motion. Councilor Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: if there are no other questions, I'd like to make a
**MOTION APPROVAL OF BIG FIRE LAW OFFICE
TOTALING \$29,534.26 FOR DECEMBER 2021 LEGAL
SERVICES RESOLUTION #22-0216-0221**; By Wittenberg;
support by Wever

Councilors: it's 22

Councilor Wittenberg: oh, uh I'd like to retract that on the resolution number
RESOLUTION # 22-0216-0222

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Do we have support from anybody?

Councilor Wever: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay so we have a motion on the floor by councilor Wittenberg
support by Wever. I'll open it up for additional discussion. Councilor DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: yeah, I just have my concerns with it there's some billing on there
that I have raised some questions on. I don't think you've been rectified so I can't support.
I'm done

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay any other councilors have comments or questions?
Councilor Guenthardt go ahead

Councilor Guenthardt: I'm against Big Fire anyways period so. All of them filing case
back three months ago all guaranteed wins. We've been using them he's never going to
win the law case with Big Fire. We should just get rid of them we're never going to win a
case with them. That's all I have to say

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay any additional comments by tribal council? Councilor
Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, and I can agree with ah different ones to of regardless of
representatives *Inaudible* and that's the bottom line if there the right person with the firm
or not *Inaudible* still on the table. Much as I'd like to maybe give it to another firm but
that hasn't happened yet and until we keep on uh getting all these versus tribal council, I
guess that'll continue until things change Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay any additional comments? Councilor DiPiazza back in
queue

Councilor DiPiazza: I gotta disagree with that but that's okay there's some some items on
that bill I don't believe all councils purvey to as far um invoking them things without
tribal council authorization all kinds of exciting things I I other issues

Councilor Champagne: I don't know about anyone else but you're not coming through

Acting Speaker Wolfe: is the rest of the people able to hear I hear the response from councilwoman Champagne she can't hear

Antonio Romanelli: yes, I can hear you it does sound like somebody's phone is not on mute, but I can hear you guys

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay any additional response or uh discussions or comments from tribal council on the motion on the floor?

Councilor Guenthardt: just wait you get January and February bill from big fire it's gonna be three times or more

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay any other discussion or comment from tribal council on the motion on the floor? seeing or hearing none Pam please do a roll call

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #9

T. Guenthardt – No	C. Champagne – Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
G. DiPiazza - No	P. Johnson -	Yes	
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (6-2-0-0)

Six in favor two against its passed

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay moving on that brings us to item

IX. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 10am

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

Ogema Romanelli do you, you have you the floor

Ogema Romanelli: okay I was just going to give an update on the budget but that's already been hashed out also I want to remind everybody that we have the informational meeting coming up on Saturday at one o'clock in the event center. I'd like to ask the and I know that it's been asked by tribal members to the council if they plan on attending uh, I'd like to hear from each one, and also the election board is invited in case I didn't realize thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay any comments

Councilor Lewis: yeah, I I do I I want to say thank you for that invite um myself personally I am not going to be able to attend but I thank you for inviting

Acting Speaker Wolfe: any other response from tribal council?

Councilor Guenthardt: I'll be there

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Councilor DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: I don't think I've missed a meeting of any sorts in almost nine years, so I don't plan on missing any now

Councilor Champagne: yes, I I would say that I will not be able to attend thank you

Councilor Lewis: um you know I just want to uh clarify also that you know Wednesday's meetings belong to tribal council um this extra meeting and and they just had an informational meeting now they're having another informational meeting that is not mandatory for tribal council to be at. Um the membership meetings belong to the Ogema, but you know I I do appreciate the invitation, but I am not going to be able to make it and um clarification it's not mandatory for tribal to council to be there. This is just some extra informational meeting that is going on and there was just one like I don't know it seems like a couple months ago. All right thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: any other councilors wish to respond to the Ogema's question?
Councilor Wittenberg go ahead

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, and uh myself I know I made plans for this uh coming weekend and long before this meeting surfaced and now it's an invitation so it's an invitation if somebody invites me out to dinner. I can either accept it or go eat elsewhere. Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: any other councilors wish to respond? seeing none we'll go with who we have in queue I believe Sara Agosa you have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my question is why the enrollment audit wasn't completed within the 60 days in accordance with the resolution passed on December 15th. That is my question thank

Ogema Romanelli: if you like me to answer I'll try

Acting Speaker Wolfe: You have the floor Lary

Ogema Romanelli: thank you that's in addition to the budget that isn't a yearly thing and as we know the budget hasn't been passed the other idea is that we don't know who was supposed to start the resolution didn't say who would um initiate the audit and as you know we also have lost uh the director or the lead person. We only have one person in

our enrollment uh department right as it stands, we just lost another person within the last couple weeks so uh that's it from the Ogema's side if the council wants to respond to more than happy thanks

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay thanks for the response I see next in queue Chelsea you have the floor

Chelsea Densmore: thank you Chelsea Densmore 3225 um I was just wondering if the Ogema was going to cover what he was going to actually speak on at the informational meeting. I know that last time he posted like an agenda or something online. I didn't know if he had something prepared or if he was going to give any idea about what Saturday was about?

Ogema Romanelli: thank you it you know and again I think it was councilor Wittenberg said that these meetings are for the tribal council or maybe it was someone else and that the membership meetings are for the Ogema. That's not correct, the membership meetings are for the membership and these informational meetings are also for the membership to give them information. I don't have a complete agenda right now there are several things that are going on and a lot of this comes out from Facebook. Misinformation or information that is going through Facebook. I'm allowing those people to come to a meeting and try and sort out the facts from the fiction and to get their voices heard and so that's what it is. I may try and put it together an agenda within the next couple days but that's what we're talking about. Thank you.

Chelsea Densmore: um if I could clarify so you're saying that the meeting is just to talk about stuff from Facebook?

Ogema Romanelli: no as you know we have several issues. We can talk about the enrollment audit that's going on, we can talk about several things that have happened with uh recent resolutions or what's going on. It allows the membership to talk face-to-face or even we'll have zoom I believe it is um to discuss the matters. So hopefully we can get some some resolve out of these. I think the last meeting was very beneficial. I think a majority of the membership agree. I think that these are important times right now if you look at the agenda and again which they just passed \$30,000 for one month for one law firm for this tribe if we multiply that times 12 it's easy to see we're talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars for one law firm. I'm not going to get in there too far, but we spend a lot of money on lawyers obviously and it's not only this law firm and it's not only the legislation. We spend a lot of money on attorneys if you flip over the page and you look into a closed session, you'll see that there are it looks like seven litigations uh reports that are on there now as you know that is normally not the case they keep going on and adding up. I think we're in a very, very critical point with our tribe right now and you can talk about you know who's wrong or who's right, but I think the membership has a right to to voice their opinion. The people that are speaking out now a lot of them that I see are people that work here, that live here, that are tribal members, that are very concerned of what's going on, some of the changes there's a lot of changes that are going on. We can talk about the Next Generation Learning Center and the damage is done. We can talk

about donation changes and how other tribes are excelling and we've just gone flat. There's a lot of things to talk about, so yeah, and now is the time to do it but we are at a very critical spot uh we've heard talk of you know and again uh we talk about this swamp what is the swamp? I never got an answer to that. What is the swamp? that was by someone that was just our tribal council Speaker. Who was they? what was it? who was it? uh we talked about a tsunami it feels like uh that might be the one thing that uh somebody kept their word on, it felt like a tsunami. We've been hit with a lot of different things and that's why you see seven items on the agenda for court and most of them if I look correctly are against the tribal council not saying the tribal council is wrong or right but I'm saying all of a sudden you have a an increase of court actions against tribal council so I would think that would be in the council's best interest to come to the meeting and tell their side of the story so on some of these issues thank you

Chelsea Densmore: thank you, Madam Speaker, if I could just follow up, I'm sorry um I would like to say I agree that there is way too much money that is spent on lawyers however like two or three of the cases are against the Ogema or for the Ogema against council and I agree that we spend too much on lawyers, but you can't say that council is spending this much on lawyers and that's crazy when all they're doing is defending their stance right it's not like they're actively pursuing litigation so I think that's something important to pursue or something important to mention um I have definitely been attending a lot of these court hearings and it seems like it's incredibly slow. So, in my opinion I think that's a failure on all sides. I don't think the executive and the legislative do a good enough job of trying to work together. I think you guys resort to using the courts and lawsuits too much and that you don't try and resolve things better um but I would just like to say if I was personally on council, and I was invited in an informal way just like mentioned, I didn't have an agenda proposed, I didn't know what was going to be discussed, I don't know that I would be making the time either. I guess that's just personally for me so um maybe something to think about for next time um Ogema Romanelli is to send out a formal invitation, have a formal agenda prepared, and um maybe uh allow more time. I know that the last two informational meetings have only been like a week and a half before you were going to have them which is not enough time for outlying citizens to attend who are having to make arrangements with the casino who was already booked up at that time um and it's certainly not giving enough time to council to make sure and have that time available in their weekend. I am done now Madam Speaker um Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: thanks for your comment we're still Ogema weekly status and update continuing on with the queue

Ogema Romanelli: I'd like to answer to that last

Acting Speaker Wolfe: with Antonio Romanelli you have the floor

Ogema Romanelli: yeah, I'd like to answer to that last

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I'll put you in queue

Antonio Romanelli: the Ogema can go ahead and go and answer

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay so then

Ogema Romanelli: thank you I just yep, I just wanted to say that you know there's not a lot of time given. uh some of these council members are on Facebook on a regular basis they don't uh give a lot of notice there either, so I think the way I'm doing it gives is more respectful and gives more information and more time than uh some of the council members on different Facebook posts thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay next in queue I see um councilwoman Lewis you have the floor

Antonio Romanelli: It should be Antonio Romanelli

Acting Speaker Wolfe: you you gave your spot to the Ogema. I didn't think you had a comment

Antonio Romanelli: no, I do have a comment

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay we can backtrack go ahead

Antonio Romanelli: uh Antonio Romanelli 3954. I just want to say you know council I've heard it before that that they don't answer to the Ogema um, and they don't have to attend these meetings and whatnot, but you do have to answer to the people and the people have questions that they would like answered um and these types of meetings are for that opportunity for the membership to ask these questions to the council. So, you know you saying that you don't have to answer to the Ogema well you do have to answer to the people and the people are frustrated and the people want answers from their councilors that's all.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay thanks for your comment, next in queue councilwoman Lewis and then councilor Wittenberg and then Nikki Nelson in queue

Councilor Lewis: okay so I hope nobody misunderstood what I was saying about you know the difference between all these meetings. We have tribal council on Wednesday and it's more than open for membership to you know you know bring any questions um we have the Ogema's uh membership meeting which you know members are open for any questions there, now we have an additional um informational meeting. Um there's been two you know this is the second one recently um you know I...I....I'm just gonna say that you know the...the US government loves when we sit around and argue with each other you know because then you know they're getting what they want. They want to keep a hold on us and we're too busy you know with all this arguing, and you know nobody being open enough to like listen to the next person you know um they know we're not going to get anywhere you know we have bigger things that we really should be

dealing with here you know um you know there's so much talk about all this stuff that's in court and you know yeah some of it has been brought out to open but I I really don't think this is the time to discuss this you know I I think we need to step aside let the court take care of what they need to take...take care of you know um yes there's so much extra expense which is ridiculous you know um there was the ULD that was put in place so we could avoid all this and...and there would be some like you know unnecessary spending you know that would be stopped obviously, that is not working because there's nobody mediating you know between people's differences and....and it's okay to have a different thought it's okay you know but because I think differently then somebody else I don't run to court, and you know let me start racking up this bill that you know I could be taking some of this money and feeding tribal members out there. You know there's a lot of people having a really hard time out there you know yes, we are in a serious situation with the virus, numbers are going down, deaths are going up you know there's....there's bigger things that we need to you know look at here and....and you know everybody you know you need to be a bigger person and just hear the other person out you know this is a lot of nonsense. I believe that's just my thought you know I just heard earlier um councilor DiPiazza say oh yeah well you know whatever you know people aren't gonna like what's gonna come you know um yeah, they're not gonna like the outcome well how do you know what the outcome is? how do you already know that? what do you know? you know but there's....there's a lot of things that you know come on you guys let's....let's you know be who we are Anishinaabe people you know let's start being good to each other. I I don't care about what goes on....on Facebook that's....that's not you know where I take care of business and you know I....I don't I....I don't feed into that you know sometimes there's some good legitimate you know um things on there, but you know Facebook is entertainment and....and it's not always nice stuff that that is out there so you know don't fall into that you know um I....I hope that nobody misunderstands what I'm saying because you know what I'm saying I'm not trying to hurt anybody, I'm not trying to confuse anybody, I'm not trying to twist words. I'm just trying to be honest with you guys as money you know I....I don't look at it as it's my money I I look at it as it belongs to the people you know I'm trying to be honest; I'm trying to be fair, you know um none of us sitting here are lawyers' tribal council basically doesn't have a lawyer that represents us you know so you know. I'm really sorry that all of this has come to this it's it you know it's....it's really unnecessary in my thoughts you know um I I'm just hoping that all of this you know is taken care of and you know it's done with so, we can move on and....and move on to bigger things which you know is....is our people you know we're I think everybody here is trying to stay legal by the law even though no one's a lawyer. Council really doesn't have any daily representation you know and....and the way things are going you know the bill keeps on growing and....and you know it's....it's not us you know putting all this into the court, but we have to respond and....and it's too bad that the response has to be like so expensive when you know I I think a lot of this is just communication and if you know people sit and talk with us you know and....and let's come to an agreement an understanding that's....that's what these jobs are for tribal council, and you know Ogema you know it's decision makers you know it's....it's about putting the people before ourselves and our own wishes and our own needs and our own wants those don't....don't exist you know you know from my understanding that does not exist what exists is the people and....and you know I I really wish all this would stop you

know and...and just let's start being good to each other and let's sit down and communicate and talk in a good respectful um manner and and...and lets you know let's...let's have something good come out of this you know I I'm always open you know um to hearing you know sometimes I'm very cautious about responding because you know left and right people are saying stuff, but you know it's um it's you know a lot of people that are in the court stuff right now. So how do you answer that how do you answer? you know I'm stuck with that because how do I answer you when you know if I answer you what are you gonna do turn around take me to court because it wasn't what you wanted to hear I'm....I'm really sorry, but you know what like we're.... we're adults and....and you know the whole thing is just respecting and....and I'm okay if you know others think different than me. You know I I've reached out now my both terms I've....I've reached out to everybody at certain issues and you know they seen something the way I didn't so, I would sit and....and listen and hear them out because I want to know why they think that why do you think different? and I don't think I'm going off track on any of this right now you know because that was the question that was addressed I you know I...I think the only one that I haven't had as much communication that I would like to have with is um Pam Johnson you know but last term, this term I've reached out to everybody, and you know let me hear why you think different than me you know let me hear where you're coming from and I'm okay with that. I've had many things on the table that didn't go through that I wanted to go through, but you know I I didn't hold my breath or kick or scream I just okay well that's the way it is that's the way it's intended to be but you know I think we all really need to stop and....and you know start trying to work through all this together so....so we can move on to bigger things. You know there's a lot of people out there that are suffering with medical you know um food issues, housing you know. There's homeless as we sit here you know everybody; I'm sure had something to eat today but we have some of our members out there who haven't been able to eat today and they might not all day they might not have a roof over their heads. So, let's bring it all back to why we're really here and you know forget about Facebook that's silly, but you know but I I don't know I'm done and I I'm I really don't mean to offend anyone that wasn't my intent you know I I'm just you know. I'm just stating the way I feel and...and I feel that we can do a lot better and....and I would rather be part of the solution than part of the uh problem so all right Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay thanks for your comment. Next in queue is councilor Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, again I want to say Miigwech and since it was brought up, I want to say Miigwech for all the people that are participating uh from what I see on there are 40 minus three people which would be two council members and uh the Ogema and so all brings it down to uh three minus 40. So, I want to say Miigwech for them people that are here but since it was brought up on the legit litigation that as I'm looking at uh six out of seven is tribal council, and two is Larry versus tribal council two of them that are on there. Now when I look at it and it turns around and says uh one side has in-house representative, and the other side doesn't have it and that's where uh to me were comes up where when you're going against tribal council then you have to turn around and what? You're going to roll over tribal council? no tribal council has to turn around and do what

they can to turn around and defend themselves there used to be an ethics committee to turn around that if you did wrong and to what they feel they were constantly and trust me were going in front of the ethics and so then now the ethics isn't here today and so now well I'm gonna take you to court and this is what's going on to me is what's going on. Now not long ago we turned around and we had a uh informative meeting over at uh casino and uh from what I heard it wasn't but to me uh who we gonna butcher? bottom line to me and so, you invited me to come back to what to me now we would have turned around and put out there with an agenda. We're gonna have this gonna have that we're gonna address and address that that would open my mind but in my mind it's gonna be the same thing and do I wanna be a part of it? I don't think so if you have a question this is a perfect place where we can turn around and ask the question. We got that coming up. We're still just on the first part with uh Ogema's weekly status we didn't even get to the legislative. That's where we can turn around and come across with one another but and that's the way I feel instead of going in there and....and uh to me well let's uh we're going to bring this up here I'm going to give you the mic and then you pass the mic and it's all no. I might have been born yesterday but I wasn't born last night and that's the thing about it and I do know we can converse back and forth without uh raising the hair on the back of our neck. That we can turn around and sit down we uh the bottom line is uh and you hear it and you heard it I heard it since the day 15 years ago that when I came up here a lot of these things hasn't changed a lot and you're absolutely right that not only BIA I feel and all the rest of them throughout don't know what is going on and here we are trying to get a casino? another one I know if I was in this spot, I'd have a different view and I'd turn around and have one of my employees turn around I think is going to look at this little more and report back to me. They weren't born last night either and so I don't know I I strongly feel yeah, we need to sit down, turn around and take our watches off and throw them in the basket and just sit. That's the way it used to be but now we got so many things to do I got to do this I got to do that and on and on and on. I can understand that because of some simple fact that's how we were raised. Sometimes some things to me we do need to sip and not turn around and throw somebody and get the fire and turn around and do a roast that's my opinion but that's what I feel uh what this Saturday meeting was I'm glad I got that invitation for uh that uh was scheduled a long time ago before this meeting comes up but then I don't see it be no different this meeting than it was a few weeks ago when that meeting showed up. Should be interesting. I don't know who's all gonna go on the uh hallway outside the auditorium and try to get signatures and everything but uh it is what it is and that's what I heard it it's a crying shame but that's my view I want to say again Miigwech for everybody being here and uh to share those things and uh maybe, maybe that's a big maybe should put a big maybe like they do Hollywood out in the side of the mountain maybe we can turn around and sit Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay thanks for comment. Next in queue we have Nikki Nelson you have the floor

Nikki Nelson: thank you Madame Recorder I just had a couple comments um about the informational meeting that was brought up by the Ogema um the first comment I had is that as both parties both of both council and Ogema have stated that you guys have an open and active case in the courts right now and it would be foolish for any two parties

that have an open and active case together to meet without their lawyers or a mediator of the court. That's just common sense so to make a big public display and invite people that you have an open active case with without representation of their lawyers or without a mediator of the courts it's just a public ploy, a public display to get attention on yourself because it it just it would, it would be foolish for anyone on council while having this open case to show up at that meeting. So that's my first comment, second is with meeting with the mediator of of the court we have a peacekeeping department a peacekeeping an award-winning peacekeeping department might I add and I'd be curious to know if at any point any of the plaintiffs of any of these cases that are against council have at all ever tried to utilize our peacekeeping department prior to forcing council to spend money on attorneys to defend themselves and why we wouldn't be trying to utilize the peacekeeping department that not only is a functioning department of our government but it's also in alignment with our traditional ways and values. Which I would hope that everyone would want to try to turn to before having to drag each other through court and spend a lot of money. My third comment about the meeting is that it's clear that this meeting is is thrown together quickly most likely out of emotion and maybe if this meeting is really for the members the best thing to do would, would be to take a little bit of time and care and actually plan a membership meeting because I know personally as a citizen, I have a lot more questions for a lot more departments than just tribal Council, the Ogema's office and the election board for instance. We're in the middle of a pandemic. I would sure like to know why we don't have vaccination clinics at our clinic. I would sure like to know why my tribal children don't have the opportunity to get a vaccination at my clinic and I have to drive them to another reservation because it's not offered here. So, you know I have questions for the education department there's a lot of things so maybe if this meeting is really truly for the membership that just a little bit of time and care could be taken and schedule maybe a month out or something and move the typical spring membership meeting up a month and perhaps then by that time maybe some other things would be settled in court, and it would be more responsible for council to show up and be able to answer some of those questions thank you that's my comment

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay thanks for your comment. Next, we have councilwoman Champagne

Ogema Romanelli: Julie can you put me back in the queue please

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Sure, I heard you right now the floor is for councilwoman Champagne

Ogema Romanelli: thank you

Councilor Champagne: Yes, thank you Julie. My comment is yes, we have spent a lot of money on legal fees however I'd like to membership to know how many things we put on hold and just didn't address that what was brought forward that was legal and we felt that we were going to leave it alone and hopefully it would go away, and we wouldn't be spending all this money on legal fees but after doing that a number of times we found that no that doesn't work they just keep coming at us and we're going to keep having to

address things and um not have legal representation wasn't wise so. Yes, we are using legal representation now but there's the number of times I wish I had had my count in front of me that we just put it on hold. We didn't want to spend that legal money, so I'd like the membership to know that thank you

Acting Speake Wolfe: Okay thanks for your comment and I see Larry Romanelli asked me to be in queue

Ogema Romanelli: thank you I just want to answer a few of those concerns that have been brought up um councilor Wittenberg said we used to have an ethics committee or ethics uh ordinance and now we no longer have it. Who took it out? Tribal council. uh we talked about in-house attorney that the Ogema has an in-house attorney, and the tribal council does not again whose fault is that? I asked for and received a half-time in-house attorney. Tribal council had the opportunity to go for and put something forward to get an in-house attorney, this has been a problem for a long time again, it falls back on the tribal council. You talk about this is the place to ask the questions and....and get answers. I've asked the question of the swamp you know that's a that's a very negative comment to speak about your uh tribe and it never got answered and it probably won't get answered today either because that person that made the statement was no longer here but people that support that person are here. Tell me what that was? um again talking about the meeting with the council in the Ogema, what I said was that we could meet without the attorneys being in the room and we could discuss whatever we want to they could be available and call them in if you want to have it with the attorneys that's fine too, I have no objection either way but the thing what the idea was to try and save some of the court action in the timing. I think it was Nikki Nelson that asked about peacekeeping, has anybody utilized peacekeeping? I have two times on two different occasions both times it was concerning a council person and in both times the council person which within the peacekeeping rules state that some of the information within the peacekeeping is to be held confidential. The next day the council person went out and put it on Facebook, so it didn't work in my case I support and know that we have a good peacekeeping department and they've done some great things but to ask if we have yes, I've used it two times utilized it. So, we talk about this is the place to ask questions. Okay council for example changed the donation ordinance and we can go back and forth on it but what they say now is that it has to be a native American 501 c3 to be make donations to it and that limits us greatly it's not a good idea and meanwhile the Pokagon Band uh donated a thousand food boxes in in the community uh meanwhile the tran uh Grand Traverse resort and casinos gave a large donation to a veteran's organization. Meanwhile, Grand Traverse Band casinos donated 7,000 pounds of food. Meanwhile, Grand Traverse Resort and casinos donated a project to feed the kids, adopt a family. Those weren't only native American that was in the community and what does our tribe do our tribal councils limits our donations to only native American 501c3 which of which some council members have a 501c3. So, if you want to answer questions feel free to answer some of those. The in-house attorney, the donations, the swamp, please feel free to answer thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Councilor Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, I thought I'd answer your question to the swamp but then if I told you or shared with you my idea of the swamp then it would be uh hearsay and that's the problem of hearsay, because if I hear somebody else saying something I repeat it and it's not what they said no, the thing is is go right back to me the person that said it not five people down the line. That's my view on that part Miigwech

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay I think the queue has been exhausted. I see no one else in queue that moves us on to item

C. Legislative Affairs Update

I'll open it up for tribal councils' if they wish to have a legislative affairs update. Any tribal council wish to have a legislative affairs update? I'll put myself in queue. I have one small one, I believe on February 10th the resort issued um a new statement on the benefits for tribal members with their discounts and such that are available. We do currently have a full food court in the Big Lake dining food court, they've added the new Mexican Taqueria Diablos uh or something like that um that's there now but I what I read on the memo, and I don't have it in front of me so it's not verbatim but they did on um February 10th extend that those three options in the Big Like dining food court will offer tribal members their 50% discount on Thursdays and then on the rest of the week I think those venues are also included in a 20% discount for tribal members. Um so that's my comment for legislative affair update

Councilor DiPiazza: oh, I...I....

Acting Speaker Wolfe: any other councilors wish to have one

Councilor DiPiazza: I did have one but uh Mep Spinners is offering to buy squirrel tails because they make lures out of them and they'll give you cash for the squirrel tail, or you can take the value of the squirrel tails out and Mep Spinners so something think about. My information I'll ship it to you, but they wanted to tail off squirrels to make their little fishing lures so

Acting Speaker Wolfe: any other councilors wish to have legislative affair update?
Seeing none or hearing none would move us on to the next item which is

D. Public Comment Period

Open it up to tribal citizens for public comment. Seeing first in queue Sara Agosa you have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my question is regarding the constitution and rule of law. So, the Ogema manages the executive branch, and the Ogema has stated he's also the chief of police. So, my question is hypothetically if the Ogema were to commit a crime, who enforces the law over the Ogema and chief of police? in essence who enforces the enforcer thank you that is my question

Councilor Wever: good question

Acting Speaker Wolfe: for response

Ogema Romanelli: would you like me to answer? Per the constitution the tribal council has been and has the ability and the duty to make sure that uh the tribe is running right and that the members are acting accordingly. So, I would think that at least the tribal council has the ability to take some action if that were the case thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Councilor Wittenberg for a response

Councilor Wittenberg: yeah, that response concerning that that to me. Nobody is above the law and there's been many times if you look back in history of different uh police departments that where they turned around and nailed their own chief. So, google it, look it up, you can see it. Nobody, nobody is above the law and to me when a law is when they are called in and they to me uh need to do the duty and it's things like that that turned around and puts a big twist on exactly uh am I above the law or do what I you know do what I feel like I feel is right, so it makes a big difference, bottom line Miigwech my opinion

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Councilor DiPiazza did you have a response to the public comment?

Councilor DiPiazza: oh, all somewhat yeah, I'm glad people are saying adhere to the law and things on that order because something was done on the ninth and now you have closed session information that's been put out to the public it was not released from closed session. So, I'm glad they say I want to adhere to the law so this will be uh it'll be interesting I assure you thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Councilor Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: that must mean we're going back to court again

Councilor DiPiazza: well, I told you I got big pockets you don't want to behave I don't know what to do

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay point of order tribal councilor, point of order

Councilor DiPiazza: My apologies

Acting Speaker Wolfe: moving on to the next person in queue Laura you have the floor

Laura Echelbarger: uh thank you Madam Speaker Laura Echelbarger 2276 um I just wanted to put it out there that the election board has an open meeting tomorrow night at 5:15 and it's on the website for the login via zoom. Um we were not invited to this

Saturday meeting we were attending um as members, but we've not been invited until apparently today um, but we do have an open meeting for tomorrow night thank you

Ogema Romanelli: and I can respond to that

Acting Speaker Wolfe: thanks for your comment next in queue

Ogema Romanelli: all elected officials were invited thank you

Laura Echelbarger: actually, I'm sorry Julie.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Go ahead Laura

Laura Echelbarger: I just checked your email our election board email we didn't get any email from the Ogema or the Ogema's office inviting us to the meeting

Ogema Romanelli: okay it was said in an open session both times and I can send you an email if you'd like thank you. Will do

Laura Echelbarger: thanks Julie

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay next we have in queue Sara Agosa you have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 my question is the Ogema did not complete the 100% um enrollment audit of membership files. So, my question of council is what is your plan and when will this audit be completed thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: so, I think a comment for clarification in that resolution it was to start the process of getting the RFP posted for the 100% enrollment audit that is still going to happen that is still going to take place that resolution is not going anywhere but due to the other changes in turmoil inside the tribal government with no budget being passed no person in the enrollment department that really can assist with the enrollment RFP process. We're moving forward as best we can and as fast as we can. I don't have a better explanation than that. That's the answer to the comment. Do you have an additional comment? Miss Agosa

Sara Agosa: yes, I do because the resolution does specify on the bottom that the audit was supposed to commence within 60 days, that means be completed within 60 days and I think that excuses have been made but the Ogema as the head of the executive branch, who oversees negotiates contracts, doesn't necessarily need to rely on the enrollment department to craft and negotiate a contract. So, I'd like to request that this is done, and that this resolution is complied with. Thank you that is my comment

Acting Speaker Wolfe: any tribal council wish to response?

Councilor DiPiazza: well

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Gary DiPiazza you have the floor

Councilor DiPiazza: you know the money has been put in there for the 2022 budget but there again the budgets on hold, so how do we do that? now everybody didn't want to do anything earlier because the budgets not approved. Um how do you want to do that? one minute you're saying no, no, no, no, now it's like yeah, yeah, yeah. I I'm confused, but to me the budgets not approved there's no money to even, you can put the RFP out what goods that going to do to be honest when there's no money when it comes back and it's in vote and that resolution was that you know it's not that it was the audit be completed in 60 days, that audit could take five years because there are a lot of court sealed files that aren't, the courts will have to unseal and would they unseal them? I don't know, maybe, maybe not. People want their adoption files all thrown out there to people to paw through I don't know.

Councilor Wittenberg: I do you can put mine right there

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Hey call to order

Councilor Guenthardt: Mines good

Acting Speaker Wolfe: quick response

Councilor DiPiazza: If you want to put it out go ahead, I don't care. I'm just telling you the court sealed files so whatever you want to do you want to argue about how.

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Is that your comment

Councilor DiPiazza: I'm all set Madam recorder or Speaker I'm sorry

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Sara you have the floor

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa 4478 I'm looking at the resolution and number two says such audit shall commence within 60 days of enactment of this resolution and I also thought that because it wasn't it was passed in 2021 that the funds were already designated. That it's not reliant on the 2022 budget and what I'd really like to see from my elected officials is that everybody is on the same page in terms of the information they shared. I don't feel that this information should be controversial it should be factual and that's what I'm reading in the resolution. So, Gary I disagree with you please read the resolution and again, I'd just like to emphasize this was put into law this is a resolution and that it should be done thank you that is my comment

Councilor DiPiazza: can I respond Madam Speaker?

Acting Speaker Wolfe: sure, you can respond

Councilor DiPiazza: if you want me to just be a bobble head and agree with everything that that's what you're gonna get. I will not do that. I have my own opinions. I read things and I I assure you, I know our constitution pretty well and all the ordinances and everything else out there but you know to say we all just need to get on the same page you know what I can tell somebody it's blue and they're gonna argue with me that it's red and at the end of the day the pizza man could be right. I'm done

Sara Agosa: Can I please respond to that? I just I'll just make it very short. Sara Agosa 4478 maybe that's right when you're talking about pizza delivery but not when it comes to law and that's where I have issues thank you that is my comment

Councilor DiPiazza: well, thank. I'm gonna respond please. thank you for that if, that's what you really got out of that my apologies. Yeah, I don't know what to say I'm done thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay we're gonna take that as final comment on that public comment we do have one person that just raised your hand you're in queue Michael Burmiester you have the floor

Michael Burmiester: Madam Speaker I I um point of order has the money been appropriated for said action on the enrollment audit? thank you

Acting Speaker Wolfe: it would not be funded in the continuation of the 2021 budget for January or February that is my comment. I'm not going to go into it further pending the legal cases

Zoom user: there you go Sara

Michael Burmiester: I I don't under Julie I don't understand what you just said please

Acting Speaker Wolfe: so, the amount of money needed for a 100% enrollment audit would not be allocated in 2021 and it would not be with the two-month continuation amount available to fund that in the entirety.

Michael Burmiester: So, the money has not been allocated

Acting Speaker Wolfe: it's proposed in the 2022 budget but as we know that's not adopted

Michael Burmiester: okay thank you I appreciate the answer

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay with that seeing there's no one else in queue we will end that full end public comment moving to closed

Sara Agosa: Excuse me

Acting Speaker Wolfe:

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.

Thank you all for your attendance if you are not a part of closed session, please exit the call now. Thank you

Councilor Guenthardt: I'll make a

MOTION TO CLOSE FIRST SESSION; By Guenthardt; support by Wittenberg

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: So, motion on the floor to end first open support by councilor Guenthardt support by council Wittenberg. any discussion from tribal council? seeing none Pam do a roll call

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #10

T. Guenthardt – Yes	C. Champagne – Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	P. Johnson - Yes		
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-0)

Eight in favor

Acting Speaker Wolfe: we are adjourned at 12:09.

XI. Open Session

Acting Speaker Wolfe: okay so we're back for second open session for our Wednesday February 16th tribal council meeting. I'll entertain a motion to bring us back into second open

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: I'm entertaining a motion to go into second open

Councilor Wittenberg: I'll make a

MOTION TO GO INTO SECOND OPEN; By Wittenberg; support by Wever

Councilor Wever: Okay support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Ok we have a motion on the floor by councilor Wittenberg seconded by councilor Wever. Any discussion on the item? any abstentions? Seeing or hearing none Pam do a roll call please

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #11

T. Guenthardt – Yes	C. Champagne – Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	P. Johnson - Yes		
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-0)

Eight in favor we are open at 1:04

Acting Speaker Wolfe: The next agenda item is item

A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session

There were no items to be moved from Closed to Open Session.

Any discussion or comments by tribal council? Anyone wishing to move any items from Open to Close? I mean Closed to Open? Seeing or hearing none. I will looking for a motion to adjourn

XII. Adjourn

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make that

MOTION TO ADJOURN SECOND OPEN: by DiPiazza; supported by Johnson

Councilor Johnson: Support

Acting Speaker Wolfe: Okay we have a motion on the floor by councilor DiPiazza supported by councilor Johnson. Any comments or discussion? any abstentions? seeing or hearing none Pam do a roll call

Acting Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #12

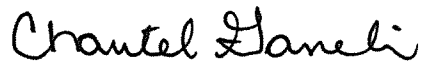
T. Guenthardt – Yes	C. Champagne – Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	P. Johnson - Yes		
R. Wittenberg- No	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (7-1-0-0)

seven in favor one against

Acting Speaker Wolfe: We are adjourned at 1:05 pm. Thanks everybody

Respectfully Submitted,



Chantel Gamelin,
Transcribing Assistant



Pam Johnson,
Acting Tribal Council Recorder