

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016  
LITTLE RIVER BAND  
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on February 17, 2016. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

**I. Opening Prayer**

Chuck Fisher, Tribal Warrior, offered the Opening Prayer.

Creator, and guessed he would really like to begin by acknowledging the losses that we encountered over the last few days, Marsha Louise Mock and Jerry Lee Champagne Chippewa Ray have walked on. It may be the case that there is another Tribal member who has walked on as well but he doesn't have that information at this time. That is a lot and reminds us that life is a series of beginnings and endings in a lot of different ways. It is also a series of losses and gains as well, learnings, teachings and it is a lot of things. So many things that we have difficulty holding them all at one time, having them in their mind at one time but if you carefully put things together in your life they will be there for you when you need them. I am reminded by something that my mom used to say to me quite a bit and that's a lot of people don't know how to live and Creator I am asking you to remind us that is part of the reason that they are here is to take up that learning and to walk that road. And with that I will say Miigwech.

Speaker Johnson thanked Chuck Fisher for those wonderful words this morning to start this meeting off. Johnson said he would also like to add the name of and doesn't believe he wasn't here last Wednesday where they may have done it about Jean Guenthardt-ba also walked on. Johnson said they have at least three maybe four Tribal members that has walked on in the last week and a half so keep them all in their prayers.

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

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

**B. Roll Call**

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

Quorum established.

Others Present: Grace Hendler, Jenifer Crampton, Tom St. Dennis, Jake Kequom, Don Mac Donald, Julie Wolfe, Kelly Maser, Frank Figgels, Steve Wheeler.

Others Present That Did Not Sign In: George Le Vasseur, Mary Thomas, Officer Brandi Johnson, Shayne Machen, Rebecca Liebing, Mike Ceplina, Kenny Pheasant, Chuck Fisher.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDS AND REMOVALS; UNDER CONTINUING BUSINESS, C.3 IS AN ADD, THE BINOJEEUK WILL BE REMOVED, OLD BUSINESS C WILL BE REMOVED, D WILL BE REMOVED, NEW BUSINESS B WILL BE MOVED TO CLOSED SESSION; UNDER CLOSED SESSION, C.4 HAS BEEN MOVED FROM OPEN TO CLOSED, REMOVE THE BINOJEEUK CLOSED SESSION MINUTES;** by Di Piazza; supported by Burger.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #1**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**D. Tribal Council Minutes  2/10/16**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 2/10/16 FOR FILING;** by Medacco; supported by Lewis.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain. Johnson said he is going to vote on this even though he was absent because he read the minutes and they made sense to him. Johnson reiterated that he didn't see any corrections on the report so he is going to go ahead and vote on this. Johnson asked if there was any other discussion on this item.

**Roll Call #2**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
----------------	----------------	-----------------

S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

**1. Approval of a grant application into the Bemidji Area Indian Health Service (BAIHS), Special Injury Prevention Projects (FY 2016) for a Tribal Suicide Awareness and Prevention Initiative in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00**

This FY 2016 grant funding through the BAIHS will be used to develop a tribally driven Suicide Awareness and Prevention Program that also involves the Manistee Centra Wellness Network and the Manidookewigashibjigan (Sacred Bundle) Suicide Prevention Program through the American Indian Health and Family Services Center (in Detroit).

Chuck Fisher from the Grants Department and Julie Wolfe from Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health represented this agenda item. Wolfe said they are just here to ask approval from the Council to submit an application to the Bemidji Area Indian Health Services to apply for a one-year grant for \$10,000 to help them create a sustainable coalition for Suicide Awareness and Prevention.

Councilor Di Piazza said just one question. Di Piazza said there is no match on this at all correct.

Julie Wolfe replied no there is no match.

**MOVE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0217-043; APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BEMIDJI AREA INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES (BAIHS) SPECIAL INJURY PREVENTION PROJECT (FY 2016) FOR A TRIBALLY DRIVEN SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION INITIATIVE IN AN AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00; by Burger; supported by Di Piazza.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #3**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Julie Wolfe said one quick comment for Councilor Wittenberg, Happy Birthday.

Councilor Wittenberg said Miigwech.

Chuck Fisher said another quick comment is the application is due tomorrow.

**B. Budget Modifications**

Speaker Johnson noted they do not have anything under Budget Modifications.

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

- 1. Approval for Councilor Burger to travel and give Testimony at the United States House Appropriations Subcommittee concerning Budgets for Native American Programs**  
The Hearings take place in Washington, D.C. on March 17-18, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Councilor Burger explained just for the information of the membership. Burger said this particular travel is to testimony before the United House of Representatives Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Interior. Burger said it concerns the 2016-2017 Budget submissions of the President. Burger said in those submissions Little River Band will be listed specifically since they are a Self-Governance Tribe with the Department of Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs. Burger said it is always good to have the Tribe's position on the official record either in support of or making comment about how the President formulated his Budget for Indian Country. Burger said any member of the Elected Body can do this and she always looks to her colleagues to go first but she is happy to do this on behalf of their people.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0217.....**

*Julie Wolfe made comments from the audience but they were not picked up on the recorder and could not be heard.*

Speaker Johnson said to Julie Wolfe that they will get her in the cue after the motion is done.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0217-044;  
APPROVAL FOR COUNCIL BURGER TO TRAVEL AND GIVE  
TESTIMONY AT THE UNITED STATES HOUSE  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CONCERNING BUDGETS  
FOR NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS; by Lewis; supported by  
Wittenberg.**

Speaker Johnson asked Julie Wolfe to come forward.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said she just wanted to ask the other Councilors if there are other people available to travel because it looks like by these dates for the next two items Councilor Burger is going to miss a lot of business that goes on here for their Tribe and she needs.....she feels that it needs to be more diverse for Tribal Council because they can't always have one Councilor there saying "*Hey look at us, hey look at us.*" Wolfe said they need to get more people because 17-18<sup>th</sup> is one meeting, 28-31<sup>st</sup> is a meeting and the 22-24<sup>th</sup> she didn't look at that one which was just added today. Wolfe said she encouraged her Council to be supportive.....she is supportive of her efforts but she encourage her Council to be a little bit more diverse and not always have Councilor Burger going out on travel because she thinks she does need to be here and do some things. Wolfe said she knows they work as a body and she is only one vote but she would just like to ask her Council to consider that.

Councilor Crampton said just in response to that, he understands what Julie Wolfe is saying, but if they are going to spend that money and that time they should probably send the person from Council who has the best knowledge. Crampton said he knows on this testimony one of the things that is going to be brought up is IHS and their Self-Governance and Councilor Burger was the leader on this Self-Governance area also in the IHS and probably the best qualified Tribal member to testify to it.

Mike Ceplina, Tribal #0692, asked Councilor Burger how much do they plan on cutting their Budget or are they adding to the Budget.

Councilor Burger said right now the President's request added almost 3 ½% to the overall Indian Health Service Budget and a lot of that came in the form of Contract Support Costs dollars which is a direct dollar that comes to them. Burger said the Bureau's Budget also had a small add and she thinks it was around 2.7%. Burger said a lot of those, again, came in the form of Contract Support Costs dollars that the Tribe has lobbied for and won. Burger said also their Budget because of utilization they are starting to see the impact of utilization numbers in their federal dollars but to date they have not seen any significant reduction and last year they did. Burger said they saw some reductions in sequestration but this year, for whatever reason, the Tribal Programs seem to have dodged the bullet on that.

Councilor Lewis asked Speaker Johnson if she should reiterate that.

Speaker Johnson said no it is not necessary. Johnson said he just wanted to add onto because this is a valid concern that their membership may have or will have is the fact that they are seeing a lot of travel by a couple of Council members. Johnson said he wanted to remind their membership is that the way they structured Council right now they have three Council members that are representing Council at the Legislative Liaison for the Federal Level and they also have two Council members representing as Liaisons to the State Level. Johnson

said they have five Council members that representing either the Federal or State Levels and when these issues arrive at a Federal Level usually one of those three will be travelling and in this case they are going to see Councilor Burger travelling on these issues. Johnson said it isn't that the other Council members are not travelling because they are. Johnson said at this one NCAI issue is that he knows the Ogema is not be there and they need to have their vote there and it is important that they participate in these things and as they move on to the Legislative Agenda Item is going to demonstrate the importance of why they need to be travelling and attending these meetings.

Recorder Riley asked if Councilor Lewis should correct her motion because there is no resolution.

Speaker Johnson said correct.

**MOVE TO APPROVE FOR COUNCILOR BURGER TO TRAVEL AND GIVE TESTIMONY AT THE UNITED STATES HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CONCERNING BUDGETS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS; by Lewis; supported by Wittenberg.**

Speaker Johnson said he still has Councilor Wittenberg supporting this and it is still open for discussion.

Councilor Burger said she will abstain from the vote even though there are no direct impact but it doesn't matter.

Speaker Johnson said he understands.

Councilor Di Piazza said he is in support of Councilor Burger going because she probably has the most knowledge on that and they just got back from travel last week. Di Piazza said Speaker Johnson will fill them in on some things that were very exciting.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any other discussion on this.

**Roll Call #4**

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

Motion carried (8-0-1-0)

- 2. Approval for Councilor Burger to travel and attend the TSGAC/SGAC Meetings in Washington, D.C. on March 28-31, 2016**

Councilor Burger is a seated representative for the Bemidji Area and Midwest Region (IHS/BIA).

Councilor Burger explained just for the information of the membership. Burger said the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians successfully placed an Elected Member of their Body on the Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee for the Indian Health Service and the Self-Governance Advisory Committee for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Burger said these two committees are representative of approximately 250 plus Tribes across the country. Burger said their Region the Bemidji Area and the Mid-west Region there are 36 Tribes that have an opportunity to place a delegate to those two committees and she is very honored not only to represent Little River Band there but also Bemidji Area in the Mid-west Region on behalf of all of those Tribes. Burger said Self-Governance has a very strong voice in Native American Affairs in Washington, D.C. and they are the only group of Tribes that have Special Committees to those two departments and it is very good for Little River to be placed on those committees. Burger said either herself or any member of their Elected Officials and she guessed she gets the nod because she did help champion Self-Governance for the Tribe here. Burger said she is very honored and humbled to be able to represent their Nation there.

**MOTION TO APPROVE FOR COUNCILOR BURGER TO TRAVEL AND ATTEND THE TSGAC AND SGAC MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON MARCH 28-31, 2016;** by Riley; supported by Wabindato.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain.

Councilor Burger said she is.

Speaker Johnson said Councilor Burger is going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #5**

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

Motion carried (8-0-1-0)

**3. Approval for Councilor Burger to travel and attend National Congress of American Indians Tribal Nations Legislative Summit**

The NCAI Winter Session takes place at the Capital Hilton on February 22-24, 2016.

Speaker Johnson noted this is where they have a vote, either the Ogema or an Elected Official and being that the Ogema is not able to travel on this one they are going to have.....or at least they are recommending Councilor Burger to be there.

Councilor Burger said she just wanted to add for the information for the membership. Burger said the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest political organization in the country dealing with Native American Affairs and has been around since the 1930's. Burger said the Executive Winter Session usually takes place in Washington, D.C. and there are delegations that go to Capitol Hill and she will be a part of those delegations. Burger said they will also be voting on some of the matters before the committee and the Executive Body. Burger said one of the things that is going to happen there.....there are two things that are going to happen there. Burger said there is going to be a direct consultation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Contract Support Cost Policy that will have an impact on how those dollars are appropriated to Tribes. Burger said she knows that there at least two consultations that Indian Health Services are planning to hold and believed that one of those be on Contract Support with the other being on the overall Budget as it relates to Information Technology Support for Tribes. Burger said probably the biggest expense that Tribes have is their Electronic Health Record when it comes to their Operations and Healthcare. Burger said she knows it is a busy week and for people that haven't been to these things. Burger said she knows that some of her fellow Councilors have been. Burger said these are from 7:00 in the morning until 8:00 at night meetings. Burger said it is a very long day and it is a lot of movement with a lot of activity hopefully she will be able to have some positive impact on behalf of their Tribe in a lot of these areas. Burger said she knows she is going to put comments on the record during the Consultation Sessions because she is not known to be quiet.

**MOTION TO APPROVE FOR COUNCILOR BURGER TO TRAVEL AND ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS TRIBAL NATIONS LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT; by Di Piazza; supported by Lewis.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain.

Councilor Burger said she will abstain.

Speaker Johnson said it is open for discussion.

Councilor Crampton said he would just like to thank Councilor Burger because he thinks the delegate is the Ogema and they saw no submission for travel to this so she stepped up and going to be representing them.



Councilor Burger thanked Councilor Crampton and said she knows he is going to have a busy week at MAST.

Councilor Crampton agreed.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any other discussion on this item.

**Roll Call #6**

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

Motion carried (8-0-1-0)

**IV. Acceptance of Reports**

**A. Report of the Tribal Ogema**

- 1. **Operations Report**  **None Submitted**
- 2. **Financial Report**  **None Submitted**

Speaker Johnson noted that they have not received the Operations and Financial Reports from the Ogema at this point.

**V. Acceptance of Commission Reports**

**A. Binojeeuk Commission**  **None Submitted**

Speaker Johnson noted that they removed the Binojeeuk Commission Report because they did not have enough Commissioners for a quorum and did not meet for that period.

- B. Enrollment Commission**  **None Submitted**
- C. Gaming Commission**  **January 2016**
- D. Health Commission**  **January 2016**
- E. Housing Commission**  **None Submitted**
- F. Natural Resource Commission**  **None Submitted**
- G. Commerce Commission**  **January 2016**

Speaker Johnson noted they are waiting on the Enrollment Commission, Housing Commission and Natural Resource Commission. Johnson said therefore they have three commissions they can accept as a bundle or individually and those are the Gaming Commission, Health Commission and Commerce Commission.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE GAMING COMMISSION, HEALTH COMMISSION AND COMMERCE COMMISSION REPORTS DATED JANUARY 2016 FOR FILING;** by Riley; supported by Wabindato.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #7**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**VI. Acceptance of Committee Minutes and Other Entities**

Speaker Johnson said they have the Elders Committee Minutes, Little River Casino Preference Report and Tribal Government Preference Report. Johnson said they can do them combined or individually.

Mike Ceplina, Tribal #0692, said he would like to know on that Little River Casino Resort Preference Report how many enrolled Tribal members are there that is working there now on that report.

Recorder Riley replied 117 he believed.

Councilor Medacco said 109.

Speaker Johnson reiterated they can do them individually or combined.

Councilor Burger said to Speaker Johnson that she would like to take these in two separate things. Burger said she would like to take these in two separate things.

**A. Elders Committee Minutes  January 2016**

**MOVE TO ACCEPT THE ELDERS COMMITTEE MINUTES DATED JANUARY 2016; by Burger; supported by Di Piazza.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #8**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**B. Little River Casino Resort Preference Report  January 2016**

**C. LRBOI Tribal Government Preference Report  January 2016**

**MOVE TO ACCEPT THE LITTLE RIVER CASINO RESORT AND LITTLE RIVER TRIBAL GOVERNMENT INDIAN PREFERENCE IN EMPLOYMENT REPORTS NOTING THAT THE RESORT IS COUNTING 109 TRIBAL MEMBERS IN ITS EMPLOYMENT AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS COUNTING 101 IN ITS EMPLOYMENT;** by Burger; supported by Wabindato.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Recorder Riley said he just wanted to thank Councilor Burger for clarifying that because he was going off of.....it must have been something else he saw.

Councilor Medacco said those were December's numbers.

Recorder Riley said whoa, that is quite a drop, alright.

Speaker Johnson said to Grace Hendler, good luck in spelling "whoa." Johnson asked if there was any other discussion on this item.

**Roll Call #9**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**VII. Old Business**

**A. Financial Report**  None Submitted

**B. Housing Commission**  None Submitted

**C. Authorize Payment of Services Rendered**

Out of Compliance Payment of services rendered (payment to come out of Youth Grant Fund) for one of two beading classes. This item was postponed from the 2/10/16 Agenda. This item was removed during Agenda Review on February 15, 2016.

**D. Approval for Tribal Ogema to Execute Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement with the National Forest Service**

This Agreement allows Tribal Police Officers to assist the Forest Service when they need additional Law Enforcement to Support National Forest System Lands. This item was postponed at the 2/10/16 Tribal Council Meeting by request. This item was removed during Agenda Review on February 15, 2016.

Speaker Johnson noted that they do not have anything under Old Business because they have not received the Financial or Housing Reports to move forward on and they removed Item C and D from the agenda.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Authorizing release of Judgment Fund Monies held in Trust for certain Minors reaching the Age of Majority**

Distribution of 80/20 Judgment Plan money released to minors turning 18 in February, 2016.

Recorder Riley said this is just wrapping up the submissions for January and believed it is missing a comma because and the monies is being released in February.

**MOVE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0217-044;  
AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF JUDGMENT FUND MONIES  
HELD IN TRUST FOR CERTAIN MINORS REACHING THE AGE  
OF MAJORITY FUNDS TO BE RELEASE IN FEBRUARY, 2016;**  
by Burger; supported by Di Piazza.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

**Roll Call #10**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**B. Approval of Service Agreement with AmericanChecked, Inc. for the purpose of Conducting Background Investigations**

AmericanChecked, Inc. is a Tribally-owned Background Investigation Company that came recommended to the Gaming Commission by a Consultant highly regarded in Indian Country. This item was moved to Closed Session during Agenda Review on February 15, 2016.

Speaker Johnson reminded everyone that Item B has been moved to Closed Session because it is an item that involves a contract and they have those in Closed Session.

**C. Authorize the Construction Project Task Force to approve Expenditures not to exceed the \$400,000 budgeted amount for Construction, Furniture Fixtures and Equipment for the Pharmacy Clinic Project**

This subordinate body shall be required to act by motion and roll call vote, with majority vote prevailing, on any matter that comes for approval or action of the Task Force.

Steve Wheeler, from the Construction Project Task Force, represented this agenda item. Wheeler said the resolution is to authorize the Construction Project Task Force to approve expenditures not to exceed the \$400,000 budgeted for the Pharmacy construction, furniture fixtures and equipment. Wheeler said if they recall last week that they were meeting they approved the Budget for the construction and authorized the Task Force to act on the Pharmacy Project. Wheeler said this just further declining that the Construction Task Force has the approval to authorize expenditures not to exceed the \$400,000 budgeted for the project.

Mike Ceplina said he would like to ask if this was the money that allocated before that they got for it and it is not coming out of Tribal Funds.

Steve Wheeler said if he could answer that. Wheeler said the funds are out of the Reserve for Pharmacy Construction.

Mike Ceplina asked what more construction is there.....

Councilor Di Piazza said to Mike Ceplina on what and that he cannot hear him.

Speaker Johnson asked Mike Ceplina to please come up to the mic.

Mike Ceplina asked what more construction is there to be done on the Pharmacy.

Councilor Burger said to Mike Ceplina that the space that is downstairs has to be built out because the original space that appropriated for the Pharmacy is really very small. Burger said there was another space along that same corridor in the Clinic Area that was set aside for radiology and that is going to become the Pharmacy space which is better suited space-wise in square footage to accommodate the needs of the Pharmacy. Burger said they have to go in and do the.....all the installation of the FFE and then create the other spaces for consultation to secure that the patients are being able to speak with the Pharmacist in a secure private space so the whole thing has to be built out basically.

Mike Ceplina said so the other space is going to be used.

Councilor Burger said the other space is going to be used but she is not sure what the Health Director has planned for it but knew at one point they were discussing having wellness and a potential for working with county to come in and do WIC and some of the other programs in that space but she is not sure what the Health Director has planned for that at this time.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0217-045; TO  
AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT TASK FORCE  
TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000.00  
BUDGETED AMOUNT FOR CONSTRUCTION, FURNITURE**

**FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT AND COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FOR THE PHARMACY CLINIC PROJECT;** by Di Piazza; supported by Riley.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion. Johnson said for public record in the Agenda Review it was brought to their attention as they move forward on this construction that they need to be thinking about, the Director for the Clinic is here, in that discussion for Public Record that they are going to need to start working on policies and procedures on how they are going to implement the Pharmacy Program and also Council needs to be thinking about a resolution in regards to the Socially Economically Tied People to also enjoy using the Pharmacy. Johnson said these are some things that they need to be working on in regards to this construction while it takes place. Johnson said once they cut that ribbon they can enjoy having an enterprise that can be used by more than just the Tribal members.

Recorder Riley asked does the \$400,000 he sees it includes equipment and computer equipment but does it include all OS & E.

Speaker Johnson said for the common people in the audience OS & E stands for.

Recorder Riley replied other equipment.

Councilor Burger said other supplies and equipment.

Recorder Riley reiterated other supplies and equipment. Riley said it doesn't obviously include the inventory because that is a separate thing but he means as far as all the other stuff, is that included.

Steve Wheeler said correct, there is a section in that Budget of Start Up Costs that this does not include because this is just construction, FF & E and equipment to get it started.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any other discussion on this item.

**Roll Call #11**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**D. Approval to Replenish the Strategic Gaming Reserve Fund and Authorization to Expend Funds**

\$1,400,000.00 will be transferred from the Housing Stock Reserve Fund to the Strategic Gaming Reserve Fund to continue exploring additional opportunity and potential development of another Tribal Enterprise.

Steve Wheeler, from the Construction Project Task Force, and Tom St. Dennis from the Commerce Department, represented this agenda item. Wheeler said the resolution is to approve the replenishment to the Strategic Gaming Reserve Fund and authorization to expend funds. Wheeler said \$1.4 million is needed for Calendar Year 2016 to continue to explore the potential development of the Gaming Enterprise and at the end of January the Strategic Gaming Reserve Fund was down to \$5,375.20. Wheeler said they met with the Commerce Department and they submitted a Budget based on what the needs are for this year with a Budget Narrative and a complete Budget and the amount of that is \$1.4 million.

Mike Ceplina asked what the Housing Stock Reserve will be down to after this.

Steve Wheeler said that is a good question. Wheeler said after this transfer of funds the Housing Stock Reserve will have a balance of \$1,639,000 approximately.

Mike Ceplina said it is a shame that their Housing Stock started out at \$4 million and down to that right now. Ceplina asked how many houses they built, a couple. Ceplina asked if Council is thinking about building housing for their people that need it. Ceplina said they don't need stick built homes because he is living in a modular home and they could have modular homes up there for a lot cheaper and a lot more of them. Ceplina asked Council if they were thinking about the future for this Tribe.

Councilor Crampton said actually the Housing Stock Reserve has sit there for almost.....at that amount for almost four or five years when he was on Council too.

*Mike Ceplina (from the audience) said that they built two homes when he was on Council.*

Councilor Crampton said yeah, he built a home. Crampton reiterated that it sat at that amount for almost four years now and yes there is another plan they brought forward so they will be working with Housing.

*Mike Ceplina (from the audience) asked if Councilor Crampton could explain what that plan was.*

Councilor Crampton said yes it is the 184 Program to bring in 20 House Block Grants not just one.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0217-046;  
APPROVAL TO REPLENISH THE STRATEGIC GAMING  
RESERVE FUND; AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND FUNDS;** by  
Riley; supported by Di Piazza.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Mike Ceplina said just one more question. Ceplina asked how much has the Tribe spent on this Muskegon Project.

Steve Wheeler replied since inception and this was the Club Keno Settlement.....since inception and this is the purchase of all the land, etc. so on, they spent \$18.3 million.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any more discussion on this item.

**Roll Call #12**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**IX. Concluding Business**

- A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, February 24, 2016**
- B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update**

Speaker Johnson noted the Ogema is absent for the Business Update so they will move on.

**C. Legislative Affairs Update**

Councilor Crampton said no, but he thinks that Speaker Johnson has an announcement that he should make.

Speaker Johnson said he has a few of them. Johnson said first of all they went down to Lansing two weeks ago and that was the reason why he was not here at Council. Johnson said he was meeting with the Attorney General, Bill Schutte, along with the Ogema and they had the opportunity to share their feelings about the case in which the National Labor Review Board. Johnson said Little River is entertaining to move to the Supreme Court and they requested that the Attorney General sign on with an Amicus Brief at that meeting and the response they got from them is that they would consider it however they wanted to see response from the other Tribes in the State of Michigan. Johnson said they had the opportunity to go to the United Tribes Meeting the following week in which there



was at least seven Tribes at that meeting. Johnson said they unanimously supported what they are doing at the Supreme Court and asking the State to sign on the Amicus Brief. Johnson said the information that they got from that they provided to the Attorney General's Office and to the Governor between the two of them they had the discussions and they both agreed. Johnson said the Attorney General is going to move forward on signing onto the Amicus Brief on behalf and supporting Little River's movement at the Supreme Court Level. Johnson said this is a huge step forward on relationship building between the State and Little River in a very positive way and it is going to have a long reaching effect as they move forward on other opportunities as they see forward. Johnson said he wanted to thank quite a few people involved Sonosky Chambers who reached out to the Solicitor General prior to that, Scofes who also opened the doors to have access to the Attorney General, of course his colleagues here at this table for supporting them, and their Attorneys from the Unified Legal Department in drafting up some of the talking points. Johnson said when they went into that meeting they were well prepared and it was well received because it was done very professionally. Johnson reiterated he wanted to thank everybody for helping them move forward in that direction. Johnson said also they went to the meeting last weekend or last Wednesday he was not here also for that one and that had to do with meeting with the Governor's Liaisons. Johnson said also the United Tribes Meeting which Councilor Di Piazza was involved because he is their Liaison for them. Johnson said it was a very productive meeting and what he did was send out the information to the various Directors in their Departments and also to Council. Johnson said they talked about really appreciating and started off the meeting with an elephant in the room which was the Flint Water Crisis. Johnson said they wanted to thank Little River for their support and what they did to help them out with the Community Children's Fund which pleased them. Johnson said they also had the Michigan Department of Human Services-Native American Affairs was there along with NICWA who made a presentation. Johnson said the Child I.D. App from the FBI that is new for when children turn up missing they can go to their phones right away and they can see it. Johnson said the FBI did an outstanding job there. Johnson said he is running two meetings together here and he wanted to separate them. Johnson said he will go back to the Liaisons where there were two major presentations with one having to do with the trails, for the Historic Trails in Michigan. Johnson said all the major highways that they see in the State of Michigan they really Historic Trails in which their Tribal people used and they just developed the roads primarily around that. Johnson said that explains to him how River Road when they go around the winding trees are so crooked and not straight but it is an easier way to walk. Johnson said what they want to do though in these Historic Trials is reach out to the Tribes and get the cultural aspect to these trails to put signs up in those regards. Johnson said the other one was the Sag/Chipps made a very nice presentation about collecting the bones of Tribal members from museums and they gave a number of how many it was but he didn't write it down. Johnson said Little River was right up there in those bones and they are going to have more bones coming back to them for burial and Jay Sam was mentioned several times at that meeting. Johnson said

they appreciate all the support they are getting on bringing their family members back to their homelands. Johnson said it was a well-received presentation. Johnson said that happened at the Liaison Meeting. Johnson said at the next meeting with the United Tribes, again, it was reaching out because the State was there and all the agencies there who made presentations. Johnson reiterated that he made sure that all the Directors and Councilors got his report. Johnson said it was a really productive meeting and he really enjoyed it. Johnson said one of the things that really came out of this was that the Attorney General signed onto this and one of the Lawyers that represents the United Tribes got up front and talked about the National Labor Relations and the Bill #511. Johnson said they have talked about that Bill for the past couple of months and also Bill #248 that they are looking at. Johnson said one of the things and he would ask Councilor Burger because she can articulate a little better than he. Johnson said the President pretty much said that the Tribes have laws on labor and he can support the bill, bottom line. Johnson said at that United Tribes Meeting it was brought to everybody's attention that Little River has laws governing labor and they would ask to reach out to Little River on the laws. Johnson said it is the only Tribe that he knows of that has Labor Laws in place and they have been sharing them on a regular basis to other Tribes. Johnson said the Labor Laws he thinks is going to reach out to many Tribes, at least, he hopes it does because of what the President is asking the Tribes to do. Johnson said he has Councilor Crampton then Councilor Burger.

Councilor Crampton said first he just wanted to mention that they had another member that people were talking about is Fred Chivis who has walked on. Crampton said he thinks that Speaker Johnson has undersold the importance of the Attorney General signing on because that dramatically increases the chances of their petition being heard that's is a \_\_\_\_\_ level. Crampton said the President didn't exactly say if they have their own Labor Laws that he would get behind them and what he was saying was that they have their own Labor Laws and have adopted certain standards from the National Labor Relations Board then he could get behind it. Crampton said the problem is that what the President wants them to adopt is exactly what they are fighting against.

Councilor Burger said she is glad that he brought that up because what is happening is the two Bills that are before the United States Senate and House of Representatives have been moving forward and the President's opposition to those Bills is primarily the result of the Labor Lobby. Burger said the AFL-CIO has been very instrumental in demonstrating or attempting to demonstrate that Tribal Employment Positions in particular in the Casinos are low paying, poor conditions, and the arguments are all of the horror stories that they can think of about working for an entity organized labor is moving forward with that to the President's desk. Burger said he is very receptive because he is a Democratic President in their system of Democracy. Burger said Democratic Parties are typically, heavily supported by organized labor so he is responsive to that. Burger said the President did issue an Official Statement, a Presidential Position if they will, that says if either of those two Bills will move forward and they will be

inclusive of language that requires a Tribe to set forth its own Employment Laws, as Councilor Crampton has indicted, that have the same rights and privileges under their laws that the National Labor Relations Board affords employees now that he could support it and sign it. Burger said the only \_\_\_ with that is some of those standards would require the Tribe to acquiesce to jurisdictions outside of their own courts so there is a little give and take there but what really needs to happen is the Tribes need to be a whole lot more vocal and they need to be a whole lot more demonstrative of the working conditions and the Employment Standards that they place for Tribal members and others that they have allowed to work in their facilities. Burger said quite frankly she thinks that they probably some of the best employment opportunities in the country at their Casino Operations and in their other Enterprises. Burger said Tribes are still the only, probably one of the only, entities still offering full benefit packages inclusive of paid vacation time. Burger said the reason she knows that is because if they worked outside of Tribal Entities they found out very quickly that they don't have full benefits or paid vacation time. Burger said they find out they don't have full time employment opportunity like they offer so they just have to be a lot more aggressive and a lot more vocal to put the holes in Labor's arguments. Burger said she says that knowing full well that in her lifetime that she has worked for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and her husband was a member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Black Smiths, Forgers and Helpers and a lot of their Tribal members have worked in other entities but there comes a time when they have to stand up for what is right.

Councilor Di Piazza said to Speaker Johnson that they forgot to mention Mt. Pleasant.

Speaker Johnson said the AG is also looking at signing on and believed he had signed on the case with Sag/Chippis in their Labor issue so both Tribes have signed onto it.

Mike Ceplina said he was wondering if they could give him an update and Tribal members on when they will be able to vote on the Constitutional Changes. Ceplina said when he was on Tribal Council they did all that and sent it to the BIA, tweaked it and everything, and he thinks it is time to vote on this stuff. Ceplina asked if they could give him a timeline for that.

Speaker Johnson said he would like to respond to that because he talked to Jason \_\_\_ who is the Supervisor for Interior out of Sault Ste. Marie Area and he told him that the Constitution is still at Mid-west waiting for their approval to move forward on it. Johnson said they will conduct the election process for the Constitution and it is shortly coming however when they reach out they have to work through Enrollment because it is not just registered voters but everybody that is 18 years or older. Johnson said they will send out the application to those people to register with them and then they will conduct the election at that point. Johnson said for right now Jason \_\_\_ said he will get back with him when he

talked to him and that was about three days ago or four days ago, last Thursday so six days ago. Johnson said he said that he will get back to him with a timeline when they figure when it was going to be done from Interior at Mid-west and that is where it is sitting right now.

Councilor Crampton said they fulfilled their obligations as to sending it in and doing all that they can. Crampton said it is in the hands of Interior right now and believed the deadline is in March 20<sup>th</sup> for them to have an answer back to them.

Recorder Riley said he just wanted to add, because he had spoken with somebody, and they had said around July at the earliest so he doesn't know if that is going to change or not but that was what he was told.

Councilor Di Piazza said just one more added thing. Di Piazza said on Tuesday they said they had the State Legislator with the Tribal Leaders and the Governor did request that they open the invocation on there so that is a good sign that he is thinking of them. Di Piazza said he was extremely nervous and had to do the invocation which he will read in English what he had prepared to do there. Di Piazza read *"I pray for all Creation, for all his relatives. Show me a good trail. Show me a good job for us to work together. Bring us all together and give us a good way."* Di Piazza said that pretty much fit with what everything is going on whether it is the State, Tribes or amongst themselves. Di Piazza said they all need to work together and to succeed. Di Piazza said he had done that in Odawa in their Language so that is about it and it was a well worth meeting, both days. Di Piazza said he thinks a lot was accomplished even the water crisis. Di Piazza said the Health Department was there and they are still.....he brought up about testing all the children in the schools to get a lead content. Di Piazza said if there are more problems and they really didn't have any plans of doing that yet.

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

Mike Ceplina, Tribal #0692, said there was a publication in their Currents that said that their Tribe is dying out. Ceplina said it is hard for him to swallow that one since his parents lived to eighty-some years old and he is 58 right now and is sure that he is not going to be dying out anytime soon and he is sure a lot of them aren't so to post that article in the paper he thinks was wrong. Ceplina said he has kids that are nine years old and they are not dying out. Ceplina said God willing, they will live for a long time and there is a lot of other kids here. Ceplina said for that to be posted in their paper he thinks was wrong. Ceplina said they are not a dying out Tribe.

Councilor Crampton said he actually shares Mike Ceplina's concern, he expressed it here, with the Ogema in private, and with the Council members. Crampton said his children actually laughed when they read the article because the math that was used 40 people over ten years equals 400 people not 4,000. Crampton reiterated

that his kids were kind of like asking him who it was and he was kind of shocked to tell them that it was the same person who calculates their blood quantum.

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

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE FIRST OPEN SESSION;** by Burger;  
supported by Riley.

**Roll Call #13**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

**XI. Open Session**

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 2:27 p.m.

**MOTION TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION;** by Riley; supported  
by Medacco.

**Roll Call #14**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

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

**MOTION TO MOVE RESOLUTION NUMBERS, MOTION AND ROLL CALL VOTE FROM CLOSED SESSION, SECTIONS B AND C;** by Riley; supported by Medacco.

**Roll Call #15**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

*The following items were moved from Closed Session to Open Session.*

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 16-0217-048,  
APPROVAL OF SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH  
AMERICANCHECKED, INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
CONDUCTING BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS;** by Riley;  
supported by Burger.

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

**Roll Call #C-5**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 16-0217-049,  
APPROVING TRIBAL OGEMA'S EXECUTION OF RETAINER  
LETTER WITH DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC;** by Medacco; supported  
by Riley.

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

**Roll Call #C-7**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 16-0217-050,  
APPROVING TRIBAL OGEMA'S EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT  
WITH MARKET RESOURCE GROUP;** by Medacco; supported by  
Riley.

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

**Roll Call #C-8**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 16-0217-051,  
APPROVAL OF AN ADDITIONAL \$500,000 FOR ANALYTICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES;** by Riley; supported by Wabindato.

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

**Roll Call #C-9**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

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

**XII. Adjourn**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING;** by Lewis; supported by Wabindato.

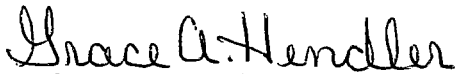
**Roll Call #16**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - No	M. Wabindato - Yes
R. Wittenberg - Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

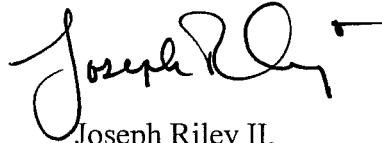
Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grace A. Hendler  
Transcribing Assistant



Joseph Riley II,  
Tribal Council Recorder