



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018  
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 28, 2018. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

**I. Opening Prayer**

Ron Pete, Tribal Elder, offered the Opening Prayer.

Our Father, Our Creator, thank you for giving us this glorious and blessed day. Thank you for watching over us as we came to work today in all of our travels and all of our guests.

Bless them wherever their final destinations may be today.

Hold your hand and bless those wonderful students in Florida who have suffered everything that they have suffered.

Be with them and care for them and let them know those 17 angels that are now walking with you are watching over them.

Be with them as they start rebuilding their lives and remember the families of those that have been lost.

Bless all of our Troops and all of our First Responders.

Bring them home safely to their families.

Bring our Troops home to a grateful Nation that is there serving with them.

Through our Creator's name. Amen.

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Speaker Riley asked Recorder Lewis to do a roll call please.

**B. Roll Call**

J. Riley - Present	J. Friedel - Present	F. Medacco - Present
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza - Present	R. Pete - Present
R. Wittenberg-Present	D. Lonn - Present	S. Lewis - Present

Quorum established.

Others Present: Shayne Machen, Peggy & Jim Derouin, Jason Cross, Bill Willis, Jess Wissner, Julia Nickleson.

Others Present That Did Not Sign In: Grace Hendler, Drew Jeurink, Mary Thomas, Ogema Romanelli, Officer Patrick Gilles, Officer Paul Aksamitowski, Elaine Porter, Caitlin Rollins, Rebecca Liebing, Elise Cuellar.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2018 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES OF IV E. IS AN ADD, IV G. IS AN ADD; by Lewis; supported by Friedel.**

Speaker Riley asked is there was any discussion on the agenda. Riley asked Recorder Lewis to do a roll call.

**Roll Call #1**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Friedel - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Lewis said the agenda has been approved for February 28, 2018.

**D. Tribal Council Minutes  2/21/18**

**MOTION TO APPROVE TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 2/21/18; by Pete; supported by Lonn.**

Speaker Riley asked is there any discussion on the minutes. Riley asked Recorder Lewis to do a roll call.

**Roll Call #2**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Friedel - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Lewis said Tribal Council Minutes for 2/21/18 have been accepted for filing.

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

Speaker Riley said they have nothing this week under Grants & Contracts.

**B. Budget Modifications**

**1. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2018-\_\_ in the amount of \$76,686**

The contract funds are awarded as part of the 2018 Self-Governance Compact.

Speaker Riley said Bill Willis is representing this item and that he had the floor.

Bill Willis, Budget Coordinator, represented this agenda item. Willis said good morning and thanked them. Willis said this item represents Modification #2 to the BIA Self-Governance Compact for 2018. Willis said they estimated in the Operating Budget they would generate about \$1.9 million. Willis said year to date with this modification they are up to \$240,211 and Council they are on their way. Willis said they just need to accept the money and amend the Operating Budget.

Speaker Riley recognized Councilor Pete.

Councilor Pete said if there is no further discussion he is prepared to make a motion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #18-0228-076;  
ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FROM THE U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR-BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
AND APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE OPERATING  
BUDGET MB-2018-15 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$76,686; by Pete;  
supported by Lewis.**

Speaker Riley asked are there any abstentions. Riley asked any further discussion on B.1. Riley asked Recorder Lewis to do a roll call.

**Roll Call #3**

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Friedel -	Yes	F. Medacco -	Yes
S. Crampton -	Absent	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	D. Lonn -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Lewis confirmed Resolution #18-0228-076 has been approved.

Speaker Riley thanked Recorder Lewis and Bill Willis.

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

Speaker Riley said nothing under C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditures.

**IV. Old Business**

**Reports that are due:**

**Reports received:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>A. Operations Report</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> January 2018   |
| <b>B. Financial Report<br/>December 2017 &amp; January 2018 Due</b>                             | <input type="checkbox"/> None Submitted |
| <b>C. Binojeeuk Commission<br/>December 2017 &amp; January 2018 Due</b>                         | <input type="checkbox"/> None Submitted |
| <b>D. Housing Commission</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> January 2018   |
| <b>E. Natural Resource Commission<br/>January 2018 Due</b>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> None Submitted |
| <b>F. Commerce Commission-August/October 2017,<br/>November/December 2017, January 2018 Due</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> None Submitted |
| <b>G. Elders Committee Minutes</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> January 2018   |

Speaker Riley said they have received the Operations Report for 2018. Riley said they are still waiting on December and January Financial, December and January Binojeeuk, received January 2018 Housing, and Natural Resource and Elders. Riley said they are still waiting on the August/October, November/December Commerce Commission. Riley asked is there any discussion on those items.

**V. New Business**

- A. Authorizing Permanent Adoption of Amendments to the Enrollment Regulations, Chapters 1-4**  
Tribal Council approved 30 Day Public Comment following the 9/26/17 Work Session on the proposed amendments. No comments were submitted. Tribal Council held a final Work Session on 12/4/17 and the amendments are ready for adoption.

Speaker Riley asked do they have any discussion or a motion on this item. Riley recognized Councilor Di Piazza.

Councilor Di Piazza said if there is no discussion he will make the motion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #18-0228-077;  
PERMANENT ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE  
ENROLLMENT REGULATIONS CHAPTERS ONE-FOUR; by Di  
Piazza; supported by Lonn.**

Speaker Riley asked are there any abstentions. Riley asked any further discussion on New Business, Item A. Riley asked Recorder Lewis to do a roll call.

**Roll Call #4**

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Friedel -	Yes	F. Medacco -	Yes
S. Crampton -	Absent	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	D. Lonn -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Lewis confirmed Resolution #18-0228-077 has been approved.

**B. Authorizing the Donation of \$250 for the Walk for Warmth for the Kent County Community Action Program**

Tribal Leadership has determined that donations to organizations which contribute to the community are appropriate for the purposes established by the Revenue Allocation Plan and the restrictions imposed by IGRA.

Speaker Riley asked is there a motion or discussion on this item. Riley recognized Councilor Pete.

Councilor Pete said if there is no further discussion he is prepared to make a motion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #18-0228-078;  
AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF \$250.00 FOR THE WALK  
FOR WARMTH FOR THE KENT COUNTY COMMUNITY  
ACTION PROGRAM;** by Pete; supported by Lewis.

Speaker Riley asked are there any abstentions. Riley asked any further discussion on this item. Riley asked Recorder Lewis to do a roll call.

**Roll Call #5**

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Friedel -	Yes	F. Medacco -	Yes
S. Crampton -	Absent	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	D. Lonn -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Lewis confirmed Resolution #18-0228-078 has been approved.

**C. Authorizing the Sponsorship Donation of \$1,000 to the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)**

Tribal Leadership has determined that donations to organizations which contribute to the well-being of Tribal members and especially Tribal Youth are appropriate for the purposes established by the Revenue Allocation Plan and the restrictions imposed by IGRA.

Speaker Riley recognized Councilor Pete.

Councilor Pete said he sees no further discussion and he is prepared to make a motion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #18-0228-079;  
AUTHORIZING THE SPONSORSHIP DONATION OF \$1,000 TO  
NATIONAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION  
(NICWA); by Pete; supported by Friedel.**

Speaker Riley recognized Councilor Friedel.

Councilor Friedel said he just wanted to make sure that everybody knows that this sponsorship is done every year. Friedel said it is a 50/50 match from the Ogema which they appreciate. Friedel said it is the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual NICWA Conference that will be held in Alaska. Friedel said himself, Diane Lonn and Norma Hinkle will be attending from the Binojeeuk Commission.

Speaker Riley asked is there any further discussion on Item C. Riley asked Recorder Lewis to do a roll call.

**Roll Call #6**

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Friedel -	Yes	F. Medacco -	Yes
S. Crampton -	Absent	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	D. Lonn -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Lewis confirmed Resolution #18-0228-079 has been approved.

**D. Resolution of Support for the Native Farm Bill Coalition**

This Resolution of Support will effectively advocate and lobby for enactment relevant and targeted legislation to ensure that Federal Agricultural Policy seeks to enhance development of this industry beyond raw commodities Tribes currently receive.

Speaker Riley recognized Councilor Pete.

Councilor Pete said okay if there is no further discussion and he is prepared to make that motion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #18-0228-080; LITTLE  
RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS SUPPORT FOR THE  
NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION; by Pete; supported by Di Piazza.**

Speaker Riley asked are there any abstentions. Riley asked any further discussion on this item. Riley asked Recorder Lewis to do a roll call.

**Roll Call #7**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Friedel - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Lewis confirmed Resolution #18-0228-080 has been approved.

**E. Resolution to Support the Creation of a Tribal Action Plan to Combat Substance Abuse in the Community**

A Resolution to Support the Creation of a Tribal Action Plan is required to participate in certain Federal Training and receive Federal Financial Support to combat substance abuse in the community.

Speaker Riley said their Prosecutor, Shayne Machen, will be representing this item and that she had the floor.

Shayne Machen, Tribal Prosecutor, represented this agenda item. Machen said good morning. Machen said so she just wanted to let them know that the Tribal Action Plan, for those that were not here on Monday, but the Tribal Action Plan is a program that was established in 2010. Machen said it allows Tribes to receive Federal Funding and training in order to create programming on the Reservation that would combat Substance Abuse. Machen said there is a training opportunity in May but in order for this Tribe to be eligible there has to be a resolution in support of the creation of a Tribal Action Plan. Machen said so her hope is that they would send five individuals from this Tribe to receive the training and education in May then to come back and establish a plan to combat Substance Abuse in their community. Machen said specifically their community has been hit real hard by Alcoholism and Opioid use. Machen said that is what Jason Cross, the Director of Family Services, and herself have seen most frequently in their ICWA Cases on Neglect and Abuse Cases involving children. Machen said she thinks this is a great opportunity and the training is free, lodging, travel and food. Machen reiterated that it would be a good opportunity for the Tribe.

Speaker Riley recognized Councilor Pete.

Councilor Pete said first he would just like to say "thank you" for.....her and Jason Cross for presenting that on Monday. Pete said he will tell them, just personally, through that entire presentation he became a lot more educated than what he was and to him it is important to learn more and more about these issues. Pete said that being said he would be prepared to make a motion if there is no other discussion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #18-0228-081;  
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A TRIBAL**

**ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN OUR COMMUNITY;** by Pete; supported by Di Piazza.

Speaker Riley asked are there any abstentions. Riley asked is there any further discussion on this one. Riley asked Recorder Lewis to do a roll call.

**Roll Call #8**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Friedel - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Lewis confirmed Resolution #18-0228-081 has been approved.

**VI. Concluding Business**

**A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

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

Speaker Riley said to Ogema Romanelli that he had the floor.

Ogema Romanelli thanked them. Romanelli said he just has a couple of things on his list. Romanelli said first they are revising their Personnel Policy Manual again and trying to get that in order. Romanelli said he wanted to thank Unified Legal for working on those drafts because they are tweaking it and it gets better each time. Romanelli said it gives less room for discretionary type actions. Romanelli said it is safer for their employees and just overall better. Romanelli thanked them for that. Romanelli said they attended..... "they" meaning he thinks Ron Pete, Joe Riley and he were at the Chamber of Commerce Meeting in Muskegon last week. Romanelli said again he thinks it was a good attendance and there was a good turn-out. Romanelli said they had some people represented from Little River Band and there was discussion on Hardships of Hiring nowadays that with the economy going the way it is and then trying to hire qualified people. Romanelli said what their Prosecutor just talked about too Opioids and everything is entering into the workplace and he would like to see more policies that protect this Tribe against those abuses all the way up and see what they can come up with but they were talking about just trying to get people to come to work is an issue. Romanelli said the problems and the changes within the State if they have Recreational Marijuana for example, how does that effect the workplace and it is all going to come into play. Romanelli said he thought it was some good discussions. Romanelli said they are also changing the Rapid River News and the Currents so they are in a state of flux there. Romanelli said they are going to.....they have Rebecca Groh working on it and he thinks she is doing a really good job in the absence of Terri Tyler to get this information out. Romanelli said Tribal members including himself have complained about the access to their website, the access to their Currents, and the access to their Rapid River News.



Romanelli said Rebecca Groh has the knowledge to try and clean that up. Romanelli said she just showed him something that she is going over now whereas just from their e-mail access or whatever they can get on and see the Currents and they can see the Rapid River News. Romanelli said with the Rapid River News too she can add stuff by the hour rather than by the week so it can be even more updated so if something comes up and they need to add it people can quickly get to the Rapid River News and it can be almost instantaneously they can add stuff to it that is of importance. Romanelli said he thinks that is going to be a good communication. Romanelli said they also have members of the Council that are trying to write reports on things that are happening that they are working on as well rather it be the Round Dance or the Snow Snake and he thinks that is good. Romanelli said he is trying to get at least one department per month that will give an update, a half page add or whatever, to say what they are doing. Romanelli said the latest one is within their Clinic and they want to know what is going on with the Pharmacy and the Clinic. Romanelli said so if they can get one department to do a piece in the paper per Currents then they will have 12 per year at least if not one or two. Romanelli said some of them aren't as visible, for example, their Accounting Department really doesn't have anything that would pertain to the membership too much in most cases. Romanelli said their Clinic, their Family Services, and their Member's Services those are types of things needed to continually report so hopefully they can get quicker, cleaner communication out. Romanelli said he thinks that is it.

Speaker Riley said okay. Riley asked does anybody have any questions or discussion. Riley recognized Councilor Pete.

Councilor Pete said just to add onto what the Ogema said, he, Joe Riley and him were both at that Chamber Breakfast, all three of them were which they go to every month that it is scheduled. Pete said they had so many people there in support of them that they not only took every chair they had to add some space for them because of all the local Government Officials and everyone that came. Pete said businesses like the General Manager at the Lakes Mall and places like that are in support of their project in Muskegon. Pete said he was very, very encouraged by the turn-out there and he just wanted to add that. Pete thanked the Ogema.

Speaker Riley thanked them.

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

Speaker Riley said onto Legislative Affairs. Riley asked does anybody have anything they want to share for Legislative Affairs at this time. Riley recognized Councilor Pete.

Councilor Pete said he is not sure how much Legislative Affairs this is but as they did in Wisconsin a Meet and Greet. Pete said they are going to do one May the

19<sup>th</sup> which is a Saturday. Pete said he is going to start when he is there this Friday.....try to arrange where they are going to meet but he might do one of the Catholic Churches. Pete asked if it was St. Thomas or St.....

Speaker Riley confirmed St. Thomas.

Councilor Pete said they used to have them at.....he is going to call them and on May the 19<sup>th</sup> a Saturday they are going to have a Meet and Greet in the Muskegon area so in which.....he had a.....at the Elder's Luncheon this past Friday he asked them if they wanted a Meet and Greet and they all overwhelmingly want one down in Muskegon also. Pete said they are going to all go down on May the 19<sup>th</sup> to do a Meet and Greet in Muskegon. Pete thanked Speaker Riley.

Ogema Romanelli said the other update is just in case no one heard. Romanelli said the Gun Lake Tribe has ended their long lawsuit with Pachek which has been a decade and a half. Romanelli said it is finally done and it went all the way up to the Supreme Court and it is done so. Romanelli said it had to do with Tribal Lands and etc. so it is a plus for them as well. Romanelli said he congratulated their Chief yesterday. Romanelli thanked them.

Speaker Riley thanked the Ogema. Riley asked anybody else for Legislative Affairs.

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

Speaker Riley said okay Public Comment. Riley recognized Councilor Di Piazza.

Councilor Di Piazza said just that the Sugar Shack is going on down off of 22 on Shonendel Road. Di Piazza said stop out. Di Piazza said they usually need people to sit, feed the fire, and boil that sap down so feel free to go out and enjoy it. Di Piazza said that is what it is there for.

Speaker Riley recognized Councilor Lonn.

Councilor Lonn said she was at the Sugar Shack last night and she can't lift a lot but it was enjoyable. Lonn said they took her around and showed her the whole set-up, how they do the getting of the sap from the trees so if they are interested it really is a nice group. Lonn said they are going to have some.....they are going to bring food there on Saturday so they can just sit and talk and add a log here and there if they wanted to. Lonn said the other thing she would like to bring up they do have an Elder's Meeting Saturday and it starts at 12 so please mark it on their calendar. Lonn said that is it.

Speaker Riley asked what time is it on Saturday at the Sugar Shack.

Councilor Lonn replied 11. Lonn said a lot of them are going after the Elder's but it is bring a dish to pass and it is just a nice picnic with everybody, they know, the guys do most of the work. Lonn said she just sat there and visited. Lonn said it was nice fresh air and it was great to be out there so.

Speaker Riley said yeah, visited, he thinks she means supervised.

Councilor Lonn said no she visited. Lonn said she has no idea how to supervise that.

Speaker Riley said they said it was the other way. Riley asked does anybody have anything else for Public Comment. Riley said at this point they will be going into Closed Session.

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

Speaker Riley said with that they will take a recess at 10:23 a.m.

#### **VIII. Open Session**

The Council reconvened in Open Session and the time was not noted.

Recorder Lewis said to Speaker Riley that the recorder is on.

Speaker Riley said okay, motion to go into second open, anybody.

**MOTION TO GO INTO SECOND OPEN;** by Lewis; supported by Pete.

#### **Roll Call #9**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Friedel - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

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

Speaker Riley asked is there anything to move.

Recorder Lewis replied no, there is none.

Speaker Riley said alright, nothing.

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

**IX. Adjourn**

Speaker Riley asked does anybody want to adjourn this meeting at 11:21.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 11:21;** by Medacco; supported by Pete.

Speaker Riley asked Recorder Lewis to do a roll call.

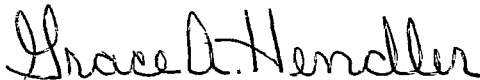
**Roll Call #10**

J. Riley - Yes	J. Friedel - No	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Absent	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete - No
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (6-2-0-1)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grace A. Hendler  
Transcribing Assistant



Sandra Lewis,  
Tribal Council Recorder