



**Gaa Čhíng Ziibi Daáwaa Aníshinaábek  
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**

**Ethics Board**  
2608 Government Center  
Manistee, MI 49660

December 21, 2020

*Delivered via FedEx*

Councilor Ronald Wittenberg  
2680 W. Maw Gaw Ne Quong  
Manistee, MI 49660

Re: Complaint Received by Ethics Board November 17, 2020

**Ethics Board Report of Written Findings**

The Ethics Board has come to a conclusion to the violation that were presented to us on November 24, 2020. The board found merit on December 8, 2020. We held a hearing on December 14, 2020.

Violation: Article 4. Section 6 G. Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Constitution of their implied duty to attend scheduled meetings of tribal council.

Complaint #1: Article 4. Section 6 G. Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Constitution of their implied duty to attend scheduled meetings of tribal council.

1. Complaint #2: Violation of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians tribal court order on October 15, 2020.

**Discussion**

The Ethics Boards finds the following facts occurred and were relevant to the decision that your actions were a violation as outlined above:

The factors are determined intentional and harm was negligible due to not attending tribal council meetings as scheduled. Tribal business could not move forward and was delayed after being court ordered to attend the scheduled tribal council meetings. Employees are taking time on behalf of the tribe to conduct business items on the agenda in which did not happen due to the lack of quorum. Councilor Ron Wittenberg did not justify any reasoning behind his actions for not attending the tribal council meeting on October 28, 2020.

**Sanctions**

The Ethics Board reached out to you on December 17, 2020, via phone call to discuss a remedy for the finding of violation. You responded and you agreed to the remedies to this violation and as a result the

Ethics Board under the authority granted in Ordinance # 14-100-10 issues the following recommendations:

1. Council make a resolution for council to approve that councilors shall attend tribal council meetings and if they cannot attend to notify the Speaker or Recorder within 24 hours of the reported absence and during a council meeting if the councilor needs to excuse themselves, they shall notify the Speaker of when they are leaving and when they shall return. Councilor Wittenberg agreed to give notice in the future for absences.

#### Appeals

Pursuant to Article 7 of the Elected Officials Ethics Ordinance (Ordinance #14-100-10), an Elected Official may appeal a finding that he or she engaged in unethical conduct as unsupported by the record or that an imposed sanction was unreasonably harsh. Appeals of this Written Finding shall be made only to the Tribal Court and cannot be filed more than thirty (30) days after today's date.

Thank you,

Shawwna Gonzalez

Chairperson, Ethics Board

Cc: Ogema Larry Romanelli