



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 08, 2025
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 January 08, 2025. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning, everyone. We are here this morning for our regular scheduled tribal council meeting for Wednesday, January 08, 2025.

- I. Opening Prayer** I have asked Councilor Wever if she could say the prayer for the month of January. So, if you're able to stand, please stand.

Councilor Wever: Forgot about it. I'm giving everyone my... Okay, I guess this is it. Okay. Each new year offers time to reflect and move forward in God's purpose and promise in our life. This past year may have brought plenty of unexpected challenges for you, but the beginning of the new year offers a time of renewed hope and commitment. You can look forward to coming year, as you recall, God's love and faithfulness. Instead of focusing on resolutions, focus on your relationship with God. The new year prayers are a wonderful way to voice your desire to God. Keep these close by at the start of the new year and use them throughout the year to remind yourself that God is with you and for you. May these prayers bring you hope, comfort, and peace throughout the coming year. Amen.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Councilor Wever. That was a very nice prayer.

Councilor Wever: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Moving down to

II. General Business

A. Call to Order I will call this meeting to order at 10:04. Next, the Zoom users will need to identify themselves. If you are a tribal citizen, please list your name, your tribal ID. If you are an employee, please list your name and the department that you work in. Thank you. Beth McClellan, please identify yourself.

Beth McClellan: Beth McClellan, 2915.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Chelsea Densmore, please identify yourself.

Chelsea Densmore: Chelsea Densmore, 3225.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Cleora Scott, please identify yourself.

Cleora Scott: Cleora Scott, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you... Thank you. Delia Ross, please identify yourself.

Delia Ross: Delia Ross, 2446.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Jolene O'Signac, please identify yourself.

Jolene O'Signac: Jolene O'Signac, 3866.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Kimberly McClellan, please identify yourself.

Kimberly McClellan: Kimberly McClellan, 2918.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Laura Echelbarger, please identify yourself.

Laura Echelbarger: Uh good morning, 2276.

Speaker Burmeister: Morning. Thank you. Lee McCaslin, please identify yourself.

Lee McCaslin: (Anishinaabemowin) Lee McCaslin, 0748.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Our legislative assistant, which is Chantel Gamelin. Moving down to Martha Howell, please identify yourself.

Martha Howell: Martha Howell, 3635.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Let's see. Ms. Venus, please identify yourself.

Venus Battaglia: Good morning. Venus Battaglia, 1102.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Mark Huddleston, please identify yourself.

Mark Huddleston: Mark Huddleston, 3230.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Samsung S.M. That's okay. Samson S.M. A156U guest, please identify yourself. Samsung S.M. A15. Go ahead, please.

Annie Perry: I believe that's me, Annie Perry. Can you guys hear me?

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, okay. Good morning. Thank you. Sandy Mezeske, please identify yourself.

Sandy Mezeske: Sandy Mezeske, 0018.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sara Agosa, please identify yourself.

Sara Agosa: Sara Agosa, 4478.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Serene Thin Elk, where'd she go? Oh, okay. Serene Thin Elk, please identify yourself.

Serene Thin Elk: Hello. This is Serene Thin-Elk. I'm with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Shannon Crampton, please identify yourself.

Councilor Crampton: Outlying tribal council rep Shannon Paul Crampton, 1747.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Shawna Gonzalez, please identify yourself.

Shawna Gonzalez: Good morning, 4700.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. Thank you. Sky Gonzalez, please identify yourself.

Sky Gonzalez: Sky Gonzalez, 1042.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Susan Thull, please identify yourself.

Susan Thull: 3727.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Tina McClellan-Payment, please identify yourself.

Tina McClellan- Payment: 2917.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Phone number 19064584757 Guest, please identify yourself.

Vicki LaPorte: 3384 Vicki LaPorte.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Leann, please identify yourself.

Leeann Austin: Leanne Austin, 3878.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. I think that's everything. Alright Moving down to

B. Roll Call Under General Business. Recorder Johnson can you please do roll call please?

Recorder Johnson:

T. Burmeister - Present	G. DiIazza - Present	M. Silvis - Present
R. Wittenberg- Present	J. Wolfe - Present	A. Metzger - Present
S. Crampton - Present	P. Johnson - Present	S. Wever - Present

We do have quorum.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

C. Approval of Agenda

Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from the agenda? Any Councilors with questions? Tribal Citizens? Back to Council? With no questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Recorder Johnson?

Recorder Johnson: So, I'd like to make a motion to accept the agenda for Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, um with the following changes. Um in old business, under IV.A operations report for November has been updated. Um from new business, the tax department report has been included in there. So, V.A under new business has been removed because it's in the operations report. Um I'm going down to V. new business B. Authorization of charitable donation with the National Native American Boarding School Hearing Coalition that has been updated. Adopting the Biskaabiiyaang Commission Ordinance that has been updated. And um E was removed. Approval of performance resolution with the Michigan Department of Transportation. And I am missing one. Where was it?

Councilor Wolfe: *Mumbled something unclear in mic.*

Recorder Johnson: Oh, thank you. And back up under old business approval of changing the Binojeeuk. That has actually been postponed um for now. That's it.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Metzger please.

Councilor Metzger: Yes, do we have a date on the postponement or is it just?

Recorder Johnson: Um It's until the Biskaabiiyaang can fix an error that is in there. They're using an old resolution. So, it just needs to be updated.

Councilor Metzger: Alright. Thank you for the clarification.

Councilor Wolfe: So, is it actually removed?

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah, we can. Yeah, it'll be removed.

Speaker Burmeister: OK, not postponed.

Recorder Johnson: Yeah, sorry. Wrong choice of word.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, who would like to second that motion? Councilor Metzger? Okay, any Tribal Councilors have questions or comments? Back to citizens. Tribal Council with no questions. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 1

R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever - Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. It's been approved.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

D. Tribal Council Minutes ☐ 10/18/23 ☐ 7/5/24 ☐ 8/8/24

Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from um these minutes? Any Tribal Councilors with questions? Tribal citizens? Councilor DiPiazza? Okay.

Does Tribal Council have any questions? Okay. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: Are we doing them as a unit or singular?

Recorder Johnson: All together.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make a **motion to approve Tribal Council minutes for 10-18-23, 7-5-24, and 8-8-24.**

Speaker Burmeister: Any questions from Tribal Council? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do a roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 2

S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever - Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes
J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger - Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. All three have been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts

There is nothing listed under that

B. Budget Modifications

There is nothing listed under that

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

Nothing is listed under that. Moving down to

IV. Old Business

Updated A. Operations Report ☐ November 2024

Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Tribal Councilors with questions? Tribal citizens with questions? Tribal Council? With no questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. At this moment, I'd like to make a **motion to accept the Operation Report with the added Acceptance Tax Department Report, November 2024.**

Speaker Burmeister: Who would like to second that motion?

Councilor Wittenberg: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Alright. Okay. Does Tribal Council have any questions? Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 3

G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes
J. Wolfe- Yes	A. Metzger - Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes
P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever - Yes	S. Crampton- Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor, it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

ADD B. Approving changed to the Binojeeuk Commission Calendar for 2025.

That has been removed. Number

V. New Business

Moved to A. Approval to Accept the Tax Department Report for November 2024

Updated B. Authorization of Charitable Donation with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

Councilor Wolfe has brought this item forward. So, Councilor Wolfe, the floor is yours.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. So, we received an application from the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. They're a qualified organization that meets all required criteria for charitable donation ordinance to receive the funds. We're asking to allocate what was budgeted for 2024 for disbursement to them. The amount that they requested was \$22,468, which is the amount available in the budget. So, just bringing forward to um give them the charitable donation to that organization. Um we received the confirmation of what is in that line item from the CFO yesterday. And then I did um invite Ms. Cleora Scott and Ms. Serene Thin Elk um to give a little presentation of what

they plan to um spend the donation on or how it's going to work for their organization. So, I'll turn it over to either one of them. Thank you.

Cleora Scott: Good morning. (Anishinaabemowin). Um my name is Cleora. I serve as the Development Director for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition or NABS. Uh we submitted an application requesting funds to but uh to help us with a pilot project which would provide healing circles online for boarding school survivors. These healing circles are a pilot that we'll create in operations uh... uh of for future healing circles online. It is a series which is held every month and is open only to survivors initially. The plan is to initiate this pilot and then in the future open it up to future survivors and their descendants. It is open to those survivors that are um descendants or not descendants but uh tribal members of tribes throughout the United States. Are there any questions? And I hope I captured it.

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any tribal councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any questions for Cleora? Shirley? Go ahead, Council Wever.

Councilor Wever: But I just want to say that um I know I'm the first one to say that I don't remember everything but I remember a while back someone came here and all they asked for was a cross to put in the cemetery with all the Native American Indians names on and she was a tribal member and we and all it was... was four thousand dollars and it was just down the road that this cross would have been in this cemetery and we refused her. We didn't have the money. So that's all I have to say.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: That was a request made by an individual tribal member and it wasn't through the process of donations and there is an ordinance that dictates how donations or awards are out. She was not an eligible entity to receive that award. So, it's a different situation than what's being presented today. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other councilors with comments or questions? Any citizens with questions or comments? Back to Tribal Council. Okay, with no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: Make a **motion to approve Resolution 25-0108-001, Authorization of Charitable Donation with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.**

Councilor Metzger: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Does Tribal Council have any questions or comments? Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: Just want to note again for membership, this is out of the 2024 budget. Um the application was received in 2024 and the books are still open for 2024. So, this donation is being in year 2024. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other councilors with a comment or question? Tribal citizens? Back to Council. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 4

P. Johnson- Yes	S. Wever - No	S. Crampton- Yes
M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes
A. Metzger - Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe- Yes

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor, one against, it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, moving along to, yeah, thank you um for your presentation and if you'd like to get off the call, you can get off the call, please. Thank you again.

Cleora Scott: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, moving along to

Updated C. **Adopting the Biskaabiyaang Commission Ordinance
#24-150-09**

Councilor Wolfe has brought this item forward. So, Councilor Wolfe, the floor is yours.

Councilor Wolfe: Good morning. So, this is just the resolution adopting the Biskaabiyaang Commission Ordinance. Um we drafted this ordinance to, well, first we just dissolved the Biskaabiyaang Committee in tense bringing forward a Biskaabiyaang Commission Ordinance. The reason we wanted to change them to a Commission Ordinance is so that we could establish a stipend or payment for them. We worked on this. It was posted for public comment for 30 days. No comments were received. We had a work session. We had an additional work session yesterday, January 7, 2025. The purpose of the ordinance is Tribal Councils determine that it's the best interest of the members to establish a Biskaabiyaang Commission to promote the cultural welfare of the tribe through the preservation, presentation, and creation of cultural learning opportunities in relation to Anishinaabe traditions, stories, art, recipe, history, and ceremonies as available and appropriate to all citizens through in-person and virtual opportunities. Um the one thing I do want to remind Tribal Council that um in the 2025 budget, it is allocated activities of \$30,000 for the Biskaabiyaang Committee, and then we also authorize stipends for them for 15 annual meetings um for the five members of the Commission at \$13,125. Um I know that was a point for some Councilors about the payment, but all commissions are paid, and the compensation is not for their expertise or their knowledge or their cultural activities. The compensation of commissioners is for to offset the cost of participation. Compensation is paid to commissioners. Compensation is

intended to cover the cost of attendance to the meetings, mileage to and from meetings, meals, and other related expenses to attend the meeting. Their stipend amount is in line with all the rest of the commissions. So just wanted that. I'll open it up for questions.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? I know there's a hand up for questions. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Yeah, I'd like to also note that there's a clarification on a certificate of adoption on the date of January 8th, 2024.

Councilor Wolfe: I did.

Councilor Metzger: That needs to be corrected in 2025. *Councilors speaking but can't hear clearly.*

Councilor Wolfe: Chantel just printed the wrong one because I updated all that.

Councilor Metzger: So, there's 25 on there instead of 24.

Councilor Wolfe: Here I updated that one. Misty sent the notice yesterday.

Recorder Johnson: Up at the top to.

Councilor Wolfe: Hmm? Yeah, we have the correct one and she can change the date with that.

Councilor Metzger: Alright.

Councilor Wolfe: Because Misty noticed it yesterday and I sent out an update.

Councilor Metzger: Alright. Thank you for that clarification.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other Councilors with questions or comments? Recorder Johnson, go ahead.

Recorder Johnson: Um, so at this point, I um I just I'm going to not support this at this moment. I think I'm going to wait on my support. Um and um I'm trying to figure out how to word this. Um I guess I would take this moment to look at the executive side and ask if they plan on revamping that department to bring back a coordinator um where I feel a coordinator could do this instead of having a commission. I would like to see um right now since there's nobody in that department downstairs, I would like to see it revamped and add a coordinator to be able to do these. Since we've had the past couple years, the community has gone and did um some events with donations and whatnot. I would be interested in seeing that happen versus having a commission in charge of um our activities because I don't feel like it should be one nor it should not be one uh

commission. It's a community function to keep our language, our culture um moving. Um so, I don't think this belongs in a commission. I definitely don't think it belongs underneath the legislative side. So, I would just like to see it revamped and redone and have a coordinator as part of the um historical preservation and have that put back in there to do that instead. Because it should be done by it should be done by the community to keep our culture alive, not a commission. But I don't think I explained that very well, but I'm good.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Um next in the queue is Councilor Silvis. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Silvis: Actually, I just want to clarify. Councilor Metzger is actually correct. The one that was um updated was the donations one. This one was not updated. So, it needs to be updated with the correct year. That's all. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Councilor Wolfe you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: So, I appreciate your comment, Councilor Johnson, but I just highlighted that we've already budgeted and planned for this commission to exist, which started budget process back in September. We've allocated funding for stipends for this commission. We've allocated funding for this commission to provide for those activities. Those community activities without a commission in place cannot access this funding and cannot continue those programs to the extent they would be able with a commission organizing and planning them. The position you talk about, a coordinator position, is not something that is budgeted for 2025. It's not been on the table for discussion. The longer we hold off on adopting an ordinance that puts a commission in place for cultural activities, the longer we have none. In October, when we dissolved the committee that was in place under a work plan that had a hard time filling it and keeping people seated on the commission, I mean on the committee, the whole intent or goal was to develop this commission's ordinance. I understand your concern, but it's more appropriate to put this into place. And then once the executive gets up and running and develops something down in cultural preservation, tribal historic preservation, whatever it is going to be, then we can resolve or repeal this ordinance and no longer need a commission. But at now, there's nothing in place. And this isn't an activity of the legislative body. It's a subordinate organization of the legislative body to handle those activities. Currently, right now, you're planning the round dance. If you had a commission in place, they would be taking care of that activity. All the funding that you're talking about for them is in the Tribal Council budget. The Tribal Council has authority and say over it for their spending. So, I don't see the reason why you're saying just let's wait and see what the executive does. There's no budget in 2025 for a coordinator. It is vacant. The language and instructor retired. It is vacant. A tribal historic coordinator by our November report. There was no report because director vacant. Those all are going to take six to eight months to get filled and done. And even if we get qualified, at least this commission would have a chance to plan some of those historical community activities and make them available for all tribal members. That's my comment. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Uh It's in our constitution, our preamble that we exercise our culture. That's one of the things that gave us federal recognition is still that we maintained our culture. This is part of maintaining our culture. The Anishinaabe way of life. So, I see no problem in this. And if there's no other questions, I'd like to make a motion. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um are there any citizens that have questions or comments?

Delia Ross: Pardon me.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Delia.

Delia Ross: Yes. Um my concern is, I was at the work session yesterday as well. My concern is that um we talk about the community um participating to do the events and all, but that very rarely happens for the outlying members. Part of the reason that we had the committee was that all aspects, all people, members of the tribe could participate in planning for activities within the tribe. One person is going to find it very difficult to do the fall teaching, the spring teaching. Uh we've had book clubs. We had a lot of things that were going on that sometimes with the committee, we did not have a lot of support. Um our liaisons um really never attended our meetings or checked to see what we were going to do or to help us with what we were going to do. So, it became problematic. Um if you do not have someone working on the culture of our tribe, and this is just not the round dances and the powwows, we're talking about our actual culture, our history, the things that we were brought up on, the meanings of the things that we were brought up on. It's fine and good for the community there in the nine-county area. But what about those of us that are outside of the nine-county area that want to learn and be taught things about our culture? One person can't do that. You need several people to be able to plan those activities, plan for people living outside the area. As an outlying member, I really have a problem when you say that the one person can do this and it's the community. Um the community is the one that needs to do this. Well, your community reaches all the states here in America. So, you need that needs to be included within the plan. And again, I say one person is not going to be able to do that. That's my comment. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other citizens with comments? Back to Tribal Council. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, I just wanted to add to and echo what Councilor Metzger was saying. It is in our preamble and one of the requisites of uh tribal recognition. Also, if you look at the Constitution under Article 4, Section 7A2 of the Constitution, you're going to find that the duty and the powers of the Tribal Council are to, and this is from the

Constitution, to promote, promote, protect, and provide for our public health, peace, morals, education, and general welfare of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. And it's done through the enactment of ordinances and resolutions. Um commissions and committees are bodies of the Tribal Council. They're there to help us. Yes, um the executive needs a person over in that department. We need a department. And we also need a committee and a commission. Every tribe should be striving for this. The fact that this is not paramount exemplifies that this is sorely needed at Little River, because any other tribe would understand that your general welfare, your education, your peace, your morals, all come from your culture. All come from your teachings. All come. Your healing comes from your teachings. Once again, the fact that this is not paramount at this tribe, that there's some people saying, oh, we can wait, and we can do this. That's, I said it at the work session the other day, I'm staggered by this. We all like to say the words but walk on that road. That's why there's a highway to hell and a stairway to heaven. That's a thin path. And this tribe sorely needs to get on it. So, I applaud Councilor Wolfe, and this is sorely needed. And it is actually one of our duties. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Wittenberg, you are next in the queue. Go ahead.

Councilor Wittenberg: Miigwech. Uh myself, I strongly approve this. As I turn around and uh I myself ventured out to other nations, uh not only here in Michigan, but other areas where their uh nation, uh their committee, their people would turn around and just go all out on different things and get it planned nice. And here we are uh trying to get it forward. And it uh seems like there's an excuse on top of excuse, which uh we're not, we're staying behind. We have to move forward. We got to get up and um reach out, get those people in there to turn around. And as in all nations, everybody helps everybody. But you got to have the key to get in the door. And this is part of the key. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other Councilors with comments or questions? Okay. Councilor Metzger, um you had your hand up. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Metzger: At this time, I'd like to make a motion. I'd like to **make a motion to approve Resolution 25-0108-002 adopting the Biskaabiyaang Commission Ordinance 24-150-09 with the correction on Certificate Adoption, uh where it says January 8th, 2024. I'd like to correct that to January 8th, 2025.**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Any Councilors with um additional comments or questions? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council? Okay. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 5

G. DiPiazza-No	M. Silvis - No	T. Burmeister- No
J. Wolfe - Yes	A. Metzger- Yes	R. Wittenberg - Yes

P. Johnson - No	S. Wever- Yes	S. Crampton- Yes
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Motion carried (5-4-0-0)

Five in favor, four against. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

**D. Posting for 30-Day Public Comment the Little River Band
Of Ottawa Indians Internet Gaming Revenue Distribution
Act of 2024**

Councilor Crampton has brought this item forward. So, Councilor Crampton, the floor is yours.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Um uh so, for the memberships, consumption, and the members that weren't at the work sessions, as there were uh a lot of them over the last year when we started this and got through it, Council's worked extensively on this to move this forward. Um after consulting uh legal, this was found that we needed an actual uh way to deliver this to the membership, um a vehicle that we could get the distribution through um that would actually be for internet gaming, and this would be the um deal. We have included it, and I'm sorry, we've included the children in this package as well, which was actually a requisite, a request not a requisite a request from the membership before that was not heeded on the per capita plan, but this is in this plan. And I did notice that, like the previous ordinance, that this one is also was sent to us by Mr. Frias with the date of 24, but this would be for just the um posting, this is not adoption that would be corrected at the time of adoption. Right now, this would be for just posting the act itself for 30-day public comment. Are there any questions?

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from the item? Councilors with questions? Tribal citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council. With no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor Metzger, go ahead.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. This time, I'd like to make a **motion to approve the posting for a 30-day public comment for Little River Band Ottawa Indians Internet Gaming Revenue Distribution Act of 2025 or 2024.**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Does Tribal Council have any questions or comments? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council. With no further or any questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the item please.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 6

M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes
A. Metzger- Yes	R. Wittenberg – Yes	J. Wolfe- Yes
S. Wever- Yes	S. Crampton- Yes	P. Johnson- Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)
Nine in favor. It'll be posted.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Okay um

Removed E. Approval of Performance Resolution with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Moving down to.

VI. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, January 15, 2025

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

Ogema will you be giving an update? Okay um moving down to

C. Legislative Affairs Update

1. Tammy Burmeister

I don't have an update for this week. Next is Recorder

2. Pam Johnson

Go ahead please.

Recorder Johnson: Um so I uh have just a couple of things. Um one in case anybody is wondering who Annie Perry was on the phone or is, she is the new legislative uh attorney, in-house attorney. Um so you'll be seeing her on the call a lot and in work sessions. So, just wanted to put that out there. Uh just to give a quick update. Hopefully, this will help dispel a couple of rumors, but it probably won't help with too many. Um hopefully, at least one. Uh if some of you remember back when we, or let's just move forward. Um so with the audit, I know there's been a lot about the minutes, and they did request summaries. So, summaries have been turned into the um auditing firm and these minutes for today will be, um once they're signed, they will be sent over as well to them. So, we should have them pretty well caught up. And um as like our meeting goes um every week, the summary will be done and sent over to them and we'll be getting like those minutes will still be forwarded anyway. Um but give them an idea what has been passed will be sent to them in the summary. So, I just wanted to give that update that we're basically caught up as far as summary. We're caught up with summaries and minutes are being forwarded as they're approved to them as well. So, um that is it for me.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

3. Julie Wolfe

you're next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. So, I just have two that I want to share. Um this one happened in December, but um House Bill 4854, and it's commonly known as the Tribal Regalia Bill, um passed House on December 13th and passed the Senate on December 20th and awaits the governor's signature. It's a significant step forward to recognizing and restoring the cultural rights of Native American communities in Michigan. What this legislation allows for is um Native children in grades K through 12 to wear culturally and spiritually significant pieces of um traditional regalia during graduation and other ceremonies and also to um take um ceremonial objects to other honoring ceremonies of the school. Um and then the other one, um just a little note on the Enbridge um Line 5

case, um arguments for the state's lawsuit against Enbridge Energy to shut down the Line 5 pipeline beneath the Straits of Mackinac is going to commence on January 29th before Ingham Circuit Court Judge James Jamo um after the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ruled that it belonged in state court. So, that was the holdup for so long when it was. Um and then just a couple quotes on in that case from um Attorney General Dana Nessel. Her office is pleased that it's back in state court and she said, we don't believe that Line 5 poses any less risk of now than it did when the case wasn't originally filed back in 2019 and we're hoping some success on this case. Nessel said, it's important for the public to understand that there is hope to have the pipeline shut down in an orderly way and in a far better manner than if it had to shut down immediately over an emergency like a catastrophic rupture. And then the legislation has suggested that energy, some critics of the legislation have suggested, and this is another quote from Nessel, that the energy crisis could emerge from the pipeline being shut down, but Nessel um refuted that saying report after report continues to show that the market would adapt to a shutdown and its impact within a very short period of time. So, I just wanted to share those two updates, significant in Michigan. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

4. Gary DiPiazza

you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, the only thing I have is the NRC Commission Monday extended deer season for antlerless deer till uh the 12th, which is next Sunday. The state went ahead and extended their season for the Lower Peninsula um hunting area, which are 1836, that lower portion, like Muskegon County, Newago, part of Montcalm, part of Kent, and part of Ottawa falls within that area. So, the commission did a 90-day emergency resolution to extend antlerless deer season in open counties, not all 1836, but portions of it. So, happy, uh yeah, happy extended uh little deer season for everybody. The only reason we did that in our consent decree, we can do that because of the state changed the rules as usual. They have a tendency to do that towards the end of the season. A lot of the deer hunters and such are not hunting deer like they used to, plus our climate has changed. So, when you're, you know, hunting in October and such, it's still quite warm to be taking an animal and harvesting that animal when the weather is still 60, 80 degrees. They don't last very long. So, but that's all I have. And you know, get with the NRD department. Um the double check, make sure you're in the right area, but it's only in the 1836 treaty area or 1836 ceded territory, whatever you want to call it. So, with that, happy trails.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

5. Shirley Wever

you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wever: I just want to say that, please, please say a prayer for the people out in California. Um I just love that state and, you know, it's burning down right now. I cannot imagine living out there, but please have them in your prayers. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Councilor

6. Al Metzger

Go ahead, please.

Councilor Metzger: Uh thank you, ma'am. I have a couple items. Uh first there is a cooking class beginning January 8th uh that's today. LRB Family Spirits Food Nutritional Center, Family Service, and MSU Extension presents Pantry Series Cooking Class, free and open to kids, family, and adults. Let's make some delicious food every Wednesday in January uh from 5 to 7, located at 2967 Dontz Road, Manistee. That is (Anishinaabemowin) Community Center. It's part of food distribution on the corner right over here. So, if you want to learn how to cook commods, there's an opportunity. I mean, commods have gotten me through some bad times, so I say chi-Miigwech for that. Uh I say chi-Miigwech to Wabshke Nene Ogema and Jimmy Carter-Ba. Many remember President Carter as during the oil embargo, the Iranian hostage situation. But I also remember President Carter as a fighter for our homes for humanity. He not only drew up the plan and the program, he swung a hammer. He was in the trenches building houses for those that couldn't afford houses. I know a couple of reservations that do have Habitat for Humanity homes sitting on them. It's a great opportunity. It's a great opportunity to help somebody and uplift them, give them dignity. I also want to acknowledge that it was President Carter that initiated ICWA, Indian Child Welfare Act. Prior to that, Native children were being snagged out of their households and given to the people that had no idea what being Native was all about. They were taking them from their communities and their families. With ICWA, we have that protection. I say chi-Miigwech, President Carter-Ba, and also the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, which gives us the opportunity to display our Migwans, to enter into our lodges, to participate in thousands and thousands and thousands of years of teachings and ceremonies. Prior to 1978, and I remember this time, teachings had to be done in the backwoods in a very secretive way. Our teachers were being arrested for what? For sharing the knowledge that the Creator blessed us with. So, with that, I want to say chi-Miigwech, President Carter-Ba. Tomorrow, they will be taking them back down to Georgia. And for a peanut farmer, I say Miigwech, chi-Miigwech, Miigwech, Miigwech, Miigwech. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

7. Ron Wittenberg

you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wittenberg: Uh I have nothing at this moment, but thank you, Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

8. Misty Silvis

you are next in the queue. Go ahead.

Councilor Silvis: No updates this week. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

9. Shannon Crampton

you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Um well, with um the federal executive transition going so smoothly, it's a lot of things are getting passed over. I think a lot of people are basically tuning out because there's nothing bad to report. But uh what has been missed is that in the outgoing um administration has designated two national monuments in California. One would be at the Chuckwalla National Monument, and the other is at the Sattitla National Monument. Um the Chuckwalla National Monument is going to be in the south, and that's going to be protecting um 624,000 acres from drilling and any kind of fracking, any kind of water uh pollution. The other national monument is going to be protecting 225,000 acres, and that's near the Oregon border in the north. This is a very good move that did not get a lot of coverage, but both monuments are going to be honoring the tribes of California. Thank you. That's my update.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to the

C. Public Comment Period

Is there anybody that has, any tribal citizen that has public comment? Go ahead, Sara.

Sara Agosa: Thanks for giving me a second. I had a hard time getting my hand up. My comment is about Mr. Romanelli's weekly status update. We're finding articles about the Muskegon Casino Project and the Gateway Project in the news. I just would like to share my opinion. I feel it's really disrespectful to the membership when the general public is given more information or more timely information than we are. We deserve to be notified first before anything is communicated to the general public, such as updates in these meetings, mass email blasts, and in the currents. Now that the Muskegon Project is dead, I'm asking you, Speaker Burmeister, and council to hold Mr. Romanelli accountable to furnish us a final report that includes the total loss of this project. Regarding the Gateway Project, why this project is moving forward given this federal sanction and our financial condition, and how was public input procured to continue with this massively expensive project? That is my question. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Ogema Romanelli.

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you. I think part of that question at the beginning was uh directed towards me. And the reason that we are uh that I don't give more information to the tribal membership in advance is because there are reasons to do so. Uh I think this is, I'm speaking, answering Sara Agosa. What happens in this tribe is a lot of misinformation goes out and a lot of contacts are made that shouldn't be made. I think Sara has been notified that she was contacting contractors on the side, which she shouldn't be doing. When we're doing contracts, it isn't up to our tribal members to be making those types of contracts. That's where misinformation goes out.

Councilor Crampton: I have a point of order. This is a question to you.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Crampton please

Sara Agosa: Point of order

Speaker Burmeister: Please let the Ogema finish that is.

Councilor Crampton: No

Sara Agosa: That is massively inappropriate.

Speaker Burmeister: Sara, you can't speak.

Councilor Crampton: It's a question about you. You're turning it around to the members.

Ogema Romanelli: Because this happens.

Sara Agosa: Focus on the millions of dollars.

Councilor Crampton: You're making excuses.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Crampton, are you going to not say anything and let the Ogema finish? Because if not, you're going to be...

Sara Agosa: Not if he's disrespectful.

Speaker Burmeister: Disrespectful. Well, I wanted to make sure because he says one thing...

Councilor Crampton: Excuse me...

Speaker Burmeister: and does another.

Ogema Romanelli: This is, no, it is not ended. This is disrespectful.

Sara Agosa: Focus on the millions of dollars. You've lost us.

Speaker Burmeister: She's put in the meeting room, Sara.

Ogema Romanelli: They should be removed from this meeting. I will not continue to come to these meetings and try and answer questions and be disrespected every time, every time. I don't even get my full five minutes in these meetings, nor do some of the people on the calls. And when I try to answer questions and I get disrespected by the same persons every time, and I have no idea why they are not taken out of the meetings. I have no idea why that continues to happen. I am done, and I will leave this meeting at this time. Thank you very much.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor um Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. I would just charge the members to watch this again. It's the same MO. If there's a question asked, there's never a question answered. It is redirected and attacked to the person who asked the question. This is why we're in the situation we're in. There's never a straight answer from anybody. We're forced to put up with it. The Governors, other people from other tribes are not forced to put up with it, and they're not putting up with it. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, is this uh, are we talking about, and I'm thinking we are, what was been all over on Facebook on what uh Ogema Romanelli was saying that the casino is just about at its end, which uh for many, many years people have been saying it's been dead then. And now we're coming up to the point where he's acknowledging it. But the people knew that a long, long, however long she wanna say it, ago. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: On the second half of that, and I apologize to Ms. Agosa and the other members, because I didn't answer the part about the Gateway Project. Um Tribal Council didn't start the Gateway Project. I don't support the Gateway Project. That's the EDC function. The excuse that was given to the membership and to the council at that time, as it was going to be needed to draw people to the area for betterment of our casino patronage. That no longer is viable with the advent of online gaming. That is no longer a viable excuse for beautifying, taking our money and putting it into a dying town that couldn't afford its own Twinkies. So, I think we need to get that straight. Council, I don't support that. Is there any motion? Is there any resolution? Because I'll put up for to remove it. There's no resolution. It's the EDC function. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other comments or questions? Go ahead, Councilor Wittenberg. Okay Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 7

A. Metzger- Yes	R. Wittenberg – Yes	J. Wolfe- Yes
S. Wever- Yes	S. Crampton- Yes	P. Johnson- Yes
T. Burmeister- Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Silvis- Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Councilor Wever: God bless you.

Recorder Johnson: In favor.

Speaker Burmeister: Bless you who's ever sneezing.

Recorder Johnson: Done this first one for today.

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 Burmeister: Ok um, Misty, could you restate.

Councilor Silvis: **I'd like to make the motion to end closed and go into the second open at 12:05pm**

Councilor Metzger: **Support**

Speaker Burmeister: recorded Johnson Can you do roll call please

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

S. Wever - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson – Yes
T. Burmeister- Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe – Yes	A. Metzger - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

We are in open. 1206.

Speaker Burmeister: Alright um

VIII. Open Session

A. Items from Closed to Open Session- Minutes and Materials shall remain Confidential. there is nothing listed under that.

IX. Adjourn

Um Councilor Silvis go ahead, please.

Councilor Silvis: **I'd like to make a motion to adjourn at 12:06 pm.**

Recorder Johnson: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Recorder Johnson, yes.

Councilor Wittenberg: *Mumbled something but was unclear.*

Speaker Burmeister: Recorder um Johnson Can you please do roll call.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

R. Wittenberg- No	J. Wolfe – Yes	A. Metzger - No
S. Crampton - Yes	P. Johnson – Yes	S. Wever - Yes
G. DiPiazza - Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	T. Burmeister- Yes

Motion carried (7-2-0-0)
Seven in favor two against we are adjourned at 1207.

Speaker Burmeister: Great. Thank you everybody. Thank you, Pat.

Respectfully Submitted,


Chantel Gamelin,
Transcribing Assistant


Pam Johnson,
Tribal Council Recorder