



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 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 15, 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 15, 2025. Um I have asked Councilor Wever to say the prayer...Hi Shirley... Councilor Wever to say the prayer for January. So, whenever you're ready, if you're able to stand, please stand.

I. Opening Prayer

Councilor Wever: Oh, I didn't have it ready, did I? It's the same one, but I guess it fits for January. Each new year offers time to reflect and move forward in God's purpose and promises in our life. This past year may have brought plenty of unexpected challenge for you, but the beginning of the new year offers a time of renewed hope and commitment. You can look forward to the coming year as a as you recall God's love and faithfulness. Instead of focusing on resolutions, focus on your relationship with God. New year prayers are a wonderful way to voice your desire to God. Keep these... 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. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Councilor Weaver for that nice prayer. Moving down to

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

I will be calling this meeting to order at 10:04. Next, the Zoom users, 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. Jim LaPorte, please identify yourself.

Jim LaPorte: Jim LaPorte, 3383.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Annie Perry, please identify yourself.

Attorney Annie Perry: Annie Perry, Legislative Council.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Cindy Tozer, please identify yourself.

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: This is Cindy Dunham-Tozer. I am the controller.

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

Delia Ross: Delia Ross, 2446.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Gary Lewis, please identify yourself. You are in the room, but you're on Zoom, so no need to do that. um iPhone guest, please identify yourself.

Councilor Wolfe: Why's he on in both?

Mumbling in background but unclear

Bill Willis: Uh I believe that's me, Uh Madam Speaker. Bill Willis, uh tribal manager.

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

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

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Larry Olson, please identify yourself.

Larry Olson: Olson, 1532.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. LeAnn Austin, please identify yourself.

LeAnn Austin: LeAnn Austin, 3878.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Legi Assistance is Chantel Gamelin. Moving down, um Martha Howell, please identify yourself.

Martha Howell: Martha Howell, 3635.

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

Venus Battaglia: (Anishinaabemowin), staff and tribal member, 1102.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sandy Mezeske, please identify yourself.

Sandy Mezeske: Sandy Mezeske, 0018.

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

Shawnna Gonzalez: Good morning, 4700.

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

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

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

Sky Gonzalez: Sky Gonzalez, 1042.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Staci Chaney, please identify yourself.

Staci Chaney: 992.

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

Speaker Burmeister: 3727.

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

Tina McClellan-Payment: 2917.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Phone number 19064584756. Please identify yourself.

Vicki LaPorte: Vicki. Vicki LaPorte 3384.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. K moving down to II general business

B. Roll Call

Recorder Johnson can you do roll call please.

Recorder Johnson:

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

We do have quorum.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. I just want to announce that Councilor Metzger um will not be on Zoom or in person due to um him not feeling well. So, 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 or comments? Tribal citizens with questions or comments? Back to tribal council. With no questions or comments, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Recorder Johnson, go ahead.

Recorder Johnson: So, I'd like to **make a motion for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, the agenda, um an add under general business D, tribal council minutes. Um 01/08/2025 was added. Um an update under continuing business under grants &**

contract number 2 um the resolution was updated. Under C, uh approval of budgeted expenditures, that item was removed. IV Old business update, updated A um the resolution uh is, there's an update to that. Uh B. under old business, that was removed. Under V New Business A, that was updated. And then um down in VIII open session, um that actually was marked as presented in close. It's not actually, it doesn't require like a motion. It's just a presentation. Oh, and litigation um under bids and contract in closed, it's marked as D. It should actually be an E. I don't know why that one keeps doing that, but that's it.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Who would like to, Okay um any tribal councilors with questions or comments? Citizens? Councilor Wolfe, go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: On the closed item, we don't have to accept that?

Recorder Johnson: Um It is.

Councilor Wolfe: Because it says right on there accept. *Unclear in mic* remove have to take an act.

Recorder Johnson: Um that's right. I was uh informed it was just a presentation. So as a presentation, it a presentation is a presentation. Because I thought it had to be um accepted as well. But it's uh.

Councilor Wolfe: It's for informational.

Recorder Johnson: yeah, yep.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other questions or comments from council? Council, back to Tribal Citizens. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 1

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-1)

Eight in favor, one absent. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to D, which was an

Add **D. Tribal Council Minutes** ☐ 01/08/2025

Yea, will there be any Tribal Councilors who are going to abstain from the item? Any Tribal Councilors with questions? Any citizens? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe. Okay. Any citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council? Councilor Wolfe Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: So, with no *mic wasn't turned on unclear*.

Recorder Johnson: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Any questions from Tribal Council? Tribal Citizens? Back to Tribal Council. With no further questions. Oh, go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Uh this isn't really a question. Just to remind the councilors to um turn on their mics. I don't believe Councilor Wolfe has her mic on. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do 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 - Absent | R. Wittenberg- Yes |

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Eight in favor, one absent. They've been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. So, before we move on, um we have someone that has joined us on Zoom. Beth McClellan, could you please identify yourself?

Beth McClellan: Beth McClellan, 2915.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts

**1. Accepting extension of the contract with Woven Tribal Ogema
Energy LLC for the TUA Feasibility Study. G. Lewis**

Have brought this item forward. So, Gary the floor is yours.

Gary Lewis: Uh thank you. So, this is a request to extend uh Woven Energy LLC contract to March 31st of 2025. The original contract price was \$99,420, and there's a remaining balance of \$33,140 on it. This is from a grant, and this is for a Tribal Utility Authority feasibility study. We've had several meetings before, and so to finish up the grant, we were waiting on a couple of things. And then this one actually escaped me. I got like eight contracts that went through in the last couple of months and had to extend quite a few. But I actually missed this one, so I'm bringing this forward now.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any tribal councilors who are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Councilor Wolfe, go ahead, please.

Gary Lewis: No, that's why we're extending it, so we can finish that out. So, there's a couple reasons why some personal. Sorry, I can't hear.

Councilor Wolfe: I said I read it a little bit different. You said we only have the one pending payment of the \$33,000, which would be for completion of phase three, which is project closeout. Phase two, we've made the payment on, and it says the study would be delivered.

Gary Lewis: Um we... Could you tell me where that's at. I'm sure.

Councilor Wolfe: Pages aren't numbered, but this one.

Gary Lewis: Oh. That so the timeline is just a projected timeline, so you're talking in the study itself.

Councilor Wolfe: Under the fee schedule. Aligned with the project phases and key milestones and summary below.

Gary Lewis: Yeah, have to find that. 50 pages.

Recorder Johnson: It's not in the resolution.

Gary Lewis: So yeah, so we haven't actually. I mean, we've discussed that, but there are some changes. So, we have to have the actual final report, but we have to come back to council, get council's recommendation on what they want. Then he can finalize the report, and then bring it back to us for a final review for the closeout.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, thank you. And then these last payment in this extension, all of this was grant dollars that we received for this feasibility study, correct?

Gary Lewis: Correct.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Other councilors with questions or comments? Councilor Di Piazza, go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, I was just going to make a motion on the item.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Any citizens that have questions? Back to tribal council. Okay, Councilor Di Piazza, go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: Excuse me. I'll make a **motion to approve resolution 25-0115-003, accepting extension of the contract with Woven Energy LLC for the TUA feasibility study.**

Councilor Wolfe: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Are there any tribal councilors that have further questions? Tribal citizens? Back to tribal council. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 3

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Eight in favor, one absent. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: K. Thank you, Gary. Okay, moving down under Continuing Business A

Updated 2. Climate Change Grant Application Tribal Ogema, F. Beaver
Have brought this item forward. So Frank, the floor is yours.

Frank Beaver: Good morning. Thank you. Yes, so I presented the original version at an agenda review and had a work session yesterday with council. Thank you for your time there. And we have updated, based on those comments, we've uh updated some of the scope of work to be clear on what the tribe is and is not um providing here, as well as some uh resolution edits. So, all that to bring us up to today. So, the background for this grant is we are requesting a small amount of funding, \$15,000, from the Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center, part of University of Minnesota. And so, they are um we're asking that they provide us with some planning assistance for a NOAA grant that we are planning to submit for the Muskegon River Watershed uh in partnership with the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly. Sorry, I have a lot of acronyms today. And uh so, we will be applying for those funds from NOAA um with assistance under this \$15,000 planning grant. That's what we're requesting today. I think our goals on the Muskegon River Watershed, we're following up from a grant that we originally received from the Army Corps of Engineers to do um water flow modeling in that watershed to discuss about reconnection of a blocked section of the stream. It was blocked in the 1800s um to make things easier for timber companies to remove those resources and move that down the river. Uh there were, of course, strong impacts, negative impacts to the um watershed, as well as to the tribal folks that we were there, that we were relying on that. And so now we are working with the watershed assembly to try and reconnect to get that to a natural flowing state and to improve that habitat for our members to hunt, fish, and gather in that watershed. So, all that to say that's why we are requesting, the Natural Resource Department is requesting this \$15,000 grant application from the Midwest Climate Center and to help us to um put together a competitive application for the NOAA funding next month. With that, if there are any questions, I'm happy to answer.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Frank. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Councilors with a question, go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: So, it's possible they're offering up to \$6 million for this grant and...

Frank Beaver: That is correct.

Councilor DiPiazza: What is NOAA?

Frank Beaver: Uh sorry, NOAA is the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. They're the weathermen guys. They're the weather guys. But they also do a lot of um oceanographic and right now, particularly Great Lakes um studies and analysis so.

Councilor DiPiazza: Miigwech.

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

Councilor Wolfe: We have the notice and mention of \$6 million. It's not \$6 million for Little River Band specifically. It's \$6 million for all 574 tribal nations that may apply.

Frank Beaver: We don't know the scope of our application. It will not be \$6 million, correct? We would not be asking for that amount of funding for the Muskegon River watershed. Part of this planning grant would be to help us to identify. I will say that this tribal allocation for part of this grant, I was on a webinar yesterday afternoon after our work session, and it has been underutilized. So, NOAA is working very hard to get this outreach, to get these dollars out the door to tribes. So, I rate our chances as very well if we do write up a competitive application to receive funding to do work in that watershed. But yes, we will not be asking for that full amount, Councilor, no.

Councilor Wolfe: And then um the benefits to tribal members with this restoration effort?

Frank Beaver: So, at the Natural Resources Department, we're focused on our rights to hunt, fish, and gather, as defined in the 1836 Treaty of Washington, and also with our consent decrees. So that's really the goal that we're working from here is to improve this, um the opportunities to harvest, which would be dependent upon a functioning ecosystem, functioning on um dependent on healthy native species communities. And so that's really what the goal we're working from. Direct, I that's uh maybe a trickier concept for us to get to with some of our projects, because we are focused on the opportunity. And to improve that, Um I can't tell you right now, I know this was a discussion, we had how many members we have harvesting, fishing in that watershed, but because many of our harvest opportunities do not require a permit, I can't answer, Council, and give you a specific number on that. I know that we do have members that fish in that watershed. I'm sorry, I can't tell you how many, because we don't require permits for our members.

Councilor Wolfe: So, what I was looking for is to highlight for the membership, the Maple River Restoration Project. It would um help support the existing strand of Menomin in there bring back the native May species and the walleye population. That's exactly what I was looking for.

Frank Beaver: Thank you, yes, sorry. Yeah, that is much more direct. And that was a key part of our Army Corps of Engineers on the phase one was our um description of our, Um I guess I'd say our desire to have healthy and improved Menomin populations in that watershed.

Councilor Wolfe: And then my last question, I asked for the update in the categories on the grant amount funding, um because previously had that almost \$6,000 um paid through the tribe for travel. And then that's just removed on the application, but that still is going to be a part of it. And you didn't X out...

Frank Beaver: Yes.

Councilor Wolfe: There's going to be no travel. There has to be travel for you guys to go to that watershed.

Frank Beaver: So, I've removed that from the grant narrative because the um upon rereading, they're very clear that they say, if there is a zero-line item, you're requesting from the climate center, we don't want to see that, right? So, if our travel requests from them is zero, we will be providing some travel support with the department. We will be using our rights protection funds for that. If there are costs associated with travel, there will be some travel and our folks, they do travel. We're not billing hours to this grant. So that's why the staff time it's listed in there for us are zero, the University of Wisconsin, they're also part of that climate center, Midwest climate center. They're also a partner to that. So, they won't be charging um salary line to this. Travel dollars, we will be providing some support, but it's not a request to the climate center. It's using existing department funding if those costs are accrued.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay. And then the second thing is it's allocated under salary wages and benefits, but most of these are passed through to that watershed agency staff. So that's not actually...

Frank Beaver: That's correct.

Councilor Wolfe: salary wages and benefits. Those would be on stipend or pass through or how would we get the funding to the three individuals?

Frank Beaver: I would put them myself under professional fees, but we'll work with the accounting department because frequently our internal line-item definitions do not line up perfectly with a funder's line-item definitions. So, we have to make sure when the funds come in, we get them in the line items that are appropriate for us, for our accounting system, but they might call it something else. EPA is notorious for this of having, they only have eight cost categories in any EPA grant. Well, we have many, many more than eight, right? We have to we have a much more defined list of line items. This happens fairly frequently. And so, we will make sure with accounting when the funds come in. And so, when that resolution comes to council for accepting the funds, that those are

listed appropriately for our accounting department, but the grant, the funder would just, they just call it salary.

Councilor Wolfe: Because actually, in essence, all these dollars we take in are going out and pass through to these experts.

Frank Beaver: This is from the climate center to provide, yes.

Councilor Wolfe: The technical assistance, the TA to help the grant get up and going. So, for example, if you have one listed at 32 hours and then you have a wage listed for them, if they're under or over those 32 hours, how are we gonna supplement the payment?

Frank Beaver: So, this would be a not to exceed, right? If they put more time in, that's their donation. We... we we're not making some commitment to them that however many hours you put in, you'll get reimbursed. They know what the cost is on, what the max cap is on that. We are not committing with this grant application for you know any sort of exceedance to that. If it's under that and it could very well be, then those are cost savings to the grant. And we would either reprogram those funding. You know we work with the funding agency to decide what we do with those. Do we have to return them? Can we reprogram to other costs that are appropriate to this grant? How do we do that? Again, this is unfortunately very routine with how we get some of our grant dollars in NRD is uh the plan, we plan as best we can, and then we get on the ground, and we implement.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you, Frank.

Frank Beaver: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor DiPiazza, go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, I do know over the years of being on council, a lot of people have toggled me about fishing down there in Muskegon. I don't have a number of citizens that have utilized that for fishing and gathering, but it's been quite a few. So, it's not just nobody's utilizing it. They are quite a bit. I'm good.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other councilors with questions or comments? Tribal citizens, go. You can come up, Boo, to the podium.

Boo Battice: Boo Battice POW 2644. Um am I gonna be, is this something that I also can apply for or am I gonna be applying? Because I'm gonna be asking for the same grants because I'm researching grants and there's tons of grants out there, I'm gonna be asking for. But am I gonna be going against my tribe or are we gonna have um these guys help me, guide me, get my own grant? Or am I gonna be able to squeeze, because I would like to utilize all the grant funding, but as a fisherman, I'm opening up a different aquaculture and a more local than Muskegon. But yeah, we have lots of members and I believe it's a good initiative and it's not just about tribal members. It's about all the

people because our culture is of the people, human beings. Um but yeah, we're gonna do the best we can to bring that back as we're all Native Americans, not American Indian. Um and as of next week, Monday, things are gonna keep changing. Do we have Monday off?

Few councilors respond: No

Boo Battice: Is there anybody in the office Monday? Another...okay I'll wait for um public

Speaker Burmeister: Public comment. Okay

Boo Battice: Public comment more on the things of this. A question is, we keep seeing are, how many are actually Little River members that we're gonna be playing? Because I've been trying to get jobs and work and help and everything and I'm still homeless and uh no help. I'm gonna need help. So, I'm wondering how many members are actually Little River member, as we all know, Frank isn't even of the Little River. That is this a Trojan horse? Because I've never got help.

Speaker Burmeister: Boo this grant is specific for a certain function. So that's why Frank's bringing that forward.

Boo Battice: I plan on...

Speaker Burmeister: just so you know.

Boo Battice: doing the same functions because they won't let me participate. I'm gonna do watershed funding. There's all kinds of rehabilitation. Trump's trying to get aquaculture and the food back.

Speaker Burmeister: Boo can you save all that to public comment? Or did you...

Boo Battice: Yeah, I said I would save a lot.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay... Okay, thank you, appreciate that. Julie, did you?

Boo Battice: A direct question to Frank is, how many is it gonna help Little River? How many Little River members are getting paid in different, not Little Traverse, because we're all different. And I'm a Little River member and I can't even get a job. So, I wanna know how many people it's helping.

Councilor Wolfe: I can just help clarify that.

Boo Battice: I go down there and there's a bunch of non-members down there and they wanna hand me an eagle feather from someone who don't even know our culture.

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah, this is a restoration project and it's a planning grant to secure that. So, at this point right now, it's not individual fishermen or individual tribal members that it's benefiting. It's a planning grant application that we're asking for. So, we continue the work on the Maple River Restoration Project.

Boo Battice: Right, and we should get more members helping with that situation. And then... am I able to apply because the grant funding work, I don't think we're getting all 6 million.

Councilor Wolfe: You can look at the NOAA grant application portal

Boo Battice: I have been...

Councilor Wolfe: and see if it's eligible. We can't answer that for you.

Boo Battice: Because America don't wanna buy seafood from overseas anymore.

Councilor Wolfe: Right.

Boo Battice: I'm gonna have to go. I'm gonna bring the same kind of things.

Councilor Wolfe: Right.

Boo Battice: That's what I'm saying. Am I fighting again?

Councilor Wolfe: This one is only going to...

Boo Battice: *Over talking councilor Wolfe* Am I gonna help me this time... When I represent this thing? Right, but I'm gonna be applying for the same thing. And that all this information I'm picking up is very helpful as I'm gonna also try to use tribal member. I'm saying, am I fighting again? How many people are we helping? Because I would like to help Little River member in the Ludington area, Manistee. I would, we have to continue. I'm not going against it. We have to continue with Muskegon.

Councilor Wolfe: Right.

Boo Battice: Because there's so many members of my family and stuff. We're all family. I'm not gonna even go there. But yeah, I would like to know how many people, how many members that's helping from Little River. That's a specific question. That's really the only one. I'll keep the rest for public. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Frank Beaver: I guess if um we're asking about grant applications for individual, again, this program obviously is not appropriate. It's not available to individual tribal citizens. But if citizen, we have some technical capacity in the department, right? We apply

frequently uh for a number of agencies for a number of programs. We are ready to help members. If they would like to come in and talk to some of our folks who write grants. We're happy to assist them. We would never compete with a tribal citizen for funding. If there are things that are available, we... we stand ready to assist those. Please just call my department, call me, call Teresa at the front desk. We can set up a meeting um and we will talk with folks. Absolutely.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you, Frank. Um is there any other tribal citizens with a comment or question? Councilor DiPiazza, I know you had your hand up first.

Councilor DiPiazza: I was just gonna make a motion, but I'll hold off a minute.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, Boo.

Boo Battice: I guess I'll make a more specific question. What's the ratio of tribal members in a natural resource department? Because like I said, I go down there and I get to talk to one tribal member, maybe two. Yeah, Frank's a tribal member, but it's like China coming. How? We're all working together here, right? I think our immediate, I've asked for help for a long time and I'm willing to help the other tribes too that's you know what my father said too is we all should work together. The three fires um and our forefathers were buried in all three fires, Pottawatomie, Chippewa and Ottawa were in this power hill. We met here annually in the Ludington area.

Speaker Burmeister: Boo, I think... I think Frank explained how they can help you, you know to call them.

Boo Battice: Excuse me

Speaker Burmeister: Frank explained how the department can help tribal citizens.

Boo Battice: I apologize. How many members where a Little River member work in the natural resources? I hear that number.

Frank Beaver: I'm probably not the best person to answer that because I believe that there's a tribal preference report. Am I incorrect in that? I believe that something gets submitted from the executive for... for that. I know that used to happen and-

Speaker Burmeister: It's in there.

Frank Beaver: Yeah, okay.

Speaker Burmeister, Recorder Johnson & Councilor Wolfe: It's in the operation report.

Councilor Wolfe: It tells us the total number of tribal members employed in the entire government, not a specific department.

Frank Beaver: Understood.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Councilor DiPiazza, you had your hand up.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, I was gonna make a motion on the item.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: Um.

Councilor DiPiazza: Sorry.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, I'm sorry, Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: I just wanna note for tribal council, it's kind of internal. The updated copy that we received on the green paper isn't actually the one that should have been printed. So, there are some changes. Um it's especially to the title and then to highlight. Um and that was one of the changes recommended by myself. The now therefore it is resolved the tribal council schedules, authorizes the natural resource department to apply for funding for Midwest climate application and science center small research projects for February 2025 versus what it has here that's still that calendar year. So, the title has changed or updated. If you want me to make the motion, I can.

Councilor DiPiazza: Oh, feel free.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Councilor DiPiazza: But I have the same updated one.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Councilor DiPiazza: That's screened up as you know.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, Councilor DiPiazza, go ahead then, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: Oh, just a motion to approve resolution 25-1115-004, MWCASC climate change grant application. Is that correct? Hmm? alright, then go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Like to make a motion to approve resolution 25-0101-15004.

Councilor DiPiazza: Where are you at?

Councilor Wolfe: What? **Resolution 25-0115-004 Midwest client adaptation science center climate change grant application.**

Speaker Burmeister: Will there, is there any further questions from tribal council on this item? From tribal citizens? Go ahead, Boo.

Boo Battice: I know I'm a little rough around the edges, but I'm totally for this. I want us all to prosper, all the people, and there's a lot to remember. So, I'm not trying to be against it. I wanna be with it and utilize the full... The full federal funds we can get. If they can get some, I wanna get some too and try to utilize the whole area. I'm more in the Ludington area. I'm totally for it, not against it. I'm totally for all the people we're helping. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Back to tribal cit.. or to Tribal council, any comments or questions? With no further comments or questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 4

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Eight in favor, one absent. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

B. Budget Modifications

There is nothing listed under that.

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

Removed **1. Authorization of Expenditure to pay 2025 dues Tribal Ogema For Membership in the Indian Gaming Association.**

Moving down to

IV. Old Business

Updated **A. Approval to amend Resolution #24-1211-237, Tribal Ogema
Ratification Of the Master Agreement for services B. Willis
with Elevate Technology Partners LLC for Advanced G. Lewis
Enterprise Network Services, Utilizing grant fund
4996-000-6100 in amount of \$550,000.00**

Have brought this item forward. So, Bill the floor is yours.

Bill Willis: Uh thank you, Madam Speaker. Just, I guess, a quick background on this. So back in December, I think it was December 11th of 2024, council approved uh this master agreement for services with Elevate Technology. Uh once all the paperwork got down to purchasing, uh purchasing realized that the uh general ledger account number that was identified in the approved uh resolution was incorrect. And as I

mentioned to council uh yester, Monday, uh that's entirely my fault. Um and so, the request uh before council today is simply to amend that original resolution uh to uh correct the GL code uh or you know insert the correct GL code into the resolution. Um and so, um I did update the draft resolution, sent it to council, I think it was uh shortly after uh agenda review and all indications are the language was adequate. Uh in addition, uh in working through this, I did um coordinate with uh executive legal who uh also offered a legal review to tribal council in regard to the best way to uh correct this matter. So, uh again, just asking for an approved amended resolution. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any tribal councilors that are gonna abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Any tribal citizens with questions? Back to tribal council with no questions. I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor Silvis.

Councilor Silvis: Yes, I'd like to make a **motion to approve resolution 25-0115-005 approval to amend resolution number 24-1211-237 with corrected general ledger account number 5205 to professional fees, ratification of the master agreement for services with Elevate Technology Partners LLC for advanced enterprise network services, utilizing grant fund 4996-000-6100 in the amount of \$550,000.**

Speaker Burmeister: Who would like to second that motion?

Councilor DiPiazza: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Any tribal councilors with questions or comments? Tribal citizens? Back to tribal council. With no...Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I understand the need for bringing it forward and the correction of the item, but I did not support it the first time, so my vote will be a no again today. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. So, any other councilors with questions or comments? Okay, with no further comments or questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 5

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

Motion carried (6-2-0-1)

Six in favor two, yeah, six in favor, two against, one absent. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Bill Willis: Thank you very much.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um we have a tribal citizen that has joined us on Zoom. So, Mark Huddleston, please identify yourself.

Mark Huddleston: Mark Huddleston, 3230. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Mark Huddleston: Thank you. Sorry I'm late.

Councilor DiPiazza: *Inaudible*

Speaker Burmeister:

Removed B.

**Veto- Authorization of Charitable Donation with
the National Native American Boarding School
Healing Coalition.**

J. Wolfe

Moving down to

V. New Business

Updated A.

**Authorizing the action of adding a credit card
For the Use of utility payments for
Government business purposes and increasing
credit limit to \$200,000.00**

Tribal Ogema

C. Dunham-Tozer

M. Lucas

have brought this item forward. So, Cindy, I believe that you are gonna resent, you are gonna represent this item today. Is that correct?

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: It is correct. Thank you. This is Cindy Dunham. I am the Uh Dunham- Tozer. I am the controller. We had um brought to council and through, um brought to council that we would like to increase the credit card um buying from 100,000 to \$200,000 the limit. It's an umbrella for the um credit card. Just wanted to increase it so we could add the, add a card to pay the utility payments. I had issued another um uh spreadsheet this morning that indicates that on average monthly um utility payments are about 65 to \$70,000. So, we were asking for a little bit of a cushion of about \$30,000 for that. That's basically so that we can pay all utility payments within the tribe. We've had issues we're um working, especially I noted with DTE and Consumers Energy that we will issue them a check and the person on the other end will just look at it regardless of whether we put the statements and the little coupons in there or not. They look at the very first account number and they apply the entire amount to that account number. This gives the tribe more control to make sure that the correct accounts are being paid, the amount they're supposed to be paid. We're not receiving any late notices. Um and again, it gives us the control to make sure they're not overpaying certain accounts and then telling us other ones are late.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Will there be any tribal councilors that are gonna abstain from this item? Okay, councilors with questions. Go ahead, Councilor um Wittenberg and Julie, you too.

Councilor Wittenberg: Thank you. I was looking over this sheet here where it talks about uh electric media listing. And uh I have come to the attention of there's two that the casino neon sign uh we're paying for. Uh and then naturally you got the trading post, the C-Store. And then we also have three that is the Bear Lake Highlands Golf Course. Now, I do understand now that uh says the meter listing, but my question is on this, are we getting reimbursed from the casino because those are under them? Uh and now we wanna raise it. From I understand and everything from raising it up to make sure we're covering ourselves? My question is, are we getting reimbursed for paying their bill, which they should be paying their bill? That's my question. Thank you.

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: Yes.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay go ahead.

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: We do get reimbursed by them. I... I apologize. I didn't get a chance to look at that. It was my understanding that the casino pays for their own utility bills. Um but regardless whether they pay it, or we pay it, we do get reimbursed. We do not cover any expenditures that are related to the casino.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wolfe, go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: So, we did have some discussion in um agenda review and I just wanna restate some of my opinion for tribal memberships benefit because I'm not in support of the item. Again, what we originally received when we had the work session back in December and then that \$50,000 was the amount they were requesting for credit increase, then they changed it to a \$200,000, which we currently have \$100,000. So, it's a double credit increase. And to me, the credit increase seems unrelated to what the card will be utilized for when our utility payments that we're asking to put on there were consumers in DTE, not all the other utilities, Republic, Fishers, all these that they presented after we questioned it, \$50,000 credit limit was fine for that. Um I did ask when we were putting them on credit that they wouldn't have a revolving balance, retail or incur any credit card costs. And the additional 50,000 why they're asking for \$100,000 credit crease had to revert back to nothing with utilities. It was travel, it was other purchases on other government accounts like Amazon or different things like that because it functions under umbrella. Us applying for this additional card and asking for the credit increase, they wanted to expand it on all of those. So, to me, that said, if we need \$100,000 credit, we're debt to credit ratio didn't come into line with me. And like I said, the credit increase seems unrelated to what the card would be utilized for. But then also I got concerned and I thought about it because they said, oh, we're gonna continue to add utilities and payments on it. So, I went and looked it up. As of October 1st, 2023, small business energy bill payments made with a credit card will include a \$9.99 transaction fee. Then they provided us a list with 36 meters that they pay bills on. To me, that translates to 36 bills, \$9.99 times 36 times a monthly fee. So, we're looking at \$3,956.04 of transaction fees just by now paying our utility consumer energy bill on a credit card. So, for that reason, I can't support this item. We don't need to take on a \$4,000 bill just to pay our utility bills by credit card. And then also we got provided

another update just this morning to support the increase and then add Verizon, AT&T, Charter, Frontier, Comcast, Masters, Republic, Fisher and Waste. Um quick Google search, because I did get this at, what was it? 9:45, 9:47. Um Verizon has a 1.5% total transaction fee that charges with a credit card payment. AT&T has a two to 3% processing fee on your total amount of bill for credit card. And I'm assuming Charter is now what is Spectrum. They have a 3.5 transaction fee. So, there's too many fees associated with moving utility bill payments to credit cards for me to support this item. So, I want that clarification made. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other tribal councilors with comments or questions?

Recorder Johnson: Can you see Misty hand?

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Silvis.

Councilor Silvis: Yes, um I guess my question would be, is the 9.9% interest if the bills not paid within 30 days? Because I believe that's probably what that falls under, but I would like clarification on that. Thank you.

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: That would be... That would be correct but the way the credit card is set up is that it's an automatic payment and then we have to authorize it. So, it never goes over that amount. I mean, it never goes over those days. So, we don't get charged interest.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Silvis, are... does that?

Councilor Silvis: Yes, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, okay I have Councilor Crampton next and then Councilor Wolfe. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, this doesn't make sense in so many levels, but if uh what uh Councilor Wittenberg presented was true, then uh the casino needs to pay its own bills and there wouldn't be any need for an increase or another card. Thank you.

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

Councilor Wolfe: What I presented or stated was transaction fees that the company charges the business for making their payment by a credit card. They a lot of them do. I know even we would come into that if we added the water bill from downtown in there. They charge a 2% to 3% transaction fee. Credit cards charge a fee to the company. The company's passing it on to the consumer. The \$9.99 fee I'm talking about is not a late fee or an interest fee. It's a charge from consumers that automatically hits the tribe when we change from a check payment, an automatic payment to a credit card payment. That started on October 1st of 2023. They sent a notice out to all consumers.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other um comments or questions from Tribal Council? Tribal citizens? Go ahead, Boo.

Boo Battice: Boo Battice 2644. Um yeah, fees, fees, fees, fees, different owners. Are we having anybody with the technological, can we put you know the 20, 30,000 or 6,000, whatever, to help maybe get someone to build us a domain with the, I hate to say it, but the best ledger is the XRP Ledger. And the fees are very cheap. Um to build a domain and have our own QR code under, you know we gotta get advanced as a tribe. And yeah, I don't know how advanced other organizations are as they're just now releasing you know a stable coin, but we can use stable coin, the RLUSD. We can use a stable coin for those transactions or the USDC, which is all digital. And a lot of things are fairly cheap if we can keep up on the game. It's just the other people might not be set up, but we should be set up for when it's time to hit the button. There's a lot of technology that saves fees and costs. So, um I would just like to say, it would be nice to invest those fees to somebody to get in here and put the time. Me, I wanna fish, I wanna put my time on the water, but the technologies out there. And if we're not winning, we're losing, we're behind. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um Mark, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Mark Huddleston: Yes, I was wondering if there's any cost saving in man hours for not having, if it's going off a card instead of having to do it separately or have somebody do it.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Cindy.

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: Yes, sir. It's time savings. Right now, we have our um AP person, Judy, who is actually having to fight with DTE, with consumers to try and straighten out the payments. Um it's...it's taking her too much time to have to reinvent the wheel basically, because she's got to tell them, you need to apply it to this, apply it to that. So not only is she paying and doing it properly internally, now she's telling um consumers in DTE how to apply it, which is very time consumption there. So being able to control it this way uh would be a lot better. And uh Councilor Wolfe, I apologize that I didn't look into the fees, but a lot of times in my past, when I have talked to um these companies like consumers an DTE with us being such a big customer of theirs, sometimes they're willing to waive those fees. I would approach that, would be very open to approach that. I don't want to see um the tribe paying for more than what they need to. I don't agree with the fees either. Um so that would be something that I would... I would go and fight to make sure that we could pay this with a credit card and not have any fees.

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

Councilor Wolfe: Well, based on that comment, then my suggestion would be to remove the item and get that clarification for them, whether those fees would be passed onto the tribe or not before moving forward.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um Recorder Johnson, you were next in the queue.

Recorder Johnson: Um so I would just agree with uh what Julie had just stated. Um but on top of that, if you're planning to go online and pay with a credit card, why don't you, just since you're paying so many at a time that may be coming through, why would you just not pay out of a check instead, instead of the credit card if you're going online anyway, to avoid some of those fees, if there's no way for us to get out of them? That's my comment.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Cindy.

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: Uh an thank you for that... that comment. You know, I had suggested, I'm just gonna tell you, I'm new, I'm sure you all are aware, I'm relatively new to um the tribe as a controller. And that was my first suggestion was to pay them via ACH, because you can literally go out to their site and you can say pay, and we can put um our routing number and our check number. And I was told that that was kind of taboo. I'm not sure who told me that, but it was frowned upon. So that's why I decided to try and do it a different way so that we still have control. And that's why I suggested the credit card. And I am willing to, you know, look at other options and...and research it a little bit more. If we have to table this, that's fine.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Councilor Wolfe: Tabling it has to have an action so it's the same meaning.

Speaker Burmeister: Right. So, it would have to be removed. Councilor um DiPiazza, go ahead.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'm not mistaken, and I could be wrong on that, but I believe Mr. Broton, that is why we do not use a check online and give them the accounting numbers. That happened a long time ago, but... okie dokie.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, any other um, go-ahead Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, that did happen a long time ago, as Councilor DiPiazza just stated. And it also corresponded with not being able to get the financials for several months. I don't support anything until the financials are caught up. Now you're talking about doubling down and putting more money on a credit card to find it. And when are we gonna find out what was put on the credit card? Eight months down the road? Um sometimes logic has to take precedence. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, any other, go-ahead Recorder Johnson.

Recorder Johnson: Thank you, um how long would it take you to get an answer if that um for uh that fee would affect us?

Councilor Wolfe: *Inaudible*

Recorder Johnson: Right, but right now I'm just about the, yeah. How soon could you find out on those items?

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Cindy.

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: Uh I would be, I could call them, I will utilize the rest of this week to get ahold of these different um entities and verify whether we can get those things um overlooked. If they will go ahead and say, no, we're not gonna charge you those fees, find out the best way. And I could get back to you, um you know, feasibly I can't control what they're going to tell me. I can only control what I can ask them. And I can't tell you, their timeline. But if you feel like maybe, I think two weeks, is that asking too much? Two weeks feasible?

Recorder Johnson: Nope, not to reach out to...to other companies that you have listed to be able to get um that answered.

Councilor Wolfe: That's just for informational purposes *Speaking but unclear not in the mic*. Right, that's what you're asking?

Recorder Johnson: Basically, is when I'm coming out and I would be okay with postponing it for two weeks until we find out because that could be a huge charge.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, I had Councilor DiPiazza next in the queue. Were you finished, Recorder Johnson?

Recorder Johnson: Yes

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, Councilor DiPiazza, go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: I was gonna make that **motion to postpone it**. You want it for two weeks or next week?

Recorder Johnson: Let's do it for two weeks.

Councilor DiPiazza: Hmm? Postpone it for two weeks.

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: Sir, that would be wonderful, thank you.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make that motion.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay

Recorder Johnson: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Councilor Wolfe had her hand up also. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: I think it would be appropriate to have a work session with Tribal Council as she finds out and determines that uh information before we vote on there. So, I don't know if postponing it two weeks just keeps it on the agenda or it's better to removal because she may run into obstacles, I don't know. I think that's what the clarification question was, what Councilor Johnson was asking, how long it would take her based on what action we take today on the item.

Speaker Burmeister: And also, um we would need that in writing from those agencies too because that way we have documentation. So go ahead, Recorder Johnson.

Recorder Johnson: You going to ask Cindy.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, yeah, go ahead, Cindy.

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: I... I agree, uh Councilor Wolfe. Um definitely, we need to have everything in writing, CYA. We always gotta cover our rear ends to make sure that what we say and what they say are accurate. Um and bringing it back to a work session is absolutely probably the best way to go. That way there aren't any surprises bringing it back to a vote. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um go ahead, Recorder Johnson.

Recorder Johnson: Well, I was just going to throw out there that um we can plan a work session, which is a very good idea, but we could still leave it on for two weeks. And if we had to between now and then we could always remove it. She could ask to have it removed...

Councilor DiPiazza: Mm hmm...

Recorder Johnson: Um depending on what she finds out or if she needs more time. So that would be fine, is that we keep it on for two weeks or uh two weeks out, uh postpone it until then, have a work session between now and then and go from there. But if she thinks two weeks is enough time to get that, we can always do it. She can always ask for it to be removed at that time. No, Gary did it, I second.

Councilor DiPiazza: Yeah, I made a motion, postpone it for the two weeks.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other questions from Tribal Council? Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call to postpone this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 6

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| A. Metzger - Absent | 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 (8-0-0-1)

Eight in favor, one absent. It's been postponed for two weeks.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Cindy too.

Cindy Dunham-Tozer: Yeah, thank you so much for your time and all your input, I appreciate it.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um moving down to

VI. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, January 22, 2025

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

Ogema are you...do you have an update?

Ogema Romanelli: *Inaudible*

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. Moving down to

C. Legislative Affairs Update

1. Tammy Burmeister

I do not have anything this week. Next in the queue is Recorder

2. Pam Johnson

Go ahead please.

Recorder Johnson: I know I should have wrote my stuff down. Um uh since I cannot remember fully, but I do just wanted to share that um we are planning a round dance. And right now, that is scheduled for March 22nd. So, if um that is in the works, I believe a save the date was put out. Um it is out there. And then more information will be coming right now where um we have a couple people that have said they would love to come and drum um with their hand drums. Um so, if any vendors would also like to um partake as well, please feel free to reach out to us and that way we can get you a form. And if I can get that from Councilor DiPiazza, the vendor form and we will get you um a form and then you can send it back to us. Um and we'll have more information, of course, coming as we go. It is looking at being at the resort and the event center with doors opening at 5:30 and uh then 6, I believe was the pipe ceremony and 6:30, I believe was dinner um off the top of my head would be that. So, um but just so everyone is aware, and they can plan for that accordingly. And of course, as always, more information will be coming um and that's all I can remember right now. So, I'm good.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you, Councilor

3. Julie Wolfe

You are next in the queue. Go ahead Please.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. Um just have one update that I wanted to share. Crystal Shores Casino in Benzie County is opening January 22nd, 2025. Um a little bit about the casino. It will feature slots at this time, no table games. They will open without alcohol

sales. The casino will have limited food service. Um it has a maximum of 254 guests. The reason they're opening, that's their grand opening on January 22nd because their hours of operations are Wednesday through Sunday. Um just to note that that's something Tribal Council is watching and monitoring as we move ahead to see impacts of that. It also was a press release from that resort entity yesterday and that this is a satellite project for them, and they are gonna monitor what the gaming need is for the area in Benzie County and what that facility will do and if they, um with the intent or large of opening a larger facility in that area. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

4. Gary DiPiazza

You are next in the queue. Go ahead please.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, uh the deer season has come to a close and also elk season. And if I'm not mistaken, I believe all the permits were filled. The last one taken was a humungo, huge bull. Seven on seven or something like that. Yeah, it was huge. So, congratulations to everybody out there, whether your deer hunting or harvesting of any sorts, but look forward to next year. So that, Miigwech everybody.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

5. Shirley Wever

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

6. Al Metzger

Is not here. Moving down to Councilor

7. Ron Wittenberg

Go ahead please.

Councilor Wittenberg: I have nothing at this moment. Thank you, Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

8. Misty Silvis

You are next in the queue. Go ahead please.

Councilor Silvis: No updates this week. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

9. Shannon Crampton

You are next. Go ahead please.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, the year-end report for the uh Consumer Protection uh um Bureau. Uh one of his chapters in there um had a report going out about IHS and the fact that Native Americans are proportionately um more likely to have, be in collections due to their IHS contracting due to billing errors, non uh non-available funding, underfunding and incorrect processes put forth by the IHS process, which is found to be totally egregious since Native Americans are guaranteed healthcare under the IRS or the IHS agreement. Um there's a U.S. representative. She's a Democrat from Washington. I think

her name's Kim Schrier. She's putting forth um two bills right now to correct the issues. But this is something that we really need to look in for into for our members and for our clinic as well. This is something that um touches all of us and something that should be supported. Again, that's U.S. Representative Kim Schrier from Washington. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to the

D. Public Comment Period

Go ahead, Ken. If you want to come up to the podium, please.

Ken Metzger: Well, Ken Metzger, uh number 0889. I was at uh EDC or LHR meeting Monday and um I was trying to request how much land uh EDC acquired because last year at elders meeting, I was um at the powwow grounds there and asked Larry about it. And uh he told me that um EDC has purchased 230 properties and sold several and he has no control over it. I was wondering how I may obtain the list of the properties purchased by EDC because I feel there's an awful lot of money that was involved. And I feel, and I'm almost certain there were several properties purchased in the reservation boundaries of Little River Band. And I'd like to see the list and I'd like to see all the purchase prices for them properties. Because uh what I've been looking into, that's quite a few properties, 230. And if they're at 150 average price, that's awful lot of money. But if they're at 250,000 property or \$500,000 of property, that's a lot of money. And if there's 230 of them, I feel as an elder and a tribal member, how come I can't see the list that EDC has purchased? And I talked to them there Monday and they said, EDC is no longer gonna be and that it's getting mixed in with uh Little River Holdings. Um before that happens, I'd like to see financial reports on EDC and how much money we have invested in them, besides letting them buy property. And why is it in a hole? That was my major concern, and I did not get no answers there because they said that they're not qualified. They couldn't provide me with that. I was wondering how I could get that list of properties because from uh what I've seen, the City of Manistee since 2023, most properties jumped up to 100,000 since 2020. So, um if we purchased a lot of them properties, I would like to know, how would I go about getting that list? Because uh I have quite a few other questions. And um from what I've been told, the hotel I was staying at Riverside was purchased and sold by EDC and I had to get out of there. So, I was wondering, how do I go about that? Aho Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Ken I would... You said you attended the meeting on Monday?

Ken Metzger: Yes, I did.

Speaker Burmeister: Um did they ask you or did you, can you submit something in writing to get that? Did they say like, did you ask like how you go about getting that? Because I know here, if people want information, tribal citizens, there's a form that we they have to fill out to request information. So, I don't know if the EDC has such a thing. Do you? Julie? I don't know.

Councilor Wolfe: *Mic not on unaidable*

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah. So, I would ask, uh hmm? okay, go ahead Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Well, to me, I see your concern and I hear what you're saying and asking for that report. The EDC is a subordinate organization that was formed and adopted by tribal council. Its management is overseen by the Ogema and the board of directors. So, either of them would be the entities to get the information you're requesting of how many properties they purchase and what the value of those are or what the purchase price of those are. To my knowledge, since I've been following that, the only properties that I'm aware that they purchased were their downtown office space, which is the old Johnson Funeral Home where their offices are located. That was about a \$200,000 purchase. And then the other only properties that they purchased would be in that quarter on the 31 in River Street where they planned the gateway project. And some of those weren't purchased. We already had a House of Flavors that was just torn down, and all those office buildings was already prior purchased before the EDC. It was made as a property transfer to them when they were established. And then across on the other side where they bought the cleaners and the auto place and that plumbing, some of those were purchased, but then also there was a property transfer, and they transferred the two other parcels that were part of their inventory where the old administration offices were on 31 across from Taco Bell. Those were given to a transfer in that. But the only in that property, I'm not aware the one where they bought for their office space was brought before Tribal Council for ratification. I think that was a board decision to make that purchase. So, it's not clear, but they don't the way that they're set up, they don't have that reporting structure to give Tribal Council every one of those answers you're requesting and the way it's set up is that management and the board of directors and the Ogema is the manager overseer of economic development and enterprises. So, I hope that adds some clarification.

Ken Metzger: Well, that's on about 20 properties then that zeroes it down to about 190. Um so. As a Tribal member, I feel that we should get some kind of explanation where it went and why and what, and you know. So, I feel awful lot of money you know awful lot into the millions. So, um so do I go back to EDC? Cause I was denied, and they said they didn't. Well, first of all, uh Tyler said, where'd you get that ridiculous number of 230? I said, well, I was at elders meeting last spring and I asked Ogema about that. And he said he had no control over EDC and that they bought and sold 230 properties. I find that very disturbing that nobody can get a financial statement on how much EDC has been given from our tribe, how much they've bought and sold them properties from, because I've, my understanding, most of them properties were sold at a loss. If that's true, it's horrible and we should know.

Councilor Wolfe: When we did transfer money into the EDC, it was done by resolution. So, I can look those up and let you know how much was gone. I know there was, uh and it's tied to the revenue allocation plan. One 10% of our government budget has to be allocated for economic development. And from 2018 to 2024, that money was distributed to them. So, I'll look up those resolutions and I can give you that amount. But as far as purchases, I don't, we're not aware and those weren't adopted by resolution for the EDC,

by tribal council resolution. Maybe their independent board did or whatever authorization process they had, but they were not brought forward for tribal council for 230 property purchases. I can guarantee that. So, I can look up the amount of how much we've gave to them by past resolutions. And that would be from 18 to 25 or 24, sorry. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, I have three people in the queue. Councilor Crampton, you are next in the queue. And then I have the Ogema and Councilor DiPiazza. So go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Yeah, to answer your question, Mr. Metzger, I think your um there'd be article three of the constitution section two would be access to records is what you'd want. That would be your right. That's a right in our constitution. So, if you read through there, and I do believe the Speaker, that's the process she was talking about, where you go to the Ogema's office and fill out the record and request the records. Um on the second part of that, I was gonna say that prior to my taking office, I was made aware that um the previous Speaker had ordered a um evaluation of some property transfers of the EDC, and I believe that there are reports from our comptroller. So, if you fill out the access to records, you could probably get those reports from our comptroller as well. Thank you.

Ken Metzger: Aho.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue, I have Ogema Romanelli. Go ahead, please.

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you. Uh in response to the 200 properties, that includes what was bought and sold in Odeno, plus the properties that we've had here. And if you're talking about land or uh buildings, that all adds into that. I wanna clarify one thing. The Ogema does not manage the EDC or the Little River Holdings. That is not correct. We had a meeting several months ago now to clarify that, because I keep getting questions on what the EDC is doing. I invited the EDC in. I believe they presented at the last membership meeting financial statements. As far as the management of the EDC, it was, and we had our attorneys involved in this, that the EDC has there has autonomy in part, because they are uh, they were created by the Tribal Council, and they have some autonomy. So, they don't have uh direct management from the Ogema or the Tribal Council. And they have that autonomy. So, they are managed by the Board of Directors. And the staff, again, falls under the Board of Directors. So as far as the uh the number of properties we're talking, whether it be physical properties of houses or buildings or uh vacant properties, that would total that. Now, some of the properties were, uh there were a number of properties that we acquired years ago and then we have the Odeno, which I think was part of what you're referencing here, which we've built. I think we're on phase three now and built numerous houses there. We also have the things that EDC is working on with the different apartment buildings as well. So, I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

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

Councilor DiPiazza: Yeah, that's what I was gonna say. Probably most of that number is from Odeno and possibly the apartment complexes... they've helped.

Ken Metzger: What's that?

Councilor DiPiazza: they've helped.

Ken Metzger: I didn't hear him.

Councilor DiPiazza: I said that that number is probably due to Odeno because that's a big housing complex down there in Fruitport. So, the others were bought eons ago, probably when I first got on council. So-

Ken Metzger: What's an eon?

Councilor DiPiazza: Eons ago?

Ken Metzger: Yeah, what's an eon?

Councilor DiPiazza: Eons.

Ken Metzger: Yeah.

Councilor DiPiazza: Not neon, eons. That means way back.

Ken Metzger: Yeah.

Councilor DiPiazza: Way back.

Ken Metzger: Eons is like a million years ago.

Councilor DiPiazza: Okay, I'm done. Thank you.

Ken Metzger: Who did you purchase your properties through?

Councilor DiPiazza: What properties? The one you got right now down by uh Rosie's Bar and then your daughter's property.

Councilor DiPiazza: Why do you concern me?

Speaker Burmeister: I was gonna say...

Councilor DiPiazza: And what I do.

Speaker Burmeister: I think that's a personal question. So, we will move past that.

Councilor DiPiazza: I worked for-

Speaker Burmeister: Gary.

Councilor DiPiazza: I've worked all my life...

Speaker Burmeister: Gary Please

Councilor DiPiazza: to get-

Speaker Burmeister: Gary, stop.

Ken Metzger: Thank you.

Councilor DiPiazza: You can't call it that.

Speaker Burmeister: That's a personal. Gary.

Councilor DiPiazza: You can't appreciate that.

Speaker Burmeister: You guys can have a conversation later. Okay. So, um we have a tribal citizen that has joined us. Kim um McClellan, could you identify yourself please?

Kimberly McClellan: Kim McClellan, 2918.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Kimberly McClellan: Welcome.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Are there... Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I just wanna add one comment that I forgot in my legislative affair update. Um this lodge room has been reserved on Friday, January 17th for the counting of the primary ballots. Um the election board will be in here and handling that. Um and what I'm under the impression, they'll be in here at noon and then um go the ballots from the post office and start counting at 12:30. So that will be happening here at the government center on Friday, on January 17th, starting at noon in this lodge. Just a reminder for everybody. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um yeah. Anybody else have any um... Boo?

Boo Battice: First, I'd like to thank all you for being here and playing your part as individuals because I respect all of you and all your keep on keeping on. And yeah, I kind

of know what was... Ken was talking about. And it would be nice because we only have what? 3,000 members. I mean, it would be nice if we hook up all of our members. That would be nice. Um but I went to set up a meeting to have a sit down in a discussion with council about fishing. And I can't even sit down without a representative, I guess is the proper thing. And I've been asking for someone to sit down and talk with me individually to possibly be a representative, but I can't even set up a meeting without someone from right here at the table representing me to the best of my knowledge. So, I guess that's what I'm looking for right now to get things moving is I need a representative to actually sit down with the rest of you and have a work session on um creating aquaculture, slash a foundation fishery, um rehabilitate in our culture and understandings of fishing and also co-opping. You know I don't know if the tribe wants to co-op with me or how we're going to set this up. But obviously I can't get any help from our natural resource department. They're sending me to get you know my own grants and things, um or a loan and I'll never understand paying the payback as I dug up my forefathers, they're sucking all the energy. So, it's... it's... it's not understandable to me. Um so I'm having other people help me write this stuff because that's what needs to be done. But right here, I guess I'm trying to get a closer connection. I need a representative so I can set up a meeting um as soon as possible so I can start working through this paperwork with you guys.

Speaker Burmeister: Um Boo, you could go to Venus and get a work session request form and fill that out to set up a work session with tribal council.

Boo Battice: And Venus told me I have to have a representative. The meeting, she can be totally denied unless someone's reper, there has to be some council or something to be to present it, to let it even. So, to the best of my knowledge, I needed someone to represent.

Speaker Burmeister: A citizen can meet can set up a work session with tribal council. So, we'll get that set up for you.

Boo Battice: Because I've already talked to Venus and I would like, I think I already gained 10 pounds. My suit don't fit no more because it was before Christmas. But um they only have limited suits at Goodwill. Um so I might have to wear my fishing outfit.

Speaker Burmeister: That...

Boo Battice: But yeah, I would like to set up a meeting to sit down because I'm interested in pursuing the same things, grants from all different departments. There's so many grants out there that it's I can't even name them all. I probably think there's 80. I don't know all the names, but 80 just, and that's because um just like Canada pushed five ten... five ten years ago to get all their fishing people and they rehabilitate and get all their boats going. That's what America, I don't know, whoever's in office, I guess on Monday, that's what Trump wants. Is they wanna bring some more of the seafood, aquatic life back to America instead of outsourcing from Japan and all that. So, there's lots of grants out there. And um I can plan on pursuing a lot of the same things. I just need to sit down. And my thing is I'm gonna be asking for help for a foundation. The foundation... I

can't get grant money from the government to rebuild a seawall if I don't have that property. The biggest thing is a piece of property. So, I can use that as an address as the foundation. I can't rebuild property that isn't mine. So, I need the first initiative, uh the initial help. I'm not looking for a handout. I'm looking for a hand up. So, um yeah, I'll talk to Venus as we're done here. And hopefully it goes from there. To the best of my knowledge, I thought I had to get someone to represent me, but I need to I need to set up, I would like to sit down with you guys as soon as possible because I tried to set it up before the holidays, but I was, I don't know if I was guided in the right direction.

Speaker Burmeister: Venus is the person to start with because she'll, you know, you're gonna have to give her some dates that you're available. And then she will look at our calendar to see what we have and go accordingly to that, to set up that work session. So.

Boo Battice: I can tell you I'm available right now, always. I'm as soon as you guys are available.

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah.

Recorder Johnson: *Unaidable*

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah

Boo Battice: Thank you very much. And I'll talk to Venus and hopefully we can sit down, hopefully we're available. Cuz...

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. That sounds good.

Boo Battice: We've done yesterday because I plan on creating more jobs for not just tribal everyone in the community, because I do like what Frank does because it's keeping a lot of information. We're getting a lot of information. Information is priceless. And we, I like, I would like to gather more information and do more projects on sturgeon Ing and grayling more in the Ludington area, pump storage area, all the way down to Pentwater, Muskegon. We, I would like to plant, grow the fish...

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah, Boo

Boo Battice: and do aquaculture.

Speaker Burmeister: Boo your time is up. So, if you would see Venus and we can move from there.

Boo Battice: Yeah. I'm asking for your help because.

Speaker Burmeister: Yep. Yep. But your time is up, Boo.

Boo Battice: Okay.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. Okay. We don't have any other comments.
Councilor Silvis, go ahead, please.

Councilor Silvis: With no further hands up or public comment, I'd like to make a **motion to end first open 11:32.**

Councilor Wolfe: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 7

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 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- Absent |

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Eight in favor, one absent. We are done with first at 11:33.

Speaker Burmeister: We want to do. Do you want to do 10 minutes, Pam? So, it can be converted.

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.

Recorder Johnson: Okay.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, so could you guys restate your motion.

Councilor DiPiazza: **I'd like to make a motion to go in a second open.**

Speaker Burmeister: oh

Councilor DiPiazza: *mumbling*

Recorder Johnson: You guys are fine.

Councilor Wolfe: Is it recording Pam?

Recorder Johnson: Yes, it's up at the top you can see it.

Councilor DiPiazza: Want me to restate?

Recorder Johnson: No

Councilor DiPiazza: Okay

Speaker Burmeister: Yea see because it's up there. Is she here?

Councilor Wever: Yea

Speaker Burmeister: Okay so who supports that? You did Misty? Okay you ready?

Recorder Johnson: Yea

Speaker Burmeister: Okay Recorder Johnson can you do roll call please.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 8

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Eight in favor, eight present, one here 1:45.

Councilors in the background talking.

Recorder Johnson: Okay

Speaker Burmeister: Okay um

VIII. Open Session

A. Items from Closed to Open Session- Minutes and Materials shall remain Confidential.

Um did you.

Councilor Wolfe: We recognize before we adjourn.

Councilor Wever: Support?

Speaker Burmeister: No, I have to...I didn't read number one Julie raised her hand.

1. Review/ Disclosure of the 2025 Internal Audit Schedule B. Pringle

Councilor or Councilor... Brad has brought this item forward so um Recorder Johnson can you do roll call for this item? And then Julie has her hand up.

Recorder Johnson: For what?

Councilor Silvis: It was just a presentation.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh

Recorder Johnson: Was a presentation that's why it says.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Yeah, I knew that.

Recorder Johnson: Okay.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wolfe go ahead.

IX. Adjourn

Councilor Wolfe: So, I want to **make a motion to adjourn at 1:46pm**

Speaker Burmeister: Shirley you supported that?

Recorder Johnson: She did

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Alright thank you everybody.

Recorder Johnson: Can we do roll call?

Speaker Burmeister: Oh yeah, yeah

Recorder Johnson: Let's close properly.

Speaker Burmeister: Sorry Pam, Uh Recorder Johnson can you do roll call for adjournment please

Recorder Johnson: Shannon Crampton

Councilor Crampton: You guys do so many things illegally you forgot to take the vote.

Speaker Burmeister: No were doing it now.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 9

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

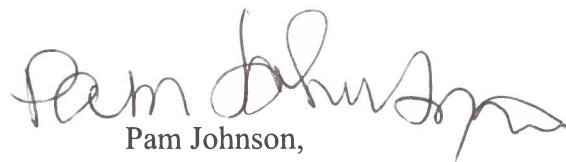
Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Eight in favor, one absent. We are closed at 1:47

Respectfully Submitted,



Chantel Gamelin,
Transcribing Assistant



Pam Johnson,
Tribal Council Recorder