



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025
LITTLE RIVER BAND
VIA ZOOM
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on January 22, 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, Wednesday, January 22, 2025. We'll start with the

I. Opening Prayer

and I have asked Councilor Wever to say the prayer for January, so if you're able to stand, please stand.

Councilor Wever: Thank you. Let us keep God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in our hearts daily as we enter this new year. May God bless us as we embrace God's love in Jesus' name. Amen. And I wish you all miracles for 2025. Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: I will be

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

At 10:02. Next, the Zoom users, if you could identify yourself, if you are a Tribal Citizen, please list your name, your Tribal ID. If you are a tribal employee, please list your name and the department that you work in. Thank you. Jim LaPorte, please identify yourself.

Jim LaPorte: Jim LaPorte, 2383.

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

Annie Perry: Annie Perry, Legislative Council.

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

Beth McClellan: Beth McClellan, 2915.

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

Chris McClellan: Chris McClellan, 2916.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Misty Silvis, please identify yourself.

Councilor Silvis: Councilor Silvis, 2488.

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

Delia Ross: Delia Ross, 2446.

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

Frank Beaver: Good morning. Frank Beaver with the Tribal Natural Resources Department.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. Thank you. Kathleen Bowers, please identify yourself.

Kathleen Bowers: Kathleen Bowers, Budget Coordinator.

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

Larry Olson: Olson, 1532.

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

Laura Echelbarger: 2276. Thanks.

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

Mark Huddleston: Mark Huddleston, 3230. Good morning.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. Thank you. Legi Assistant is Chantel Gamelin. Let's see. Martha Howell, please identify yourself.

Martha Howell: Martha Howell, 3635.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. LeeAnn A., please identify yourself.

LeeAnn Austin: LeeAnn Austin, 3878.

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

Venus Battaglia: Venus Battaglia, Staff and Tribal Member, 1102.

Speaker Burmeister: 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. Shanaviah Canales, please identify yourself.

Shanaviah Canales: Shanaviah Canales with Victim Services.

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

Councilor Crampton: Shannon Paul Crampton, Outlying Tribal Council Rep, 1747.

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

Shawna Gonzalez: Morning, 4700.

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

Vicki Laporte: Vicki LaPorte, 3384.

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

Staci Chaney: 992.

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. Chelsea Densmore, please identify yourself.

Chelsea Densmore: 3225.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down on the agenda, II is 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 - Present
S. Crampton - Present	P. Johnson - Present	S. Wever - Present

We do have quorum.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Under General Business

C. Approval of Agenda

will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from the agenda? Any Councilors with questions? Go ahead, Councilor Silvis.

Councilor Silvis: Thank you. I'm just looking at the updated agenda and I just wanted to know if you wanted to look into this, but the resolution starting out should be 25-0122-006, not 005. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, any other councilors with any comments or questions? Recorder Johnson, go ahead, please.

Recorder Johnson: So, I'd like to make a motion to accept the agenda for Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025, with the following um under II D tribal council minutes. We added that set of minutes. Um then of course at the bottom of the page it was noted it should be 006 instead of 5. And um on page 2 under budget mod 3 and 4, both have been postponed. Um and then an add to VG, the Biskaabiyaang Commission, has been added. Um and I believe that is, that's it.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, who would like to second that motion?

Councilor Wolfe: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Does tribal council have any further questions or comments? 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 #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 accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to General Business

D. Tribal Council Minutes ☐ 02/14/2024

Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any Councilors with questions? Tribal Citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council? With no questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Recorder Johnson, who would like? Okay. Councilors have any questions or comments? 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 #2

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

Motion carried (7-2-0-0)

Seven in favor two against. They've been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. We have a Tribal Citizen that has joined us. Corey Wells, could you please identify yourself?

Corey Wells: Corey Wells, 4839.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Recorder Johnson: Got Sky.

Speaker Burmeister: Sky Gonzalez, can you please identify yourself?

Sky Gonzalez: Sky Gonzalez, 1042.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts

1. **Approval to apply for formula grant application** Tribal Ogema
For the FY2026 Standing announcement for S. Canales
Family Violence Prevention & Services/Domestic
Violence Shelter & Supportive Services/Grants to
Native American Tribes & Tribal Organizations.

So, Shanaviah, the floor is yours.

Shanaviah Canales: Good morning. Yes, this is a grant that we've uh been awarded um nine times in the past. Uh if we apply, we're pretty much guaranteed to receive it. We do not know how much we will receive. Um so, the budget's based off the previous amount award that we received, which was \$58,251. Um and this funding is used uh for the victim service program to um to support the services, um staff, as well as provide direct services to our survivors. Uh and we will, if we are able to apply, uh we'll find out the awards sometime in September.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any Councilors with questions or comments? Go ahead. Go ahead, um Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Shanaviah, uh once again, how many Tribal Members are you going to be servicing?

Shanaviah Canales: Um I have no idea. That depends. We don't know the numbers until they start coming in.

Councilor Metzger: Alright. How many Native Americans are you going to be servicing? Because if you look at the bottom, it says grants to Native American Tribes and Tribal organizations.

Shanaviah Canales: On page six of the solicitation talks about um not um able to discriminate.

Councilor Metzger: So, how many are you going to be servicing?

Shanaviah Canales: Again, I don't know. We haven't received those numbers yet because they haven't come in.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you.

Shanaviah Canales: You're welcome.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Wolfe, go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: So, we didn't get to have the work session on this due to government closure yesterday. Um so, it's a formula grant. You said we received it nine times. Is the numbers increasing or decreasing with you providing services?

Shanaviah Canales: Uh the funding uh slightly decreased um last year with our award. It was just almost \$2,000 decreased.

Councilor Wolfe: And this year, is it specific?

Shanaviah Canales: This year, I don't know. I'm assuming it depends on the legislative in Congress and how they...

Councilor Wolfe: But my question...

Shanaviah Canales: divvy up the funds. I'm sorry, what was that?

Councilor Wolfe: I wasn't finished with my question.

Shanaviah Canales: Oh, my apologies.

Councilor Wolfe: So, this year, is it projected to service more tribal members? What are you putting in as our need? I understand it's a formula grant. So, you're submitting information on how many people you project to use the program?

Shanaviah Canales: We project what we need to use for keeping the program uh sustained. Um staff, uh supplies, services, yes. So, it's based off the number that we received uh last year in our award.

Councilor Wolfe: So, are services increasing? The amount of services that you're providing, as long as it's continual staffing you're developing, how many staff members does this grant cover?

Shanaviah Canales: This grant covers two, uh but the program has four full-time staff.

Councilor Wolfe: And are four all positions full?

Shanaviah Canales: Yes, they are.

Councilor Wolfe: And then, so out of the, so there's 884 tribal members, and then there's, this is only services in the nine-county? So, what population of the Tribal Members are eligible to use the program?

Shanaviah Canales: Within the nine counties, and I believe in the narrative, I've put in the numbers uh that was provided me by enrollment department, uh what the statistics are for the nine-county area.

Councilor Wolfe: So, about how many members are in the nine-county that we're servicing? Remember, we didn't.

Shanaviah Canales: We potentially could be servicing.

Councilor Wolfe: Past all these there.

Shanaviah Canales: It looks like 1,589 is the estimate number.

Councilor Wolfe: That could be served out of this \$200,000. What was the amount projected that we would be awarded based off last year?

Shanaviah Canales: \$58,251.

Councilor Wolfe: And does this have an in-kind or tribal match to it?

Shanaviah Canales: No.

Councilor Wolfe: And is there indirect costs that we're capturing?

Shanaviah Canales: Yes.

Councilor Wolfe: Do you know how much that is?

Shanaviah Canales: It's projected to be \$4,663.

Councilor Wolfe: Does that cover your utilities and stuff in the office space that you currently have?

Shanaviah Canales: That's uh coming out of another grant, not this one.

Councilor Wolfe: What is... What is this indirect cost used for then?

Shanaviah Canales: Uh It's based off the salary, fringe benefits. I did write it in the narrative. Um travel, um uh equipment, supplies, and it's at the 15% dominus rate.

Councilor Wolfe: And then what is the um award period? We're applying for 2026, but how long do we have to spend funding?

Shanaviah Canales: We get it for uh 12 months.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, thank you.

Shanaviah Canales: You're welcome.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other Councilors with questions or comments? Tribal Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? with no further questions. I'd like to entertain a motion for this item, please. Councilor DiPiazza?

Councilor DiPiazza: I'd like to make a motion on the item but give me a second. My computer's like chilled out or something. Anyways, **motion to approve resolution 25-0122-006, Approval to apply for formula grant application for the FY2026 Standing announcement for Family Violence Prevention & Services/Domestic Violence Shelter & Supportive Services/Grants to Native American Tribes & Tribal Organizations.**

Recorder Johnson: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Does Tribal Council have any further questions or comments? Tribal Citizens? Back to Tribal Council with no further questions Recorder Johnson, can you please do roll call for this item?

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. Um we have had uh we have a Tribal Citizen that has joined us. Kim McClellan, could you please identify yourself?

Kimberly McClellan: Kimberly McClellan, 2918.

Speaker Burmeister: No Pam was.

Councilor Wolfe: Pam was

Councilor Metzger: Who supported it.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, moving down to

B. Budget Modifications

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S Department of Treasury- Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP) and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2025-___ in the amount of \$12,753.81 | Tribal Ogema
K. Bowers
T. Bailey |
|---|---|

So, Tara, the floor is yours.

Tara Bailey: Good morning. Um back in 2023, we received \$227,324 from the Treasury Department um to utilize in a Homeowners Assistance Program. Uh they have notified us that there's a reallocation of \$12,753 that we can receive. Uh so this is just an acceptance of those additional funds of \$12,000. That will leave a total of \$18,473 left in this program to um be utilized for membership. Um on Monday, there's a couple of questions uh that Julie posed. One was, if we're working with members assistance. I did talk to Crystal this morning who um manages this program out of our department. And she said that uh she does work with members assistance. They're aware of the program. They uh notify us if there's individuals to contact that may need assistance. And if they don't qualify for this program, Crystal does the same thing, and um gives them information to contact members assistance for assistance. And we don't have anybody on a waiting list.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any Councilors with questions or comments? Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you. Uh how long has this been available?

Tara Bailey: I forgot to double check on that, but I believe it ends the end of September.

Councilor Metzger: Of 25?

Tara Bailey: Yes.

Councilor Metzger: Alright, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other comments or questions from Councilors? Tribal Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, or excuse me, I have to step back here. Um if there are no other comments, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor Wolfe?

Councilor Wolfe: I make a **motion to approve Resolution 25-0122-007, Acceptance of Contract Funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury Homeowners Assistance Program and Approving a Modification Operating Budget MB 2025-01. That will have to be corrected in the resolution title 01 in the amount of \$12,753.81.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Does Tribal Council have any further questions or comments for Tara? 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 #4

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor, it's been accepted.

Tara Bailey: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Tara Bailey: Just a side note, can I ask a question? Um I'm working on an RFP for the housing needs study that we talked about last fall. Do you guys want to see that before I put that out? You want me to do a work session so you can review that, make sure that we're captured all the information that we want in that RFP? Would that be something you'd be interested in? Okay.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Tara Bailey: Thank you

Speaker Burmeister: Go-ahead, go-ahead Councilor Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, uh Tara, I just wanted to thank you and the housing uh department for all they do for the snow blowing and the clearing of everything up there. I just want you to know that uh I for one, you guys, your crew is uh doing a very good job for that. Chi-Miigwech!

Tara Bailey: Thank you, I'll let the uh my maintenance staff know that. They'll appreciate that. Thank you.

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

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, I also wish to commend Ms. Bailey on the job she's doing. And um yeah, I'd like to see that in the work session. Um measure twice, cut once. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to two under budget modification

**2. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S Tribal Ogema
Department of Interior- Bureau of Indian Affairs- K. Bowers
And approving a modification to the Operating Budget
MB2025-__ in the amount of \$31,169.00**

So, Kathleen, the floor is yours.

Kathleen Bowers: Thank you. Um this is um accepting funds from the BIA um going into education for uh tribal scholarships in the amount of \$24,935 and then um going into the Commerce Department for adult, tribal adult education in the amount of \$6,234.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Councilors with questions? Tribal Citizens with questions? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: So, can you explain the part how these are 2023 award dollars?

Kathleen Bowers: Sorry, I thought I had unmuted. I didn't. Um yes, there says 2023. We didn't get a notice until August 26th of 24. I attempted to get ahold of Doug Dan since September and then October and December and finally answered me in January. I have all the backup emails on that as well. Then we finally um stated that we were okay to accept the funds.

Councilor Wolfe: So, we didn't get the dollars for those programs in 2023?

Kathleen Bowers: Correct.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wolfe, are you set on your questions or are you still

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah, I don't have anymore

Speaker Burmeister: thinking? Okay, okay. Any other Councilors with questions? Tribal citizens? Back to council with no further questions. Oh, Councilor DiPiazza, go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: I didn't have a question.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. I was just going to say I'd like someone to entertain a motion. Is that why you had your hand up? Okay, go ahead Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: No further questions. I'll make a **motion to approve resolution 25-0122-08. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs and approving a modification of the operating budget MB2025-02 in the amount of \$31,169.**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support. Me

Speaker Burmeister: Mm hmm. Does Tribal Council have any further questions or comments? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Ah he missed a zero on the resolution number. He said 08, not 008.

Councilor DiPiazza: Oh, **correction, 25-0122-008.**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support again.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other questions or comments from Councilors? 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 #5

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

**Removed 3. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S Tribal Ogema
Department of Interior- Bureau of Indian Affairs- K. Bowers
And approving a modification to the Operating
Budget MB2025-__ in the amount of \$244,371.00**

**Removed 4. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S Tribal Ogema
Department of Interior- Bureau of Indian Affairs- K. Bowers
And approving a modification to the Operating Budget
MB2025-__ in the amount of \$404,984.00**

Moving down to

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

There is nothing listed under that.

IV. Acceptance of Reports

A. Report of the Tribal Ogema

1. Operations Report

□ December 2024

Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to 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 for this item. Recorder Johnson?

Recorder Johnson: I'll make a **motion to accept the operations report for December 2024.**

Councilor DiPiazza: Support. Support

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

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #6

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

Motion carried (7-2-0-0)

Seven in favor, two against. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down under acceptance of reports

2. Financial Report ☐ **None Submitted**

Moving down to... Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Just to note for Tribal membership, uh this would be the December 2024 report with none being submitted. That officially makes the Tribe eight months behind on financial reports. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down, Recorder Johnson, did you have your hand up? Oh, okay. Sorry about that. Moving down to

V. Acceptance of Commission Reports

A. Binojeeuk Commission ☐ **None Submitted**

B. Enrollment Commission ☐ **None Submitted**

C. Gaming Commission ☐ **December 2024**

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

Recorder Johnson: I'd like to make a **motion to accept the Gaming Commission uh meeting minutes for December 2024.**

Councilor Wolfe: Support.

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

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #7

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. They've been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

D. Health Commission

☐ None Submitted

E. Housing Commission

☐ December 2024

Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any? Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: I can make a **motion to postpone these Housing Commission meeting minutes**. Um It looks like that one was absent, and all the roll calls show for or acceptance. So that would need to be corrected.

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Any Tribal Councilors with further questions? Tribal Citizen?

Recorder Johnson: Julie

Speaker Burmeister: hmm... postpone. Is that what you want? Cuz of

Councilor Metzger: To be postponed.

Councilor Wolfe: Shouldn't be listed as quorum. It should be both.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Councilor Wolfe: Can be corrected just take it back to them.

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

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #8

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. They've been postponed.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

F. Natural Resources Commission ☐ **Oct 2024, Dec 2024 & Jan 2025**
Special Meeting

Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from these from this item? Any Councilors with questions or comments? Tribal Citizens? Tribal Council? Okay, with no further questions or any questions, I'd like to entertain a motion. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make the **motion to approve the Natural Resource Commission minutes for October 2024, December 2024, and January 2025 special meeting.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Any comments from Tribal or from Tribal Council? From Tribal Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no further questions or comments, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

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 - Yes	R. Wittenberg- Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)
Nine in favor they've been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

Add G. Biskaabiiyaang Commission ☐ **None Submitted**
Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Um I just want to point out for membership that we did add Biskaabiiyaang Commission because it is newly adopted ordinance and just created. So, they would have no previous minutes to submit because um actually the commission doesn't have any seated commissioners. So, there are five open seats on that Biskaabiiyaang Committee. So, if you're interested in applying for that, um you can find an application on the website or um request one through the Ogema's office. And then um so I just added that on there so people would be aware and we wouldn't lose track of the commission because it is established for January 2025. Just looking to seat the commissioners. And then on the Binojeeuk Commission, we have one open seat. Enrollment Commission, there is two open seats. Gaming Commission is full. Health Commission, I believe, has four open seats, two open seats. Um Housing Commission would have one open seat and Natural Resource Commission is full. That's my comment. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

VI. Acceptance of Committee Minutes and Other Entities

A. Little River Casino Resort Preference Report ☐ December 2024

And I will read those numbers. The total is 693. Native, 22. non-preference is 549. Tribal Member, 75. Spouse, 16. Descendant is 31. Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any Councilors with questions or comments? Tribal Citizens with questions or comments? Back to Tribal Council. With no comments or questions, um I'd like to entertain a motion for this item, please. Councilor Metzger, go ahead.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. At this time, I'd like to make a **motion to accept uh Little River Casino Preference Report, December 2024.**

Councilor Wolfe: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Any comments from Tribal or Tribal Council? 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 #10

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

B. Elders Committee ☐ None Submitted

VII. Old Business

postponed **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

VIII. New Business

A. Rescinding Resolution #25-0108-001 Authorization of Charitable Donation with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. J. Wolfe

So, Councilor Wolf, the floor is yours.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. So just um bringing forward uh by approval for, by motion to rescind resolution 25-0108-001 um by the revenue allocation plan, we did not expend funding for charitable donations as of the last date of the fiscal year. So, we're rescinding that resolution. It's tied to item B, which bringing that forward again for approval. So right now, it's just uh rescinding the previous resolution.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any Councilors with questions? Any Tribal Citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council with no further questions. I'd like to entertain a motion for this item, please. Go ahead Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. This time I'd like to make a **motion to rescind resolution 25-0108-001. Authorize the authorization of charitable donation with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Any Councilors with questions or comments? Tribal Citizens? Back to Tribal Council with no questions or comments. Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #11

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

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor, one against. It's been rescinded.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down under new business

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

So, Councilor Wolfe, the floor is yours.

Councilor Wolfe: So, this is the correct and updated resolution to um make the charitable donation to the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. Um Tribal Council is responsible for authorizing each donation. The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition is a qualified organization that meets all the criteria of the charitable donation ordinance to receive funds. Tribal Council is approving a donation of \$22,689 to the National Native American Boarding School Coalition for year 2025.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Councilors with questions? Tribal Citizens with questions? Mark, go ahead, please.

Mark Huddleston: Uh yeah. I uh was wondering about, I saw on our website, uh there was a draft of a memorandum of agreement and understanding with the uh NNABSHC, and it wasn't signed. I didn't know that ever went into effect. And I was wondering about-

Speaker Burmeister: Mark, we're having a hard time hearing you.

Mark Huddleston: Okay

Speaker Burmeister: Could you speak up a little bit, please?

Mark Huddleston: I'm sorry. Yeah, I saw a draft for the uh memorandum of agreement and understanding on uh our webpage. I was wondering if that ever got signed. And I noticed too that there, we have the uh ITCM still, the Inter-Tribal Council for uh Michigan, with the 12 federally recognized tribes. And I think that program has been in existence since the 60s. I was wondering if that's still in existence. I... I saw that the Ogema was on the Board of Directors for that. And the NNABSHC, I saw had two members from two of the 12 tribes in the ITCM, and most of the rest are all from out West. So, I guess my question is, uh I would think the one that's more well-established and more central to us would be a better contribution. Or maybe uh in the future, think about donating to them. I guess that's all I have.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um Councilor Crampton, go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Well, I'm not so sure. Well, I'm kind of confused. What is the difference between Native American people? I'm not sure. Uh this... We keep getting these things that bring doubt on things that are being done good for people.

Mark Huddleston: That is not what I said.

Councilor Crampton: Um can we please respect that I'm in the queue there, Mr. Huddleston? I did let you speak.

Mark Huddleston: Alright. Well, I had a question and you're not answering it.

Councilor Crampton: Speaker.

Speaker Burmeister: Um Mark, you have to wait till it's your turn. If you want to get back in the queue, I can put you back in the queue.

Councilor Crampton: Nobody was not answering your question. You presented a question and asked why we weren't donating to a different group other than the other ones. I'm trying to get every week we have this where you kind of present something that really has no relevance. It just creates doubt and is hurtful and brings sickness to our circle. We're trying to do; Councilor Wolfe is trying to do something good for our people. Um I just want to point out to the members that I don't think a lot of people are fooled by what you keep doing. Thank you.

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

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. So, the reason I brought forward this organization, we do have a charitable donation request proposal form that they have filled out and submitted. Um charitable donations are only awarded to American Indian controlled 501C3 charitable organizations. Um I don't know Inter-Tribal Council status if they're a 501C3. I know they are an existing, been existing a long time. It's a collaboration of all tribes, but for them to be eligible for this specific donation, they would have to submit an application to the tribe for uh request of funding. There is a, uh like I said, the budget request form, and then it uh calls for their nonprofit status and then a copy of a W-9 and then also their um project budget. So, um if they're interested, they're more than welcome to apply. um just sharing that information. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Mark.

Mark Huddleston: Thank you for the reply, Julie.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um before we move on, we have a citizen that has joined us. Jolene Ossignac, if you could please identify yourself.

Jolene Ossignac: Jolene Ossignac, 3866.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay um I'd like to entertain a motion for this item. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. At this time, I'd like to make a motion to approve Resolution 25-0122-009, authorization of charitable donation with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

Councilor Wolfe: Support

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

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #12

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. Moving down to

C. Adopting the Dividend Plan for Little River Holding, LLC. J. Wolfe
So, Councilor Wolfe, the floor is yours.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. So, this one is um adopting the dividend plan for Little River Holdings, LLC. Tribal Council, as a representative member, is required under Section 7.3 of Little River Operating Little River Holdings Operating Agreement to adopt the dividend plan for Little River Holdings, LLC. Um the plan was worked on by Tribal Council after communication with Little River Holdings. Um Little River Holding was given a period of five years to reinvest all net profits into the company without paying dividends to the tribe. It's past that five-year agreed period. So, this dividend plan will bring forward um the policy that governs the amount, timing of distributions made to the tribe from Little River Holdings. And that's all I have.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any Councilors with questions or comments? Tribal Citizens with questions or comments? Back to Tribal Council? with no questions. I'd like to entertain a motion for this. Item, please. Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. This time, I'd like to make a **motion to approve Resolution 25-0122-010 Adopting the Dividend Plan for the Little River Holdings, LLC.**

Councilor Wolfe: Support

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

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 13

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

Motion carried (7-2-0-0)

Seven in favor. Two against. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down to

IX. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, February 05, 2025

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

The floor is yours, Ogema. Go ahead, please.

Ogema Romanelli: Good morning, Council. Good morning, Tribal Members. Uh yeah, I was at the elders meeting on Saturday, and there's a lot of questions that the members...membership has. I also get sent stuff from Facebook. I think there's a lot of misinformation out there, and I really think Tribal members, all Tribal members outlying the nine county and throughout the United States deserve some real answers to some of these concerns. The issue that came up during the elders meeting, and it went in an unfortunate direction because I think the elders committee is trying to do a good job. But

the issue of enrollment, who's enrolled, who's not enrolled, who shouldn't be enrolled came up again. This is something that's been going on for years. And again, my name keeps getting brought up. It wasn't brought up directly at the elders meeting, but through Facebook posts, et cetera. So, I'm one of them. Gary DiPiazza is another one. uh some families are, it seems, uh being targeted as being non-members. And I really think we we're past the date where we should all sit together, round table, all council members, uh if they wanna have some of their staff, I think the Ogema, the CFO, the tribal manager, and maybe a couple of directors that could sit round table and answer questions continually uh that come up. Some of these, like I say, are 20 years old. Matter of fact, they are 20 years old. Some of them, like the audit has come up and people are confused as to what we're doing there, what sanctions may be imposed. Enrollment, like I mentioned, HR issues, our hiring and firing processes, um the Muskegon property, the casino brick and mortar uh statements that our casino is actually not doing well and uh ready to implode is the sense that I get. Uh the EDC and who's managing it, who should manage it, who does manage it. And then cultural activities. I think those are just a few of the items that really, we need to sit in front of the members who elected us and really come up with some answers for them. Uh if it means bringing documentations forward, all the better, because uh we can go back and forth discussing it, but without the proper documents, it just becomes hearsay, and we get into arguments. I'd love to see documents that address each of these issues and go before the membership. I think sooner is better than later. I'm thinking, I mean, because of all the things that are going on, the budget too, that if we could set something up within the next couple of weeks um would be great. I think that if we had to do it on a weekend, I'm available on a Saturday or Sunday or after hours. Uh there are people that work that would like to be included. I don't care if we have it in person with people in the lodge room or on Zoom. Uh you know I'd leave a lot of that up to the Council, but there's a lot of misinformation out there and people are not getting the information that they need, which leads to confusion. I noticed it at the elders meeting. Uh I noticed it on Facebook. And I think we really need to uh speak the truth to our... our Citizens because this just isn't, doesn't seem to be working. So that's what I'm suggesting. Uh however, we have to do it again, round table. It probably should be at Manistee um or because this is our seat of government, but we need to stop the misinformation going out there, whether it comes from the executive side, legislative side, or any other way. Uh it gets old and it's really hurting us. And uh so I'd put that out and I'd like to ask for some discussion from the council now, if we could. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: I'll get you in the queue. Council Wittenberg, go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Well, I don't think any of the confusion comes from any misconceptions. I think they come from the work sessions that the tribal councils held on the enrollment. Um we've uh discovered huge flaws in their enrollment documents and our governing documents and our enrollment ordinance. We've also had the commission in who said, um yeah, if you do 100% enrollment, you're gonna find people who are not native. And that was in front of the council in a work session with the membership present. So, I don't think there's misconceptions that are coming forward. And if we're

truly talking about getting down to the truth of this matter, um it's already been presented. 100% enrollment audit would settle the question for everybody, but there's half the tribe that doesn't want that to happen. Now, see, when you're actually trying to sit down and say something, all you're gonna get out of that um sitting across the table is another he said, she said. The definitive answer has been presented. And the fact that people are scared of it does not bode well for the truth that presents weighs more heavily on the side that yes, there's people here that are scared for a reason. If we seriously wanna get down to the truth, um then let's bring back the 100% audit. We've had somebody in here said to get it done. And in fact, the top one in the country said they'll get it done in four months. Um that's pretty much plain and simple. And I'm kind of disturbed about the report that these political things keep getting brought up at our elders' committees. My wife um has a um bakery business and I hate to mention that, but she does. And she caters to most of the tribes and their elders, and I drive out there. I go out to their meetings. I don't see any political discussions whatsoever. In fact, they're prohibited. Um ours is the only one where that's allowed. And I know that I the recent board members are trying to clean it up a little bit. But the fact that it's been allowed to fester to this point is kind of disturbing. As I said, if we wanna get down to the truth of the enrollment, we presented the audit. Um it's been rejected. Half of the council's terrified of it. The Ogema said he wouldn't sign it. That doesn't present any truth. That just bodes, like I said, more to the fact that there's something to hide. So, I don't think anybody's creating anything other than what they've heard, which is the truth. Thank you.

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

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, Miigwech. Uh we talk about uh there's a lot of talk. And uh to me, uh it all boils down to who you wanna believe, bottom line. But I do know what I get, and I get reports. And it did come up with talking about our casino. And I do got a report uh in front of me from open session with the Gaming Commission. And it's a discussion period on it. And it's an A, and it says, Commissioner Glitz inquired about the LRRCR compliance director, the status anticipated closure. So, keep that in mind. Anticipated, not saying it is, it's not saying it ain't, but it does bring a question mark onto what that is uh part of the Little River Rock Bar and Grill. The Little the LRRCR compliance director provided a non-committed response, indicated it was independent on vendors. And so, yeah, we need, and that uh table in there has always been open. And sometimes uh people uh think they got disrespected or whatever, whatever, and then they storm out. And then I was told uh and heard from different ones that not to come there and not respond to Council. So yeah, we need to talk, but us still have an open mind, because myself, I can have an open mind as far as this right here of what is going on at our casino. So yeah, there's different things like that. I look at it in a good way. I know there'll be a lot of this and a lot of that, and I'm open to that. I'm not here to judge, I'm here to listen. Of course, I have my own views, just like everybody else. Like I said, depends on who you wanna believe and who you don't wanna believe. Miigwech!

Speaker Burmeister: I have you in the queue, Ogema. Um next in the queue is Recorder Johnson. Go ahead, please.

Recorder Johnson: Um so just my personal comment to this, Um I can see having a gathering. Um I would suggest though, um and as a thought of having something on the website, like a Dropbox, people can drop their questions. Um and that way we know what documentation to bring and have it based on documentation. Um we've seen plenty, and I think part of the problem is a lot of hearsay or lack of proof. Um and some say they want that documentation, but you don't see it, or they have it, you still don't see it. And I think that's part of the confusion. And I would be open to that, give a couple of weeks for members to think about their questions, drop um it into a Dropbox or something um online. And um kind of like how we have the comments for things, um there can be that Dropbox per se, and then have a meeting. And that way it gives time for um anybody, um if it's directly pointed at them, as far as that goes or whatnot, to have that documentation that's being asked for to be able to gather it or departments to gather their information. And then that is all provided. It's literally laid out and um can be posted or something for everyone to see. And maybe that would help clear up some of the issues. But there has to be documentation to show literally what you mean um versus hearsay per se. Um be open to that. Um that's it.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Israel, you are next in the queue. No, he's after Ogema. Okay.

Councilor Wolfe: Why are we having all these comments?

Speaker Burmeister: I don't know why. Yeah, I would think this would be public comment period questions. But go ahead, Ogema.

Ogema Romanelli: Sure. Well, the issue is, just like with that document that shows closure, that's not the closure of the casino.

Councilor Wittenberg: *not clearly spoken in mic*

Ogema Romanelli: Right, the bar and grill. So, and that's the type of stuff. But and I agree with uh Councilor Johnson, if we could have uh questions submitted prior to, that way we can bring documentation, and you're not hit blindsided by uh you know information that you can't answer. So, if the questions were, if they're really serious about getting the questions answered, if they could propose them beforehand, and I think a drop box is absolutely the way to go. And then I think that documentation to that from either side might help clear up some of the information that's going on. So absolutely. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Israel. Okay. Um go ahead, Councilor Crampton. Thank you, Israel.

Councilor Crampton: Well, just trying to follow the logic in the talk here, and I just want to make the membership aware. This is 2025. What you can do is you can get on AI right now and you can recreate any document, any time frame. It looks exactly like you just wrote it. What you can't do is reproduce those duplicates and those triplicates at the

federal library and at the BIA. That's what an enrollment audit would do. That's why I suspect you're getting pressured into having a meeting and presenting documents that can be actually um fraudulent. But look, absolutely real. Again, what you can't do is you can't reproduce those triplicates at the federal library and the duplicates at the BIA. That's what an enrollment audit would do. Until that is done, which every other tribe does, but this one is absolutely terrified of, there will remain those questions. So, if we're going to have a serious discussion about this, that's the end game. If we're just going to do the dog and pony show, please stop. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Wittenberg, you're next in the queue. Go

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, I want to uh first agree with uh Councilor uh Johnson on this people sending in there because that way people on higher levels can turn around and get the paperwork and consistent of and just, instead of just shooting off in the hip and uh like they say, lead you one way where they're not giving you something. So, I totally agree on that. And if uh there's nothing where they're, what the question is confined, then that's what it would be. There have been many times where people turned around and uh submitted questions and nothing was addressed. And so, uh that's another thing. They should be addressed one way or another. Now, I will go back to this. And uh I brought up the casino, but uh to make and rephrase, it talks about anticipated closure of the River Rock Bar and Grill. And then on it, it talks about dependent on vendors. And so, I would presume and think, because I've been over there at different times where they had different people, but that if they're talking about closing because of vendors, then uh I would seem to think there's enough vendors out there that could turn around and carry whatever uh food and beverage would need in my mind. Because it is a lot of vendors out there. If there ain't, then uh how is the rest of those restaurants over there doing? So that would be, cause they're all wrapped up in one and you get something for the River Rock, then they turned around, you got uh the fast food there and then you got have the uh buffet over there. So those are the things that are in mind. So that's all. Just wanted to clarify. Miigwech.

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

Councilors talking in the background but unclear

Speaker Burmeister: But I don't know if he's responding to the Ogema.

Israel Stone: Yeah, I'm responding uh Israel Stone 1735. I think the document that's being presented today uh in the way it's being presented is a misconception about what's actually going on. And I think we need to clear that up. Um as you guys know, uh one of the things we constantly have to do as a business is reinvent ourselves to create that energy and... and draw for people. Um there's over a billion dollars being invested uh in the United States or in Michigan right now over the last couple of years into different properties to do the exact same thing. Uh this isn't a vendor issue. It's not an issue where we need somebody to contract to run the operation. That's not what this is. Um it's part of the bigger discussion that we've had. Uh invited council to multiple times to meetings.

Uh discuss what that looks like for us in the future and how do we reinvent uh our property to make it more of a draw. As you guys know, today is Wednesday the 22nd. We had a casino open up to the north of us uh called Crystal Falls to the public. And yes, it's only a 2700 square foot facility. Get that. Um but other tribes around us are making moves and that move put them in our back pocket, right? And we need to make sure we're doing what we need to do to maintain our customer base and continue driving the revenues that we had. Uh as you guys know-

Councilor Metzger: I'd like to call the point of order. We're on the Ogema-

Israel Stone: I'm responding to Councilor Wittenberg. I think putting

Councilors talking all at once

Israel Stone: Ms. Madam Speaker.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Wittenberg, continue.

Councilor Metzger: Excuse me ma'am does the Ogema-

Israel Stone: Thank you. So, I would call a point of order. I have the floor right now. Speaker, can I continue please?

Speaker Burmeister: Mm hmm

Israel Stone: Um so I just would ask that we be cautious on how we- and it's not an attack on you, Ron, Councilor Wittenberg. It's sometimes when information is put out there and it doesn't have the air of transparency to it, it makes it look really bad. Uh the River Rock is not closing due to lack of staff or lack of a contractor or any of those things. So, I just wanted to make that clear. Um and I'll stop there. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Um I have you in the in the queue. Go ahead, Ron. And then I have Julie.

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, if you don't mind. And I'm just responding to you. And we talk about- and this would go to, as the uh our Ogema was sharing, uh we should get together and to have uh something in front of us so that we could uh share with the others whatever the question is. I'm reading this right from them. And so, would it be in directed or what have you? I can only go by what is. So then, yes, you're absolutely right. We have to turn around and put a little bit more clarity into whatever you're going to turn around if it's going to come up in front of- that's all I got to say. Just reading what I have. No more comments, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Um Israel, if you could please save additional to public comment, please. Thank you. Okay, Councilor Wolfe, you're next.

Councilor Wolfe: So, to clear up what's being discussed, it is a short, simple answer. Yes, the River Rock is closing because they're moving the smoking area to that venue and the restaurant would no longer be able there. They're moving gaming machines up there. That's the intent. That's the long-term plan. Why it is noted in the minutes as being a gaming commission liaison and marketing vendors because one of the vendors that was supplying the funding has not been approved as a vendor yet for the resort. But it is true the way it's wrote there, vendor issues and the River Rock is closing, but it's on a reorganization or revamping of the casino or smoking area into that space.

Councilor Wittenberg: Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Uh we do have three citizens that have joined us. So, I'd like to have them identify themselves before we move along. Michelle Sinclair, could you please identify yourself?

Michelle Sinclair: 3541.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Um Salli Wabsis, please identify yourself.

Salli Wabsis: Good morning. Salli Wabsis, 3449

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Lee Ivinson, please identify yourself.

Lee Ivinson: Good morning. Lee Ivinson, Tribal ID 99.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. Thank you. Okay, next in the queue is um Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: I was just called a point of order

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Councilor Crampton, you are next.

Councilor Crampton: Well, the issue, which is the issue, um what Councilor Wittenberg read, we came from a piece of paper and for the membership's consumption, that's what happens here. If something's reported to you that they don't like, then somebody tries to personalize it and make it as a personal statement. That right there is the sickness that enters our circle. That needs to be stopped. Councilor Wittenberg read a piece of paper that is in front of all of us. Sharing it with you is nothing wrong with that, but some seem to think that it is. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, we are moving down to

C. Legislative Affairs Update

1. Tammy Burmeister

And I just wanted to remind everyone that we don't have a council meeting next week because it's the fifth uh week of the month. So next is Recorder

2. Pam Johnson

Go ahead please.

Recorder Johnson: Um so, I just want to put a reminder out there that we do have um a round dance, May 22nd at-

Speaker Burmeister: March.

Councilor Wolfe: May?

Recorder Johnson: Oh, Jesus. Wrong month. Thank you, guys. Um March 22nd at the resort. Um so just want to put it out there. And if um you would like to be a vendor, please let us know. And that way we can get you an application just so we uh know what you're bringing, kind of type thing. Um and if you need a plug-in spot. But uh just putting it out there again to remind folks um that we do have that coming up.

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

3. Julie Wolfe

Go ahead please.

Councilor Wolfe: I don't have an update, but just to add to Pam's comment, we also are seeking volunteers to help pull off that event. So, if you're interested in volunteering, you can contact Pam or myself. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

4. Gary Di Piazza

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

Councilor DiPiazza: Only thing I have is everybody stay warm. If you're going to be shoveling lots of snow, get somebody younger to do it. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Councilor DiPiazza: I don't have free plow service.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor uh

5. Shirley Wever

you are next in the queue.

Councilor Wever: No updates.

Speaker Burmeister: Alright. Thank you. Councilor

6. Al Metzger

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, ma'am. Uh I want to start off by saying Chi- Miigwech to my elders. Uh as many of you have known, starting January 20th, a lot of executive orders have been written. The one that affects Native Americans is...was Executive

Order 14049, White House Initiative on Advancing Education, Equality, Excellence and Economic Opportunities for Native Americans, Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities. Uh January 20, 2025, that executive order was repealed by a new executive order. Uh it's a quite lengthy order that President Biden initiated. And it dealt directly with Native Americans and Native Americans in higher education and post-secondary and elementary schools. Uh this tribe won't be affected in the elementary school because we don't have a school. But there are many nations out there that do have tribal-run schools that will be affected. Your post-secondary education funding will be affected. Your higher education funding will also be affected. As I see this, it's a step backwards for Native Americans. And I also believe that this is going to be one of many. Chi-Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

7. Ron Wittenberg

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

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, Chi-Miigwech. Uh and we were talking about, uh this is our last meeting for the month of January, our council meeting. And I will put out there, I apologize for uh one person on Facebook because I do know that if there's five Wednesdays, then we turn around and the fifth Wednesday, but they don't say, uh well, that would be the fifth Wednesday. But in my mind, I thought, well, since January 1st was the first Wednesday, I thought, okay, we'll be in Council for the rest of the rest of the month. So, for that I do apologize for that out there uh so. And yes, everybody be safe and careful out there. And as they say, don't go out unless you have to. If you do, be safe. Aho 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 in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Um first off, uh our brother, Sue um Leonard Peltier was filing grand clemency and released. So, he's free. He's not totally free. He's on home arrest, but at least nobody's telling him when he has to go to sleep, when he has to wake up, what he can eat, when he can eat, when he can shave, when he can go to the bathroom, when he can shower. So Aho, to President Biden. What Councilor Metzger touched on is very disturbing and it's just the tip of the iceberg. It's part of the DEI, which is the Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. That's getting wiped out. So, uh his assessment of the elementary schools is correct. We don't have one, but we are going to be affected in a thousand ways. The disrespect that has been shown just in the immediate actions towards the Native people is insurmountable and it is a footstep into Project

2025. It makes it all possible. If you guys have read Project 2025 and then read the orders that he signed, you'll see he's following it exactly. He is making it all possible. He's cutting the ties to where his lawyers and his policy makers can move in. The next move is to put them into position. Um do not underestimate this as an attack on the Native peoples because it is. What seemed as a simple name change from the Mount Denali to Mount McKinley was you have to understand what it actually was. It was the uh Koyukon people have called that Mount Denali forever. Somebody walked into their backyard in 1917 and said, hey, this is Mount McKinley. That's not only insulting to the Indigenous people of that area, that's just, it's policy of... of... of a certain group to do that to other Natives but to other Indigenous peoples all around the world to walk into their house and go, I discovered your house so now I'm going to call it something new. That's the ultimate disrespect. The days ahead of us are woeful. Um I don't think that uh it can be underestimated the impact of what's going to happen today with the groundbreaking up near Benzie. They're groundbreaking today. This is their official opening for the casino. If you read what they're actually doing with it, it was just very smart. They're going to be expanding on it as they draw money but it's going to be used as a driver to drive customers to their two other casinos. That's the purpose of it. So, there's a lot graver impact than what's being presented. Um I do agree with some of the things that were said earlier, and I want members to understand that sitting down at a table is going to get you just a dog and pony show about the enrollment until there's 100% enrollment audit and there's no, I don't think any of you are children. The fact that there are people that oppose that answers your question. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, moving down to the

D. Public Comment Period

Okay, Chuck, I have you first.

Chuck Fisher: Chuck Fisher, 1297. Uh I was at the elders meeting as well. I'm on that committee and uh I was tasked at that meeting to discuss the uh prospects and possibilities associated with the idea of the Little River Band sponsoring uh an executive meeting of the MIEA. Uh the Michigan Indian Elders Association uh as far as I know uh does not have a sponsor for April's meeting. Uh this was discussed in the elders meeting uh I had the opportunity to bring, to speak for the tribe within that organization and uh elected not to do so uh because of you know of the finances involved. Uh the possibility of sponsoring just uh an executive meeting would probably be an overnight stay. So, it wouldn't be a full-fledged meeting. We'd probably have about 30 people and uh that might make it doable. Uh we talked about the budget is our budget, the... the elders committee budget. Um we don't have a clear picture of you know, uh what we can do with that. From our understanding, uh there are other uh elders' committees that have been authorized within that budget. Uh so it's not clear to us how that's going to be managed or anything like that. But my basic question and the reason that I'm here today is to see if, well, if the council would entertain a supplemental uh uh budget to sponsor an executive meeting of the MIEA uh sometime in April. Uh I'm sorry, I don't have a cost on that. Uh the tribes do pay for the lodging and the travel expenses for the people that are involved. Uh but the host tribe uh usually takes care of the meals and things like that. So, uh there would be a cost. Uh so, and I'm imagining

that that would be, you know, as compared to the full cost of a full loan uh meeting, uh you know, it would be, uh you know, minimal comparatively, not to say that it would be necessarily minimal in actuality. So, I don't know how to estimate that. I could find out and give you more information as that becomes available to me. Uh I've been tasked with researching this and uh that's what brings me here today. And I needed to contact the MIEA as well. I mean, so I'm just throwing it out there to see where the Council is with this. So, I can be guided by that uh direction. Guided in that direction. By the way, they did get a 501c3. So, uh they are now officially a nonprofit. And Larry, that information goes to you too. They are a nonprofit organization now.

Speaker Burmeister: Is it MIEA that's nonprofit? Chuck, is that what you're saying?

Chuck Fisher: I'm sorry.

Speaker Burmeister: They're a nonprofit, right?

Chuck Fisher: They're a nonprofit, yes.

Speaker Burmeister: Um I put you in the queue, Chuck. I have a lot of people in the queue. So, they will respond to you.

Chuck Fisher: Okay.

Speaker Burmeister: When they're in the queue.

Chuck Fisher: You want me to stand here or?

Speaker Burmeister: You can sit down if you'd like.

Chuck Fisher: Okay.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Chuck Fisher: Alright.

Speaker Burmeister: Alright. I have quite a few people. Israel, you're next in the queue.

Israel Stone: Israel Stone, 1735. Uh my first thing that I want to address, and I already addressed this with the Ogema's office, but I'm asking Council for a legislative fix uh dealing with the housing crisis that exists in our community. Um currently, there is a process that's occurring uh at Tribal Housing. By the way, Ron lives there. He knows too. There are several empty homes sitting up there that are not being worked on. And there are several Tribal Citizens waiting for a home. And what's happening right now, and... and this isn't at the Ogema, this is a housing commission issue, I believe, is if a tribal citizen that already lives there wants to relocate to a new home, a bigger home, they are first priority. So, they move that Tribal Citizen to a new home and then it takes two

homes off of the rotation. So now you not only have taking one home that a Citizen could have moved into, but two, because you have to wait to repair the house they moved out of. So essentially, a Tribal Citizen can live in a house there and put in for a request to relocate to a larger home, newer home, whatever the case may be. They'll move them. Now that's two houses gone, right? And the issue that I have with it is you have Citizens that have been waiting on that list for months. Right now, they have years. Yeah, they have people out there working, but they only have three people. So, with all this snowfall, guess what they're doing all winter? Snow removal. Nobody's working on houses. We got a house up there that the window is literally boarded up. Literally boarded up. And you have tribal citizens out on the streets that are homeless waiting to get into a home, commit some funding, hire a company, do whatever you need to do, buy the income-based homes so that there's more availability. There's income-based homes that they won't move people into that make over their income guideline because it's an income-based home. Buy it out. We had a million dollars we just gave back to the federal government. We could have bought out every one of those houses and they would have been tribal assets, and we could have moved people into those homes. And to me, uh the fact that uh people are waiting for homes when there's homes sitting empty up there, it's a problem. People shouldn't be relocating from one house to the next house and then making a Citizen wait in line that hasn't even gotten a house yet uh to move into. It's not acceptable. Something needs to change. The process is broken. And I'm sorry, you have three people working in that housing office down there and if they're not filling homes and they're collecting rent and doing inspections, why aren't they up there cleaning carpets, helping prepare these homes, get them ready? Why aren't we hiring more resources? Our EDC has a construction company underneath them. Why aren't they coming in and getting those homes ready? Why are citizens having to wait so long uh for housing? And people can make their comments and smirk and do all that other stuff. That's fine. But the reality is, I know it's happening. I watch it happen. I've seen it happening. I've seen the houses sit empty. You have a Council Member sitting right there that sees the same things. And so that's issue number one. Number two, I want to talk about this whole ah sovereignty issue and the new president and threat on tribal sovereignty. The largest threat on our tribal sovereignty right now is our own community, guys. We haven't been able to get it together in a long time. We sent a million dollars almost back to the federal government. Okay, then it was supposed, I'll continue on. It was supposed to be sent back by the end of the year. And so, they're eating in my time. They're eating in my time. Listen, so it was supposed to go back at the end of the year, this January or December 31st, uh by the requirements if it wasn't committed. I know there was an emergency meeting called, and those funds weren't committed. So how they haven't been sent back yet, I don't know. There's an extension and something the citizens don't know because information is not being shared. The last issue I have is confidential information or business strategy being shared in an open session. That is not prudent for us to do that when our competitors are watching everything we're doing and counteracting those things with their steps. And I'm not going to get into the whole thing, but some of the information that was received was received by attending meetings and being a part of those meetings that everybody wasn't necessarily privy to. It becomes difficult when you're trying to talk strategy and how to move our property forward when that's being openly shared, and people can counteract our strategy with

theirs. Uh that said, Um I don't think people were doing it to be uh malicious, not saying that. I just would ask that we keep things in our community close to our best so that we can strategize and move forward uh appropriately and make the moves that we need to make. So very simple. And I'm sorry if the money wasn't sent back. That's the last thing we were told the citizens is if it wasn't committed by December 31st, the money had to be sent back. Um so maybe you guys can share information. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Mark. Go ahead, please. Mark, we can't hear you, um but you are in the queue right now. Mark, you are in the queue.

Mark Huddleston: Thank you. I just got back on my internet dropped off. Um I'm not a public speaker. So, this is difficult for me. Uh I want to apologize to the membership, tribal council speaker for my interruption earlier. Um I got a couple of things. Uh...uh now that I heard that we don't have a membership meeting or a council meeting Wednesday, um we do uh there was mentioned of having a candidate forum. That's just a thought. Uh I want to thank Israel for his public comment. Um I was wondering, I asked Julie how many applicants they got for the Biskaabiiyaang committee uh board or yeah. And then on the online gaming distribution, I was reading what's up for 38 comment period. And I don't know that how I'm sure it would be caught later on, but I saw that the uh Roman numerals in 312 uh for the description or uh definitions has I's instead of a capital I to make it a Roman numeral. I'm sorry. And uh that was it. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is councilor Wolfe. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. Um try my best to answer everyone. Um what I originally wanted to comment on was what Mr. Fisher brought forward about the MIEA. I fully support having and hosting them as their meeting. I know I was a proponent of it last year. I've sent donations. They're very well organization. Um I think when we stepped up for sponsorship and said that we were going to host their whole annual meeting, which all 12 tribes, their delegates and other elders come and support that, I think is just a great revenue generator and bringing those people and, in the community, together. So, I support that 100%. I'm kind of on the fence about just executive meeting or the full-blown meeting that allows for everyone to participate. Um I know what we ran into was our resort couldn't give a comparable enough rate to make it affordable for all the other tribes to participate. So, looking at that, that would be um something we could legislate to try to get a different rate there or account for that and add the financial support to that because I think this is a great organization. They've been around for a long time. I know through COVID, they went back down. Now they're back up again. Um they support that um youth initiatives for perfect attendance, A honor roll. I mean, they just do a wealth of good things for Indian country. So, uh looking at that, bringing it forward, I will get with you and sponsor a work session to get that moving forward so that we can find out what funding is and work on the cost. But I would be more, I think I'm more open to the full conference to have all those elders from others' communities come see what we're doing here at Little River. Um what we would need to work with is at the resort in getting those rates down for um those participants to come, you know, offer

some kind of different rate because I know they can't afford the \$129 government rate that they've implemented this year. So, I think that's the major barrier is working with our resort, but I support it 100% and I'll get with you and schedule a work session for that and make sure that you're aware so we can get it done and make it happen. I know April's right on the cuffs of the window, so we'll have to do this pretty quickly. Um some of the comments that were made by Mr. Stone about housing, um I've made those for a long time. I think I've said that for a long time, we don't have a housing issue. We have a housing management issue because we do continue to let people apply and move and then it takes the six months or eight months. I know one time at funding, I was with the housing director, and I said, hey, let's bring in a company. If we can't clean them up, let's bring in a cleaning company that can rehab and get these carpets going and get these houses back on the market. Again, it is a limited market, but those are that. He said some of that was commission issues. Those aren't commissioned. Those are housing under the executive, under the department and the policies that control all of that. The commission oversees part of their regulations, but not their policies for how they internally manage the department. So that's all executive, nothing to do with the commission. Um he talked about the whole thing; big topic was misinformation and several things he set up that were misinformation. The million dollars being sent back because of an emergency meeting, that didn't happen. That wasn't a public comment. That wasn't dispersed. That was a hearsay. So, when I try to correct misinformation, apologize for interrupting, but it's hard when you're sitting here, and you know things are going out that aren't accurate. But we continue to say it three or four times. There's 15 of us in this room plus 30 people online. So now 45 people heard that different. So just wanted to comment on that. Um I think the comment that uh Mark had, he had two of them on the definitions and comments on the online gaming plan. Those um comments need to be addressed and its comments at lrbois.nsn.gov is where you set those two. I will make note of it and bring it up in the work session to get that corrected. And then you asked about um the Biskaabiiyaang Commission specifically. The way that it is for checks and balances when you apply, Tribal Council creates the commission as a subordinate organization. When you apply for it, that is going over through the Ogema's office, and he brings forward the names. We do ask that membership send the application and letter of interest CC to Tribal Council. So, we're aware, but as of yet to date, we haven't got any response or no notification from the Ogema that anyone's applied for the commission. So, I think those were the three that I had. It's kind of hard to keep it when we're have to go in queue to respond to individual comments but thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Recorder Johnson, you're next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Recorder Johnson: Um so I kind of want to agree some things that um Councilor Wolfe had said um with the MIEA of uh definitely having that work session and start gathering your information and look at having that. Um I'm agreeable to having them here as well. So, but I definitely would encourage you to start gathering of your information of what you would need, what you're actually looking at and stuff. And um since Julie said, she would co-host it with you, by all means, please do. Please bring it forward. Um and then um as far as the house, I got to agree with the housing and not getting them

flipped. There's places up that need to be flipped. And if uh the maintenance crew is spending time um plowing, then maybe we should look at, especially when they get behind, having a crew come in and get those houses clean. Because sometimes maybe they can't do the floor or what have you, or we need new appliances. I know there's one house up there that does not have hot water right now. And she's going on, that house is going on two weeks. Um so um we definitely, part of it was a part and then whatever, um different circumstances there with that one. So, um I would like to see a crew and RFP put out to have a crew come in to be able to help get those houses. Because there is seven houses, I believe that I've heard that is empty up there. So, I definitely would like to see a crew come in. So, when they do get behind, they can have the crew come in, help get those houses done and flipped to be able to get members into those houses. So, I would be all for that. If they're obviously up on their houses, they don't need the crew, but when they do get behind, they have that ability. Um that's all I wanted to say.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Councilor Campton. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Uh like Councilor Wolfe, I'm going to try and go through everything that I remember. Um well, uh with the uh Michigan Elders Association, I would be 100% behind that if we had an itinerary. Because most of our meetings, our informational meetings, our executive meetings are just disguised ways to attack your political opponent. And I don't want that exported to the rest of the elders of the Michigan. We're at an embarrassment as much as we are right now. I don't want that to happen. But if we're going to have a real elders meeting, then I would 100% support that. So, if you can get me an itinerary for that, I would definitely look at it and entertain that motion. Secondly, despite what the recorder just said, Councilor Wolfe was right. The majority of what Mr. uh Stone stated is all under the executive. The only position we would have is that the executive asks us for funding or to submit a plan to do so to bring on extra people. That would be the part uh I understand that the complaints Mr. Stone had, they all fall under the executive. Um that so she's absolutely correct. When you hear misinformation going out, it started at that podium today, the second advert was done. Somebody tried to redirect to fool the membership. Um the money's not getting sent back because of any failure of any meeting. If it's getting sent back, it's because the Ogema overrode, a vetoed uh Councilor Wolfe's proposal. The minutes are not up on the website now, but when they do go up, you will see in second open that there was money. There was a proposal that was never, never rescinded by Tribal Council that obligated those funds. What's being done right now is it's not being posted, so you can't see it, but it exists. It never was rescinded by Tribal Council. We have a pink slip that is a veto from Mr. Romanelli saying he's vetoing the action. That's what everybody's trying to hide from you and say that Council hasn't sent it back because he didn't come to a meeting. That was obligated in the second open. Once again, once those minutes up, listen to what everybody said here today. Once those minutes come up, the game's all over and they will come up. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Councilor Wittenberg. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wittenberg: Yeah, Miigwech. Uh Chuck, uh with that uh MIGA, I'm also for it, but as we had and seen uh different times with the casino for having the people come in and everything, um uh and understandable, but how the prices are racketing, uh going up even uh within our own nation here. But uh I am for it and like to have all elders for it. Because I know I was over there once before uh when we did have it over there. And uh I thought it was pretty awesome to see the many, uh basically, elders that came in. And so that, to me, was pretty awesome, especially when they had the auction going on and what they brought from other tribes. So, I do want to say, Miigwech, and I am for it. I get down to the housing, yeah. I knew that a long time ago, I mean a long time ago, that they, to me, uh should have had a crew or have a crew that comes in that could turn around and turn those uh places that need to be getting ready to uh be rented again. Long time ago. I'm not talking about a couple of years or a few years. I'm talking about a long time ago. But uh nothing has happened, and they say they can do what they can do. I do know that there are companies out there that can turn around. They bring their crews in, and they can turn around and uh turn it around within a couple weeks or a week or something like that, which definitely cuts down because they do bring their crew in. And then as far as what uh Israel was sharing, I'm talking about what I was sharing uh with the public, which I look on here and it's Little River Members. It's not the outside. So, if it went to the outside and other people know, well then uh there's nothing I can do about it because even on this uh gaming commission meeting, it says open session. And so that's what I'm going by is open session. It doesn't say closed. And then what I see on here, as we went through there, that we're looking at members and they have to announce who they are. And so that uh is my question in that. So, for now, Miigwech. Um if did you want...

Chuck Fisher: I just walked back to the podium because I wanted to thank everybody who uh voiced their support for the MIEA. And I'm...

Speaker Burmeister: Chuck, you're not in the queue.

Chuck Fisher: Sorry.

Councilor Wittenberg: Thank you, Chuck.

Speaker Burmeister: Mm hmm I have you in no queue. You don't want to be... No, you're just not...

Ogema Romanelli: Oh.

Speaker Burmeister: There's two other people before you. Okay. Susan, you are next in the queue.

Susan Thull: Okay, thank you. I wanted to speak to Chuck if he's still there. So, um what I wanted to say was that we do have the membership meeting normally in April also. Um so just to be aware of that, if the MIEA meeting is you know the same time, um the resort might have a problem reserving that many rooms you know for quite a few weekends in a row. I know that they wanted to have an MIEA meeting um a couple of years ago and there was a problem with a resort uh saying that that time was a busy time. I think it might've been more in the summer months, but um we just really uh need to make sure that the resort has that availability also. So, if you're planning this, you want to remember our membership meeting and then we have an election too. That probably doesn't take so many rooms but um. And then I wanted to speak about um the donation uh and particularly to um the recorder. Uh that on the donation, I would love to see something written up in the currents about who you know, because the membership should know what we're doing as far as you know who we're supporting. And that's once a year, I know we did Miigwech. I had looked them up myself um and I do follow them um because we did sponsor them. It had never said anything about sponsoring on their website, but I knew that we had done that donation in uh 2023. And so um just a little you know something in the currents would probably be something that some uh members would find um insightful as to where you know where our donations are going and how they're helping those. And that's all I had to say. Thank you.

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

Sara Agosa: Sorry about that. My comment is I need to address Mr. Romanelli concern with misinformation circulating in our community. In the January 8th meeting, I was removed because I tried to call a point of order when Mr. Romanelli directly made statements about me that are inaccurate. I had a chance to listen to the council meeting and he stated the reason that we are, that I don't give more information to the membership in advance is because there are reasons to do so. 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 that 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 contacts. That's where misinformation goes out. Essentially, Mr. Romanelli was trying to blame me for failing to provide a proper communication plan. And that is absolutely completely wrong and unprofessional. Uh when I try to call a point of order and to explain that I considered this defamation, I was thrown out of the meeting. So, I did not have the opportunity to correct his statements. Um these blanket statements, which also spreads misinformation. So, I followed up with Mr. Romanelli and council and I asked for Mr. Romanelli to retract his statement and give me an apology in this very same venue. I also... I also said that members have rights to acquire information under the Freedom of Information Act and should never be persecuted for exercising their rights to obtain information. Additionally, I have been attacked numerous times by Mr. Romanelli for asking legitimate questions and fact-checking throughout the years. There must be transparency in what has actually occurred in this community. And the biggest problem is the lack of information and the lack of proper communication. Thank you, that is my comment.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay um anybody else in the queue? Would like to be in the queue? Go ahead, Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Wolfe: Support

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

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #14

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

During roll call councilor Crampton: can you repeat the motion? Councilor Metzger mic was off.

Recorder Johnson: It's to uh end first open. Eight in favor, one absent. We are done with first open, 11:56.

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: Al could you restate your motion please?

Councilor Metzger: Yeah, I'd like to make a motion to go on the second open at 2:14

Councilor DiPiazza/ Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Who'd you get Pam?

Recorder Johnson: I put Gary because uh

Speaker Burmeister: He did the first one

Recorder Johnson: Yeah

Councilor Wittenberg: Oh okay

Recorder Johnson: He's not absent

Councilor Wittenberg: I take my support back.

Recorder Johnson: I usually just take whoever supported it to go out, (0:24) because they usually, unless they disappear.

Councilor Wittenberg: And it wasn't on recording

Speaker Burmeister: Alrighty

Recorder Johnson: Yeah, it was

Councilor Wittenberg: It was?

Recorder Johnson: mm hmm

Speaker Burmeister: So, we are on...

Councilor Wittenberg: For serious.

Speaker Burmeister:

XI. Open Session

A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session- minutes and materials shall remain and shall remain in confidential.

1. Gaming Commission Closed Session Report ☐ December 2024

Councilor Metzger?

Councilor Metzger: We have to vote on the quorum of second open.

Recorder Johnson: Are you going to do a quorum for second

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, geez yeah. Um Recorder Johnson, can you do a quorum call for second open? Sorry. Thank you, Al.

Councilor Metzger: It's a team

Speaker Burmeister: It is a team

Recorder Johnson:

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

We do have quorum. 2:16

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, now um

XI. Open Session

A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session- minutes and materials shall remain and shall remain in confidential.

1. Gaming Commission Closed Session Report ☐ December 2024

Councilor Metzger, go ahead please.

Councilor Metzger: I would like to **make a motion to accept gaming commission closed session report December 2024.**

Recorder Johnson: Support

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

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #15

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Nine in favor. They've been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Wittenberg go ahead please.

XII. Adjourn

Councilor Wittenberg: I make a **motion to end...**

Councilor Wever: Support

Councilor Wittenberg: **second open at 2:17**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Recorder Johnson: Who you taking? Shirely?

Speaker Burmeister: Shirely.

Recorder Johnson: Okay

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

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call # 16

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

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

Eight in favor, one against. We are closed 2:18

Respectfully Submitted,



Chantel Gamelin
Transcribing Assistant



Pam Johnson
Tribal Council Recorder