



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
EMERGENCY MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021
LITTLE RIVER BAND
VIA ZOOM
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN EMERGENCY SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held an emergency meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on January 11, 2021. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Recorder Di Piazza said to Speaker Pete that the recorder is on.

Speaker Pete thanked Recorder Di Piazza very much.

Recorder Di Piazza asked can he just clarify something. Di Piazza said if something happens and this all bumps out please just log back in. Di Piazza said for some reason he had to log into his laptop and he has to co-host it on the big one. Di Piazza said why he has no idea. Di Piazza said but anyways.

Speaker Pete thanked Recorder Di Piazza. Pete said they are going to get started it is 11:00. Pete said this is the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council Emergency Meeting on January 11 at 11 a.m. Pete asked Recorder Di Piazza to please do a roll call.

II. Roll Call

T. Guenthardt -Absent	C. Champagne - Present	D. Corey -	Present
S. Crampton - Present	G. DiPiazza - Present	R. Pete -	Present
R. Wittenberg- Present	D. Lonn - Present	S. Lewis -	Present

Quorum established.

Recorder Di Piazza said eight are present they have a quorum at 11:01.

Participants: Chelsea Densmore, Connie Waitner, Julie Wolfe, Laura Echelbarger, Sara Agosa, Lyle Dorr, Elise Mc Gowen-Cuellar, Rebecca Liebing, Tara Bailey, Martha Howell, Caitlin Carey, Susan Thull.

III. Open Session

1. Approval of Grant Application Request to the U.S. Department of Treasury for supplemental funds to be added to LRBOI's Indian Housing Block Grant for an Emergency Rental Assistance Program related to COVID-19 Response

Speaker Pete said Lyle Dorr he brought this forward.

Lyle Dorr said he did but Tara Bailey.....did she want to lead this.

Recorder Di Piazza made a comment in the background on the ZOOM recording but it wasn't clear what he said.

Tara Bailey said yeah.

Lyle Dorr said okay.

Tara Bailey, Housing Department Director, represented this agenda item. Bailey said good morning.

Speaker Pete thanked Tara Bailey. Pete said go ahead.

Tara Bailey repeated good morning. Bailey said on January.....last evening January 6th they received notification that the Treasury um, was putting out an application deadline of January 12th for Tribal Funds um, under the new Consolidated Appropriations Act ah, for Rental Assistance and Utilities Program. Bailey said the deadline is actually January 12th therefore that is why they called the Emergency Meeting to get approval to apply for it ah, her resources tell her.....right now there is not much information out in regards to it but her resources tell her that there supposed to be set about 5-10% of their 2020 Indian Housing Block Grant which means they would be eligible for about \$29,900. Bailey said ah, so they are just requesting permission to apply for the funds for Rental Assis.....Rental and Utility Assistance for Tribal members. Bailey said they also been put out a second notice that on Thursday they are going to hold a meeting um, to go over and allow Tribes time to ask questions and find out more about the program itself.

Speaker Pete thanked Tara Bailey. Pete asked is there any further questions for Tara Bailey on this item only.

Sara Agosa identified herself. Agosa said she has a question.

Speaker Pete said Sara Agosa go ahead.

Sara Agosa asked how will this Rental Assistance be dispersed to the members um, do they have to apply for it. Agosa said if she could give her more

information about the application process and who will be prioritized she would appreciate it. Agosa thanked them.

Tara Bailey said um, it will be.....it is based on.....its an Income Based Program um, it will probably go off from the current Rental and Utility Assistance Program that is through Members Services. Bailey said um, but her thought is that since this is a new program and it is just for a certain amount of funds that they would probably just establish the same type of program that is already.....they currently have and tweak it depending on what comes out of the requirements of the grant itself which they do not know at this point um, although she does know it will be Income Based um, they can run it out of the Housing Program. Bailey said ah, so once they get approval and notification that they were awarded it and exactly how the program runs then they will put out a notice to membership.

Speaker Pete thanked them. Pete asked any further questions on this item only.

Councilor Wittenberg said yes he does.

Sara Agosa identified herself.

Speaker Pete said just a moment. Pete said he has to take it....take them in order. Pete said Ron Wittenberg is first.

Councilor Wittenberg thanked them. Wittenberg said yes, um, his question is, is, exactly who is going to be eligible for this. Wittenberg asked is this just for the people on Aki or this to all of their members at ah.....

Tara Bailey said it will be throughout.....

Councilor Wittenberg apologized.

Tara Bailey said it will be throughout the membership.

Councilor Wittenberg said okay.

Tara Bailey said what she.....what she un.....what nobody seems to be able to answer at this point is that whether or not their membership that resides currently in Aki in any of their units that are managed by their Indian Health and Block Grant will be eligible. Bailey said that is unknown at this time but it will be available to the general membership outside of that for sure.

Speaker Pete thanked Tara Bailey. Pete said now Sara Agosa.

Sara Agosa said yeah, she just has a couple of questions. Agosa said first of all is....this....related to COVID Funding. Agosa said um, that is her first question

and if it is a special grant. Agosa said her second question is when will they know if they have been awarded this grant. Agosa thanked them.

Speaker Pete said first of all this is related to COVID Funding. Pete asked Tara Bailey is that correct.

Tara Bailey said yeah, yeah. Bailey said it is part of the new Consolidated Appropriations Act that was just approved.

Speaker Pete said yes.

Tara Bailey said um, so it is for COVID Funding.....she means it is for COVID related items. Bailey said then um, the second question is she cannot answer that because again, they have put out very little information in regards to the grant itself.

Speaker Pete asked Tara Bailey this is just to make sure that they can apply for the grant, is that all.

Tara Bailey said correct, correct. Bailey said this time they are just....asking to apply for it.

Speaker Pete said okay is there any further questions.

Councilor Lonn said Dave Corey has got his hand up.

Grace Hendler made a comment in the background but it was not picked up on the ZOOM recording.

Recorder Di Piazza said they thought Dave Corey had his hand up.

Speaker Pete apologized to Dave Corey he missed him. Pete asked Dave Corey if he had his hand up.

Dave Corey answered no, his question was answered earlier.

Speaker Pete thanked Dave Corey. Pete asked is there any further questions from the Grants Department and from the Housing Department.

Councilor Lonn said she has a question.

Speaker Pete said just a moment. Pete said Diane Lonn go ahead.

Councilor Lonn asked um, is this where they can only apply once or can they apply more than once.

Tara Bailey said um, hold on one.....*Bailey made an additional comment but it was not heard clearly what she said on the ZOOM recording.* Bailey said she is pulling the information that they did this by um.....

Councilor Lonn said if she doesn't know it she understands.

Tara Bailey said it says that all eligible households may receive up to 12 months of assistance plus an additional three months if the grantee determines extra months are needed to ensure housing stability and grantees funds are available. Bailey said so um, that is what their guidelines says right now ah, but again it is going to be determined on how much funding they receive.

Councilor Lonn said okay. Lonn thanked Tara Bailey.

Speaker Pete said all right at this point then that funding is about \$29,000. Pete asked is that correct.

Tara Bailey said correct. Bailey said that is all that she is anticipating.

Speaker Pete said okay. Pete asked is there any further questions on this.

Lyle Dorr identified himself. Dorr said this is for Grace Hendler.

Speaker Pete said okay Lyle Dorr.

Lyle Dorr asked Grace Hendler did she get the updated Agenda Request and Resolution.

Grace Hendler responded yes, she did and she sent it out to everybody. Hendler said she has a copy here.

Lyle Dorr said okay, perfect. Dorr thanked them very much.

Grace Hendler said he is welcome.

Speaker Pete thanked Lyle Dorr.

Sara Agosa identified herself.

Speaker Pete said go ahead Sara Agosa.

Sara Agosa said sorry she didn't mean to interrupt him.

Speaker Pete said okay.

Sara Agosa said um, she just has a question. Agosa said \$29,000 doesn't seem to be a lot of money and she definitely agree they should be applying for it anyways. Agosa asked how many families do they perceive will be um, right, impacted or will be able to receive this grant. Agosa said she means how many families are they really talking about because \$29,000 over the course of 12 months plus she thinks she said three months it just doesn't seem like it is going to affect too many families. Agosa thanked them.

Speaker Pete said go ahead Tara Bailey.

Tara Bailey said it says eligible households may receive up to 12 months so as long as, they know, funding is available so again, once she goes through that training or session on Thursday she will probably know more about exactly how it will work and what its expectation is. Bailey said she did....they have not listed exactly what the rules are at this point.

Speaker Pete said well, he is just going to add onto that Tara Bailey. Pete said even if it is \$29,000 it will still help some people.

Tara Bailey said correct.

Speaker Pete said okay is there any more questions for, for, for Tara Bailey.

Councilor Corey said he would just like to ask one Ron Pete.

Speaker Pete said okay Dave Corey he sees his hand up. Pete thanked Dave Corey.

Councilor Corey said um, so he is in the understanding that this is going to go along with the Rental Assistance Program that they already currently have, correct. Corey said this ain't a new program through Housing, correct.

Tara Bailey said it...she means they could use it to supplement their program ah, if that's, they know, how they prefer to use it but the....the Housing Department has already submitted an additional \$27,000 to Rental....to Members Assistance for Rental Assistance or Mortgage Assistance um, and currently minus they only had one applicant um, qualify for that so um, her thought process was to do it through Housing because it is a separate pot of funds in order to get it utilized and out there.

Councilor Corey said but....but then she would have to take all the applications that they already have on file and qualify them....he thought that income requirements that.....the program.....

Tara Bailey interrupted. Bailey said their income requirements.

Councilor Corey said okay that is the same.....is it not the same program that Jason Cross does.

Tara Bailey said well yeah, it, it, can be but she doesn't know what.....she doesn't know what the total of all the rules are.....how it will work. Bailey said yeah, it can run if they want to give him the funds to manage through his current programs he can do that.

Councilor Lonn said but she has a question.

Speaker Pete said okay, Diane Lonn.

Councilor Lonn said it said this is ah, they know, the programs are income based because there are low.....there are people trying to survive and work. Lonn said yet because it is based upon income, as she just said only one person qualified, so if they get this money to Jason Cross who is to say it is going to sit there because they don't meet the qualifications. Lonn asked is she not right.

Speaker Pete said go ahead Tara Bailey he didn't hear anything about giving it to Jason Cross. Pete said but go ahead Tara Bailey.

Tara Bailey said um, and so if all ____.....

Councilor Lonn said okay, go ahead Tara Bailey she is sorry.

Tara Bailey said her thought processes is that, they know, if they have this additional funding is to put out notice because if nobody is utilizing the program currently then there has got to be Tribal members out there who are struggling and need assistance and maybe don't know that this is available or they have utilized the program in the past because the current program she believed states they can only use it once in a two-year period. Bailey said so they would have to tweak the ah, um, requirements in the current program in order to make them eligible.

Councilor Lonn said okay, that answered her question. Lonn thanked Tara Bailey.

Speaker Pete thanked Tara Bailey. Pete asked are there any further questions or can he get a motion.

Sara Agosa identified herself.

Recorder Di Piazza said he would like to.....

Speaker Pete said go ahead Sara Agosa.

Recorder Di Piazza said he would like to ____Ron Pete.....

Sara Agosa said she just wanted to say that she agrees with what Diane Lonn said that she would like to see more grants or unlimited funding because her experience has been that many members are right above the poverty level so don't necessarily qualify but still need the help. Agosa said um, and then also too Tara Bailey mentioned that she is going to training on Thursday and it is just really unfortunate that with these grants that they don't offer the training before the application process but she understands with COVID that some things are a little bit disorganized. Agosa said um, is there any way that she could update them with more information at the next Tribal Council Meeting after her training. Agosa thanked them.

Tara Bailey said um, yes, and it is unfortunate that most of the programs that they receive funding through are income based through HUD or this is Treasury.....this is actually through the Treasury Department. Bailey said um, but the Tribe itself does have funding unless she is incorrect through Members Services that through Tribal resources that, they know, is they wanted to update and change that so it is not income based that would be the prerogative of, they know, the program itself or the Director.

Speaker Pete thanked Tara Bailey.

Tara Bailey said unfortunately when they are applying for grants they do have specific requirements that they have to follow.

Speaker Pete thanked Tara Bailey. Pete said what he is going to do is reel this in this meeting is to decide whether or not she can go ahead and apply for this grant.

Recorder Di Piazza said he was in the queue, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Pete said go ahead.

Recorder Di Piazza said that being said he would like to make a motion.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #21-0111-006; GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS TO CONDUCT AN EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RELATED TO COVID-19 RESPONSE; by Di Piazza; supported by Lonn.

Speaker Pete asked is there any further discussion. Pete asked is anyone going to abstain. Pete asked Recorder Di Piazza to do a roll call.

Roll Call #1

T. Guenthardt -Absent	C. Champagne -Yes	D. Corey -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Di Piazza said eight in favor and one absent Resolution #21-0111-006 is passed.

Speaker Pete thanked Recorder Di Piazza.

IV. Adjourn

Speaker Pete said he needs a motion now to adjourn this special um....

Tara Bailey thanked them.

MOTION TO ADJOURN; by Lonn; supported by Crampton.

Speaker Pete asked is there any further discussion. Pete asked is anyone going to abstain. Pete asked Recorder Di Piazza to do a roll call.


Roll Call #2

T. Guenthardt -Absent	C. Champagne - Yes	D. Corey -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Di Piazza said eight in favor and one absent they have adjourned this ah, Emergency Open Session Meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grace A. Hendler
Transcribing Assistant



Gary Di Piazza,
Tribal Council Recorder