



Approved 9/6/23

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023  
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 25, 2023. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Recorder Wittenberg said I would like welcome everybody. Today Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am ...*Uh* Little River Band *Uh* Council Meeting So anyways I will go thru the list to see who who is if you don't mind. *Uh* who's last four digits is 3498? Please.

Larry Romanelli said that would be the Ogema.

Recorder said Al Metzger

Al Metzger said Boozhoo #0890

*Background voice: glad I don't have to say that. Naaha*

Recorder said Cory Wells

Cory Wells said #4839.

Recorder said Dr. Dixon, Dr. Garrett Dixon.

Recorder: Dr. Dixon, Dr. Garrett Dixon.

Dr. Dixon said yes, we're present. This is Dr Dixon with Keith, Keith Jacque, chief pharmacist.

Recorder said Jessica Steinberg.

Jessica Steinberg said Good Morning #0148

Recorder said Jolene O'Signac

Jolene O'Signac said Tribal ID #3866

Recorder said Carol Ann Chabot, Chabot

Carol Chabot said Carol Ann #3742

Recorder said, let's see Crystal Davis is *ah (garbled)* Laura Eichelberger, barger?

Laura Echelbarger said Good Morning. Laura Echelbarger # 2276

Recorder said and Martha Howell

Martha Howell said #3635

Recorder said Sandy Mezeske

Sandy Mezeske said #0018

Recorder said Sara Agosa

Sara Agosa said #4478

Recorder said and I don't (*inaudible*)

Recorder said Speaker Crampton I've went through the list, and we're all kosher on it *Uh* you can take over.

Speaker Crampton said *Uh* Thank you. I'm not sure if you can hear me.

Councilor Wever said Yes.

Recorder Wittenberg said could you speak up a little louder, please.

Speaker said I'm sorry, I'm trying to speak louder. This microphone is kind of messed up. Anyway, Thank you. And welcome everyone. If you would kindly lead us in a prayer Mr. Recorder, I would greatly appreciate it.

## **I. Opening Prayer**

Ron Wittenberg, Tribal Elder, offered the Opening Prayer in Anishinaabemowin and Shagnaash.

Interpretation to English:

*To the Creator for gifting us another day we ask that he heal our hearts our minds our, our soul and our spirit that we walk in a good way we say Chi Miigwech for everything we have and everything we don't have .We ask that you be with us and all throughout the day and night Aho Miigwech , Miigwech Miigwech, Miigwech,aho.*

Recorder said I do have a couple more people that is on and I'm gonna admit. Give me a second please.

Recorder said Yes, *Uh* Staci Cheney

Staci Cheney said #0992

Recorder said and I thought there was another one that was on there. I thought it was a Cynthia. Yes, Cynthia Shantz.

Cynthia Shantz said good morning #3356

Recorder said *ah* Miigwetch. We're ready now Speaker Crampton.

Speaker Crampton said Okay, thank you, and *Uh* and it will cause me to order at 10:07 if you will do roll call for attendance.

## **II. General Business**

### **A. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order at 10:07 am by Speaker Crampton

### **B. Roll Call**

T. Guenthardt -Present	C. Champagne -Absent	P. Johnson -	Present
S. Crampton – Present	G. DiPiazza -	Present	S. Wever - Present
R. Wittenberg- Present	J. Wolfe -	Present	S. Lewis - Present

Recorder said Speaker Crampton we do have quorum.

Speaker Crampton said Thank you. That moves us down to the approval of the agenda. I will entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

### **C. Approval of Agenda**

Councilor Lewis said I make a motion to approve the **III.A1** revised *aaah* resolution *ah* resolution to approve the childcare development fund grant as a part of the tribes' sustainability plan for childcare. And then also *Uh* **III A2**, it's a correction approving the Ogemas execution of FY 2023 subcontract for administration and biological service with the Ottawa Chippewa resource authority.

Recorder Wittenberg said support.

The speaker said OKAY I have a motion by Councilor Lewis, supported by councilor Wittenberg. Is anyone going to Abstain?

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR JANUARY 25, 2023,  
WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: III.A1 revision; III A2  
Correction by S. Lewis; supported by Wittenberg.**

Speaker Crampton asked is there any further discussion from Tribal Council.  
Speaker Crampton asked okay, anything from the membership. One more time for tribal council.

Council Wever said *Yeah*, I got a question.

Speaker Crampton said go ahead Council Wever

Councilor Wever: I like what you're, where you're, I don't know how you're calling in, but we can understand you. So, let's keep it to whatever you're doing different. Are you calling in? Or are you on ZOOM?

Speaker Crampton said Well, thank you. I'm on a headset.

Speaker Crampton Okay Now does anyone else have any conversation? Hearing nothing, please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 1**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Absent	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Wittenberg said the agenda has been approved sir.

Speaker Crampton: Okay that's gonna take us down to

**D. Tribal Council Minutes**      ☐ **X None Submitted**

Speaker Crampton so that takes us down to:

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

1. **Resolution to Approve the Child Care and Development Fund Grant as a part of the Tribe's Sustainability Plan for Childcare**  
The Tribe is seeking Tribal Council approval of the Child Care Development Fund for the 2024-2026.

Speaker Crampton: and that's Dorr.

Mr. Dorr said good morning, Council. I appreciate the *Uh* last few days just discussing the childcare development fund application process just to try get an understanding of that and *Um* what's available to the tribe through that process. *Um* We have an existing grant series that we have received since 2019 Child Care Development Fund. When the *Uh* NextGen center closed down we just didn't draw those funds down. They are available out there, but we just have not been drawing on them.

Now as the tribe is talking about *Um* trying to get day care up and running here and whatever else in the future. The application for this next funding cycle which covers *Um* 23,24, eh, 24-25-26 I guess is *Uh* what it says out there. *Um* Its going to be something like \$50,000 available, a year, its \$83 altogether right now but they usually give additional funds, discretionary funds, each year and so its \$83 over three years but *Uh* given their past history it'll probably come out to about \$50,000 a year *Um* available to use for supporting *Um* child care if the tribe go forward and does and its available for salary, supplies, equipment and *Um* just supporting the daycare. Whatever we decide to come up with and that was *Um* probably the biggest thing out of the meetings I saw was *Um* We're looking at trying to collaborate between council, the *Um* executive side and the community *Um* and involving members to come up with a concept that will work Starting small and working toward whatever that concept is. So, this application that we're looking to do is *Um* - we posted the old one online, just so people could look at- here is the process, here's what was involved last time *Uh Um* and we're in the process, Chuck Fisher has come on board as grant writer and he will be helping to try to clean it up and I went, they sent me, even though I'm not in the grant manager roll, *Um* sent me to Chicago just because I was involved in the last one. Just cuz we don't have a director in family services who would normally be heading all this up. They sent me. So that is why I'm representing this to you today and *Um* to try to answer questions, and we're trying to do that the best we can.

What we've looked at is that trying to get the application together We have one section left to do which is all the business end of providing childcare *Um* Chucks going to be working on that, trying to get that together, and then allow council to review that application before it's actually submitted. So, todays permission to apply for the grant with the proviso that *Um* council gets a final look at it- you know- have a meeting Monday or Tuesday, The grant application is due on Tuesday and *Um* I think that about covers it but I'm open to questions and thoughts of what we're trying to accomplish.

Recorder Wittenberg: I have a question speaker *Uh* Speaker Crampton (pause) anyways I didn't hear nothin but *Uh* My question would be: even long before and I hear about this *Uh* trying to get *Uh* child care and *Uh* or what have ya and personally myself I haven't seen nothing come to the table as far as any planning trying to put together. Now we're going after *Uh* grants and nothin against grants,

but we don't even, I don't even, not we, myself, I haven't seen nothing or even a work session on what we would like to see or anything and so those are my thoughts on that thank you.

Dorr: To, just to *Uh* there was a meeting probably within the last few weeks that they had. They have been talking about it on the administration side. I'm not sure on the council's side how much discussion is happening. You're saying that you haven't heard but *Um* I know they had a meeting probably 3-4 weeks ago I wasn't at that meeting, but it was to just kinda discuss is there a possibility of using the existing facility or a part of it which is what they come down with. They wouldn't open up the whole thing if they used that facility. *Um* And so they did have that meeting and the discussion. And you're right about that we haven't had the leadership down in the family service department who would be taking lead on this. They would have probably taken the lead back in June- just to try to start having work sessions and do we reopen or what do we do. We just don't have it as a whole so I think it sounds like everyone agrees that there is a need for tribal members to have daycare services available to them so they can go to work *eh* make it easier on them and and us.

Recorder Wittenberg: *UH* I have an add on to that if you don't mind and thinking about these things we're trying to do for our tribal members and the thought come across myself *Uh* turned around and *Uh* if there is something out there that would turn around that would truly benefit the members as far as childcare that say if I needed child care and I am taking my young'un to a place for them to them to watch over but to directly help that one turn around and so they would say okay Ron you go *ahead* and give us what it cost to take your kid then turn and I think and feel a program would have to be developed by doing that but also turned around and ship that person *ah* whatever the cost would be for that child care Now that to me would be truly helping *ah* tribal members *ah* tribal members out that's my thoughts on that but I just thought I would share that along with you and just put it out there Miigwech

Dorr: And that's all part of... (interjection by Ogema)

Ogema Romanelli: I just want to say when you get a chance can you put the Ogema in?

Speaker Crampton: yes, certainly. Go ahead Mr. Dorr

Dorr: Ya it's okay for Larry to speak ya I mean right here.

(Unknown voice comment: you're supposed to ask the speaker)

Speaker Crampton: Okay he's ceding to the Ogema, so Mr. Romanelli go ahead.

Ogema: Okay Thank you. Yea, what were the intentions: that we were trying to keep it simple as Lyle stated and start out small. We know there is a very desperate need in this area for our employees both in the government and the resort and as well as tribal members and we have had several meetings on this *Uh* some of it we didn't get a response to but I believe we did have discussions with council talking about where the child care should be, what the intent is and it is just childcare just to start out with and *Uh* because it would be less salary we wouldn't have to hire teachers we could hire child care providers and provide a very much needed resource to employing people in both the resort and government. As you know we are sometimes having a hard time filling positions. This would be a great asset to that. The determination also was, as you know, we also discussed several areas in which we could house the childcare center. We talked about possibly out at AKI, in that area, we talked about an old building across from the casino, we talked about the old casino and also possibly eventually putting something up on the government property itself Right now the idea is that we will put it in the old casino and use only a portion of it *ah* to get it started and go from there, *Um* and I think that we are asking council to approve to apply for this grant and we can have more discussion as we go forward but I think that's the intent. Thank you.

Speaker: Okay I'm gonna jump back to the queue and I apologize once again to the members who have been waiting. So, I'm gonna go with Sara Agosa.

Agosa: Hi, can you hear me?

Speaker: Yes. Yes.

Agosa: Okay so I just have a few questions. First of all, I want to verify that the document you're referencing is the Childcare and Development Fund CCPF plan on the Ogema's web page.

Dorr: Correct, that's the old...

Agosa: Okay so I opened it up and it looks as though the draft has-been revised---by and I just wanted to say I really appreciate there is new contacts because it was very difficult to make public comment with the old draft. And my question is with this new draft or at least its formatted differently how long some of the members have to submit public comment or have an opportunity to attend a work session just questions thank you.

Dorr: There was a work session held yesterday on this one. In the afternoon and *Um* it is still open to public comment the comments can come in and we take them into account as we are developing the existing plan in the work session just identifying that people we are in a time crunch *Um* eh I'm thankful that Chuck is here that he can help with the finalizing because I worked

on the front end of this application but the last piece is a little bit detailed so I appreciate that *Um* I think that answered the questions...

Recorder: *Uh*, Speaker Crampton, Councilor Julie Wolfe has her hand up

Councilor Wolfe: I just wanted to respond to Sara's comments. The second thing that was posted is not actually the plan or draft or anything that is going to be submitted on this grant application. It was a power point presentation that was put together to maybe give council and membership a better explanation as things move forward so that's not the actual draft. *Um* Why it says revised resolution is because this grant application is due January 31 and we put in this resolution "*prior to the submittal of this grant application council will review and accept the updated plan*". So, we would be getting that *Um* what the grants department has proposed to *Um* tribal council to review on January 30 *Um* as far as public comment *ahh* I would believe as we are submitting on Jan 30 that would be the final date for public comment. Those are my comments thank you.

Dorr: *Um* It did say in that in the power point presentation that it was the 30<sup>th</sup> but it's the 31<sup>st</sup>. So, we have til Tuesday to submit that application So *um* there's a little room for, for comments to come in and *uh* they're appreciated.

Councilor Wolfe: Yea but it would be acceptable for it to be January 30 to receive all public comments, so you have that day to edit those if they're to be considered and that plan is going to be reviewed by tribal council on the 30<sup>th</sup> before submittal and at that time if we are in disagreement or there are things of concern the plan will not be submitted for the application.

Dorr: Eh, *uh*, I just got notice from... I hate to do this.... I just got notice from Elise, and she's away on leave, and she has information she wanted to incorporate with and work with Chuck on *Um* but she's not here this week to get em to us That's another question, are we able to do a session on Tuesday or late afternoon on Monday? I'm not sure *Umm* that's just for Chuck's sake to be able to incorporate whatever she has *ehh* I don't know what that all is together *Um* but I just want to know that we need to have that final meeting.

Recorder: On that if you don't mind, I'm just finding out Elise has some information for this towards this and would that be *aah* to me in my mind *Um* be how the vote would be concernin' of what is and what ain't concernin' this grant is that what you're talking about? *Uh* Lyle?

Dorr: *Uh* That last section She was going thru it, I didn't know we were going to get Chuck here, so she was going to go thru it and look at it because I said I didn't know what needs to be adjusted So she was looking at in detail, like the last 10 days or so here. She's kind of been working off and on and now she's *Uh* it's that last section that talks about *Um* what type of services we'll have and all she's trying to modify that for the application to not have it as big as the NextGen

learning center to more the daycare field, you know, the description and all at this point and *Um* she's doing that and she has that feedback to provide Chuck. Chuck will work on that to the extent he can, but I would like to put those two together to work on that to get the final plan completed.

Recorder: *Uh* listening to you myself and from past experience on it (unclear) I thought you to say you to say New Day and a or the learning center *Uh* turn around and Little River paid out quite a bit towards that now we're a bouncing back and forth to me is it gonna be this or gonna be that and when it comes down to it *Uh* are we *Um* yet ready to dig up that pot yet?

Dorr: *Um* ya I use the term learning center the NextGen learning center because that's the term that people recognize I'm also trying to say based on our discussion and work sessions and administration agrees with this Is it needs to be a smaller start for sure and not the whole building over there just part of it if they do it if they do it at that location obviously that has to be determined as well *Um* that's why I'm using those terms I'm not trying to cause confusion but starting smaller and obviously not the expense we drew before.

Councilor Wever: I'd like to say something How many employees are at this government building right now? Does anyone know? Well, I'm just gonna say? (Background voice#179) 179. You know, I think we should move over there and let the clinic and daycare come here. It's just so much empty space here and then you talk about this grant is only for the tribe members. You said that yesterday, right?

Dorr: Right. The funding is to support tribal childcare activities.

Councilor Wever: Well, what happens if there's 20 employees over at the casino that aren't members, will they be able to *Um ah* use the daycare?

Dorr: It depends. They can use the daycare if the tribe sets up a daycare center, but the funding is to support the tribal side of it. It's, it, just I mean it's...to even start a daycare. I think everybody agrees I think that it's been written that there's preference and there needs to be preference just like it would be in hiring or anything else. So, members, that are tribal members that have children. How it's set up, set then they're going to have first side of it. And those funds, there's not a, it sounds like a lot of money but for a years' worth of operation \$50,000 is not a lot but it helps and it's for us as a tribe to develop and support childcare so that, people, and that's what they want, they want people to be able to go to work because they have childcare available. *Um* And so that's the context behind it. Whether other people attend I mean it would be under a sliding fee scale and however it's set up I don't know that part of it. So

Speaker: I want to try to get back to the queue, I've let this go a little sideways...I apologize. Cynthia Shantz

Ms. Shantz: Thank you - is this a federal grant?

Dorr: Yes

Ms. Shantz: Can I ask Why? *Um* Why has this not been discussed sooner? By council?

Councilor Wolfe: I can answer for that speaker Crampton. It wasn't brought forward to tribal council to acknowledge that they went to some training in November because of lack of staffing on the executive side it wasn't pushed forward as it was *Um* just last week it was brought to tribal council *Um* for this grant and then we pushed it off and were able to have one work session. Worked out a lot of things got some good things included in the resolution so that we can know that. But it was not presented to tribal council before 2 weeks ago that this grant application was due, and that the deadline was January 31.

Ms. Shantz: *Um* Why didn't you add it to the meeting last week?

Councilor Wolfe: cuz we...*Uhh... (interrupted)*

Councilor Wolfe: Wanted to schedule a work session to have it on this week. We had a work session yesterday and several discussions even at agenda review....

Speaker: Well part of the problem is that the work session two weeks ago there wasn't a formal plan on what's gonna happen once we get the grant award and that's what tribal council is waiting for because *Um* the issue we're dealing with today and the revisions all have to do with the fact that there is still not a plan in place and tribal council has agreed tentatively to accept it and then look at the plan on Tuesday or Monday but now I'm hearing that *Uh* ULD or Elise might not be able to look at that until Tuesday or Monday So I'm the issue is today it is still not a full application from the executive. So council is making concessions to make this work.

Shantz: That still does not explain why we did not discuss it last week?

Speaker: *Um* yes, we did discuss it this last week and we discussed bringing a plan forward and still there's no plan. You see that's what I was trying to explain to you. Council's been asking for a plan for quite some time.

Shantz: Aren't you supposed to be involved in that though?

Speaker: Ms. Shantz we had the meeting. Council asked for a plan, there was another meeting, came back, there was no plan. We had a meeting yesterday, tribal council asked for a plan again we sat there and worked out a tentative agreement even though there's not a plan with the submittal, the tribal council

would entertain the submission today and accept the report maybe Tuesday or Wednesday before the submittal. The problem here is not that council is not doing their job, the problem here is that we're not getting a full submittal that allows us to do our full diligence.

Shantz: Thank you for that. Okay I have a question *Um*, there was a grant prior so there was a childcare open and why was that discontinued.

Dorr: The funding was connected to the NextGen center, the old casino, and when the casino, and when that was closed down then we just didn't draw the money. The money still exists out there, in the federal accounts. But this grant is based on drawdowns. When you spend it then you can draw it down you just put your invoices in and so it's out there on hold, so this is not a continuation of those grants it's another grant application for another three-year period. I hope that's clear.

Shantz: So, when did this occur? The shut down. What was the year?

Dorr: Last year (other voice) 2021. Like October of 2021

Shantz: So, what was the reason for the discontinuation?

Dorr: Tribal council, the government decided to close down the *um* existing service, *Um* the expenses... that there were disagreements over the operation ... I don't know all the reason. Is there someone that wants to give articulation to that?

(Inaudible voice)

It was just chosen to be closed down by the existing council at the time. And so.

Speaker: Normally I would provide an explanation, but I wasn't on council at that time so is there anybody on council on executive that can explain this to membership?

Councilor Wolfe: So, there wasn't an actual resolution or implementation to close down the center. Tribal council put a priority for tribal members, first generation descendants, and tribal citizen, children enrolled in other nations to be a priority for the center, because when reporting came back from the NextGen learning center there was 50-60 enrolled with only 2 tribal preference children there. The entire time it opened from 2016 until it closed in 2021 there was a \$500,000 to \$600,000 tribal supplement that came out of tribal revenue funding to support the center. This tribal council came aboard and felt like that was not a good use of resources and left impact on tribal citizens so when we prioritized and mandated by resolution in August 18<sup>th</sup> for priority for tribal citizens and then we did some restriction on their funding, we requested a sustainability plan. At that time, it was

determined by the executive side because of staffing issues, a lot of: *she closed the center*. So, then that's what happened. The grant has stayed available, this grant award, CDF, that we have currently is active until September 30, 2023, this one what we're looking at to apply for, to get back on track, to continue with the childcare service for tribal membership, is for 24 thru 26. We just have to start and get this application submitted so we're eligible for funding so potentially when we get the sustainability plan developed and moved forward in the direction that we are going we have this available funding to draw down on to support that factor. I hope that is clear. Thank you.

Ogema: This is the Ogema; I would like to get back in.

Speaker: Yes, if you would like to respond, your name was mentioned so go right ahead.

Ogema: Okay, thank you I agree with part of what *Uh*, Julie stated, however there was more to it. The problem *Uh* was that there was preference in placing children in the childcare center. We followed the plan as it was stated then the issue came up, I think from the Speaker at the time, that there were not enough native American or preference people in the center. Part of that was due to the positioning of when people applied for childcare. The other issue is that many of the people that were in there were also employee children. Now employee children for example, you have a nontribal employee of the resort that puts their child in there, that wouldn't be a preference. And over the years we followed the plan, they should have been reworked if anything, but the plan was to shut it down and when rumor that we were going to shut it down, we began losing employees of the childcare center and basically, several of them just left. Leaving us a big hole in childcare for our employees of the resort, the employees of the government, and tribal members. And it really, we lost employees on top of that because they did not have immediate childcare. It also did some damage as far as public relations in the community because it was a community based, *uh* it was operated by the tribe however it included community children. So, this is a way to do some repairs there and also help our employees and tribal members.

Recorder: I'd like to get in the queue please.

Speaker: alright, *uh* does that answer your questions Mrs. Shantz? I'm sorry I didn't hear you.

Ms. Shantz: *Um* to an extent...

Speaker: *Um* the reason I'm asking you is I really don't want to go into rehashing history and *Um* placing blame and turning this into something that it's not. We're talking about a grant application. And a revision. I allowed your question in order to provide some background as to how we arrived here I just don't want it to escalate into something different then what's on the agenda.

Shantz.: Okaay. *Um. Alright. Well,* I'm concerned because there's money there that wasn't used, it was closed down, which impacted our tribe, it impacted *Uh* our *Um* employees at the casino *Um* and you know we have to, if we're gonna like run businesses for the tribe, we need to be solid citizens and *Um* have contingencies and if the budget was *Um* so large that tribal was covering it but there were not a lot of tribal citizens taking advantage of it then I mean it should have been worked out where you know the employees had to pay more to cover the cost. I mean it seems like a half-baked idea here, half thought out, and *Um* I'm just concerned because, you know, and I mean I understand that we are applying for a grant *Um* but this seems like this is not even very well thought out to begin with.

Wever: I like this lady.

Speaker: I'm not, *Uh* Mrs. Wever please wait and get in the queue and don't respond to the *Um* membership in a hostile manner. *Um* I can't disagree with you there Ms. Shantz and the word you use it why I find it primarily *Um* germane to the issue, you used the word contingency. Now what the council is looking at today nobody disagrees with we need something in place, we need to start small, we need to do something for the employees. What we're looking at today is not a full plan again and again tribal council has agreed tentatively to *Um* go forward and wait for the report which we should have had in the first place *Uh* until Monday or Tuesday. But **now I'm** having trouble with that because I just heard Mr. Dorr say that Elise wanted to put some of her *Um* content into it and that might not happen before the deadline. I don't like doing this process in the first place. This was a tentative agreement to allow the executive to go forward. So, with that, I'm going to, I'm sorry Ms. Shantz, I'm going to move to Sara Agosa.

Councilor Wolfe: Councilor Wittenberg has his hand up.

Speaker: - oh I'm sorry, sorry, I'm sorry councilor Wittenberg before Ms. Agosa then Ms. Agosa.

Recorder: yea we talk about, thank you. Miigwech. And we talk about what *Uh* went down before- yes it's supposed to be for the tribal members, yes it's supposed to be for the workers but *Uh* I'm gonna go right back to tribal members that needed it and what caught my attention when that list came across was we had a tribal kid on the waiting list which in no way to me that kid should be on the waiting list. So that turned around and you know I guess preference **doesn't** work in my opinion because anytime if there's something like that and it's for the tribal kids and workers then to me *Uh yeah*, they say, said *Uh* they follow tribal preference and on and on and on. But do we really? That's the question. Do we really do it? And So when I turn around and come back to this and I look at it *Uh yea* I can sit here, stand here all day and voice *Uh* saying we're gonna do this and do that but then it when it turns on the bottom line is it gonna be done? Past

experience from I learned not to repeat our mistakes and that's how we learn from and I'm all for that and *ah* even though say so to speak it was written in stone well you can always put that stone on the back shelf also. Just because it's' writ in stone doesn't mean it's being followed. So those are my thoughts, my concerns also yes, we talk about starting small well (small dog barking in background) that's at the beginning when all this started Starting small then all of a sudden, we got teachers it goes on and on and on with different grants or we gotta go this way and go that... those are my thoughts on that Miigwetch.

Speaker: Okay Thank you I think we have covered pretty much how everybody feels about what happened So I don't want to be rude but I want to remind everybody we are on item **one** of the agenda. And Sara Agosa

Recorder: *Uh* Gary DiPiazza

DiPiazza: I defer to Sara.

Speaker: I'm sorry and thank you Mr. DiPiazza for deferring to Sara. Sara then Mr. DiPiazza

Sara: Actually, my question was when Next Gen was shut down so that members can reference the meeting minutes and the video for background info *Um*, there are articles online. And it looks like around August 2021, is there anyone on council remembers the date?

Councilor Wolfe: August 18 is when we passed the resolution for priority for that. After things transpired after. There are two resolutions for Aug 18 I don't know the resolution number but that is the date.

Voice (Wever): *go ahead Gary.*

Speaker: Yea, are you okay Ms Agosa?

Agosa: yup.

Speaker: Okay councilor DiPiazza

DiPiazza: Well, I had a little different outlook on the whole situation so *Um* and that's fine. I don't want to hash to much of that but I know that resolution restricted the general fund to fund any of that daycare center so the writing was on the wall that nobody would get paid That being said I would like to make a motion:

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #23-0125-009;  
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CHILD CARE AND**

**DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT AS A PART OF THE TRIBE'S  
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR CHILDCARE.**

by G. DiPiazza, supported by S. Wever.

Speaker Crampton asked is anyone going to abstain.

Crampton asked is there any further discussion from Council. Now I'll pick up the membership.

Councilor Wolfe: Two things I want to point out for membership before we vote on this: there is no sustainability plan applying for this grant secures funding that will be available once the sustainability plan is developed. That's why it's right in the title this is a part of the tribes' sustainability plan for childcare.

Second: Even if we apply for this grant, we potentially have the opportunity to not get awarded because we did not currently expend the grants under this same office. But if we are awarded it does commit or obligate the tribe to accept this funding and this grant does not have any tribal dollar matches to it. So, I just wanted to put those comments out there. Thank you.

Speaker Crampton is there anything further from council. Okay I'll pick up the membership now. and I had Al Metzger. Al Metzger Can you hear me, Al?

Metzger: Hello Boozhoo Councilor Wolfe answered my questions. Thank you.

Speaker: I see Ms. Shantz hand back up: go ahead

Ms. Shantz: Thank you *Um* In applying for these grants and *you know* and they get awarded That hasn't occurred yet but I mean any grants that we apply for and *Um* we have to follow the rules. Correct? I mean we have to follow what the grant *you know* the grant says. *Um* the rules of the funding, so that's my concern. We need to *Um* go back and look at all the rules that were established in *Um* accepting grants. *Um* I know that we have not accepted this yet but still I mean in applying for it, you don't apply for it unless you intend to follow all the rules so that is my concern that everyone is following rules of grants that we apply for.

Dorr: *yea* This is Lyle, just in response *Um* there weren't any issues with *Um* complying with the previous grants. The funding that had come in and there won't be here. Just as councilor Wolfe explained *Um* if we get picked, they award. it and we choose not to accept it in it doesn't violate anything and if we accept it in, we haven't had any issue with complying with the awards in the past so *Um* there's no issue there with compliance of the awards.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Dorr. Jessica Steinberg

Steinberg: Thank you Mr. speaker. A couple of questions probably more for Lyle. In the previous grant that we didn't draw down has there been a look at whether or not we can retool that grant.? I understand that we have a very short time frame. If the grant *Uh* expires in September of 2023. Have we looked at that *Um* particular pot of money to see if we can retool that grant and ask for an extension on expenditures? And then would those two grants potentially be able to tie in if we could retool on the first grant to support part of the activity on the second grant? That's my question.

Dorr: The answer, the short answer is yes. And it's been discussed in the work sessions. *Um* Those, that funding, can be...*Um* if we have. We have to get permission to do it that's part of the rule situation but they're open to adjustments that we might make *Um* in how that's spent and what's...what's done with it. So that's a possibility and then you're right it's a short timeline but it doesn't preclude us from making adjustments. During the work sessions we just reviewed that briefly.

Councilor Wolfe: I'm just to add, there was an extension on that was filed after the daycare center closed on the 20-18-19-22, I got the years wrong but there was an extension that was filed on using any expendable funds

Dorr: correct, correct, we did that I think this spring or something like that. They notified us and I applied for that, so they did give us an extension Thank you.

Speaker: Okay before we sidebar to much Jessica still had her hand up.

Jessica: *nope*, no thanks, that was my follow up question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: alright we still have a motion on the floor, and we are in, members comments and now back to council. Is there anything further from tribal council? *Um* This is where I want to say something I reserve my *ah* comments for the *Um* end. I hope this is successful I just don't...I... I share the concerns of both sides I we do need this to go forward we're not just building a government or a business. We are nation building here and *Uh* I can't support this today, but I will entertain an emergency meeting to do this when we do have the plan. The reason I don't support this is without a comprehensive plan, if it doesn't come forward in the timeframe or it does come forward in the timeframe and council doesn't have the *Um* opportunity to change what it needs to...it's just not proper in my. in my view at this time. But that's my comments.

Are there any further comments from the tribal council? Hearing nothing will you please do roll call.

Speaker: Crampton asked is anyone going to abstain asked is there any further discussion from Council. Crampton asked any further discussion from the membership.

Crampton said seeing none please do a roll call.

### Roll Call # 2

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Absent	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton - No	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	S. Wever -
R. Wittenberg- No	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis -
			Yes

Motion carried (6-2-0-1)

Recorder Wittenberg said resolution has passed.

Speaker: Alright thank you council. And thank you Mr. recorder. and I will pick up Sara Agosa.

Agosa: Ya *Um* I see Cindy Champagne is showing in the meeting but she's on mute. I can barely see it.

Speaker: Yea that might be an issue with her computer or not syncing up with ours or something wrong on the audio...

Okay we're going to be moving down to the next item which is:

2. **Approving the Ogema's Execution of the FY2023 Subcontract for Administration and Biological Services with the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA)**  
Execution of contracts requires Tribal Council Approval.

Archie Martell, Fisheries Division Manager, to represent this agenda item.

Frank Beaver: Good Morning you don't get Archie I'm afraid, you get me, which is Frank Beaver, Director for the Natural Resources Department. I apologize you deserve the knowledge, experience and skill that Archie has but you get me instead. *Um* he's off on travel right now. So, we have before us, we have the *Um* subcontract for CORA administrative and biological services. This is an annual contract that we bring forward to the council. The source for these fundings we call RPI (Right Protection Implementation). This is an allocation from congress to the CORA tribes. Each individual tribe receives that based on our consent decrees and we have two current consent decrees: The Great Lakes consent decree and the Inland consent decree 2007. And that's how the funding comes to the tribe *Um* A portion of that we return, *Um* we pay for subcontract services to CORA for them to provide *Um* administrative and biological services. And that's *Uh* in a nutshell?

Speaker: Alright. Thank you, Frank, and a, I guess Sara Agosa right off the bat. Go ahead Sara.

Councilor Di Piazza- *Um* I, I had my hand up-

Recorder: DiPiazza has his hand up

Speaker: OK if you'd hold off Sara. just... Councilor DiPiazza go ahead.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, Unh I don't know if a lot of people know what the CORA, what they actually do. but that's part of our 1836 consent *er ah* treaty rights which entails our hunting, fishing, gathering and that entails by tribes in CORA actually helps all these tribes orchestrate and oversee a lot of things that the tribes themselves may not do or may do may not do. So, it's a great benefit and keep in mind that this funding comes into us with the intent to be sent to the CORA to oversee Great Lakes fishing *Uh* and inland SO it's not free money, but it is part of our 2000 consent decree. So. I'm done. Thank you.

Speaker: Alright Thank you. Are there any other council members or elected officials? (*I can't see the hands.*)

Recorder: *Ahhh* Councilor Julie Wolfe has her hand up.

Speaker: Okay. Councilor Wolfe, please proceed.

Councilor Wolfe: So, the whole amount that (inaudible...contract that...\$80179 it does say that .... Set; To pay that *Um* thing you call... the biannual payment from our...part of our package ... pay the whole amount.... talking of contract... doesn't seem accurate to me)

Beaver: Certainly. Every tribe I'll say has their own payment schedule. *Um* as to how they pay and when they pay, I think earlier is better for CORA, for their staff. However, if we were to allocate it the way the contract says into two equal payments, CORA would not have a problem with that. That's the language in the contract so that's what we would abide by.

Councilor Wolfe: (inaudible...so then we forward CORA are we going to pay the entire thing or are going to follow the contract? And insert...biannual payments.) ... We have until (*garbled ...13*) to look at all this being paid...

Beaver: I would recommend when there's a conflict going with the language in the contract. That would be my recommendation but I'm not anybody's attorney.

Speaker: are you good councilor Wolfe?

Councilor Wolfe: So then if we have time, we can call for report and for the language of contract.... prior to our next meeting?

Beaver: *Uh* Yes Archies out right, *uh* this week on conference but we could get it to you by the end of the week.

Counselor Wolfe: Well then could we call CORA and tell them we'll get back. ...It's resolved?

Beaver: If that's how council chooses, absolutely.

Councilor Wolf: There's not a timeline that you have to have to going back to paying January first.

Beaver: Correct

Speaker: inaudible Tape: 056:37

Beaver: No not at all like I said every tribe has their own payment schedule for CORA because they have ongoing expenses sooner is better than later but they're not in a case where they have zero cash reserves at this point. So yes

Councilor Wolfe: Inaudible...

Speaker: Councilor Wolfe is your speaker on?

Councilor Wolfe: Now it is.

Speaker: Okay thank you

Councilor Wolfe: Motion to postpone that until we can get the proper paperwork to either clarify one payment or go with the contract language into two biannual payments.

**MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION #23-0125-000;  
APPROVING THE OGEMA'S EXECUTION OF THE FY2023  
SUBCONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND BIOLOGICAL  
SERVICES WITH THE CHIPPEWA OTTAWA RESOURCE  
AUTHORITY (CORA); UNTIL WE GET THE PAPERWORK TO  
EITHER CLARIFY ONE PAYMENT OR GO WITH THE CONTRACT  
LANGUAGE INTO TWO BIENNIAL PAYMENTS.  
by J. WOLFE, supported by R. WITTENBERG**

Speaker: Okay I have a motion by Councilor Wolfe supported by Councilor Wittenberg.

Speaker asked is anyone going to abstain.

Speaker asked is there any other further discussion from Tribal Council

Speaker: Now I'll pick up the membership. Sara Agosa.

Agosa: I need to go back to Cindy Champagne being muted. I, because I have concerns for that as an outlying member. Is there any way you can stop the meeting and help her fix it or log in a different way. Because to me that is an extreme detriment ... outlying member that she is in this meeting and can't participate.

Councilor Champagne: Hi Sara this is Cindy Champagne, I'm sorry my machine just cuts out on me once in a while. I apologize for that but I'm back on now.

Speaker: Sara I'd just like to point out that many times she is here there's is a lot of audio trouble. The bugs are getting worked out now.

Speaker: going on- Cynthia Shantz.

Shantz: This goes back to my concerns about following grants. I mean why? You're supposed to follow the grant the letter of the grant. I don't understand why we have to have this postponed to discuss whether it's has to be paid into *Um* installments when that's what the grant says *Um* also my question – Does this cover, does this go towards the sturgeon program?

Beaver: The sturgeon program is not funded with the CORA subcontract. However, we do use RPI, Right Protection Implementation funds. That is a source that we also use for sturgeon restoration rehabilitation work.

Councilor Wolfe: And to clarify the reason for the postponement is because the paperwork submitted is not accurate to the contract, so we want to make sure that the paperwork fits the contract, so we are in compliance. That's what we're asking clarification and the postponement.

Ms. Shantz: Thank you.

Speaker: Okay, all right, is that good for you?

Shantz: *Ah* yes thank you.

Speaker: Now is there anymore members comments on the item if not we'll move back to council. Are there any more comments.

Speaker said hearing none please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 3**

T. Guenthardt -No	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	S. Wever - No
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-2-0-0)

Recorder said Seven in favor of the MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION #23-0125-000; APPROVING THE OGEMA'S EXECUTION OF THE FY2023 SUBCONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND BIOLOGICAL SERVICES WITH THE CHIPPEWA OTTAWA RESOURCE AUTHORITY (CORA) *aho*

Beaver: Thank you council we'll have that updated paperwork to you as soon as possible.

Speaker: Thank you that takes us to

**3. Ratification of Credit Request with Cardinal Health Drug Wholesaler**

Approval of credit application by Cardinal Health Drug Wholesaler for the acquisition of medication/supplies for the LRBOI Muskegon Pharmacy.

And that's Keith Jacque, or Dr. Wever

Jacque said good morning councilors It's Keith Jacque. Dr Wever is seeing a patient right now. *Uh* The reason for the ratification is Cardinal Health is a drug wholesaler One of the major drug wholesalers that *Uh* one of the currently used at in the Manistee pharmacy and this would be to apply for credit application to purchase medication and supplies for the Muskegon area pharmacy. *AHHH* all pharmacies, all major, most of the pharmacies, purchase, acquire their drugs from the drug wholesalers which in turn buy drugs from the drug manufacturers. Because of the nature of purchasing medications at a pharmacy ... is that you can't afford to have a massive stock on the shelf, at one time so you have a quick turnaround of where we can order medications in one day and we see them the next day. In order to do that *Uh* ya have to have a line of credit basically and this is basically what this is...in order for us to extend the pharmacy support to the Muskegon area. I know that during the *Uh* the agenda review a couple days ago there was a concern that *Um* by establishing this association with Cardinal that it may affect the payments to a tribe for a nationwide opioid overdose settlement agreement I don't know the answer for that but during that the councils attorney

was on and indicated that she would look into it. And if she's at this meeting today perhaps she has some additional information on it.

Speaker: *Uh* Yes, she is, and I do see her hand up so I'll go to miss Ms. Frias now

Ms. Frias: *Um* hello and thank you I just wanted to respond to that question *Um* that the Doctor just alluded to a tribal member had a question, an interesting one about the fact that the tribe has signed on to the litigation in the opioid settlement and they are almost done with all of that settlement paperwork. They need a certain number of tribes who are the initial litigating parties to sign on to the final details before this tribe would receive an actual payment and one of the people, organizations being sued is because Cardinal Health is one of the distributors and this is who the tribe is planning to have this contract with for the pharmacy. And although Cardinal Health is one of the distributors in the opioid litigation, looking through all this settlement paperwork I do not see any language that would suggest for any reason that the tribe settlement would be affected by doing another contract with Cardinal Health. And in fact, once the litigation is settled the tribe gives up any right to sue Cardinal Health over the opioid. So that's only. It's a discreet issue involving the opioid litigation and does not from what I can see effect in any way the tribes need to clear medication for the pharmacy and an additional contract with Cardinal Health. I also did just to be double, triple sure, I did, I do know one of the directors of the tribal settlement group and its one of the people, it's an attorney that was appointed by the judges in that case to be an administrator when the money does come out and make sure that each tribe that has signed on gets money and I did check with him last evening and he also agreed that there's nothing in the current settlement information that suggests Little River would be giving up any rights to the opioid litigation money by signing that contract with Cardinal Health about something else. At some point we will get a contract where we have to give up our rights to sue them but that's only regarding opioid litigation And would have nothing to do with giving up your rights to sue them if per se they did something wrong with the medication in your pharmacy agreement. I just wanted to ensure that you had that information, and I don't see any legal issue with this contract as far as the opioid settlement and I've gone on for a long time but I hope that I answered the question.

Speaker: Oh no that was greatly appreciated. Thank you very much. And it was a very astute question too and I would like to point out that did come from Jessica Steinberg. Well, it's a very good question.

Speaker: *Um* are there anything further?

Jacque No Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Are there any questions from council. Go *ahead* Mr. DiPiazza

Councilor DiPiazza: If I'm not mistaken all the wholesalers and distributors that distributed or wholesaled opiates were all part of that class action law suit the one with Johnson & Johnson the people that manufactured it, maybe not manufactured but I know everybody was part of it. If I'm not mistaken

Frias: That is correct and...

DiPiazza: It's hard, it's gonna be difficult for them to say we're not gonna supply anybody, anywhere, but...

Frias: Again, I think that is correct And I don't see any... there's the big drug companies and then underneath them are a list of smaller drug companies and so. You are correct and I would think it would be hard to find someone to supply drugs if the entire distributors list were excluded.

Speaker: *Um* Is there anything further from council? Any questions from the membership.

Okay, I'll entertain a motion on the item.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #23-0125-010;  
RATIFICATION OF CREDIT REQUEST WITH CARDINAL  
HEALTH DRUG WHOLESALER; by S. Lewis; supported by P.  
Johnson.**

Speaker: Okay we have a motion by Councilor Lewis supported by Councilor Johnson. Is anyone going to abstain.

Speaker asked is there any further discussion from Council.

Speaker asked any further question from the membership. I'm sorry C. Shantz

Shantz: Hi. This litigation has been in closed session. *Um* Do you intend to open anything to the membership and *Um* regarding this litigation? Or information

Speaker: The litigation is public. It's just the tribes and the drug companies so it's public you can look it up. But we can put something out there to provide you with that information, it's not between branches.

Shantz: Okay thank you.

Speaker: Okay. Anything further from the membership, anything further from council? Seeing none please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 4**

T. Guenthardt -Yes

C. Champagne -Yes

P. Johnson - Yes

S. Crampton- Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	S. Wever - Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Recorder Wittenberg: Resolution #23-0125-010 has passed.

Speaker: Okay, that's going to take us down to budget modifications and this is going to be:

**B. Budget Modifications**

- 1. Acceptance of grant funds from the Department of Health and Human Services-American Rescue Plan for Older Americans Act Title VI Part A Native American Programs and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2023-06 in the amount of \$63,430**

Need grant dollars accepted into the Budget to begin Aki Renovation.

Speaker said and that's Melissa Waitner,

Victoria Wells: Victoria Wells. I'm the one that's been doing all of this with the program, and I am also your elders meal coordinator. So, I have been making your salad.

*(Small laugh)*

What this is- this is a little extra funding from our Title VI program that was given out, and they're okay with me using it to make really needed repairs to Aki.

Which are the cabinets, the cupboards, the countertops and a commercial hood vent, so that we are up to code.

Speaker: Okay, and I apologize Ms. Wells, on our agenda we have Melissa. Does anyone have any questions for her at this time? Anything from the membership? We've pretty much beaten this to death. So, I'll entertain a motion on this item.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #23-0125-011;  
ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-AMERICAN RESCUE  
PLAN FOR OLDER AMERICANS ACT TITLE VI PART A  
NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS AND APPROVING A  
MODIFICATION TO THE OPERATING BUDGET MB-2023-06 IN  
THE AMOUNT OF \$63,430; by S. Lewis; supported by S. Wever**

Speaker: So, I got a motion from Councilor Lewis supported by Councilor Wever

Speaker asked is anyone going to abstain.

Speaker asked is there any further discussion from Council.

Speaker asked anything from the membership.

Okay, one more time for Council. Hearing nothing please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 5**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton- Yes	G. DiPiazza -	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Recorder Wittenberg said Motion #23-0125-111 has passed.

Wells: Thank you

Speaker said yes, and thank you and that will take us down to

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

Speaker: I don't see any right now, that takes us to

**IV. Acceptance of Reports,**

**A. Report of the Tribal Ogema**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>1. Operations Report</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>December 2022</b>  |
| <b>2. Financial Report</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>None Submitted</b> |

Speaker: and we have a report of the Tribal Ogema, and it will be the Operations report for December 2022 and I will entertain a motion to accept that.

Councilor Lewis: Motion to accept Operations Report

Councilor Wever: Support

Speaker: I have a motion

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE OPERATONS REPORT FOR  
DECEMBER 2022; by S Lewis; supported by. S Wever.**

Speaker asked is anyone going to abstain. Speaker asked is there any further discussion from Council. Speaker asked any from the membership.

Speaker: Sara Agosa

Agosa: My question is how is Tribal Council using these reports? Actually, since we always get new Councilors. I would just like to know if you're reviewing reports and using them to make decisions.

Speaker: I can answer personally. I think a lot of Councilors do. I read them extensively. I read everything we get that's why I don't sleep on weekends. *Chuckle by Speaker*) But ya Councilors do use them.

Speaker: Anything further Ms. Agosa?

Agosa: No that was my question.

Anything further from the membership?

Okay one more time for Council. Seeing none please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 6**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton- Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	S. Wever -
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis -
			Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Recorder Wittenberg said Acceptance of Operation Report has been accepted.

Speaker: Okay thank you and that will take us down to Financial Report and there is none submitted. Then that will take us down to acceptance of commission reports.

**V. Acceptance of Commission Reports**

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>A. Binojeeuk Commission</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> None Submitted |
| <b>B. Enrollment Commission</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> None Submitted |
| <b>C. Gaming Commission</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> December 2022  |

Speaker said he will entertain a motion to accept the 2022 Gaming Commission report.

Speaker, I have a motion to accept the

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE GAMING COMMISSION REPORT  
FOR DECEMBER 2022;** by Johnson; supported by S Lewis

Speaker asked is anyone going to abstain. Are there any further discussion from Council. Any further discussion from the membership. Speaker said seeing none please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 7**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Recorder Wittenberg said Gaming Commission Report is Accepted.

- D. Health Commission** ☐ None Submitted  
**E. Housing Commission** ☐ December 2022

Speaker said he will entertain a motion.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE HOUSING COMMISSION REPORT  
FOR DECEMBER 2022; by S. Lewis ; supported by P Johnson.**

Speaker asked is anybody going to abstain. Speaker asked is there any further discussion from Council. Speaker asked any further discussion from the membership. Speaker said one more time for Council, seeing none please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 8**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Recorder Wittenberg said Housing Commission Report Accepted.

- F. Natural Resource Commission** ☐ December 2022-No Meeting

Speaker: Uh I'm unsure do we have Natural Resource or...

DiPiazza That meeting was cancelled. I had come down with the Covid.

Speaker: Uh Okay noted the Natural Resource Commission had no meeting in December 2022 Then we'll move on...

**VI. Acceptance of Committee Minutes and Other Entities**

- A. Little River Casino Resort Preference Report ☐ None Submitted  
B. Biskaabiiyang Committee ☐ None Submitted  
C. Elders Committee Minutes ☐ December 2022

Speaker said he will entertain a motion Elders minutes for December 2022.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ELDERS COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FOR DECEMBER 2022;** by Lewis; supported by Wever.

Speaker asked is anyone going to abstain.

*(Mumbled background discussion...oh I see)*

Speaker asked again: I'm sorry, is anyone going to abstain? Okay, any further discussion from Council. Any further discussion from the membership. One more time for Council. Okay seeing none please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 9**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza -	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Recorder Wittenberg said Elders Committee minutes have been accepted.

Speaker and that will take us to Elders Committee Minutes for November 2022

**VII. Old Business**

- A. Elders Committee Minutes ☐ November 2022

Crampton said he will entertain a motion.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ELDERS COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FOR NOVEMBER 2022;** by Lewis; supported by Johnson.

Speaker asked is anyone going to abstain.

Speaker asked is there any further discussion from Council.

Speaker asked any further discussion from the membership.

One more time for Council. Speaker said seeing none please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 10**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Absent	P. Johnson -	Yes	
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-1-0)

Recorder Wittenberg said you're on mute Cindy Champagne, I'll call one more time Cindy Champagne. The Elders November Minutes Accepted.

**VIII. New Business**

- A. Approval for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Emergency Home Repair Program (EHR) in the amount of \$161,134 to be implemented through the Housing Department**  
To accept this program and to be implemented through the Housing Department.

Tara Bailey, Housing Department Director, represented this agenda item.

Bailey said Good Morning. This is just that last week we accepted funds of \$161,134 *Uh*, to do a program called, we're calling to emergency home repair. This is a funded program with limited funds. The applications were accepted on a first come, first served basis for up to \$15,000 per home. It is for emergency home repairs. Used for emergency repairs.  
Emergency shall be defined as no heat, no hot water, electrical hazards, plumbing, mold, roof, windows, entry doors.  
Imminent structural collapse such as your foundation, floor, wall, roof, but it would determine to be, you know, would be uninhabitable or ready to collapse.  
*Um* that's the basis of it. Again, it's up to \$15,000. Once the source of funds are depleted the program will no longer be available.

Speaker: Any questions from Council at this time

Recorder: Councilor DiPiazza has his hand up

Speaker: Councilor DiPiazza

DiPiazza: *Um* is this income based?

Bailey: No, it's not

Recorder: I have my hand up

Speaker: Go ahead Mr. Recorder

Recorder: Yeah I'm lookin , if you don't mind, at the amount of money and I'm sure be curious as far as is this a first come first serve as whoever puts in for it or is *ah* it taken it as it goes *ah* that way or is there like a...deadline to where, okay... We're gonna wait for...how many...to look at it to see..who *ah*..would need it the most I guess one could say. Or as it comes in.

Bailey: So, you're asking if, ...We're accepting applications up until say February 28 and then we're looking at the applications and deciding who needs services, is that what you're asking, versus first come first served? .... Our intention is to do it first come first served.

Recorder: Okay, that's...

Bailey: And not wait for a timeline or anything

Recorder: ok, well that answered my Question Thank you

Speaker: okay, do we have anything further from Council

Recorder: Nope. *Uh* Councilor Wolfe

Speaker: Councilor Wolfe Please proceed.

Wolfe: Just some comments on the regulations that we're adopting today you have *Um* maybe some errors in there.

In number three it *Um* references down payment assistance which is not a part of this program and number 6 it's talking about the placement of mobile and modular units. So, *um* maybe if we're adopting these and they're inaccurate regulations maybe we should postpone it until it gets corrected *Um*

Bailey: *Um* these haven't changed from the work sessions that we had before *Um* the other...it is emergency home repair but the other items that we see are those two areas. *Um* the down payment assistance, we put that in there *Um* because when someone purchases a home and they use...are using, tribal funds for that purchase they... it should... the home should come with an inspection and be reliable for a period of at least five years. *Um* And the other part, the mobile home, that is something that, it's hard to find any funding to help somebody with that, and we do have membership who have *Um*, mobile homes and modular homes that that little bit of extra would help them...get them into their home.

Wolfe: So, it's just unclear to me why the two programs are together and when you said...Okay, you do have it on your application for mobile home set-up but this one is unclear why the five-year funding for down payment assistance is turned into the emergency repair.

Bailey: Why are they related? We're...basically if you've received down payment assistance you're not eligible for our program.

Wolfe: you're not eligible for that emergency home repair.

Bailey: Correct, correct

Wolfe: Okay I'm not reading it that way but thank you.

Speaker: Okay, anything further from Council?

Recorder: UHH...councilor Johnson has her hand up

Speaker: Please proceed Councilor Johnson

Johnson: *Um* so... would it be an emergency home repair if say there's been a bad storm, you have a tree that falls and does damage to your home, and you've had your home for, say four years, and you've used the program...why wouldn't that count? Because it's not like if you can help if mother nature the same things and you know there is a bad enough storm that does cause damage.

Bailey: In circumstances like that I would think that their *Uh Um* house insurance would cover something like that.

Johnson: Okay And then where, what area is able to access these funds, is it just...

Bailey: Its *Um* Anywheres

Johnson: Anywhere?

Bailey: unnhmm

Johnson: Okay

Recorder: Councilor DiPiazza had his hand up Speaker Crampton.

DiPiazza: I kinda read the emergency home repair as that I could like use it to fix my home up and then sell it and then access the downpayment closing cost. So that's why I see that in there. Even though it's an emergency basis I could use the \$15,000 to fix my place up to sell it.

Bailey: you are correct I read that wrong

DiPiazza: No, no that's fine...and then that limits me for five years so if I sold my home, I can't access another downpayment loan, er cost to flip my home.

Bailey: you are correct I..I was reading that wrong

DiPiazza: I'm sorry.

Bailey: and that's the discussion we had work session in regard to that line

DiPiazza: Yup

Speaker: Do we have any other Councilors? If not, I'm going to move on to Sara Agosa

Agosa: My question is. How will members be notified that this funding is available. What type of communication?

Bailey: We'll post the application and information on the tribal website and provide it to... whomever within tribal council is doing the *Currents* and put it in there too.

Speaker: are you good Sara?

Agosa: Thank you.

Speaker: Okay Cynthia Shantz

Shantz: Thank you. What constitutes an emergency for this funding?

Bailey: *Uh* Emergency shall be defined as no heat, no hot water, electrical hazards, plumbing, mold, roof, windows, entry doors. Imminent structural collapse *Um* it also can also be used for the *Uh* placement of a modular unit... and...

*Shhshsh-. back ground voice: the other one I see was septic pump...*

Bailey: Yes, I was trying to find where that was at...*Ummm* (studying her notes) yup. Yes, and septic pump out.

Speaker: Okay. Good Ms Shantz?

Shantz: *Um* So at any point if I need like any of those repairs done, it is an emergency, correct?

Bailey: Correct. We would access, I mean you would have to get three contractors to come in and provide bids, we go off of that information.

Shantz: Thank you.

Recorder: Councilor Wolfe has...has her hand up

Speaker: Go ahead Julie,

Wolfe: Emergency home repair program is the title of it and it's just because it's a small amount of funding that was allocated because of *Um* it's ARPA related. So, emergencies in there doesn't really mean that these have to be emergency issues they just have to be eminent issues. The tribe already has a home repair program, so we put emergency on there to identify and distinguish it different and it only is a limited amount to the funding we received. Once the funding is expended the program discontinues.

Speaker: Thank you for that explanation. Are you good miss, Ms. Shantz?

Shantz: Yes, thank you.

Speaker: Okay, anything further from the membership.  
Do you have a motion?

Recorder: We have somebody out here ...*Uh*..would you care to *Uh*. Speaker Crampton, she's walking up to the podium there.

Speaker: Yes, just please get her on to the microphone...identify herself

Linda Wissner -I just have a question. *Um* how is the emergency home repair going to be determined? Is it by a home inspection...*Uh* does, do you need somebody to come in to inspect the home to make sure that there is an actual issue with the home or is it going to be *Um* based on the word of the tribal member? *Um* does the home have to be in good standing as far as *Um* mortgage payment and taxes?

Bailey: *Um* no there's no part in the regulation that it has to be in ...*ah* in *Um* good standing they have to provide three bids from licensed and insured contractors. Generally, when you're talking to the applicants, you'll be able to access between the bids and talking with them if that's a real emergency or if they're just trying to fix up their bathroom. So, to speak

Wissner: Is this program, would this be able to be used, used in conjunction with the members assistance home repair at the same time? Because you know this one is not income based the other one is but... because of the cost of the materials and labor at this time \$15,000 sounds like a lot of money but \$15,000 is not a lot of money. *Um* so if you looked to replace a roof... if you're able to use the \$15,000 and depending on how much they would qualify with members assistance would you be able to use them in conjunction.

Bailey: That's a really good question. I don't really have an answer for that *Um* I would say it would ...where does the funding come from for that to get program through members assistance.

Wissner: The members' assistance, *Um* when I worked in there, at that time , which I have just left the program , it was through the general fund. That was in the budget that was presented by members assistance to the executive side and then to council.

Bailey: So, it's tribal fund?

Wissner: Correct

Bailey: Okay

Wolfe: I have a response: It would be in my opinion that if you're eligible for the original home assistance program and you have a \_\_\_\_d\_\_\_\_ and then you apply for this emergency home repair program you could use them two in conjunction. It wouldn't..., just because you qualify for this one doesn't automatically qualify for you the other one. The guidelines are different so both if programs are qualified and there is a deficit under home repair and this funding is still available then you would just suggest or ask them to apply for this one also.

Wissner: I would hope so. I would really hope so That would be something maybe they would train the two departments that they would coordinate possibly...assistance I know with the home repair we do, well when I was there, they'd get apps for home inspection and a ...unless it was an emergency, like when your furnace ... we had somebody come in and they say ..tag-out.. that you should not use it...that it was an emergency... and then you would get, you know, two contractors or three unfortunately with this society right now with the contractors they're going to be very difficult to get 3 contractors for work repair or something like that. That's something to think about too. When I was working in members assistance last year it was very very difficult to get contractors now.

Bailey: I appreciate your *Um* comments and I'm its just something that we'll have to work through. I mean I worked thru... I worked with a program similar to this at my previous employment where it wasn't that difficult to distinguish if it's emergency home repair or not and *Um* .. you know we'll just work with the tribal membership and try to get those as many bids as we can you know.

Wissner: I think it's an absolute wonderful opportunity for... because we do have individuals that would not qualify for the home repair because of the income qualifications annnd just because you maaay not qualify for the income based from members assistance home repair doesn't mean you do not need because a lot of persons work paycheck to paycheck and when something comes up you're in desperate need.

Bailey: I would point out that this is first come first served *Um* I think that if you take that \$15,000 and divide it \$161,000 and somebody would use the like whole \$15,000, you know. We're only actually looking at about 15 tribal members that we will be able to assist because of the funding.

Speaker: I, okay thank you *Um* and *ah* I just want to make sure that the membership understands that usually these plans are submitted from the executive to the council to ratify. I'm not sure if you're asking council to take over the plan and make those corrections but we can if it's, that's, what's asked of us by the executive. So, the natural would be for the executive to submit it and for us to approve it and then work out some details if we don't ratify it. Now *Um* do you have any further questions on the item?

Recorder: Yes, *ah* Councilor DiPiazza has his hand up. And the reason I'm saying that it's on my screen it's hard to see if somebody raises their hand up.

*(Laughing while talking, DiPiazza raises and lowers alternate hands)*

Speaker: Alright I'm, I'm getting like the top five people but... Please proceed Councilor DiPiazza.

DiPiazza: While there's no further questions, I'll make a motion to approve.

Speaker: Go ahead

DiPiazza:

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #23-0125-012;  
APPROVAL FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR PROGRAM (EHR) IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$161,134.00 TO BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH  
THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT;** by DiPiazza; supported by Wolfe.

Speaker: I have a motion by Councilor DiPiazza supported by Councilor Wever?

Recorder: No, *Uh* councilor Wolfe

Speaker: Oh Alright. Sorry. I got a motion by Councilor DiPiazza supported by Councilor Wolfe. Is anybody going to abstain on the item. Is there any further discussion from Council. Anything further from the membership. Okay one more time for the Council. Hearing nothing please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 11**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes	
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Recorder Wittenberg said Resolution #23-0125-012 has passed.

Bailey: Thank you

Recorder: *Aho*

Speaker: Alright. Thank you. And that will, should be taking us down to...  
Concluding Business and the next meeting date is Wednesday February 1, 2023,  
and I will open up to the Ogema's weekly status and business update.

**IX. Concluding Business**

**A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, February 1, 2023**

**B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update**

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you for that. Just for an update, *Uh* the attorney Elise who was talked about earlier is in travel on training and I'm there as well at a conference. And so, she did, I did have a conversation with her last night after the meeting and she is working on trying to provide some updates with the childcare *Um*

*Whispering in the background.*

Romanelli: *The* meeting I will tell you is a conference dealing with the children and trafficking. What some people may not know or think of it in that way is Michigan is a border state as well as Arizona Texas or Florida. we also have tribal *Uh* lands directly across the borders. So, with all the things going on with borders, patrolling *Uh* we think it important that we identify the possible misuse of the border etc. and *Uh* so, It proves to be a good conference so far. I have to get into my next work session. I just have a couple issues, or a couple things to bring up. I think *ah* is there any advancement on the hearing on Big Fires invoices?

Speaker: Oh, I'm sorry. *Um* can you hear me?

Ogema: Yeah

Speaker: *Um* okay NO what I was going to say is that I, I took it to the prosecutor. Theres nothing. I went in, back in thru the items, there's nothing wrong. Are you saying there's something wrong? The prosecutor missed something. Because there was two *complaints*?

submitted and other than campaign rhetoric you have the report from the prosecutor as I do

Ogema: Okay I don't know that I have that report. *Um* if there you know, is no hearing meeting then there was a report from the prosecutor I guess I would like to see it. I haven't been made aware of it and there was no findings with them

Speaker: Well, it was cc'd to you and all of council when I cc'd so I'll send it to you. It was explained to Mr. DiPiazza, and it was returned by the prosecutor. Other than campaign rhetoric there's absolutely nothing wrong with Big Fire.

Ogema: *Uh* Okay Thank you.

Speaker: Okay

Ogema: *uh* The last item I have is, last week I think I was taken from the agenda, the *Ogema's update*, can someone give me an explanation why it was taken off in the first place?

Speaker: Sure, I'd asked the recorder to remove it because you came on and the first order of business was to mention Facebook and one of our tribal members, Sara Agosa who contacted me and felt it was a personal attack, I had to share this sentiment, shortly after that you started to go off into campaign *ah,er* thinking about tribal council getting raises, which you know is not true, and it was a second week you did that and it was affirmed that you didn't do that. In that you didn't give any status or business update as to your actions at tribal council. So, I told the recorder that we would be pulling it for a week, as it is tribal councils' privilege, and we've tasked you to submit one in written form.

Ogema: Okay, thank you. I will get on with my next break out session thank you very much.

Speaker: You're welcome. Good luck with that conference.

Ogema: Thank you.

Speaker: Okay I will move you on to Laura Eichelberger. Did you have anything for the Ogema?

Echelbarger: I was just going to ask if the date had been scheduled for the, his membership meeting if was still going to be the 8<sup>th</sup> for sure or not? *Um* but we have a little time I can always ask next week. Unless anybody on Council knows.

Wolfe: April 1<sup>st</sup> is when it's scheduled on the website, on the Ogema's page.

Eckelberger: Okay, thank you. I didn't see that thank you.

Speaker: Okay, are you good Ms. Echelbarger

Echelbarger: Yea, thank you.

Speaker: Okay, I'll move on to Ms. Mezeske. Do you have something for the Ogema?

Mezeske: *Um, Um*, well probably both you and Council and the Ogema. Was there a vote taken to remove Larry...off the agenda?

Speaker: Ms. Mezeske, you were a recorder you know that is at the auspices of the recorder.

Mezeske: When you said Council you used Council as the whole, not just the recorder, or, or...

Speaker: That's because I am the speaker of the Council. I am aware of the issue you're trying to make. Do you have a question for Mr. Romanelli?

Mezeske: I'm not trying to make an issue but...

Speaker: Do you have a question for Mr. Romanelli?

Meseke: When you talk about campaign tactics... *yeah*, join the group.

Speaker: Mrs Mezeske, we're on the Ogema's weekly status and business update. Please do not let this degenerate into something less than...

Mezeske: Okay, you know, Larry I love your campaigning. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Mezeske. Now to Cynthea Shantz, do you have any questions for the Ogema?

Shantz: *Um* I have a question for you. Even though she was recorder we, we're not, so I've never been a recorder. So, I don't understand, I don't always understand how the business, *um*, so you can't just dismiss her question.

Speaker: No, I can't think of a polite comment. On the agenda we're supposed to stick to The Ogemas weekly Status and Business update. But I think the membership is starting to see the issue now. We get a woozy Status and Business update and then it's really not status, it's to plant the seed. Now we're gonna go off into left field, discussing something else. I will get to it public comment and address...that.  
Now do you have a question for the Ogema?

Shantz: *Um* Yes, you're, *um*, his business report was filed to you? You, you requested that his *Um*, that it be filed to you, *um*, written, correct? Last weeks, that was not, he was taken off the agenda?

Speaker: Mr. Romanelli spoke at the agenda. I had suggested it to the recorder, the recorder did not follow my *Um* a request, that's *Uh* is his auspices. It's under the Tribal Council procedures ordinance. The final say for the agenda is on the recorder. The recorder did not entertain my request, the Ogema gave his Weekly Status and Business update. There was no issue.

Shantz: Okay, Thank you.

Speaker: Your welcome. *Uh* do you have anything else for the Ogema at this time? For the Ogema, we are on the Weekly Status and Business update. Ms. Mezeske did you have anything for the Ogema.

Mezeske: No, I forgot to take my hand down.

Speaker: Okay, Thank you. If there's no more questions for Mr. Romanelli, we're going to be moving down to the *Um* Legislative affairs update. Does anyone have anything from Legislative affairs from council?

- C.     **Legislative Affairs Update**
- D.     **Public Comment Period**

Speaker: Forgive me but I'm not seeing anything. So, the only thing I can update at this time would be to *ah* introduce and thank our legal staff. Where right now we have a contract attorney who's taken over the in-house duties for us at this time just while we get our in-house up and I'd like to introduce Miss Carrie Frias. And she's greatly appreciated. Thank you, Miss Frias.

Frias: Thank you speaker.

Speaker: Now we'll be moving down to public comment. Does anyone have anything for public comment. Sara Agosa

Agosa: I have three questions. I'll try to make it plain and simple. *Chuckle um* the first one is why the enrollment audit hasn't been completed yet?

Speaker: The enrollment audit is still in place. The last vote that was taken place was to vote down the enrollment *uh* company that had submitted the RFP and their *pricing*. The enrollment audit *um* resolution still exists, and we need to get another company in here or accept the second bidder if they're still available. Okay, what's your second question?

Agosa: My second question is was the ARPA application for \$2800 mailed to all members? It states on the application that members will receive a mail application. I just want to confirm that.

Wolfe. Yes, I do believe that it was mailed to everyone that was what we received back, feedback for tribal council. That went in the...

Agosa: Okay

Wolfe(*continues*): that went in on the *um* ... Veteran's Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

DiPiazza: About 3700 have been processed, but they still have until December this year to submit.

Agosa: Okay, can I move forward?

Speaker: Yes, please proceed.

Agosa: Okay so my third question is about last week. *um*, I was inquiring about job vacancies. In particular a position I thought I, I misspoke. *um* At first, I asked if it was a DHS director, then HHS director which is what most tribes call it. But I believe I was referring to the Family Services Director, I didn't have the job posting to reference, but in hindsight I believe that is the position. And it's been vacant for quite a while so *Um* Ron asked me to contact HR and I did, but I was actually circled back to the Ogema's office, and I emailed the Ogema's office on January 19<sup>th</sup>

*Garbled...* I to two *uh* positions, Family Services Director and the Tribal Manager. So, I just wonder if anyone is present *um* to answer this question, if those two positions have been filled? Or when it would be announced. Thanks

Wolfe: I can attempt to answer those. Lyle spoke about Family Service Director position being vacant today and the Tribal Manager position has been filled. *um* that would be on the Ogema to announce it but the person that is in the position of Tribal Manager for Little River Band is *um* William Willis.

Speaker: Thank you. Are you, are you good with that Sara?

Agosa: Yes thanks.

Speaker: Okay, Cynthia Shantz.

Shantz: Thank you. *um* I would like to inquire why there's, if there's any reason why all council members aren't present today?

Recorder: *um* They are.

Shantz: Alright but- on sight. Because, because when, when, you're *Um* when you're on Zoom and you're at home or wherever you are we're relying on your technology to be working *Um* so that you can actually participate. I don't see nine county all of my representation is not there *um* at tribal council meeting. *um* And I just want, want to know why.

Recorder: I could turn around if you don't mind and a answer that *ah* in the way I look at it. And what you're asking for are they in present and what you shared a about today's technology and as in today's technology want to turn around say as I look out here in the crowd, I see one of our officers there and I see a young lady that's out here, but I don't see who all else is on this screen out there. Yes, we're all present, we're all part of this and so, and you heard earlier as one shared that they had Covid.

*Heavy coughing in background.*

Well. There is... *inaudible* and there is a lot of sickness that is still is going on and and so I am grateful myself for technology so we can get on. Now I know different ones out there that have been trying to get on and couldn't get on because of "Here we go again ~technology". It's not perfect. But we're trying to do our best I strongly feel. And a so for that I thought I'd share that, my view on that. Miigwetch

Speaker: Okay Ms. Shantz do you have anything else?

Shantz: *um* yes, I do. I don't see why a person that doesn't live there then can't be on council because if you *ah* can participate via ZOOM *Um* why cannot I participate via Zoom. That is my question.

Speaker: You can.

Shantz: I cannot participate as a Tribal Council member via Zoom because I don't live there.

Speaker: Why can't you participate I'm not understanding, I guess.

Shantz: I cannot run for Tribal Council, because I don't live there.

Speaker: You okay, you...

Shantz: But you all can run, and you all can participate via Zoom.

Speaker: You live outside the state of Michigan

Shantz: I do

Speaker: Okay it's in our constitution that you have to live in the State of Michigan six months prior to the next election. So, it's a constitutional mandate that would need to be changed in order for you to run for council, or you could move to Michigan.

Shantz: OKAY. But I still don't understand why you don't have to be present at meetings.

Speaker: We're having a meeting right now. It's just that technic... We're having a problem; I see the problem right now. With the old-world thinking, the factory worker, and *um* there's nothing to downplay that it's just the mindset. Now we're going over to an age where you don't have to draw *um* except what you have right at your hands your fingertips, your neighborhood. Everyone is recruiting from all over the world because we now have technology to connect them. I would not like to hinder Little River from utilizing that technology or that advancement and I would like to see it expand I would like to see a constitutional amendment that would allow people to run who are outside the state and be inclusive in that manner. But right now as it exists your question is why can't you participate And you can't because of a constitutional amendment, requirement, mandate, sorry, and I don't think that nobody is not participating. I think that everybody is participating today.

Shantz: Cindy Champagne did not participate for the full meeting number one. Number 2...

Champagne: Yes, Cindy Champagne has been here for the whole meeting. I listen when I'm on the phone, I listen when I'm in the actual meeting. I'm not a big speaker. Thank you.

Shantz: You were called absent several times on roll calls so *um* that's my point. Also, you're saying if I move to Michigan for six months run for Tribal Council then move back to Arizona, I can be a council member...

*Speaker interrupts*

Shantz... that I can participate via Zoom.

Speaker: Now the first part you had right I did say that. The second part you just said, I did not say that second part. You said "if I move back to Arizona" ...No you could not do that.

Shantz: But I could participate from anywhere, via Zoom that is what you're saying.

*Both talking over each other.*

Crampton: What I'm saying there is a constitution voted on by the membership that binds us all in the constitution there is a provision that says. "*To serve as the Ogema or on*

*Council you must reside in the State of Michigan for six months prior to the next election."*

Shantz: Therefore, I could move to Michigan for six months, run for office, be elected, and then participate via Zoom, from wherever I choose to be.

Speaker: You can keep saying that, but I don't believe that to be true. And you just have to look at the constitution. If you are not in the State of Michigan, I don't believe...could... you resign your seats.

Shantz: Could you please repeat that last?

Speaker: I believe if you leave the State of Michigan at the time of your service on council that you tender, that you resign your seat. You forfeit your seat. I think that's the language.

Shantz: Okay, so how will you know. How will you know? If I'm not there?

Speaker: where will your paycheck be sent to?

Shantz: That doesn't mean anything. I could have it sent anywhere I could open a post office box.

Speaker: Mrs. Shantz we're going into the little bit of ludicrous. You're going to get a tax statement at some point in time.

Shantz: And I could have it sent to the post office box.

Speaker: Okay

Member: Shannon this is Staci Cheney, could I get in the queue?

Speaker: I have one ahead of you. Ms. Mezeske

Mezeske: I agree with *uh*-Cynthea. You know. You stated that we have to abide by the constitution. Council is not abiding by the constitution by not removing Ms. Champagne because she doesn't live in the State of Michigan anymore and you choose council as a whole not to deal with it. You say you know Here's the thing if you're an elected official show your face. Show your face on Zoom, YOU know, Cindy hasn't been in the office in what 8 weeks, Shannon you haven't been there in 8 weeks? You know, come on.

*Speaker interrupts*

Speaker: Ms. Mezeske I'm not going to listen. Listen, I'm not going to let you divide the membership, I'm not going to let you attack people you don't want to be elected. We all know you support Larry this is not a campaign platform. If you continue down this

avenue, you will be removed. It's not Ron removing you, it's him minding the Tribal Council protocol which states that I will remove you. Now if you proceed in...

*Mezeske interrupts*

Mezeske: you are infringing on .... you are infringing on my civil rights.

Speaker: you are being warned once

Mezeske continues and my freedom of speech.

Speaker: you are being warned twice

Champagne interrupts: Ms. Mezeske, Sandy you are saying I don't live in Michigan? I wonder who's in my house right now. Sitting at my counter listening to this meeting.

Speaker: We have had such a good meeting, such a good discussion. It's been perfect.

Mezeske: Why aren't you present then...

Speaker: Every time Ms. Mezeske gets into it there's poison added to our meeting. Ron, please remove Ms. Mezeske.

Mezeske: *Laughing* You're such a joke. Crampton

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Mezeske. *um* Now let's go to something more traditional in line with our teachings. Let's go to Al Metzger

Metsger: *Ah*, Boozhoo, I just want to read from the constitution Tribal Council Article 4 Section 4 Terms of Office: Section d. Can everybody hear me? ***"Any tribal council member ceases to be a resident of the State of Michigan he or she shall automatically forfeit his or her Council position."*** That's the law to abide by. You can move to Michigan. You have to admit you have to reside during your tenure. Miigwetch

Speaker: Miigwetch Mr., Mr. Metzger. And I, I'm really going to *um* try to stress this. Theres gonna be no more campaigning, I'm really tired of the rhetoric, *um* the Ogema has issued an executive order allowing his *uh* employees to work remotely but there's not any word brought up about that. You have Council members whose names are not gonna be brought up, not there, are not being brought up who have not been at the office for six months.... Theres gonna be no more campaigning, no more throwing it to the side. This just degenerates into a poisonous mess every time Ms. Mezeske comes into the meeting. This will not be allowed any further. With that in mind, Ms Shantz.

Shantz: Thank you. First of all, we don't know, we the membership, we don't know where Tribal Council is when they're on Zoom, we don't know who is with you. We don't know who is participating when you don't show your face, even. *um* We don't

know where you're at or who, who's there. So, I believe Tribal Council business should stay in Tribal Council meetings. I believe that is what the Constitution is referencing. *Um* That, that is the letter of the Constitution, that Tribal Council Business stay in Tribal Council and not be open to anyone we can't see. Okay *um*, also *um* as far as the campaign rhetoric, you, Mr. Crampton are the one that keeps saying "campaign rhetoric". I am here for information, and I, I have heard that come out of your mouth several times and I don't know what you're talking about. I'm here for information I don't know, I don't understand what this "*campaign rhetoric*" referral you're speaking of. What are you speaking of?

Speaker: I am speaking of the *uh* council requirement that *uh* questions and answers are to pertain to the agenda items, specific. When you are asked to give the Business Matters update and you start talking about anything else BUT. And this is for the membership, go back and review all the meetings that we have. They go absolutely fine until they come to one point in the meeting. Absolutely fine. And this is something that any member can go and look with..., to go and look for themselves.

Shantz: But this is public comment.

Speaker: I know, I was trying to answer the question now please be as e, *ah*, as hospitable as I was to you. Now I'm saying that every time the membership, (*Mumbles*) now I know you don't want them to hear this, but any member can go look on the website at our meeting, our meetings all go fine until they get to one point. And that's because it doesn't stick to the agenda. Every time the Ogema Weekly Status of Business comes up there's no business discussed sometimes there's not even any comments, just to run members down and to bring up Facebook. That's what I was referring to. Now this right here is more campaign rhetoric, campaign rhetoric and I will call it that. I do stick to the questions, I mean, we're just talking about public comment. We had a really good meeting, a really productive meeting. NO, I don't agree that Little River should try to stunt its growth even further by not meeting virtually. Every Council is utilizing that and what it's doing for us beyond the council, every other tribe, it's allowing them to utilize people who actually have expertise within their tribes that weren't able to do this before. Now just gathering up the people outside your house or around your neighborhood that was old world. We don't need to do that anymore so why limit ourselves?

Speaker: Okay I'm gonna go on...

Shantz: I'm sorry but, but this is public comment period. Correct.

Speaker: Yes, yes

Shantz: So, we have members, we have a right to speak. It doesn't necessarily have to be to your agenda. Does it? I mean we can ask questions about other things besides the agenda?

Speaker: Yes, you can but right now let's try to keep it in the realm of truth and honesty. We have an Executive side that is absolutely falling apart, the Tribal Council is trying to put it back together I understand you and Ms. Mezeske want to steer it to the other side, I'm just asking...

Shantz: I'm sorry but I think, I think you are the one that is saying detrimental about the Ogema and the, the Executive branch, I don't see anyone else doing that.

Speaker *interrupts*: I apologize if it's being taken that way. Now Ms. Shantz I'm going to move on to Staci Cheney.

Cheney: Thank you. I just want to go back to speaking about the Child Care Center. *um* and just asking some clarification as to *um* further...is it going to be childcare for the employees or for the *um* tribal citizens. Is that the goal of it? And if I could get some answers regarding that.

Speaker: I voted no because I don't see a plan so I can't, I don't believe that anybody could tell you because there is no plan, but if any other council member wants to answer, go ahead.

Wittenberg: I voted no because of I didn't see nothin. I see, hear all kinds of grants that are coming in Yea, we can back up but nothing. They talk about what they want to do, but all they're doing is bringing a grant forward. Two different things for me. So that's why I voted no. Miigwetch.

Speaker: Okay Staci, did you have anything further?

Cheney: Did Gary have his hand up?

Speaker: I'm sorry. Did you Mr. DiPiazza?

DiPiazza: No, I did not. I don't need to comment on it.

Speaker: Okay.

DiPiazza continues: Nobody's going to remember anyways. Thank you.

Speaker: Alright. Staci Cheney did you have anything further?

Cheney: I was just asking because if it's a childcare center for the employees, my concern was that if we're using federal dollars to just make a daycare, *um* is that legal? That's my question.

Speaker: I, I can't give you an answer. And I would hesitate to give any kind of legal advice in that, this format about that question.

Cheney: Sure. Okay, thank you. That's my only question.

Speaker: Okay does anybody else have any other questions for public comment? If not, Council will be moving into closed session:

*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.*

And with that I will entertain a motion to end first open.

Lewis: So moved.

Wever: Support

Speaker: Okay, I have a motion by Councilor Lewis, supported by Councilor Wever to end session at 2:13.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE FIRST OPEN SESSION**, by Lewis.  
supported by Wever.

The speaker asked is anyone going to abstain. Is there any further discussion from Council?

Recorder: by *uh*, mine on the clock up there it says 12:10, I was just going by.

Speaker (laughing) Oh, oh. I'm sorry my clock must be off. Okay. Alright, we'll go by your time. Is there any further discussion by council.

Recorder: By the laptop it says 12:12. That's technology for you.

Speaker: Okay, we'll go by your time. Anything further from Council? Anything further from the membership. Cynthia Shantz.

Shantz: Well. Where are you that your clock says 2:10?

Speaker: Well, like if... I'll tell ya on my couch in Traverse City Michigan

DiPiazza: Good question, Ey

Voice: I .... thought that too.

Speaker: Okay. Please dampen your microphone if you're on council. Okay. Now what's the...

DiPiazza: What! You gonna mute me?

Speaker: Who said, who said anything about mutin' ya?

DiPiazza: *garble*...turning our microphones off gonna turn our microphones off, I guess.

Speaker: I was asking you to turn it off if you guys were gonna have sidebars while the memberships trying to hear us.

Recorder: Please.

Speaker: Yes, please. Cynthia Shantz.

*Open air noises, scratching*

Shantz: I'm sorry did you hear me?

Speaker: Now we can.

Shantz: This is my point exactly. That you could be anywhere, and we don't know. It could be two o'clock where you're at. We don't know.

Speaker: When you say "we" is there somebody sitting next to you? Something in your pocket?

Shantz: The membership. People who participate.

Speaker: You do not speak for the membership. You speak for yourself. My family is part of this membership too. You do not speak for them. You do not speak for me. So, when you say I take ownership of that. Don't say we.

Shantz: I can not tell where you're at neither can anyone else who is *um* participating in this, in this meeting.

Speaker: Ms. Shantz I think we get your intent here and thank you. Now is there anything further from Council?

If not, please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 12**

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Recorder: DiPiazza...

DiPiazza: (inaudible comment) yes.

Recorder: Motion is in, first open has been accepted.

Speaker: Okay, thank you everyone that participated today, and *Um* would Council like to deal with a lunch before we do this? Because I know we usually end our meetings in record time, but we spent 45 minutes on one item today.

Recorder: We come back at 1 o'clock then, after lunch?

Speaker: That would suit me. If you guys want long, to come back at 1:18 that would be an hour. If you want to come back...

Recorder: That will give everybody, those that has sugar diabetes...at 1 o'clock

Speaker: Alright you can call it 1 o'clock it is

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

## **XI. Open Session**

Recorder Wittenberg: Speaker Crampton, we're back in second open at 3:11

Speaker Crampton: I will entertain a motion to go into second at 3:11

**MOTION TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION AT 3:11 by  
Councilor Lewis; supported by Councilor Wever.**

Speaker asked is anyone going to abstain. (Barking) *um my dogs are.*  
Speaker asked is there any further discussion from Council. Speaker asked any further discussion from the membership. said seeing none please do a roll call.

### **Roll Call # 13**

T. Guenthardt -Absent	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Recorder Wittenberg: Speaker Crampton we do have *uh* quorum.

**A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session**

Speaker: Okay, we have anything to move from closed to open?

Recorder: No sir.

*There were no items to be moved from Closed to Open Session.*

Speaker: Okay, if there's no other items of business for discussion, I will entertain a motion.

**MOTION TO CLOSE SECOND OPEN;** by Councilor Lewis;  
supported by Councilor Wever.

Speaker asked is anyone going to abstain. Speaker asked is there any further discussion. Speaker said please do a roll call.

**Roll Call # 14**

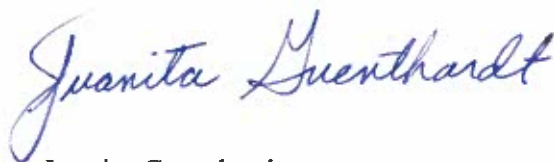
T. Guenthardt -Absent	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
S Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

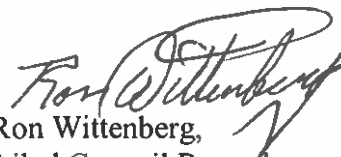
Recorder Wittenberg said We are done.

Speaker: Okay thank you everyone. I think we set a new record today. We spent 54 minutes on one item. *Background voices* Congratulations and I'll see you guys tomorrow.

**XII. Adjourn**



Juanita Guenthardt  
Transcribing Assistant, Temp.



Ron Wittenberg,  
Tribal Council Recorder