

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016
LITTLE RIVER BAND
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on January 27, 2016. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

I. Opening Prayer

Lee Mc Caslin, Tribal Elder, offered the Opening Prayer in Anishinaabemowin.

I would like to give thanks to the circle to keep us safe.
Like minds, one spirit.
Miigwech.

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

B. Roll Call

J. Riley - Present	J. Burger- Present	F. Medacco- Present
S. Crampton - Present	G. DiPiazza- Present	M. Wabindato -Present
R. Wittenberg-Present	V. Johnson - Present	S. Lewis - Present

Quorum established.

Others Present: Grace Hendler, Lee Mc Caslin, Darleen Martin, Jamie Friedel, Fran Pitts, Jennifer Crampton, Archie Martell, Frank Beaver, Boo Battice, Ron Pete, Tom St. Dennis, Jason Verheek, Steve Wheeler, Glenn Zaring, Barb Czarnecki, Valerie Chandler, Julie Wolfe.

Others Present That Did Not Sign In: George Le Vasseur, Mary Thomas, Ogema Romanelli, Officer from Public Safety, Connie Waitner, Shayne Machen, Rebecca Liebing, Kenny Pheasant.

C. Approval of Agenda

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27th WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES; NEW BUSINESS B, CHANGING IT FROM APPROVAL OF TO POSTING FOR 30 DAY COMMENT; ADDING F AND G; AND THE REMOVAL OF CLOSED SESSION C.3 AND C.4; by Riley; supported by Medacco.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Roll Call #1

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

D. Tribal Council Minutes 1/20/16

MOTION TO ACCEPT TRIBAL COUNCIL OPEN SESSION MINUTES DATED 1/20/16 FOR FILING; by Medacco; supported by Burger.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Roll Call #2

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts

1. Authorizing Execution of Subcontract for Administration Services with the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) for 2016

The 2000 Consent Decree includes terms and conditions requiring CORA along with their member Tribes to carry increased roles and responsibilities regarding regulation, biological assessment, and enforcement of Treaty activities and protection of Natural Resources.

Archie Martell, Senior Fisheries Biologist from Natural Resource Department, represented this agenda item. Martell said this is a continuing subcontract that they have had for quite a few years with CORA for Administrative Services for organization and administration of the five Tribes for the Consent Decrees.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0127-024;
APPROVING THE OGEMA'S EXECUTION OF THE FY-2016
SUBCONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATION SERVICES WITH
THE CHIPPEWA OTTAWA RESOURCE AUTHORITY (CORA);
by Riley; supported by Medacco.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Councilor Burger asked Archie Martell if he could maybe tell some of the Tribal members in the audience how this supports their rights to hunt, fish and gather. Burger said how this agreement with CORA and what some of that framework does to benefit them as Tribal members.

Archie Martell said CORA is kind of the five Tribes, Sault Ste. Marie, Bay Mills, Little Traverse, Grand Travers and Little River. Martell said they are kind of the five Tribes of the 1836 Treaty and basically they coordinate amongst all the Tribes and deal with fishing related issues, commercial subsistence for Great Lakes. Martell said then for the Inland 2007 Consent Decree they are dealing with hunting, fishing, and gathering rights so it is a form of all the Tribes to work together to provide access to the resources for the memberships and to cooperatively manage those resources for the benefit of the members and Seven Generations.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any other discussion on this item.

Roll Call #3

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

2. Authorizing Execution of Subcontract for Biological Services with the Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program (ITFAP) for 2016

ITFAP was designed to satisfy the requirements of the 2000 Consent Decree for collaboration among the Tribes to protect and manage their Natural Resources and to regulate exercising of Treaty Rights to harvest those Natural Resources.

Archie Martell, Senior Fisheries Biologist from Natural Resource Department, represented this agenda item. Martell said this is the FY 2016 subcontract for Biological Services with Inter-Tribal Fisheries Assessment Program which is part of the Sault Ste. Marie Band, their Natural Resources. Martell said this subcontract has been place for many years now due to the increased need for assessment activities throughout the Great Lakes with the 2000 Consent Decree most of the Tribes and he knows Little River they focus down here in the Lake Michigan area, Grand Traverse focuses on their area, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe has traditionally kind of done a larger area so with these increased responsibilities have asked for assistance from the other Tribes. Martell said it also helps to represent the five CORA Tribes on different lake committees, Lake Superior, Huron and Michigan, where generally their department is focused on Lake Michigan Committee and Subcommittees and that sort of thing.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0127-025;
 APPROVING THE OGEMA’S EXECUTION OF THE FY-2016
 SUBCONTRACT FOR BIOLOGICAL SERVICES WITH THE
 INTER-TRIBAL FISHERIES AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM,
 SAULT STE. MARIES BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS (ITFAP);**
 by Medacco; supported by Riley.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Roll Call #4

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson – Yes	S. Lewis – Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

B. Budget Modifications

Speaker Johnson noted they do not have anything under Budget Modifications.

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

1. Approval of Expenditure for Authorization for Councilor Di Piazza to travel and attend the United Tribes of Michigan Meeting

The United Tribes Meeting will be held on February 10, 2016 at Clark Construction in Lansing, Michigan. On February 9th is the State Tribal Liaisons Meeting from 2-4 p.m. and the United Tribes Annual Legislative Reception that evening from 6-8 p.m.

Councilor Di Piazza explained this is just to attend the United Tribes Meeting because he believed they missed the last one and they need to be in attendance

with all that is going on with Flint along with some of the other things going on. Di Piazza said it is a very good thing to have all the Tribes sit down and talk about their concerns and what is happening to Michigan.

Councilor Medacco noted that he thinks the Ogema is going to this also.

Ogema Romanelli responded yes.

Councilor Medacco said either himself or Speaker Johnson will also be going to this since they are the State Legislative Representatives for the Tribe.

Ogema Romanelli said good and thanked them.

Councilor Crampton said he knows that the Ogema is the representative of the Executive Division for their Tribe but who is the Council Liaison if they missed the meeting.

Councilor Di Piazza responded that would be him. Di Piazza said he doesn't know if they had one in December or not to be honest.

Ogema Romanelli said he was sorry but what was that.

Councilor Di Piazza reiterated that he didn't know if they had one in December or not.

Ogema Romanelli said he believed they did. Romanelli said if they know and just for everyone's attention too that the Executive Director's e-mails have been.....they have been having a real problem with them being blocked. Romanelli said their IT Director found part of the problem because Frank Ettawageshik, who is the Executive Director, goes under two different e-mails and he guessed the one is.....doesn't come through so some of their notices were not coming through so they have addressed the problem and hopefully they will get past that.

MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL FOR GARY DI PIAZZA TO TRAVEL TO LANSING, MICHIGAN TO ATTEND THE UNITED TRIBES MEETING; by Medacco; supported by Burger.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain.

Councilor Di Piazza said that he will be.

Speaker Johnson noted that Councilor Di Piazza will be abstaining. Johnson asked if there any other discussion on this item.

Roll Call #5

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Abstain	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-1-0)

IV. Old Business

- A. Financial Report** None Submitted
- B. Binojeeuk Commission** None Submitted

Speaker Johnson noted they do not have any Financial Reports yet from the government and have not received the Binojeeuk Commission Report. Johnson said he is going to, at the request of Grace Hendler, treat these other items, the Enrollment Commission as an individual and then they can do the Housing Commission combined.

- C. Enrollment Commission** December 2015

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ENROLLMENT COMMISSION REPORT DATED DECEMBER 2015 FOR FILING; by Riley; supported by Medacco.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Roll Call #6

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

- D. Health Commission** None Submitted

Speaker Johnson noted that they have not received the Health Commission Report.

- E. Housing Commission** October 2015
 November 2015

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE HOUSING COMMISSION REPORTS DATED OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2015 FOR FILING; by Riley; supported by Medacco.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Roll Call #7

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Burger-	Yes	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

F. Natural Resource Commission None Submitted

Speaker Johnson noted that they have not received the Natural Resource Commission Report. Johnson said that moves them into New Business. Johnson said he wanted to make sure to get this because on the computer here is a little different than what he has in yellow so his colleagues here will correct him as he goes along here he is sure.

Recorder Riley said to go by the yellow copy.

V. New Business

A. Consideration of Appointment of Frank Beaver to the Great Lakes Fishery Trust Board of Directors

The Natural Resource Department Director is allowed a non-voting position on the Board. This requires appointment by Tribal Council Resolution.

Frank Beaver, Natural Resource Department Director, represented this agenda item. Beaver said the Great Lakes Fish Trust is a funding mechanism that was set up during the Ludington Pump Storage Licensing and this Fish Trust Board makes disbursements of funding that was received under that original agreement. Beaver said Tribes are allowed non-voting positions on this Board and he has been invited by the Board to attend. Beaver said they requested a resolution from Tribal Council to make that appointment.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0127-026;
 APPOINTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
 DIRECTOR, W. FRANK BEAVER, TO THE GREAT LAKES
 FISHERY TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS;** by Di Piazza; supported
 by Medacco.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Roll Call #8

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Burger-	Yes	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Ogema Romanelli thanked Frank Beaver.

Speaker Johnson congratulated Frank Beaver and said they look forward to some good words coming out of that committee.

B. Approval of Posting of Amendments to the Unified Legal Department Act of 2015, Ordinance #15-100-08a

30 Day Public Comment posting of the Amendments to the Unified Legal Department Act to better meet the legal needs of the Tribe.

MOTION TO APPROVE POSTING OF AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIFIED LEGAL DEPARTMENT ACT OF 2015, ORDINANCE #15-100-08a FOR 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT; by Riley; supported by Medacco.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said here on personal time. Wolfe asked if they could please just announce for public record what the changes in the posting so it's not an entire read and hard thing for people to understand in the document that will be posted.

Recorder Riley said what they are changing is the timeframe in which new attorneys have to get their Bar License with the State of Michigan. Riley said they recently hired two attorneys that are pretty close together so.....and their newest attorney is actually in the audience right now, Rebecca Liebing, but because they hired two that are relatively close interval if both of them had to go get their Bar License and study and everything at the same time they would essentially be without a Legal Department so that is the reasoning.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any other discussion on this item. Johnson asked if they had a motion on this yet.

Roll Call #9

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

C. Authorizing the Operating Transfer of \$75,000.00 to fund costs associated with Investing in a Sewer Line Expansion of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Waste Water Treatment Plant

Enterprise and Approving Additional Project Budget for the Expansion

Tribal Council has approved an Agreement with the City of Manistee and Manistee Township to provide Waste Water Treatment Services which requires an expansion of sewer lines to accept the waste.

Steve Wheeler, Tribal CFO, represented this agenda item. Wheeler said what this is through the Construction Task Force which oversees these Sewer Expansion Project through various or numerous meetings with that group has determined that additional \$75,000 is needed to complete that project to keep the Engineer on the project. Wheeler said there was originally \$1,925,000 budgeted for this project and approved. Wheeler said this is asking for an additional \$75,000 to see the project through to completion with their Tribe’s Engineer and it would leave about a \$20,000 cushion if there is any additional costs that are unforeseen at this point. Wheeler said this is just to see the project through to completion and authorize the funding to do so.

**MOVE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0127-027;
 AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION TRANSFER OF \$75,000.00 TO FUND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH INVESTING IN A SEWER LINE EXPANSION OF THE LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ENTERPRISE AND APPROVING ADDITIONAL PROJECT BUDGET FOR THE EXPANSION;** by Burger; supported by Riley.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Councilor Burger said she is hoping that this will get the project very near completion in all costs and that is a comment and not necessarily a question.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any other discussion on this item.

Roll Call #10

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Burger-	Yes	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

D. Authorizing Operating Transfer of Cash to Little River Trading Post
 Operation cash is running low and additional funds are needed to keep inventory levels at acceptable levels.

Speaker Johnson said the person representing.....

Recorder Riley said they let the representative go.

Speaker Johnson asked if they have somebody representing this item besides the Ogema. Johnson said it is open for discussion at this point or a motion.

Jason Verheek, Tribal Controller, and Jamie Friedel, Trading Post General Manager, represented this agenda item. Verheek said as discussed in work sessions and Agenda Review with Council the main reasoning behind the need for the Operational Transfer was the loss at the end of 2014 in Fuel Sales. Verheek said as prices were going down they sustained a substantial loss and there was a substantial increase in healthcare costs for the employee's insurance during 2015 which has now necessitated them to get additional cash for maintaining inventory levels and inadequate operation going forward.

Speaker Johnson said it is still open for discussion or a motion at this point.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said she attended the work session and the Ogema's Round Table discussion. Wolfe said she got a lot of answers but it created more questions. Wolfe said the Administrative Costs of the C-store is absorbed into the Executive Branch side of the Tribal Government so that means Overhead Operating Costs are minimal if they are doing their Payroll, their Accounting, their Banking, their Financing and the transfer of funds back and forth, Tax breaks and Credits. Wolfe said solely based on the location she understands the back of the house profit with their tax incentive and the benefit to membership and the allowability to transfer the Tax Rebate money into the government side for that. Wolfe reiterated that based solely on location this is not a benefit to the entire membership. Wolfe said she would guess that less than 15% of the Tribal Membership are eligible to use the benefit of the discounted offered. Wolfe said part of those are their children which their population is close to 500. Wolfe said they don't get a personal benefit. Wolfe stated it benefits the household and it benefits the family but the children that are enrolled Tribal members that have the same authority as everyone in this room that's enrolled receive no benefit from a tobacco discount or from a fuel sale. Wolfe said it doesn't go in their pocket or doesn't help. Wolfe said the first thing she would look at and she had mentioned it in both locations is the fuel sales, from her understanding of what is making a huge deficit, and take back and as small as it is the five cent discount, Casino Employees, Government Employees and Non-Tribal Employees receive. Wolfe said for an example \$10,000 worth of fuel sales and she is sure it is more than that \$500 would already be saved to cover their next deliver of gas if for example those are easy numbers. Wolfe said a lot of the discussion was more on the Legislative side that the Trading Post is at 80% preference status, okay, Tribal Council is at a 50% Tribal Preference, status in her opinion, not Elected Officials but employees that report directly to the Council. Wolfe said they had no problem in past history and set a precedence for dissolving their enterprises, Muschigon Construction and Little River Construction, when they were both, and she could be incorrect, 100% Tribal and Preference Employees. Wolfe said the

other part that she ____ at is most males were working in there and by dominant society standards the pay scale for a male is higher than a female. Wolfe said also if the C-store is under the Executive side why weren't they included or evaluated or benefited with the Valliant Study. Wolfe asked if they were in a clear market option for those positions, those wages and benefits, they are providing to the twelve employees. Wolfe said so she has that part. Wolfe asked what the impact then is to the jobs they are not trying to displace. Wolfe went on to say that currently it is just been used Section 7.4 in their Employee Manual if lay-off is determined by the Ogema's discretion he has the ability to transfer employees to another position if they are qualified for that. Wolfe said so they wouldn't really.....their fear is they are displacing twelve Tribal Preference Employees. Wolfe said she does agree and support with this supplement of \$100,000 and the \$60,000 for the deli because the gas station is a benefit to the community and Tribal members but she just suggest and encourage better management, better accounting system for the profits that they do make because she does look to the future of their Nation and the three generations of her lifetime that she might be lucky enough to see she knows she is honoring them. Wolfe said she also feels by making these statements she is also honoring the three generations that were before her. Wolfe said she has family, friends, and mentors and she knows and believe that she is a modern day Ogitzedawa kwe and like it was explained to her by one of her Mentor Elders and she knows she 001.....

Speaker Johnson interrupted.....

Julie Wolfe went on to say that she would be happy still honoring her life and her efforts to establish this Sovereign Nation.

Speaker Johnson thanked Julie Wolfe and noted that she exhausted her time. Johnson said he has in the cue Councilors Crampton and Di Piazza. Johnson asked if he had missed anybody in the cue and said then he has Recorder Riley.

Councilor Crampton said to Julie Wolfe that first of all everything she said was discussed in that work session that she attended so she just.....coming up here he is not sure what her intention is because she heard the Council discussing the very things she was talking about.

Julie Wolfe said for public record.

Councilor Crampton said okay but presenting to the membership is if they didn't know what she was talking about he doesn't get that point. Crampton said all members are eligible to utilize the discounts that was an incorrect statement. Crampton said Muschigon Construction at the time was not 100% and had employees underneath them that they let go in order to keep the salaries of the two Directors so it is not like the C-store and not even comparable. Crampton said the benefit to the membership in discounts alone is \$188,000, okay. Crampton said Julie Wolfe said it doesn't impact families but yes it does.

Crampton said by giving them the discounts it frees up more family income that can go to help the children. Crampton said he just wished it stayed on topic.

Julie Wolfe started to make comments from the audience

Speaker Johnson said no they are not get into a discussion at this point. Johnson said to Julie Wolfe that she had her opportunity and they are trying to move through this item. Johnson said he has Councilors Di Piazza and Riley in the cue then he has put himself in the cue.

Councilor Di Piazza said well that is what they need to look at if it is a benefit to the Tribal members. Di Piazza said he sees it as a benefit whether they are living in the Tax Exempt zone because not all Tribal members get tax exempt also so how was that calculated but it is a benefit to the members and the ones that even live in the nine county or they come up here for Membership Meeting they utilize that gas station and get a discount. Di Piazza said also the \$188,000 just in discounts now if they want more money in their pocket evidently their assuming they want to take away all them discounts he is not for that at all because it is a benefit for the Tribal members, horrendously. Di Piazza said that and also the tax that flows back in for Members Assistance helps the Tribal members whether it is children or anybody asking for assistance. Di Piazza said he thinks it is a great benefit to them and also how many go in and just buy their discounted fuel. Di Piazza said convenience store a lot of the times gas is just a draw. Di Piazza said they buy a bag of chips, buy a pop, or just go in and get their discounted gas because that is how they actually operate and again is it a benefit to the Tribal members or is it a business for profit.

Recorder Riley said just kind of adding onto what Councilor Di Piazza said and what Julie Wolfe said about the five cent discount that is offered to employees of the organization. Riley said he thinks before they look at taking that away they should make sure that the employees across the street that is not the only reason they are crossing that street to go there because then they are losing business by taking that away.

Speaker Johnson said he put himself in the cue because there are a couple of items he wanted to clear up real quickly. Johnson said it was brought to their attention about Muschigon being 100% employed with Tribal members and he agrees that is what it was but people forget when the Board of Directors that was existing for Muschigon Construction Company the Mission Statement for Muschigon was building the future with Anishinaabe. Johnson reiterated that was the Mission Statement. Johnson said nothing about profitability or things of this nature however, what happened was when things got tight and got difficult they laid off all the Tribal workers and they hired on subs because it was cheaper therefore, at least that was the impression he got, and were no longer Tribal or Anishinaabe building the future. Johnson said they got away from their Mission Statement. Johnson said if they would have stayed on their Mission Statement he would have

voted “yes” to keep them going. Johnson said much like what they are doing here with the C-store that is mostly Tribal people or people of preference or a high level of it. Johnson said there are some things that have to fix over there though and they have had a work session on this with the tax people who provided them with some information on how maybe they can make it more doable for them in the future. Johnson said however they have to take ownership on the loss and be a little more creative. Johnson said as Councilor Riley brought to their attention was if there was anything they can legislatively to help them out they will do that. Johnson said from the marketing end of it and the strategy and he made it very clear.....he got out of church and said it in a work session and has said it before on a Sunday morning at 8:30 and it was a windy day and it was snowing. Johnson said he got up to the C-store at 9:45-9:50 and there was one set of footprints going into that store. Johnson reiterated one set of footprints. Johnson said somehow they have to encourage the people to come and use the store but how they are going to do that he is not sure because that is not his, as a Legislator, job. Johnson said his job is to ask the question “how come they are not having more people there.” Johnson said hopefully they can get a strategy but he knows working with the tax people that is what they can do to help out the C-store in the future on making them look more profitable. Johnson said he asked Jason Verheek or the Accounting person a couple of years ago that they should separate the difference between their sales and the amount of money that they were making from the tax breaks they were getting so they are making money off of that enterprise off the tax breaks and they did that for them by showing how much they made to separate the two so that is an advantage of having an enterprise up there and appreciate some of the tax incentives they get that they don’t have to pay the State so there are some things there. Johnson said the other thing he wanted to say is that the C-store has a great heart as far as when they have a fire over here they are the first ones to come forward to offer donations of coffee and things of that nature as well as the enterprise, the resort. Johnson said between the two of them they make it much more comfortable for the Fire Keepers there and he wanted to say Miigwech for that but still they have to find a way to be more successful in the future because they can’t continue down this road. Johnson said it doesn’t show here how much money they are transferring on the title page but it is \$100,000 and the question he asks himself okay, they are going to take a \$100,000 if they vote successfully on here to help them out through this year but it is taking away from their membership and that is what they have to be aware of. Johnson said yes, they are going to do this, the enterprise is doing wonderful things for the community but they have to be more successful and find a better way to be more successful. Johnson said that is all he is asking from this. Johnson said he has.....he is going to go back to Julie Wolfe then Recorder Riley. Johnson said did he see.....then Ron Pete. Johnson said since Ron Pete hasn’t spoken yet he will get him after Julie Wolfe then Recorder Riley.

Councilor Wittenberg said he didn’t but just coughed.

Speaker Johnson clarified that he was talking about Ron Pete.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said through participation she does agree with this supplement after asking the tough questions but it just lead to more questions and more of her viewpoint to present to Council. Wolfe said they get this then talked about it and talked about it. Wolfe said they get \$180,000 tax break that comes over to the Government General Funds. Wolfe said yesterday she thought she heard it went into Clinic Services today she is hearing it goes into Members Assistance Services but still the point that she is saying even with them receiving that \$188,000 return in the last six months with this passing of this today it will be \$160,000 that they supplemented to keep it open so that is only \$28,000 difference. Wolfe said she may be understanding these and they may be different per year but she is a Tribal member and not a Legislator, or not an Executive, or a Gas Station Manager. Wolfe said they just got confirmation that the tax breaks verses the sales are separated and reported differently. Wolfe asked if they were actually making a profit on sales. Wolfe said she is looking at a sustainable business and enterprise and the sales should be extreme high because the back of the house accounting is absorbed into Tribal Government Budget. Wolfe said she understands that anyone that comes to the Little River Gas Station that has their Little River Card is eligible for the discounts but she is saying based solely on location and the 5,000 members they have it's not a valuable service to the entire membership. Wolfe said she knows it gets confused and muddled in there but that is her comments.

Speaker Johnson said he has in the cue Ron Pete and Councilors Riley and Crampton. Johnson asked if he missed anybody. Johnson said then the Ogema.

Ron Pete, Tribal #4158, said to Speaker Johnson that the comment that he made about he knows they are taking this \$100,000 could go towards.....can they look at it like they are taking this \$100,000 as an investment for the membership because this place has been doing.....he doesn't know because Jamie Friedel and he sees each other probably five days a week but, they know, they have probably done over the years fairly well. Pete said every business bumps into a bump now and then but it is just going to happen. Pete said the oil prices are, he means, he doesn't even want to look at his 401k that he is saving for his retirement because every time he looks at it due to oil he is like please don't look at it again so.....because it takes hits so they have taken a hit over there. Pete reiterated they have taken a hit but he doesn't know if the C-store has ever come to Council before and asked for.....maybe what they want to call it.....operating cash or whatever but he thinks they have to understand that everything in the business world is not always perfect and he thinks.....he knows Jamie Friedel personally and does know that he's.....it is very seldom when he doesn't see him there and there is very seldom when he's.....so he thinks in his opinion just a little that he knows he is a great guy and a great Manager over there and employs Tribal people. Pete said it is something for their Tribe he thinks to be proud of. Pete said to comment also on the C-Store is here just like the Resort is here with their restaurants and hotel. Pete said now they give a discount over there too over at the Resort and all 5,000 members can't take advantage of it. Pete said he

understands that because they got members living in the Carolinas, Florida, California and all over but they can't.....those are choices that people make where they live or where their family is and he thinks it is great that they have Tribal members all over but not everyone else can take advantage of the discounts that are offered over there either. Pete said there are discounts that still should be offered because he agrees with Councilor Crampton if on the few gas discounts, no, it is not going directly in a child member's bank account or savings account but what they are doing for the Tribal adult that has that family that puts that much more money in their pockets towards groceries, towards paying the rent, school clothes, and it doesn't matter if it helps the fam.....if it helps the Tribal member adults it is helping that family and so he thinks great decision.

Speaker Johnson said he has Councilor Crampton.....he means Councilors Riley and Crampton then the Ogema.

Recorder Riley said he was just going to make a motion so he wanted to get to the others first.

Speaker Johnson said to Recorder Riley that he can do it.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0127-028;
AUTHORIZING THE OPERATING TRANSFER OF \$100,000 TO
INCREASE REQUIRED OPERATING CASH RESERVES OF
LITTLE RIVER TRADING POST; by Riley; supported by Di Piazza.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and he has two people in the cue for discussion. Johnson said he has Councilor Crampton and Ogema Romanelli.

Councilor Crampton said he would defer to his Elder.

Ogema Romanelli said the real Elder. Romanelli said there are some benefits to turning 65, right. Romanelli said no he just wanted to say and Julie Wolfe is not in here but some of her points are well taken and he appreciates that. Romanelli said they have to remember that this business is not run like a typical mom and pop store. Romanelli said there are some things they provide as a government from the Accounting Department for example but then they take a lot out from on the other side which are those benefits. Romanelli said he thinks the mistake that he is understanding here was that the \$188,000 that has been referred to has to do with the member benefits that have been derived from the business. Romanelli said the \$100,000 that they are talking about that goes to the Clinic are two separate things so that may be where Julie Wolfe is hearing the two different numbers. Romanelli said to say that it doesn't benefit all Tribal members he disagrees because some of those dollars that flow out of the bottom of the barrel that go into the Clinic do service, they know, all people. Romanelli said they can't just base it on that they also understand that there are Tribes that they must

live on the Reservation to take advantage of a lot of different things and they are more open than that. Romanelli said that doesn't mean that everything they do can be provided to all Tribal members but they do the best that they can. Romanelli said for example they have grants that are limited to nine county or the service area, etc. Romanelli said that is just the way they are and are Federal Grants so does that mean that because they don't service every Tribal member should they then send them back and the answer is no. Romanelli said should they close down a business because it doesn't service every Tribal member in the same fashion, no, so they have to look at it and they have had meetings. Romanelli said he has had meetings with Jamie Friedel and do they have to look at it to see a better way to run the business, yes, sure there are always things they have to do. Romanelli said they do it with Ron Pete and he does it on other businesses as well. Romanelli said they have to look at that and they understand that they need to do that but this \$100,000 is absolutely the thing to do right now. Romanelli said they do have to look at the business and he thinks they talked about preferences and jobs that they provide to Tribal members, absolutely. Romanelli said if they can provide five jobs it is better than the alternative and for him he doesn't want to see an empty building there. Romanelli said also the location is good for Tribal members and they have their housing right down the road also with people who work here and across the street so there are a lot of benefits. Romanelli said he thinks they just have to be careful when they say it is not making a profit or that it is not benefitting people because it absolutely is. Romanelli said he just wanted to kind of mention what they are doing there and they are trying different things all over and that is one of them. Romanelli said he just supports this. Romanelli said he will defer to all his younger and thinks that everybody up there is younger than he is.

Speaker Johnson said no.

Ogema Romanelli said alright Speaker Johnson.

Councilor Crampton said he agrees with everything the Ogema just said and he agrees with Speaker Johnson because it is not something that they can appropriate lightly. Crampton said what he is looking at is the dire need for this Tribe to diversify and they have not diversified. Crampton said every Tribe has a C-store and it hits rough patches sometimes and they have sustain that business in order to diversify. Crampton said if they don't then they are going to rely on the casino and everybody is going to come in here and gripe again about this and that. Crampton said he just wished that members would see this and come forward to help Tribal Council Members who are actually trying to make this change rather than taking the opportunity to create that chasm of "us against them." Crampton said that is just a political ploy.

Councilor Di Piazza said he would have to agree with what everybody said, and they know, when they say not all Tribal members can take advantage of things. Di Piazza said living on the Reservation and the Tax Agreement Area they are tax

exempt and how does that benefit everybody else. Di Piazza said it keeps them going and brings Tribal members home who can have tax exempt status. Di Piazza asked if that was available to all the Tribal members, no, because they need to be on the Reservation and the Tax Agreement Area. Di Piazza said Tribal members only and there are some great things up here. Di Piazza said he looks forward to a lot of good things coming with expanding their businesses and he wants to see that store succeed which needs everybody's help. Di Piazza said instead of buying just a tank of gas buy a pop, hell, a pack of gum because that is where they actually make the money and not off the gas. Di Piazza said so they know, visit more often.

Speaker Johnson said they almost exhausted the cue and called upon Lee Mc Caslin.

Lee Mc Caslin, Tribal #0748, said as they look back on history right now in Indiana there was a collapse in their gas in that community took and bought bulk. Mc Caslin said they could only, later on down the road, it will increase but that is where the block was so maybe this time they will look further ahead and that little town in Indiana had made that surplus to that community so that is something to think about and look on.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any other discussion on this item.

Roll Call #11

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

E. Rescinding Resolution #16-0120-020 and Authorizing the Donation of \$10,000 to Community Foundation of Greater Flint that is a 501 (c) (3) Non-profit Organization

This organization provides for the long-term health, welfare and education for children.

Speaker Johnson explained that they changed the location which is a non-profit organization.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0127-029;
RESCINDING RESOLUTION #16-0120-020 AND AUTHORIZING
DONATION OF \$10,000 TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF GREATER FLINT; by Medacco; supported by Riley.**

Speaker Johnson said it was open for discussion and by the way is anybody was going to abstain. Johnson reiterated that it was open for discussion.

Ogema Romanelli said he wanted to say that he had a lot of positive feedback from the donation from all different areas so he appreciates Council's work on this and by possibility making the donation hand to hand tomorrow. Romanelli said good job.

Speaker Johnson said he would like to bring that forward also and Councilor Medacco too who can add to it. Johnson said to the Ogema that he was glad that he mentioned that. Johnson said first of all he wanted to thank Councilor Medacco, John Shano who is the Warrior-Commander, also the Resort for making the donation also for some of the candy. Johnson said that Councilor Medacco is going down there tomorrow with the check and the water with candy to distribute to those families out there with John Shano. Johnson said he wanted to thank those who are helping them out along with Glenn Zaring for the communication to bring this thing forward. Johnson said it is a win, win as the Ogema said they are getting a lot of feedback from the community on this and it has all been positive, very positive, and he wanted to thank those people who are going forward because this is who they are as people and water is important to them.

Councilor Crampton asked if that meant they are going to see Councilor Medacco's big mug on the Detroit Free Press.

Councilor Medacco said hopefully not.

Councilor Di Piazza said it is a good possibility. Di Piazza said actually it would be the Flint News.

Councilor Burger said they are going to see some female's big mug on the Detroit Free Press.

Roll Call #12

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

F. Authorizing Donation of \$500 to the Onekama Equestrian Team

The Tribal Leadership has determined that donations to organizations which contribute to the well-being of Tribal Members and the local community are appropriate for the purposes established by the Revenue Allocation Plan and the restrictions imposed by IGRA.

Recorder Riley said this is a donation for the Onekama Equestrian Team and was submitted by them and this would go to help them travel to competitions and things of the sort.

**MOVE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16-0127-030;
 AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF \$500.00 TO THE
 ONEKAMA EQUESTRIAN TEAM;** by Burger; supported by Medacco.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Roll Call #13

J. Riley -	Yes	J. Burger-	Yes	F. Medacco-	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza-	Yes	M. Wabindato -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-	Yes	V. Johnson -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

G. Authorization for Councilor Medacco to travel to Flint, Michigan to deliver the \$10,000 Donation Check to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint

The travel is required to deliver the \$10,000 Donation Check to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and assist in the Distribution Center for the current water crisis being experienced by the residents there.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE TRAVEL FOR COUNCILOR MEDACCO TO TRAVEL TO FLINT TO DELIVER THE \$10,000 DONATION CHECK; by Crampton; supported by Burger.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain. Johnson noted that Councilor Medacco raised his hand because he is going to abstain. Johnson said that it was open for discussion.

Fran Pitts asked Councilor Medacco if he was driving.

Councilor Medacco replied yes.

Fran Pitts asked Councilor Medacco if he knew they had a storm coming tonight.

Councilor Medacco answered yes but just on this side of the State. Medacco said the reason why he is staying down there is because tomorrow he will be giving the Donation Check to them and the rest of the day and evening along with part of Friday he will be helping at the Distribution Centers passing out water if it.....probably like multiple different spots he will be at just to help out, to volunteer the time to help them out.

Lee Mc Caslin asked Councilor Medacco if he would like a banner to take with him.

Speaker Johnson said he didn't hear that, banners.

Lee Mc Caslin said they know one of the big banners.

Councilor Di Piazza said for water.

Councilor Medacco replied that he doesn't know if he needed a really big banner, they know, where he is coming from is that during this crisis, they know, trying to be the one out there and saying "Look at what Little River is doing" or "Look at what we are doing" but he is just trying to be.....it is just a humbling experience just to go there and be able to show them that they are humble people and in their time of need they are willing just to help out with anything that they can. Medacco said they are not going to be out there just to be out there in the limelight because that is not what this is about. Medacco said this is about just to show them they know that they are all members of.....they are all Michiganders and have to look after one another which is probably the reason why he is going there in a humble way, they know, just low key so that way it doesn't bring a lot of attention to himself.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any more discussion on this item. Johnson said he is glad that the General Manager came back in the audience because he got a commitment from Councilor Medacco that he would not eat those candy bars on the way. Johnson said with that said and asked if there was any more discussion on this item.

Roll Call #14

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Abstain
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-1-0)

VI. Concluding Business

- A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, February 3, 2016**
- B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update**

Speaker Johnson encouraged any Tribal members here or even the Directors that if there is anything on the business that they want to discuss about at this point this is the time to do it.

Ogema Romanelli said he just wanted to state that they know they had some discussion and had a Round Table Meeting yesterday he thinks and he has been meeting with Directors too. Romanelli said they have been trying to hold different meetings making some positive changes. Romanelli said the need for Natural Resource Commission presence at CORA Meetings is very important and he thinks that Councilor Burger spoke to that a little bit earlier. Romanelli said

this is a very important subject and very important to the Tribes and he thinks even from the Executive side his wish is that he could be to more meetings because when they go there they do see the Leadership whether it be the Tribal Chairs or the Tribal Councilors or the Commissioners and he thinks if they could encourage their Commissioners from Natural Resources to attend would be helpful. Romanelli said with their understanding and knowledge and they have some good Commissioners now and it would be very to attend the meetings. Romanelli said he wanted to thank Councilor Crampton for stepping up and attending the one tomorrow up in Gaylord because it is important. Romanelli said Bike Time he shared with Council that Bike Time is making their plans for this coming year. Romanelli said they are very appreciative of what the Resort and the Elected Leaders have done last year and they made \$25,000 which wasn't where they wanted to be but it was better than a kick in the butt and something else. Romanelli said they are looking at other ways they can make some changes. Romanelli said they had what was called Rebel Road downtown that was kind of resistant to the change to Bike Time. Romanelli said they are now kind of cooperating a little bit better and Bike Time has decided that one of the main things they needed to change from last year was to allow the bikes to actually build a drive through the whole area. Romanelli said for those of them that went down there they realize all the bikes were parked outside the gate and this time they are going to allow them in and he thinks that is going to make a big difference plus the cooperative effort between the two. Romanelli said they will keep them posted. Romanelli said they had some representatives coming from the Resort to talk to Bike Time and he arranged that meeting last week and he wanted to thank Johnny Pabami for giving the ideas to Bike Time too. Romanelli said they met down in Muskegon for that so that is going forward pretty good. Romanelli said he has also asked each Director from the government to try and put something in each Currents because they now have 11 paper copies of the Currents going back again because there for a while they were doing paper then internet then paper. Romanelli said now Council has given them money so that they can do 11 paper copies plus they have internet but he wants the Directors to give a little more information to the membership through the paper. Romanelli said for some members that is all they.....the only real way they get information is through the paper and while they can't increase the speed of the paper because he means it is limited by the information being there along with publishing and everything else they can increase a little bit more the information that is contained within the paper so that is what they are going to start doing. Romanelli said he gave that information to their Directors on Monday when they had a meeting. Romanelli said so those are going good. Romanelli said the C-store issue came up and there has been meetings that has been happening both with the Council and on the Ogema's side, with Jamie Friedel, and with Accounting so they are working through it and they will just do the best they can. Romanelli said he thinks they talked about the donation and he thinks that is it for now.

Speaker Johnson asked if there were any questions on the business report. Johnson said to the Ogema that he had just a couple of quick comments. Johnson

said one of them he wanted to thank their Unified Legal Department in their work session they were talking about CORA and Natural Resource Commission and about representation. Johnson said sitting on the Natural Resource Commission many years ago he always thought that the Natural Resource Commission was representing Council at those meetings which they were but it was brought to his attention by the Unified Legal Department really how this system works is that the Ogema or the Chair themselves and appoints another one to represent the Tribe so they have two votes there. Johnson said he was under the impression prior to that it was Council and the Ogema but no not really so when they make a change because Councilor Crampton is going to be there he believed the Ogema has to send a letter saying that this is what they want to do for this meeting. Johnson said he wanted to thank the Legal Department for bringing that to his attention and he appreciates that. Johnson said the other thing is they got a meeting coming up with the Board of Directors this Thursday and Friday where he believed they had Public Comments on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. and asked if that was correct.

Recorder Riley replied that it was 6:00 p.m.

Speaker Johnson said 6:00 p.m. and that he wanted to make sure everybody out there is aware of Public Comments for the Board of Directors is 6:00 p.m. tomorrow evening. Johnson said that is all he has for Business Updates. Johnson asked if anybody else has anything.

Councilor Di Piazza said that is why he can't attend the CORA is because of Thursday and he needs to be at the meeting. Di Piazza said it will be addressed with the other.....with the commission.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was anything else in Public Comments. Johnson said there is Boo Battice then Julie Wolfe. Johnson said they are still in Business and apologized. Johnson said he has to get into Legislative next and his computer just went down on him.

C. Legislative Affairs Update

Speaker Johnson asked if they had any Legislative Affairs Updates.

Councilor Burger said just a couple of things. Burger said she knows that the membership is aware that she was not here for the meeting on the 13th of January and the 20th of January and she just wanted to report out. Burger said on the 13th she attended a Contract Support Costs Workgroup Meeting in Washington, D.C. Burger said that group is working very diligently to try to secure additional funding and to make it easier for Tribes to submit request for funding. Burger said the problem is struggling with the federal agency and in this case the Indian Health Service and trying to reach commonality and definitions so Tribes don't get their expenses discounted as a true cost of doing business. Burger said that is

an on-going discussion and they are in a time when the President and the Budget has appropriated full dollars to support a Tribe's cost in doing business to provide healthcare to its people. Burger said true to form no good deed goes unpunished the Tribe's advocated for that money and received it. Burger said Congress appropriated it so now they having a big discussions and disagreements over how it is going to be appropriated from the feds back to the Tribes so that is what that meeting is all about to try to reach some agreement and make sure that the Tribes receive the full benefit of the funding that should be coming to them. Burger said the other meeting she attended is called the Information Systems Advisory Committee Meeting and that is a committee that's advising the Indian Health Services Information Technologies Division. Burger said she learned a few things at that meeting because it was her first meeting ever. Burger said the thing that she learned most is that their Information Technologies Division has to be very engaged and very on top of the changes that are happening in the Electronic Health Records and that the Tribes Health Division has to be very informed and participating in what they call Meaningful Use Standards because those standards has a direct reflection on the Tribe's Clinic Operations and Health Service Delivery to recover third part revenue. Burger said there are standards that need to be met and there are processes in the Information Technology Transfers that needs to be met. Burger said she would dare say that with the new criteria that was just adopted by Medicare and Medicaid Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that they have some catching up to do here. Burger said she will be providing a full memo back to the Tribal Council and back to the Ogema's Office on the content of those meetings but it is always good to have representatives from this government at that type of discussion because what happens is they get ahead of the curve a little bit or at least they find out information that they can bring back and hopefully make some changes in their Operational Structures. Burger said Council can't make those changes but they can suggest those to the Ogema's Office and the Ogema's Executive Branch but those are things that the Tribe's fiscal health are very reliant on so the more they participate in that type of meeting and at that level of meeting the bigger the opportunity for them to bring resources back to the Tribe. Burger said one other thing and she know that Councilor Crampton's aware of it also. Burger said the Bureau of Indian Affairs has now approved.....they now have an approved Contract Support Costs Settlement and the Federal Judge that was hearing that case down in Navajo Territory approved all the settlements for the Tribes. Burger said for Little River Band that is going to mean about \$1.4 million in what she calls back taxes, back revenue that should have been paid to them in the first place for operating Bureau of Indian Affairs Programs so anything helps and all a good shot in the arm.

Ogema Romanelli said to Councilor Burger that when she shares that information with him could she also "cc" the health.....the Clinic and IT so that he knows that they got it as well.

Councilor Burger responded sure.

Ogema Romanelli said he knows there are some continued things that they need to work together on to make sure they are going forward in the right way.

Councilor Burger said she sure will.

Speaker Johnson said he has Ron Pete to talk about Legislative Affairs.

Ron Pete said he thinks it is and if it isn't he knows the Speaker will stop him. Pete said be prepared to stop him. Pete said, Tribal #4158, this question would exactly or really go to Councilor Burger and he doesn't remember the number. Pete said there was a Senate Bill about Tribal Sovereignty for Labor or.....and he has been curious and asked the Speaker if he is okay to ask it, first. Pete asked where that stands right now or was it passed or signed or where is it at.

Councilor Burger said actually two bills, one was introduced in the Senate and one was introduced in the House both of them came out the committee. Burger said the Senate Bill actually passed the Senate and the House Bill passed or she might have it backwards.

Speaker Johnson said the House Bill passed.....

Councilor Burger said the House Bill passed and the Senate Bill did not pass.

Speaker Johnson said it hasn't been voted on yet.

Councilor Burger reiterated it hasn't been voted. Burger said it came out of committee but what is happening with that is it is in what she calls "nuclear hold."

Ron Pete questioned nuclear hold?

Councilor Burger said nuclear hold in that it is probably going to take a nuclear explosion to get it moved forward at this juncture. Burger said she doesn't foresee the Senate getting aboard with that. Burger said Labor has really worked very hard to present a position to Congress that Tribes are anti-union. Burger said Tribes has been working very diligently to present a position that no they are not anti-union and far from anti-union. Burger said most of their folks have participated in organized labor coming up through the years because that was their life and livelihood. Burger said they want the ability to govern those relationships based on their laws. Burger said the labor lobby has been extremely successful in forwarding that position and has virtuously stopped the Tribe's arguments in its tracks so that bill has stalled and there hasn't been a lot of activity on the Hill with it. Burger said she knows that Councilor Crampton will probably be heading to MAST for that Impact Week and she is hoping she will be there as well and that is going to be a primary focus of the push to get that bill moving again in Congress.

Ron Pete said as someone who doesn't understand how that can just sit there or whatever or that someone can't bring that up and say "we at least want to vote on this to....." he means if they are going to turn it down then turn it down but at least.....to just sit there and not able to vote on it that's the part, as a layman, doesn't make any sense to him at all. Pete said he doesn't get it. Pete said he is sure it makes sense to Councilor Burger who has been to Washington but he doesn't.....or maybe Council Crampton who has been to Washington but he just don't understand things like that. Pete said why someone can't say at least they are going to vote on it, up or down.

Councilor Burger said she will say that is a fair assessment and a very fair statement because what happens a lot of times is something will move, the House will vote then the Senate won't vote or the Senate will vote then the House won't vote. Burger said any bill that moves forward has to come out of those committees and there has to be a consensus and support. Burger said they don't always get what she calls the co-sponsors to a piece of legislation and even when they do there is no guarantee. Burger said say the bill moved forward and went to the President for signature there is no guarantee that the President will sign it.

Ron Pete said correct. Pete said other than the nuclear option which she said there is no other option but to wait.

Councilor Burger said there is always an option and the option that she always tells everyone is if they have an issue near and dear to their Tribe and their heart to start making phone calls. Burger said that is what needs to happen is the constituency. Burger said she and Councilor Crampton can make phone calls and they can write letters or this body can write letters but when the constituents start making the individual phone calls to those Representatives and Senators they pay attention. Burger said that is something that any Tribal member can do and she encourages it. Burger said they know there are a lot of things that move on the Hill other than just the Labor Sovereignty Act, there are children's issues, family issues, and housing issues. Burger said they are right now in the middle of trying to get another housing authorization through the Native American Housing Services Administration Program, NAHASDA. Burger said NAHASDA is not in the Budget and the funding for housing projects is really not in the Budget so they have to get that bill authorized so they have a method of appropriating money so those Native American Housing Programs can move forward and all those things are important. Burger said trying to stay on top of it really takes a conjoined effort of ten Elected Officials and not just two.

Ron Pete said okay and thanked Councilor Burger.

Speaker Johnson reminded everyone they are in Legislative Affairs and he has Julie Wolfe and Councilor Crampton.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said again on personal time because it is after 11 and she is using her lunch hour. Wolfe said Councilor Burger said it was the bill then identified it as the Labor Sovereignty Act and asked if she had the number so it was easier to find for her or can she get it to her at some time.

Speaker Johnson said he has them both.

Councilor Crampton said 511 and 248.

Speaker Johnson said 511 is a House Bill and the Senate Bill is 248.

Councilor Burger reiterated Senate Bill 248 and House Bill 511 and that is at the federal level.

Councilor Crampton said just speaking to those bills he thinks there is lots of opportunity this year to actually move them forward being that it is an election year. Crampton said the Republicans really want this to move forward because the Democrats have been historically for labor and for Tribes. Crampton said it is to the advantage of the Republicans to move this to a vote and to force them between one of their friends and he sees there is lots of opportunity to teeter it forward especially since if they take a look at what the unions have done he thinks they have taken advantage of a lot gullibility on the courts that they presented this to. Crampton said if they look at how this initially started as an individual member's question to pay an electrical bill then it got applied to Tribes then another case came up of a Tribe that it wasn't even a Recognized Tribe so it wasn't for sovereignty and now that application has been applied to Tribes that are Sovereign. Crampton said he doesn't see how it has gone this far but it has been very flimsy and like he said it is right on the edge and needs that one little push and he thinks that is going to be there this year.

Speaker Johnson said they are still in Legislative Affairs and asked if there were any more updates on this. Johnson said he has one other bill that is in the State House and is Bill 588 and they signed a Letter of Support sent it down to Lansing and to Senator Hansen who is one of the champions on that. Johnson said House Bill 588 has to do with their Law Enforcement people giving them the authority to ask people for their identification to see if they are Tribal or not Tribal and to detain them at that point to get support from other Law Officials to handle Natural Resource issues and so forth. Johnson said it is a major step forward in the relationship between the State and the Tribes so he sees a lot of support coming out this and Lansing.

Councilor Crampton said just two positive things. Crampton said he knows that social media has reporting that militia groups in Oregon had taken over some property, some federal property, and some of it had fallen on some Tribal lands. Crampton said they were possibly seizing and selling artifacts, Tribal Artifacts, he believed there was an armed stand-off and they have taken into custody.

Crampton said there was a gun fight and one of them was shot dead but that has been resolved. Crampton said on a more positive note anybody that has been paying attention to the world of golf, Navajo Native Ricky Fowler, just won the Abadobe Classic over in the United _____. Crampton said it is his fourth tournament win this year and he is looking like a prominent star.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was anything else under Legislative Affairs.

D. Public Comment Period

Speaker Johnson said to Boo Battice that he thanks him for being patient with him. Johnson said he has Boo Battice and Julie Wolfe in the cue for Public Comments.

Boo Battice, Tribal #2644, said he just learned late last night that they are going to have.....he is currently Natural Resource Commissioner and is not the Chairperson or anything yet and they are still trying to figure out how to make that better. Battice reiterated that he just learned late last night they were going to have a meeting tomorrow and he just learned this morning that CORA.....he has to get more on schedule on when those meetings are and would like to be more of a part of the greater so he would like to try and catch a ride with someone, maybe at Natural Resources or something like that. Battice said he still has to contact the rest of the Commissioners to know if they are still having a meeting because he just heard this morning that nobody is going to be where their meeting is going to be at. Battice said the Natural Resources is closed and he doesn't know if anybody else has keys on the commission so they.....he doesn't know but they are going to talk.....but he would like to go and he guesses he just looking for guidance. Battice said should he reach more for the greater.....like the CORA.....the bigger picture. Battice asked if it was possible to catch a ride because he doesn't have a job and he is looking for a ride is what he is doing.

Councilor Crampton said he would check with Frank Beaver. Crampton said he is up by Traverse City so if he can make it up to Traverse he can give him a ride but.....

Boo Battice said he would just like to catch.....they know.....if somebody is going to meet up around here he is going to.....yeah.....catch up with Frank Beaver to see who is all going from there and meet with them halfway and anything helps for him because he would like to.....after they had this next meeting he would like to take the position of Chairperson and be more in contact with Councilors Burger and Di Piazza because they are on the Council and get more organized on their monthly meetings and things of that nature because he has a little bit.....he believes he has a little bit more energy than their current Chairperson so hopefully he will be talking with them guys more often.

Councilor Di Piazza said most of that needs to be discussed at the commission meeting with the other Commissioners because he believes the head Chair was kind of assigned to CORA right now he doesn't know and said that the last meeting was cancelled and he knows the one is tomorrow. Di Piazza said it creates all kinds of problems because he can't even be there so.....

Boo Battice said as of right now he is not Chairperson so he is just catching a ride as a.....to be a part of the bigger picture. Battice said even if she wasn't.....hopefully.....

Councilor Di Piazza said the discussion about CORA and things will be brought up he assures him because there are some other things that yeah.....he would rather not discuss right here.

Boo Battice said he would like to go is all he is saying.

Ogema Romanelli said his suggestion would be the same as Councilor Crampton's to get ahold of Frank Beaver and see if he can connect with somebody there and also the list of the meetings should be going to someone on the commission. Romanelli said he is not sure who is getting them now but he knows that Tom Shepard used to get them but he could even put his name in and make sure they are sent directly to him.

Boo Battice asked who does he.....

Ogema Romanelli said just to talk with some of the other Commissioners that have been on there.

Boo Battice said because he is new.....so yeah.....he needs a lot of.....he is new so he needs a lot of their contacts and.....

Ogema Romanelli said they can put him in place so that he gets notices of meetings either from the commission or from CORA.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said in the Round Table discussion work session the commission vacancy was brought up and discussed a little bit. Wolfe said like she said she is an active, diligent person and she is trying to better herself along with her Nation because she has stagnant position with the Tribe that hasn't been changed in ten years for opportunity, growth or anything so her commission application was submitted at the beginning of September to Mary Thomas. Wolfe said she got the Acceptance Letter and got everything back to Larry Gibson who does the compliance and she was fingerprinted on 12/17 and told her the last step on 12/17 after they conducted the interview and that it was next for her reference letters were going to go out. Wolfe said 12/17 the reference letters and her references could be lying and her personal friends that support her were dated January 14th which falls in after she called Frank and said what.....she means

called Larry Gibson and said what is her status. Wolfe said that is the date on the letter given to the five references she put on her application. Wolfe said one was received on Monday, January 19th15thand the other four were received on January 19th due to the Martin Luther King Holiday so she just wanted to present that information and clear up all this miscommunication because she was offended that a suggestion was made to her that her references could be lying to her. Wolfe said the second part of this she came up with an idea for a solution for Mary Thomas, the Ogema, and the Council. Wolfe said the solution would be she knows they created the Ethics Board Ordinance and she knows it is by different decisions but create a commission or have the Ethics Board meet monthly and take over these vacancy seats, advertise it, solicit them, when the names come in and they are looking forward it is documented what time and a letter goes out on what is missing from their application.....it just makes a process because they are saying they can't get people to fill them when they are incomplete. Wolfe said she never got any documentation from Mary Thomas on her own personal thing that the application was received or that she was missing pieces or any of that so she is saying if they can put a process in to fix those critical issues they won't have a six month old file as was represented yesterday that is incomplete and the members is saying what is happening to the Council in Public Comment. Wolfe said so that is one solution that she came up with just to give someone a duty because their Human Resource Department is a great example. Wolfe said they put their application in, it is received, it is sent out that this missing or they are not qualified. Wolfe said they don't get that as Tribal members when they apply for the commissions and if she wasn't here asking all these questions repeatedly she is sure her reference letters would still be sitting in the wrong stack that she just discussed yesterday. Wolfe said just input and thanked them.

Speaker Johnson said at this point he just wanted to make a quick comment for public record. Johnson said that was in a work session and the work session he tries to, like a Council Meeting, manage the work session and get the people speaking in a very orderly fashion and being respectful to each other and because of what was said there and he heard that said but he can't remember who said it. Johnson said on behalf of Council and Virgil Johnson he is sorry that was said because he feels it was taken out of context but they have to be very careful as Elected Officials about what they say because it can be taken out of context and be shared with other people. Johnson said to Julie Wolfe, again he is quite sorry for what was said there on behalf of Council. Johnson said with that said any other Public Comment.

Julie Wolfe said she forgot part of hers. Wolfe said she just wanted to make notice that they did get approval and they are going to be sponsoring, Behavioral Health and Tribal Historic Preservation, is a winter love Round Dance. Wolfe said she has a few flyers here today but she knows it has gone out on communications but she just wanted to make sure that everybody knows that this is open for the public and is going to held at Aki maadiziwin Community Center so she just wanted to make sure that everybody knows about that because she is

working very hard in her prevention aspects job. Wolfe said just to remember they don't get online or see things so she brought a couple copies here to disperse and they are posted in every building now.

Speaker Johnson said he has Councilor Medacco and the Ogema.

Councilor Medacco said he just wanted to take this time to wish their Tribal Council Recorder a Happy Birthday, Joe Riley.

Speaker Johnson said he has a balloon for him.

Ogema Romanelli said he thinks he has some old Birthday Cake for him too. Romanelli said he did want to answer Julie Wolfe in part. Romanelli said the fact is their records for the commission appointments are open and if people ever want to come in and see them he thinks Mary Thomas keeps pretty accurate records. Romanelli said the problem they have had, their Legal Department also mentioned it briefly, is that a lot of people have said they turned in their information, and he is not talking directly to her, but so many times people say they have turned in their paperwork or they have made the call and there is a process and a lot of the times it comes directly to him "Ogema I want to be on this commission" but they are supposed to go to Mary Thomas. Romanelli said they should do it in writing and they should note what time, what date, they had done that. Romanelli said in Julie Wolfe's situation for example she said that her references came back on the 14th or 15th or 19th whatever so that is documented. Romanelli said in there they can see from January 19th to whatever date this is there is a process that they have to do once all that information is collected then it is their intention to turn it over to Council for their perusal or whatever they want to call it then a vote is taken and that is how the process goes. Romanelli said but so many times there are people that, they know, say they have turned in the paperwork and there is a process and paperwork that has to be turned in and again, the deeper the commissions that require background checks take a heck of a lot longer. Romanelli said Council just brought this up to him yesterday at the Round Table and he has since contacted the.....Kelly Maser and she sent back that she is more than happy to allow Larry Gibson to do some of these background checks to make the process a little bit faster. Romanelli said he just got that e-mail back this morning so he takes what Julie Wolfe is saying, they know, to heart and he thinks that she has some legitimate concerns and statements here but on the other hand they also know a lot of the times that is not the case. Romanelli said for Council he is going to take Kelly Maser up on her offer to utilize Larry Gibson in the future to help facilitate the process moving forward faster.

Speaker Johnson asked if there was any more Public Comment.

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.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE FIRST OPEN SESSION; by Medacco; supported by Burger.

Roll Call #15

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

VIII. Open Session

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 1:55 p.m.

MOTION TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION; by Riley; supported by Medacco.

Roll Call #16

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session

MOTION TO MOVE CLOSED SESSION C.1 AND C.2, RESOLUTION NUMBER, ROLL CALL AND VOTE; AND THE FOUR MOTIONS UNDER PERSONNEL TO OPEN SESSION; by Riley; supported by Medacco.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Roll Call #17

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- Yes	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

The following items were moved from Closed Session to Open Session.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 16-0127-031,
 APPROVAL OF CONTRACT ADDENDUM WITH KEWEGNONG
 ENGINEERING SERVICES, AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT
 FOR SERVICE RENDERED; by Burger; supported by Lewis.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

Roll Call #C-3

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes
V. Johnson - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Yes
J. Burger - No	M. Wabindato - No	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-2-0-0)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 16-0127-032,
 APPROVAL OF THE NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT WITH
 PLEVA INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND AUTHORIZING THE
 OGEMA TO EXECUTE THE SAID AGREEMENT AS LONG AS
 THE AGREEMENT HAS GOVERNMENT CENTER DRIVE
 RATHER THAN CIVIC CENTER DRIVE IN IT; by Riley; supported
 by Wabindato.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

Roll Call #C-5

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes
V. Johnson - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Yes
J. Burger - Yes	M. Wabindato - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**MOTION THAT IT WAS THE INTENT THAT THAT THE USE
 OF THE WORD “STIPEND” DOESN’T PRECLUDE JUDGES
 FROM SEEKING TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT OR EXPENSES
 IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRIBAL LAW. FURTHERMORE,
 JUDGES SHOULD BE PAID THEIR ALLOTTED STIPEND ONCE
 THEY HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED A CASE AND THE NECESSARY
 PAPERWORK HAS BEEN FILED. FOR THIS REASON “PER
 CASE HEARD” SHALL BE INTERPRETED SATISFIED WHEN A
 CASE IS ASSIGNED; by Riley; supported by Wabindato.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anyone was going to abstain.

Roll Call #C-6

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes
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V. Johnson - Yes	F. Medacco – Yes	J. Riley – Yes
J. Burger - Yes	M. Wabindato– Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

MOTION TO SUBMIT SHANNON CRAMPTON AS LABOR RELATIONS; by Medacco; supported by Wabindato.

Crampton accepted the nomination.

Roll Call #C-7

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Abstain	G. DiPiazza – Yes
V. Johnson - Yes	F. Medacco – Yes	J. Riley – Yes
J. Burger - Yes	M. Wabindato– Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-1-0)

MOTION TO NOMINATE JOE RILEY FOR SMALL BUSINESS; by Burger; supported by Wittenberg.

Riley accepted the nomination and said he will abstain from the vote.

Roll Call #C-8

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza – Yes
V. Johnson - Yes	F. Medacco – Yes	J. Riley – Abstain
J. Burger - Yes	M. Wabindato– Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-1-0)

MOTION TO NOMINATE GARY DI PIAZZA FOR ENVIRONMENTAL; by Wabindato; supported by Burger.

DiPiazza said that he would accept the nomination.

Speaker Johnson asked if anyone was going to abstain on this vote.

DiPiazza said he will be abstaining.

Roll Call #C-9

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza – Abstain
V. Johnson - Yes	F. Medacco – Yes	J. Riley – Yes
J. Burger - Yes	M. Wabindato– Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (8-0-1-0)

This concludes the items moved from Closed Session to Open Session.

IX. Adjourn

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING; by Burger; supported by Lewis.

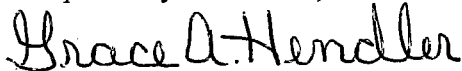
Roll Call #18

J. Riley - Yes	J. Burger- Yes	F. Medacco- Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza- No	M. Wabindato -Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	V. Johnson - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

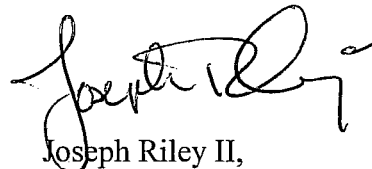
Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grace A. Hendler
Transcribing Assistant



Joseph Riley II,
Tribal Council Recorder