



Approved 01/20/21

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020
LITTLE RIVER BAND
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting via Teleconference on June 10, 2020. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

I. Opening Prayer

Gary DiPiazza, Tribal Elder, offered the Opening Prayer.

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

Speaker Pete said we are calling this meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Gary, do a roll call again for the Tribal Council. Thank you.

B. Roll Call #1

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

Quorum established.

Others Present: Connie Waitner, Andrew Gentile, Brad Pringle, Ogema Larry Romanelli, Bill Willis, Laura Eichelberger, Tara Bailey, Tammy Burmeister, Lyle Dorr, Yvonne Parsons, Gary Lewis, Jessica Wissner, George LeVasseur, Mary Thomas, Valerie Chandler, Allison Smart, Chelsie Densmore, Jamie Friedl, Elise McGowan-Cuellar, Sandy Mezeske, Rebecca Liebing, Caitlin Carey, Susan Thull, Julie Wolfe and Kathleen Bowers

C. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 10, 2020 AGENDA WITH NO CORRECTIONS AND NO
ADDS; by DiPiazza; supported by Lonn.**

Ron Pete asked is there was any further discussion. Is anybody going to abstain? Gary, do a roll call.

Roll Call #2

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

D. Tribal Council Minutes ☐ 04/29/20 ☐ 05/22/20

MOTION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 4/29/20 AND ALSO 05/22/20; by Lewis; supported by Guenthardt.

Speaker Pete asked if there is any further discussion? Is anybody going to abstain? Please do a roll call, Gary.

Roll Call #3

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	D. Corey -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - No	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts

1. Approval of Submission of United States Protection Agency Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) funding for FY21/FY22 to USEPA as a supplemental funding to the FY19/FY20 PPG

Speaker Pete said I believe that Ms. Allison, are you here to represent this?

Allison Smart responded yes I am here to represent this.

Pete said okay, go ahead Allison.

Smart said okay. So this is our two-year grant application submitted to Council for approval to apply for these funds through the USEPA. This work plan and this budget goes towards 3 ½ full time positions at Natural Resources and supports our water quality, Brownfields and solid waste program funding.

Pete said okay, thank you Allison. Is there anyone that has any questions for Allison? Okay, Tom Guenthardt is going to make a motion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 20-0610-167,
APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF UNITED STATES
PROTECTION AGENCY PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP
GRANT (PPG) FUNDING FOR FY21/FY22 TO USEPA AS A
SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING TO THE FY19/FY20 PPG; by
Guenthardt; supported by Lonn.**

Speaker Pete asked if there is any further discussion? Is anybody going to abstain? Gary, do a roll call please.

Roll Call #4

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

B. Budget Modifications

Speaker Pete said there is nothing there.

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

Speaker Pete said there is anything there.

IV. Old Business

A. Report of the Tribal Ogema

- 1. Operations Report – February 2020 – none submitted**
- 2. Operations Report – March 2020**

B. Appropriation Funds for Expenditures during the 3rd Quarter of FY 2020 in Accordance with Section 5.07 of Budget & Appropriations Act of 2013

Speaker Pete said Bill or Brad are you here to represent that.

Brad Pringle said yep, yep, Brad's here to represent that. This here is for appropriation in the amount of \$2,197,159 for expenditures to begin June 1st, 2020. This includes gaming distribution of \$1.6 million, I will do \$1,679,001 and the quarterly per cap of \$518,158.

Councilor Champagne said I can't hear him.

Pringle said sure.

Lonn said you need to do it again Brad.

Pringle said this resolution is for appropriations in the amount of \$2,197,159 for the 3rd quarter appropriation. This is gaming distribution of \$1,679,001 and the quarterly per cap of \$518,158.

Crampton said hello.

Speaker Pete said I'm sorry, is this Shannon?

Crampton said yeah, can I get in the cue.

Pete said I had my phone on mute and so I could listen to him better but okay, Shannon, you're in the cue.

Crampton said Brad, have all your concerns over the 2nd quarter been satisfied?

Pringle responded yes. Second quarter appropriations were based upon actual numbers coming over from the casino and accurate as it can be.

Crampton said so, my only question, well we got a letter from you that are concerns that I share. I was asking if that has been satisfied.

Pringle said Shannon, I'm sorry, but I don't know for sure what you are referring to.

Crampton said oh, just the email about the second quarter appropriation. There were some notes at the bottom.

Pringle said I as far as know it is all set for second quarter.

Crampton said yes, yes, I just wanted to make sure everything is in line. And this, also, like he is saying, this is like what a quarter for per cap.

Pringle said correct.

Crampton said alright, thank you.

Pringle said thank you.

Pete said okay, thank you Shannon. Okay, is there anyone else that wants to be in the cue or do I have a motion? Okay, Tom Guenthardt is in the cue right now. Tom.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 20-0610-168,
APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR EXPENDITURES DURING
THE THIRD QUARTER OF FY2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECTION 5.07 OF THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ACT
OF 2013; by Guenthardt; supported by Lonn.**

Speaker Pete asked if there is any further discussion? Is anybody going to abstain? Gary, do a roll call.

Roll Call #5

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

V. New Business

**A. Acceptance of the FY2020 Tribal Government Operations
Budget Reforecast**

Speaker Pete said okay Brad are you here to represent that also? I'm sorry Bill, Bill are you here to represent that?

Bill Will answered yes I am Mr. Speaker.

Pete said I'm sorry, I got confused just for a second Bill. So my apologies. Go ahead.

Willis said the information, the budget reforecast that has been submitted to Council for consideration is the same information that was presented to Council as part of the request for a supplemental appropriation from the Working Capital Reserve of \$2.6 million which was approved on May 27th. We believe that this reforecast item is in compliance with the Budget and Appropriations Act, Section 6.03.

Pete said okay, thank you Bill. Is there anyone that has any further questions of Bill?

Jessica Steinberg said hello Mr. Speaker this is Jessica Steinberg; can I get in the cue please.

Pete said yes you can in right now Jessica. Go ahead.

Steinberg said thanks Mr. Speaker. I guess my question is, is there a copy of this budget reforecast that will be made available to Tribal citizens and

can we have a synopsis of what the reforecast budget looks like at this time.

Pete said okay, Jessica, is, I would have no problem sending this thing out including the tribal budget, which we reworked this week. I believe that it would be, I believe that is something that the executive branch would want to, in their opinion, put out. I'm not sure. I'm not speaking for the Ogema. I have no authority to speak for him. So, but I am letting you know that the legislature is willing to put theirs out okay.

Steinberg said thanks Mr. Speaker. I would really appreciate that. I know that there are probably other Tribal citizens listening on today's meeting other than myself. Is there a synopsis that can be shared with the attendees to today's meeting in the short term. I do appreciate that you are willing to share the information Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

Pete said I do appreciate that's your answer because what we have to do is, I'm going to get this out as quickly as I can from the legislature and put it out on-line. I would expect this to go out this week or either on-line or in our, I'm sorry, it will be on the resolution next meeting and I think we should be, I would like to be able to publish it as soon as possible but that is coming from me, okay. And that's how, that's as much as I can answer right now but we went through it with at fine tooth comb. We got, we got our stuff reappropriated back to, what was that?

Pringle said \$329,000 difference in budgets.

Pete said okay, so I can tell you this right now, I will just give you a number if that is okay. So the legislative difference in the budgets right now is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$329,000. Okay, so is there anybody else that's in this cue or I need to get a resolution or whatever we need to do.

Ogema Romanelli said this is the Ogema and I have something to say.

Councilor Crampton said this is Shannon Crampton. Crampton said let Larry go.

Pete said okay, is Larry, I'm sorry, were you wanted to be in the cue, I didn't hear.

Romanelli said yeah, I just wanted to say that you know what Bill presented I believe is available for the Tribal members.

Pete said okay, and then we are going to follow-up with this too. I mean I don't have any issue with it. It is what it is and so we all went through this yesterday at Tribal Council and Brad our Comptroller did an excellent job through this. I'm, so at any rate, thank you so much Larry and Larry are you finished and I can move on to Shannon?

Romanelli responded yes.

Pete said okay, Shannon, you're in the cue.

Crampton said well unless I missed my guess we are just accepting these today, we are not adopting them and what they are is . .

Pete responded right . . .

Crampton said like you said legislative is going to come out with theirs from the \$302,000 we removed. We are just accepting the executive today and then once their accepted they become a public document and it is going to go into a very public process of the budget process.

Pete said that is correct Shannon. I didn't, I didn't mean to mislead anybody.

Crampton said no, no, no, I just thought I would clarify it for everybody . . . I just want to clarify that this is going to be a public process. This is starting off.

Pete said yes, and what I want to say is that what I'm trying to do to Jessica's question, I just want to be as transparent as we possibly can inside these meetings. So I am finished. I am still looking for a motion. Tommy.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 20-0610-169,
ACCEPTANCE OF THE FY2020 TRIBAL GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS BUDGET REFORECAST;** by Guenthardt; supported
by Corey.

Speaker Pete asked if there is any further discussion? Is anyone going to abstain? Gary, do a roll call please.

Roll Call #6

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -No	D. Corey -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis -	No

Motion carried (7-2-0-0)

B. Authorization to post the Election Ordinance for 30 Public Comment

Speaker Pete said I think, was someone from ULD be able to talk about this or am I getting this one wrong.

Councilor Crampton said actually, this is Shannon Crampton.

Pete said go ahead Shannon.

Crampton said I asked for the changes and ULD provided, I mean I asked for the work session and ULD provided it with the changes that Council as a body asked for. I will try to represent this. Once it was all done and we had more and more comments, I guess we decided to throw it up as is for the 30 days so everybody can see what's there, all the options and then the membership make their comments and put it forward. When it comes down, have more work sessions and adopt it.

Pete said Shannon, you are absolutely correct in what you said and that is what we did decide to do at the end of the day was to put it up as you spoke and then once we get all the public comments in, then we can get either another or two work sessions and get all of the public comments to date put in and then put it up again. So everything that Shannon just told you was 100% correct.

Crampton said if there is no other questions, I would just like to make a motion to post the Election Ordinance for a 30-day public comment.

Pete said okay Shannon, go ahead.

MOTION TO POST THE ELECTION ORDINANCE FOR 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT; by Crampton; supported by Guenthardt.

Speaker Pete asked if there is any further discussion? Is anyone going to abstain? Gary, please do a roll call.

Roll Call #7

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	D. Corey -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - No	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-1-0-0)

VI. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

Pete said Larry.

Ogema Romanelli said thank you Ron. Just a few things. Our casino, as most people know, reopened on a partial basis on a limited basis I should say. I know they had some issues reopening but I think they have done a wonderful job. I think we will see some pretty good numbers coming in from that. The government has done a partial reopening. Again, we are doing it in phases. We are trying to provide services as much as we can with limited staff at this time. Our hope is to try and become fully operational again about the end of July. That depends on a few things. It depends on what the governor is doing, what the federal government is doing and of course we are watching the COVID-19 to see what it's doing but that is what we are looking at right now. The, I did write an Executive Order and we lifted the shelter at home for Aki yesterday and also the playground has been reopened. Hopefully, people are still keeping their social distancing, etc. but we were trying to follow what others are doing. The campground is another issue. There is a few things that we need to consider as we either look at opening it or not opening it at this time. One of the issues that we have is the cleaning staff. We are limited with our maintenance crew so we don't know how that it is going to affect it. Also, we do not have the pow wow or the language camp going so and looking at what Governor Whitmer has done with other campgrounds, etc. so we are looking at that but the Executive Order went out yesterday and was effective immediately or today. I think that is all I have to say. Thank you.

Speaker Pete said okay, are there any questions for the Ogema?

Susan Thull said yes, Susan Thull.

Pete said okay Susan, go ahead.

Thull said thank you. I was just wondering if you're going to be getting some kind of report from the different departments on how the procedures could be improved during this time. I am looking in case there is a second wave if we have to go through this again what needs to be changed, what worked out well, and so forth. I am just wondering if you're planning on getting something like that reporting.

Romanelli said yes.

Thull said thank you.

Romanelli said thank you Susan, yes. We are, we have all taken notes during this time and yeah there is always the possibility of a second wave.

I think at that time we will be much more prepared. This caught everybody by surprise and kind of blindly going forward for the federal government, the state government and tribal government. But I think that we have enough things in place, not to say that it would be easy, as a matter of fact a second wave could be much more damaging because of numbers so. But yes, we have taken notes. I think that we can give a full report of what worked and what didn't work as we go forward. Thanks Susan.

Pete said okay, thank you Larry. Is there any other questions for the Ogema?

Julie Wolfe.

Pete said go ahead Julie.

Wolfe said what is going to happen with the princess since all the stuff is cancelled.

Romanelli said I'm sorry, what's going to happen with what?

Wolfe said the Little River Band Princess.

Romanelli said oh, I don't know, I haven't heard on that. I think that was handled by Education was part of that and I think Yvonne is on the call.

Councilor Lewis said can I get in the cue, Sandy.

Pete said okay Sandy, you're up, you're after Julie okay?

Lewis said okay. Normal protocol would be the princess that has the crown now will just have to carry that through.

Pete said oh, okay.

Wolfe said I am just wondering if she has been asked or considered. Who is the princess that is on reign right now?

Lewis responded Julie Hindman. She lives in Mt. Pleasant right now. She is Little River.

Wolfe said so has she been asked?

Pete said okay, I'm not hearing anybody speak so I'm not aware of anything that she has been asked but I am pretty sure _____ could do it. I also have Yvonne in the cue right now. Yvonne you want to go ahead?

Yvonne Parsons said yes, the Education doesn't take any part in the princess contest. It was at one time the _____ Circle that Deb Davis was part of but it wasn't through the department so I don't have anything. Thanks.

Lewis said can I answer that?

Pete said go ahead.

Lewis said _____ was taking care of it and then it went back to Historic Preservation and then this year Historic Preservation a volunteer was Elizabeth Calloway so I don't know if it would be Historic Pres that would just mention something to Joey, you know, but proper protocol would be that she would hold the crown until the next princess.

Jay Sam said Ron, this is Jay.

Pete said I'm sorry, is that Jay? Jay, you go ahead okay. Jay, go ahead.

Jay Sam said thank you. The _____ Circle always ran the princess contest which was held during the pow wow but was technically was not part of the pow wow. When Cultural Preservation was disbanded as a committee and the department Historic Preservation took over the pow wow and other events the princess process remained with the volunteers and outside individuals. We often coordinate and put them in touch with each other but actually from the department we never run, administered or had anything other than a small budget to be used for travel that had to go to a department for signing out for the princess. So it would be up to whoever, I mean I can look it up, was on the princess committee last year to determine whether they want to carry over as the committee or . . . and if they don't wish to do anything else I would take it upon myself to contact the princess and ask her if she would like to continue for another year.

Lewis said it was P.B. Chivis and Renee Dihlman that headed that up last year.

Pete said Sandy, this is Ron, you're a lot more familiar about that when we did it at the pow wow then myself, could we first of all get in touch with her through you or Jay or someone to see if wants to continue because obviously the pow wow is not happening. All of our things are being cancelled for the summer. That would be great if she would want to continue to represent the Tribe this year. So I think that is the easiest solution, I think, if she still wants to do it.

Lewis said okay, I'll, I'll coordinate with Jay and we will figure it out.

Pete said okay Sandy, thank you so much. Is there anyone else that wants to ask questions of the Ogema?

Wolfe said I just want to know if it will be reported to membership what the decision is?

Pete said I am sure that Sandy and Jay and everybody will report this to the membership, absolutely.

Lewis said maybe we could put _____ site also once we get a final.

Pete said okay. Is there anybody else that wants to be in this cue?

C. Legislative Affairs Update

Speaker Pete said Shannon do you have anything for Legislative Affairs Update?

Councilor Crampton said yes, it is just the COVID numbers, when we are tracking COVID numbers it looks like the mortalities are decreasing but the new patients are increasing. It's right now, what they are looking at is whether it is due to more people being tested or actually just stabilizing as a gene and _____ people that it is going to get and we are now just going to live with it. So we are looking at that right now and what they are talking about in the second wave, I was hoping to God they got a vaccine before it hits because it looks like what Larry says, it could be pretty nasty.

Pete said okay. Is that, okay, Shannon are you finished?

Crampton responded yes.

Pete said okay.

Crampton said no, wait, wait, I'm also, I'm also been in tune with a bunch of, I am friends with a bunch of employees like at Odawa, GTB, all our other competing casinos and a couple of them employees have contacted me and notified me that they have been sent letters saying that they have been exposed. So it looks like some of the other casinos are going to have a little bit of slow down here.

Pete said okay. Thank you. Is there anyone else in Legislative Affairs?

Recorder DiPiazza said I do.

Pete said okay Gary, go ahead.

DiPiazza said just so everybody knows that on the Tribal website Dinghers Apparel up on the website, you go to the link, he has apparel. He will be adding more things as he goes along. Right now there is t-shirts and hoodies and you can order masks off there at a horrendously good price so . . . check it out. I'm done.

Pete said okay, is there anyone else with Legislative Affairs Update?

Ogema Romanelli said Ron, one . .

Pete said yeah, Larry, is that Larry,

Romanelli said the February Operations Report there was none submitted. The reasoning that I am understanding is because that was during the time when some of the information was lost through IT. I don't believe that part is recoverable so I don't believe a report will be submitted unless somehow we come across the information. So we will submit the ones prior to that, or after that. Thank you.

Pete said okay Larry that is what I was going to ask you then. If that is totally unrecoverable then the next month will be submitted then for the report, okay.

Romanelli said subsequent reports will be submitted. Thank you.

Pete said okay, thank you Larry. Anyone else in Legislative Affairs? Not hearing one, anything, I'm going to move on to D. Public Comment.

D. Public Comment Period

Speaker Pete said okay, I don't hear anything in 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.

Speaker Pete said so can I get a motion to move us out of the first closed session, or the first open session?

Councilor Guenthardt said I will make a motion.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE FIRST OPEN SESSION; by Guenthardt; supported by Corey.

Pete asked if there was any further discussion. Is anyone going to abstain.
Gary, do a roll call.

Roll Call #8

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

VIII. Open Session

MOTION TO GO INTO 2ND OPEN SESSION AT; by Guenthardt;
supported by Corey.

Speaker Pete asked if there is any further discussion? Is anybody going to abstain? Gary, do a roll call.

Roll Call #9

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Time is 11:07 a.m.

Recorder DiPiazza asked for anybody to identify themselves if they are on the line please.

Others Present: Chelsie Densmore, Elise McGowan-Cuellar, Kathleen Bowers and Valerie Chandler

A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session

MOTION TO MOVE RESOLUTION # 20-0610-170, MOTION, ROLL CALL AND RESOLUTION; by DiPiazza; supported by Guenthardt.

Speaker Pete asked if there is any further discussion? Is anyone going to abstain? Gary, do a roll call again.

Roll Call #10

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

The following item was moved from Closed to Open Session.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 20-0610-170,
APPROVAL OF THE 2020 MOA WITH EGLE FOR AIR QUALITY
MONITORING COOPERATION SERVICES;** by Guenthardt;
supported by Lonn.

Roll Call #C3

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

This concludes the items moved from Closed to Open Session.

IX. Adjourn

Speaker Pete said can I get a motion to move us out of the second open.

MOTION TO GET US OUT OF SECOND OPEN; by Guenthardt;
supported by .Corey.

Pete asked if there is any further discussion? Is anyone going to abstain?
Do a roll call, Gary.


Roll Call #11

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kathleen J. Bowers
Transcribing Assistant


Gary Di Piazza,
Tribal Council Recorder