



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021  
LITTLE RIVER BAND  
VIA ZOOM  
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on March 10, 2021. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Recorder DiPiazza: Mr. Speaker the Recorder on.

Speaker Pete: Okay thank you very much Gary. Welcome to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians regular Wednesday Tribal Council Meeting at 10:00 via Zoom. Gary, would you please do an opening prayer for us, please.

**I. Opening Prayer**

Creator, look after us as we go through these days. Let your healing and loving arms wrap yourself around us and keep us safe. Take your precautions when you go out, wear your mask, use some hand sanitizer, or whatever you may have. Be safe when you're venturing out. Look after our first responders and the front-line employees, that serve us and fill us with nutrition, make sure you tip them also. Just look after all of our people, keep them safe and help somebody out today or tomorrow. That being said, Miigwetch, Miigwetch, Miigwetch.

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

R. Pete: Thank you very much Gary. Let's move on to General Business. We're calling this meeting to order at 10:01. Please do a roll call.

**B. Roll Call**

**Roll Call #1**

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

Quorum established.

G. DiPiazza: Eight are present, one is absent, we have a quorum at 10:02.

Others Present: Ogema Larry Romanelli, Laura Echelbarger 2276, Nikki Nelson 0421, Sara Agosa 4478, Chelsea Densmore 3225, Jessica Steinberg 0148, Sandy Mezeske 018, Robert McCaslin 0748, Susan Thull 3727, Israel Stone 1735

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE  
FOLLOWING ADD; TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 5-20-20  
AND 1-11-21; by T. Guenthardt; supported by G. DiPiazza.**

R. Pete: I've got a motion from Tom, I've got support from Gary, is there any further discussion?

S. Agosa: I just have a question, I want to make sure because of last week, if any casino employees are on the line if they're using vacation time to attend this meeting?

R. Pete: Okay thank you. I'm not going to answer for the casino employees, but I don't think that's any of our business.

S. Crampton: Thank you well I would just like to point out the fact that customarily Tribal Council, when the person who's bringing something forward, is not here to present, removes their item from the Agenda. Mrs. Lonn has put something on the Agenda, she's not here today, I think we should be fair and conform to uniform practices that we've carried out with that. Thank you very much.

R. Pete: Okay thank you, Shannon, but that motion was also co-sponsored by Gary DiPiazza, and he is here. Is there any further discussion, is anyone going to abstain? Gary do a roll call.

**Roll Call #2**

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Eight in favor, one is absent, the Agenda for Wednesday, March 10, 2021, has been approved.

S. Agosa: I just wanted to follow up to your response that it's none of our business if managers from the casino are attending this meeting whether on their personal time or on the clock. I just don't agree with that I did reach out to Andrew, is he on the line today? Because I feel any managers who aren't presenting an Agenda item, should be on personal time if they want to attend this meeting. I feel it is the business of the members because I would like to see a separation of politics from working and being paid, I think that's fair.

R. Pete: They are salaried managers when they're called at home, like I told you I've been called at home, are they on time yet or do they get extra time for that for being on because if they are Tribal Citizens and they even.... [*There was a problem with the recording*]

R. Pete: Gary are we back on?

G. DiPiazza: It's recording again.

R. Pete: Okay thank you, I'm going on to Laura right now.

L. Echelbarger: I think um I just wanted to state um I guess it's really my opinion um and take it for whatever it's worth, but I don't really think it's up to us to determine what the casino employees should or should not be doing. I'm concerned that we're going to start limiting what a member can do based off of their employment status, wherever, whatever they're doing which is a slippery slope and could affect us all. So honestly, I'd like to leave those sort of decisions with Andrew and their HR department and that's it, thanks.

N. Nelson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just, this is my opinion, but um I just want to point out that all the information that's being said, all these opinions are valuable, but this is what public comment is reserved for, for all of these opinions. Unless it's something directly related to what item you're on the Agenda, everything else needs to be waited until Public Comment. You guys are trying to conduct business and we need to do so.

R. Pete: Very good words Nikki, in fact I'm going to tell you something, that this is a Public Comment and they're going on Public Comment.

**D. Tribal Council Minutes**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 5-20-20 AND 1-11-21;** by T. Guenthardt; supported by G. DiPiazza.

**Roll Call #3**

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Eight in favor, one absent, Tribal Council Minutes for 5-20-20 and 1-11-21 have been accepted.

**III. Continuing Business**

- A. Grant & Contracts**  
None submitted.
- B. Budget Modifications**  
None submitted.
- C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**  
None submitted.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Financial Report     January 2021**

R. Pete: That moves us on to Old Business A., financial report for January 2021 has been submitted.

**V. New Business**

**A. Protect the Straits of Mackinac as a Traditional Cultural Property Site.**

R. Pete: I believe that Tribal Member, Nikki Nelson brought that forward. Nikki, are you prepared to speak to that?

N. Nelson: Yeah sure, thank you Mr. Speaker. I brought this forward to be a Resolution that is parallel with the other five CORA tribes. And what they're trying to do together is, CORA is trying to make the Straits of Mackinac a Nationally Registered Historic Site. And so, what that will do, that will almost automatically negate the opportunity for Enbridge to put a tunnel there and then also would hopefully have to shut down the existing expired pipeline. The Resolution was just written parallel with what Little Traverse has done, and I believe Grand Traverse too has put theirs forward now. And we've worked with the Chippewa Office, we've worked with Jay, and he's aware of and probably I think has already been working with them with this. So, it's really just like a housekeeping issue of supporting everything that the Chippewa Office is doing and kind of banning together with those other tribes to stand in solidarity against Enbridge.

S. Crampton: Yeah, I just wanted to add some things that, yes, the Resolution does mirror the other tribes, but we've long been on this issue in fact there's agreement between Grand Traverse, Little Traverse, and us, where we hold court on this issue for a long time, separately and I'm sure Council is aware of this. I just didn't want the membership to get the impression that this Resolution was making us become parallel, we know that we've been there for a long time. But I support it, thank you.

N. Nelson: In the Resolution, I reiterated the previous Resolution that was passed unanimously by that Tribal Council in 2016 and so that's why that was included. I in no way meant to imply that Tribal Council hasn't been on board with this. But the protection of the Straits and making it a National Historic Site is actually relatively new, within the last three months I would say. Don't exactly quote me on that but yeah in the last three months. So, the Resolution not only reiterates that this Council still stands unanimously with the 2016 Resolution that Little River Band put through but in addition supports the new evidence going forward to move this towards the National Historic Site with the other tribes.

G. DiPiazza: I was just going to say the other CORA tribes, we're all on this. And you know a while back we were trying to get a submarine to go down there to take images of the whole line. So, yeah, the CORA tribes are on this, our departments, and everybody's you know, this we'll see how this goes, if this helps or not. I don't know, but yeah, it's discussed all the time.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #21-0310-065, PROTECT THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC AS A TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY SITE; by T. Guenthardt; supported by S. Lewis.**

R. Pete: I got a Motion from Tom, I got support from Councilor Lewis, is there any further discussion, is anyone going to abstain? Gary, please do a roll call.

**Roll Call #4**

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Eight in favor, one absent, Resolution #21-0310-065 is passed.

**B. Amending 2021 Tribal Council Meeting Schedule to allow for evening meetings every other week.**

G. DiPiazza: Yeah, we've had some members that would like some evening meetings because they just can't make it easily to take it to the 10 a.m. meeting. So, this is just to change our calendar for every other week they have a 6 pm meeting. There are a couple meetings already on the schedule for Saturdays and if it doesn't work out you can always change it up. I did a little survey I think I had about 50 some odd members would like a six o'clock meeting and like four or five that said no. So, I got 50 some tribal members that would like to attend a six o'clock meeting.

D. Corey: Yeah, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a motion to postpone this for another work session pending scheduling issues that everybody was talking about in the first work session that we never resolved.

**MOTION TO POSTPONE AMENDING 2021 TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE TO ALLOW FOR EVENING MEETINGS EVERY OTHER WEEK FOR AN ADDITIONAL WORK SESSION;**  
by D. Corey; supported by S. Crampton

R. Pete: I got a Motion on the floor to postpone this by Counselor Corey, I've got it seconded by Counselor Crampton, is there any further discussion?

G. DiPiazza: there was a work session last Monday does everybody remember that last Monday the 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 a.m.?

N. Nelson: I just wanted to say, I thought that he said that he wanted to table it because there was unresolved stuff at the work session. I think that Gary was referring to I think that's where the confusion came.

S. Agosa: in Agenda review other ideas surrounding the scheduling was discussed and I do support that this item is postponed thank you.

C. Densmore: I heard Gary mentioned Saturdays, but I thought it was very clear that Saturdays were not included on the Agenda review, so I guess I was going to ask for clarification from that. You've referenced outlying citizens I think if you're going to do that it would be best to be including one Saturday a month and one night a month one 6 p.m. Wednesday night and one Saturday afternoon so that you can actually get everyone that is able to attend, and you can really see what's going to work best for the membership.

G. DiPiazza: There are two Saturday meetings scheduled for this year. Saturday meetings have never really panned out even on, I don't believe even on zoom it's going to pan out, we've had you know a zoomer kind of interactive membership meetings and hardly nobody logs in. I'm good with the Tribal Council Meetings at six o'clock every Wednesday and then throw in a Saturday too. I'm good with that

S. Crampton: I don't think that it's very productive for the Recorder to ask everybody if they remember the meeting because obviously, he does not. At that meeting overwhelmingly people were in support of postponing this to another work session, I clearly remember that so does everybody else. So, to derogatorily ask the membership and the Council if they remember the meeting, when he is the one that has a blurry fact, should not be entertained by this Council. Please stick to the issue, you were there everybody else was there. This issue has been brought up on one page, no other pages, nobody else is in support of it, nobody else wants to do this other than later at night. My constituents in Milwaukee will still be in transit from work, my constituents in California will still be at work so, no don't use the outlying as an excuse when that's not the fact. Thank you.

G. DiPiazza: Well, here's the work session sheet for 3-1 and who was all in attendance. So, I don't know what to tell you, if you don't want evening meetings or if you want them at nine o'clock, have another work session on it you know. I got a lot of Tribal members that would like a 6 pm meeting or later I guess, so with that being said, I'll call the question.

R. Pete: Okay the question has been called. Gary, please do a roll call and we're doing a vote, Councilor Corey said and seconded by Counselor Crampton is to postpone this for another work session.

**Roll Call #5**

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

Motion carried (6-2-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Six in favor, two against, one absent, that item is postponed.

R. Pete: Okay then we're going to postpone this and you're going to schedule another work session on it I'm assuming, thank you.

G. DiPiazza: Yeah, I'll get to it.

## **VI. Concluding Business**

### **A. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

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

Ogema Romanelli: First thing I want to tell you is, when talking with our leads we've decided, in watching what the governor is doing, that our employees will probably return full-time into the government center on April 5th and to the other outlying buildings full time April 5th in offices. We'll still be by appointment until approximately May, the first week in May. We want to start having Elders meals inside starting April 5th as well, which is on a Monday. And then also in June 1st we're looking at reopening the Aki Community Center and so that's the tentative schedule. Now that's barring any kind of resurgence of the pandemic but that's what we're looking at. We also met and we've been in discussions about the 50% per cap. So, we've been working on how the 50% per cap going from 40 to 50 % will affect the different programs within, and budgets within, the government so we're working on that, and we will keep updating the Tribal Council as we go along. My understanding is that the paperwork has been sent into the BIA and so we just want to get a jump on it, make sure that we're not running behind. There's been some questions over the weeks about attorney costs for this court action whereas it started out as Tribal Ogema vs. Tribal Council that's been going on for about four and a half years. In reviewing the invoicing etc., it appears that the Ogema has spent \$65,000 since, I believe was January of 2017, and the Tribal Council has spent \$165,000 approximately over that same time period. Those are rough estimates but about the best we can come up with at this point in time. I don't know if that includes the \$70,000. I don't believe it includes \$70,000 that's at question with the eight invoices. So, I think that's it, I've been sending to Tribal Council several communications, I haven't had much response back but just talking about the different things that have gone on. I did inform the Tribal Council that last week's vote, I believe violated the Constitution regarding the vote of the abstention regarding, I forget what the item number was, but where the abstention was used regarding the Ethics Committee. I believe that was an improper vote that violated the Constitution. I think that's it. One other item is that I've asked for and have not received, there was Counselor Crampton made mention of a non-Indian people running for office and he has not responded to my question, to either confirm or deny that. And the, I believe the Speaker did ask the Election Board and the Election Board said that there are no people that are improperly running for in this election. So, I think we're good.



R. Pete: Okay Larry I just got one question and a statement for you and then I'm going to turn it over to the queue. Any mention in the Tribal Elder's Meal Program and maybe it's too early, about serving the once-a-month meals in Muskegon?

L. Romanelli: No, the thought is that when we do the Meals Program up here, they'd be allowed in the Aki Community Center, that we might be able to restart the meals in Muskegon. We haven't had a chance to talk to those people that are in charge of that. These are meeting notes just from yesterday morning, we met for about four to five hours on this, I guess it was closer to nine to twelve, on this issue so we haven't had a chance to get out to everybody, but we will probably, my assumption is that we will probably continue those as well.

R. Pete: Okay it's not pressing, I just wondered from Muskegon what the standpoint was there. And the other statement is that I also heard that; that there was improper people's Tribal Citizens running for government offices and the inquiry and I got the emails to the Election Commission to have it properly investigated. And they came back to me, and they said that no one, only Tribal Citizens were running in the election. So, I guess that's a statement of fact.

S. Agosa: Regarding the per cap and changing it to 50%, a suggestion I've made in the past is to do a lean principles initiative for cost cutting. And also, too something that came up recently was possibly considering moving the golf course and the gas station to the EDC and would that save the tribe money. So, I think assessment would have to be done but I just wanted to make those suggestions. When reviewing how to accommodate the per cap, I think there are ways.

S. Crampton: All right well I'd like to start by saying Mr. Romanelli is a bald-faced liar. He's using this right now to try and initiate the conversation beyond the *[interrupted by noise from unmuted phone]* thank you, now back to what I was saying. He has a son running, he's trying to initiate things using his position and thank you for that comment. He's lying again, he lied about the election fraud, it's proven he's a liar. His son's running for election, this is a shameless play by the Ogema and the Speaker and I'm glad you put it on recording. I'm done with your games; this is tribal business. You're a couple of used car salesmen that's all you have to offer. It's done, stay to business. Thank you.

G. DiPiazza: It is in the minutes from a long time ago about somebody calling and saying there was election fraud. The Election Board even stood at the podium and asked about it. That was never clarified. So, I don't know but, *[interrupted by S. Crampton: you just spoke out of turn]* liars and everything, Mr. Speaker you need to take control.

S. Crampton: There is proof that, there is a hearing where *[interrupted by R. Pete: It is not your turn]* he was cc'd with the proof. You know it, I know it.

G. DiPiazza: I was in the queue; Mr. Speaker I was in the queue. Please control that other Councilor.

L. Romanelli: You know again I take exception to a Counselor calling me a bald-faced liar, whatever the case is, you know, bald-faced liar. And you know the election fraud has not been, I don't know what kind of documentation he has, he said he was going to the FBI with it at the time. That never happened. I contacted the Western District and there was no interest in even attempting to go with that. You know these things continue constantly and the non-Indian is not about my son. This non-Indian situation is, and I sent this to the Tribal Council, that Counselor Champagne said that I was not Native American, and I wanted her to provide the proof. This has nothing to do with my son. It has to do with a Council Member calling the Ogema out for being non-Indian. The other issue is we have two other people that were in question about not being Native American. One was a judge and the other one is somebody running for a nine-county position, so for them to assume that I was talking about my son is incorrect. I take exception to all of this. I think the fact that Councilor Crampton made the statements that he did, he should have been removed from the meeting immediately and this is part of the problem that goes on continually. We also talk about, you know, I have documentation going back to 2008 shortly after I was put into office, where Counselor Crampton and others brought documentation stating these people were not supposed to be in the tribe and that I should contact Dr. McClurken and again, this has gone on for 14 years and at the time I did contact Dr. McClurken. I don't want to get his name in here I think this is so ridiculous, but I did contact him at the time. What Dr. McClurken said is Little River is one of the few tribes where if you repeat a lie enough times it becomes a reality or something to that effect. He also said that he never asked for anybody or suggested that anybody be removed from the roles. I'm getting real tired of this after 14 years. I see the Facebook post we have one from hope paper heart whatever, that says a well-known anthropologist, I believe she's talking about Dr. McClurken, did state in the minutes there are people enrolled who don't meet the eligibility requirements. Please show these documents, this is out of hand. You're putting, you're not putting me, well you're putting me at risk too, but you're putting this tribe at risk by all that constant nonsense. You have the 50% per cap that is going to affect this tribe, you have the attorney costs...[noise] I'm done, take care of whoever just interrupted me, thank you.

J. Steinberg: First, I want to say Ogema Romanelli, thank you for that update, in particular about the impact of the 50% per cap and how that might impact programs. If I understand correctly and maybe you can kind of help me out here, the 50% per cap adjusts the Government Operations portion by 10% so, I was wondering if you had a little snapshot yet of what might be impacted in that that particular portion of the Revenue Allocation Plan. I know that we've been through this a couple of times when I was Tribal Manager, when revenues reduced, and we had some need to make reductions to budgets, so I know that this is going to be something you're going to have to explore carefully. I just wondered if you might have any idea right now where some of those impacts might be in that particular portion of the Allocation Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, that's all I have.

L. Romanelli: Yeah, it actually adds up to over 14% reduction from all indications. That is a variance of about 1.2 million dollars from the Tribal Government. I met with the Tribal Budget Manager and with the CFO, it was my hopes that before this 50% was put forward, that during the work sessions that those two would have been involved with it and invited to the meetings, they were not. So, if we talk about the, and I have some paperwork here, the Tribal Government portion again is 1.2 million dollars, the Tribal Government portion is, it includes stuff like the Muskegon Office, Human Resources, Finance, IT, Gaming, Down Payment Assistance & Closing Costs, Housing, Elders Complex, and the list goes on, I mean you have TERT; and so, yeah, those are some of the items that are affected. It averages about 13% reduction.

S. Agosa: Just to continue about the ethnohistorian, Jim McClurken; It has been stated in the work sessions about enrollment, that he did complete an audit and it was never implemented. And also, in the June 25, 2008, meeting minutes, there is a conversation about this. And I can even quote what it says, Councilor Crampton asked if that is all that Jim McClurken said to the Ogema. Romanelli stated no that is not all McClurken said. Crampton asked if McClurken also said there are members enrolled here that are not members. Romanelli stated he did say that yes. And it goes on in a very lengthy detail about this issue so what I would like to see is that McClurken's audit is brought forward and implemented. That would clear up a lot of the controversy and I agree, I feel that there are certain requirements to be a member that we all have to follow and that across the board, it's the fair thing to do. That if some families have to meet a requirement, then all families should have to meet the requirement. So, Larry do you have this audit accessible, and can you bring it forward? I don't think it's on the onus of members to have to bring forward an audit, especially if it's in the meeting minutes. This is something that I feel you should be responsible for, thank you.

L. Romanelli: Okay sure and the issue is and Sara here's what I think, I think on every one of these issues, both sides need to bring the documentation that they have once and for all. Because there's more to the story with the Jim McClurken and the whole enrollment issue. To date the audit findings have shown that everybody that is in there, should be in there. Everybody has to follow the same criteria, there aren't different criteria's. The issue becomes and we go back to the Durant Rolls, and this is why it's a lengthier conversation, we go back to the Durant Roll this tribe chose to say that I may be a little off here, but I believe that this tribe chose to say that anybody listed on the Durant Roll would be listed as a four-fourths Native American not all people were four-fourths Native American, and this is where some of the confusion comes in. I can assure you that the enrollment numbers and audits are in conformity with what the Tribal Council or the Constitution put forward for enrollment. And this not getting to the bottom of it has lingered for so many years, I say both sides bring all of the documentation you have whether it be on my Native American background or on any other Tribal Members background and the audits and the Jimmy McClurken information and we can even bring Jim in if you want to, I hate to bring him in, he's done wonderful work over the years. But the whole 50%, the whole eight invoices, the whole non-Indian basis, the whole attorney

costs, let's get to the bottom of it and see what we have. This halfway thing of calling somebody a liar and getting upset and not producing, I've asked for this information for a long time. What you have in the minutes, I'm not sure what that means. I'd have to see the whole thing but bring them on then, but I am highly upset with the way this tribe has been run and why these Facebook posts like what you posted, and people continue to post is detrimental to this tribe. I also take offense as long as I have the microphone of you saying that people that are working for our government or offices or our casino are on these calls for entertainment purposes. I think that's the same type of nonsense that's spoken and I take offense to that. We're hard-working people over here, I'm sitting in a lodge room that any one of the Council people could be sitting in and we work hard so bring those documents forward and let's cut the nonsense, that's it.

C. Champagne: I want to address Ogema Romanelli. He keeps saying that I said he was not Tribal. I never said he was not Tribal and if he wants it to come out clear I'm going to say since the Ethics Ordinance has been declared unconstitutional, I would not be releasing confidential information from the Ethics Meeting. He brought me up on ethics and he was under oath, and I asked him I asked him Mr. Romanelli what is your race and he refused to answer. He refused, I asked him a number of times. Miss Stone told me that I couldn't ask him that, he was under oath, and I was being questioned as to what I was doing, I felt I had every right to understand if he was Tribal and his only comment was 'Well, I'm Ogema' well that doesn't mean anything to me. When it comes to if you're going to bring me up on some charges, fictitious charges, then I want to know if you're Tribal and I asked him that. I never said he wasn't, he never answered that question. And the reason I asked that question, I'm going to be very clear here, is because before he got into being Ogema, in State Court under oath, he swore he was not Tribal. So, when you make a statement like that, under oath, I have to question you on it. So, that's what I did. I never said he wasn't Tribal; he keeps saying that. And I guess I'm getting a little bit tired of him saying that I said something that I didn't. I did question him on it, I do not deny that. So that's what I wanted to say, and he keeps putting my name out there, why? I'm not even running for Council [*L. Romanelli interjected: nor am I*] but you keep putting my name out there like I am so what are you trying to prove Larry? And I'll let it go at that, thanks Ron.

L. Romanelli: Okay and that's why I'm for not destroying the records of the Ethics, the Ethics Ordinance should be dissolved but the record should stand. The comment was made, and this is no longer in closed if this is deemed unconstitutional, she said it in front of other people, she asked me to please explain my background. I refused to do it because that wasn't what it was about, she says you've answered my question, you are not a Tribal person. Other people heard it that were in there, so she does say it. Her son is saying it on Facebook as well. He just said it within the last week and others are, so let's stop and let's get the documentation. She refers to a state court thing where I said it, please identify that, bring that document forward where I said that and let's put an end to that as well because it was never said, thank you.

C. Champagne: I'm not calling Mr. Romanelli a liar on this, but I never said what he said in that meeting. I did not say that I kept asking the question and he would not answer it. And he said I asked him in front of other people, it was a Commission that was put together for Ethics, so yes, I did say it in front of other people, the ones that were on the Commission. I never said it anywhere else, so you want to keep saying it Larry, go ahead, I'm done with you.

L. Echelberger: I just wanted to say a couple of things first, when Sara was talking someone sighed very loudly and that's just rude and if we could just curb that, that would be awesome. Secondly, I would like to support what Larry just said and get everybody getting together and getting their proof together and putting everything aside and getting it all proven once and for all because it is an issue. I stood up for a candidate who was being called out by another candidate for being non-Native, and I asked that that person provided some proof because I think calling somebody non-Native is a serious offense and it's something that we should all take seriously because that finger can be pointed at literally anybody without proof. That candidate then apologized to the other candidate because it was unfounded, but that hurts all of us. So, I just agree with Larry, and I hope that we just go forward, and we can get all of the proof together, if there's proof and get it together and let's all sit down and figure it out and just be done with it.

S. Crampton: Well, I just wanted to go back, that this is not the Ogema's Weekly Status Update, and these issues were not mentioned by anybody else but Mr. Romanelli. And yes, he is lying, and yes there is proof. Now if what Sara Agosa was talking about is that the members, you can do it right now, go to the minutes of June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, page 16. Mr. Romanelli is a liar, a flat-out liar. I gave him papers, he is the enforcer of our laws, he was supposed to investigate them. I got a call the night before from Mr. McClurken saying, 'something interesting just happened' and I go 'what happened' he goes 'I told Larry the information. He didn't want to hear it, he seemed to want to spin it a different way' and if you go to these minutes and you start reading, you'll see Mr. Romanelli trying to spin it. At the end of the spin, when he thinks he's all done, myself Councilor Crampton says 'is that all Mr. McClurken said' because he was trying to present it as that's all he said. Ogema Romanelli stated, 'no that is not all McClurken said'. Crampton asked if McClurken also said there were members enrolled here, that are not members? Romanelli stated 'yes he did say that' you can go look at it right now. He's lying to your faces, at this minute, come on now, [noise] hit mute or kick him out of the meeting.

L. Romanelli: Go for it.

S. Crampton: Go for it? You guys know who said that. Kick him out.

L. Romanelli: That was Larry Romanelli.

S. Crampton: And you interrupted me.

L. Romanelli: Kick me out.

S. Crampton: There's absolute proof that you're lying and I'm not going to start a conversation with you. Speaker, you're not doing your job. You're allowing him again to do this. This is what we're talking about, he's out of control, he's a liar, he's out of control. He's said these things, he knows, he was given information about the election fraud. That was a lie, he was given that information. I've asked the prosecutor and an investigator to attend today, we are holding a meeting with him at two o'clock, this will be fleshed out for the membership. Mr. Romanelli's games are done, thank you.

R. Pete: I'm going to interrupt, anybody called Councilor Crampton a liar in this video he'd be saying Mr. Speaker, get control, get control of this. This is not very respectful of anybody; he's calling people a liar. And you know he talks about an election fraud; I was in Council the day that Joe Riley was Speaker of Council and we had *[interrupted by S. Crampton: you can't lie Mr. Pete]* just a moment and we had an open meeting and Councilor Crampton came up and said right in front of everybody and people who say they didn't hear it or something like that *[interrupted by S. Crampton: he's lying]* they should have had their hearing aids turned on because he called Ogema Romanelli and he called Israel Stone that he could prove that there was an election fraud. And Joe Riley stopped and then he said to him, 'you got anything for proof' because he wanted him to call the FBI. And Joe Riley said I'm not calling the FBI and he said unless you could produce proof and he said I'll have the proof here in the next couple of days. And he never produced the proof, he never did anything else. And we had a meeting on it with the Election council in Open Council and they said no. Because, you know what the next time someone calls a liar and has something like that and disrespects anything, Gary remove them immediately. I'll go back to my queue; I'm done with you.

S. Mezeske: I'm going to relate back to one of Larry's updates when he talked about the Ethics Ordinance. I also feel as though Tribal Council voted okay and at that time there are Council Members sitting there that had Ethnic Complaints against them. They should have declared a conflict of interest at that time. So, I would appreciate and I'm, Gary you were the abstention, I believe it should be brought back forward and let those Council Members that had complaints against them, declare a conflict of interest. I mean it's wrong and to destroy documentation if you as Council Members in this meeting is... not doing well on my heart again today, it's not, its accusations, accusations, accusations, and I wish most of these Council Members that are running, the ones that aren't on this call, got as much airtime as everybody else there that's wrong. But the Ethics Ordinance that needs to really be looked at again because I'm telling you how fed up I am. I have documentation, the invoices and all the information I have I am calling Shane Lewis. I have had it; this tribe is a mess. All you do is fight and argue constantly, constantly, this meeting is not any better Ron, I appreciate you so much for trying to keep control, but when there's interruptions, it's just sad for our tribe. I'm not going to go into the invoices, I'm doing that on my own, but this Ethics really needs to be relooked at. Gary it should be you because you abstained from it. You need to bring it back forward and let those Council Members declare a conflict of interest from voting. Thank you.

S. Agosa: So, my first comment is about the ethnohistorian James McClurken and the audit that was performed, I agree I think that we should have him come back, that audit should be taken out for the member's review. And from what I understand, listening in on work sessions, we have contracted with another genealogist in the area, and I asked why. Why we wouldn't use an ethnohistorian who's well known in Michigan working with tribes to do their enrollment audits and I was told that it's because the other genealogist is cheaper and less expensive however she does not have the ethnohistorical background that he does, he has a PHD as well. So, I absolutely agree we did pay for that audit and the fact that it was never implemented is also one of my concerns, so I definitely feel, let's open up everything, have him come back and straighten this out once and for all. So, my second comment is related to members attending these meetings who are employed. I definitely feel they have the right to do that, that really wasn't my point, and I don't want it to get twisted. I would like to see though that if members do come that they're coming on their personal time and that politics is separated from their paid positions. I think that's fair and also too my statement was regarding last week's meeting, and you know I was made fun of, it made me feel very uncomfortable and I honestly almost cried, so that's why I brought up that topic. Just to remember also too just establishing an environment of mutual respect and even with Elders. We all try to respect Elders but that is not an excuse to have immature behavior, or use vulgarity, or be disrespectful to other groups.

R. Pete: I'm going to interrupt you, this is Public Comment, so this is about the Ogema now and if it isn't about the Ogema, we're moving on.

S. Agosa: Well, it is related to what he said, that he took exception to my prior comment so to wrap that up I just want to say that our Elders are very beloved, and they have always been loving and gentle to other groups and I just hope that the Elders do remember that. So, my other comment is about the Ethics Ordinance and the vote. I really don't understand why we're rehashing this now, since the court did deem it unconstitutional, I don't even understand why Tribal Council had to vote to remove this. It seems like the court is the law of the land and so I don't understand why there had to be a secondary vote to remove it again not to forget that the court's decision is the law of the land, and it was deemed unconstitutional, so to me this has been finalized.

J. Steinberg: Getting back to the redirection of funds from the Revenue Allocation Plan. I was wondering Ogema Romanelli if you've looked at the distributions and the reduction in the impact of Covid for this year and if you've done any projections in addition to the Revenue Allocation Plan being restructured as to what the overall impact might be to the Operational Budget for the government for services and supportive services, like HR and IT and Finance. I just wondered if that percent, I know that you mentioned a 13%, I wondered if that percentage might be adjusted up a little bit if you factored in everything. So that was my question, thank you.

L. Romanelli: Yeah, everything has been factored in the Covid from last year because again, last year we can't use as a model. We can hope that it's going to get better, we can

try to assume what might happen, and what might not happen, so that factored in. Yes, I talked with the CFO and the Budget Coordinator, and I think and with our Leads and so we met, and we discussed everything, we did it line by line. Now the problem we have is that if we did it straight across the board, we had some numbers that we had to go through and said okay if this is approved by or sent back by the BIA and we just applied it across the board there could be a problem because some of the programs don't have the kind of money to do it so we're going to have to rearrange from one area to the other. We did factor in Covid, we did factor in that this thing could come back in the middle of the year so the total will change depending on where we're at. I really wish that the Tribal Council before approving a 50% per cap, would have met with the CFO and the Budget Coordinator and had these discussions. Because when I talked to him yesterday and I'd been on a couple of the work sessions, and I asked Council if they'd been involved with it and they said no, they had not invited them. And my thought was that maybe they would invite him to the next meeting, before sending this out. It's been sent out and so we're trying to play catch up here and trying to find out where to go. So yes, we've taken everything into consideration. We take into consideration, what if there's a second pandemic, you know, I mean this is very serious. And obviously I wasn't for the 50% change, I wasn't for it last time either. But I agreed this time, that if the Council said they wanted to make this happen, that I would not interfere and veto it. I think that it's going to be detrimental to a lot of the programs that we have and there's Elder Programs and there's you name it, the Education, etc. We can no longer, because there was a time where this tribe had a 30 million dollar plus, you know, amount we are now down to 21 or thereabouts and dropping and now with the 50% that's even less coming to the government. We cannot continue to sustain these programs the way we are and so it's going to be detrimental in some areas, and I want to get a jump on it so that we can inform the membership of the changes that will happen but yes, we've been looking at everything from all points of view. So, thank you.

S. Thull: I brought up in a Tribal Council Meeting, I believe a week or two ago, about the Fruitport Downtown Development and whether the Ogema could be on that Board representing Little River without a Resolution? Is there a procedure to go through? I'm wondering if someone has looked into that or if ULD could comment, I just want to make sure that we are abiding by all of our laws. My second question is, since we're discussing the 50% RAP, if the ULD could speak on that. I believe it was Rebecca that said, when I asked about the progress and she said that they had sent it in and she said they received something back, I'm not sure what they had received back from the BIA, if she could let us know where they're at on that, I would appreciate it, thank you.

G. DiPiazza: Well, our Tribal Council Procedures Resolution, that we all went through numerous times because nobody liked it to preregister. Number seven, Tribal Members shall limit their comments and questions to five minutes, no Tribal Member may delegate their time to another Tribal Member, so five minutes, that's unless you want to change that too. So also I got the McClurken Open Session Meeting and you know when somebody points to a paragraph and like reads that paragraph and you don't read the



whole thing all the way down to the bottom creates a lot of problems because now you're misdirecting and the misdirecting would be say Counselor Koon noted he was just handed a note from one of their attorneys that said she faxed documents to BIA and the response was, they were Michigan Auto Associates documents and they are meaningless. That's from the BIA and that's June 25th [*year was drowned out by someone coughing*] Open Session Minutes if anybody really wants Resolution 03-1105-372 is about the Durant Roll and 03-0924-035 is also about the Durant Roll clarification about the check marks. And also, I will note that Mr. Crampton had checked out at 11:06, so he is no longer on the call as far as I know.

A. Metzger: I'm just asking for some clarification on the four fourth assumption, was that for the whole Durant Roll or just the '07 supplement because a statement that Ogema had earlier. Miigwetch.

R. Pete: I can't answer for that, for the Durant Roll when it was done so I can't answer for you.

R. Liebing: I just wanted to respond to Susan's question about the Revenue Allocation Plan and what we had updated last time we don't have an additional update. What I had updated last time was, that very day or I think it was maybe the day before, they had emailed me to let me know that it moved from the BIA Regional Office to the National Office for review. And so that's where it still sits, typically something like this does take three to four months, in my experience. So, I think we're on track for that timeline and that's where we're at with that.

S. Thull: Mr. Speaker could I get an answer to the Fruitport Downtown Development?

G. DiPiazza: What I was going to say is, he is the Chief of this Tribe. He is the Ogema there are things that are delegated to the Ogema that I'm not purvey too. Like CORA I sit on CORA at his grace to be vice chair because I'm the vice chair of CORA also you got to remember any of the MAST anything that's going on even if you went to Washington DC the Ogema is the one invited to go and sit on these and be there legislative you know. Elected officials a lot of times they're not really invited, but the Ogema if Biden said come on down and see me, then he could go. But there's nothing that says the Ogema can't sit on any Boards or Commissions. Yeah, I'm good. Sara's already had her five minutes so quit raising your hand.

R. Liebing: I don't know the details of this specific Board so we would have to look into it but in general the Ogema has specific Constitutional Authority that is separate and apart from Tribal Council and does not require a Tribal Council Resolution. In addition to that, Tribal Council has passed a Resolution that designates the Spokesperson for the Tribe and so we would need to look into it a little bit further, but nothing right now is indicating to me that he would not be able to do this. And if Council and the Ogema want us to look into it, we certainly can.

### **C. Legislative Affairs Update**

G. DiPiazza: Just saying the Johnson and Johnson vaccine will be out like March 28th so we'll see how that goes that's a one-shot deal. Also, I don't know you know I'm a little distraught, you know some of the things I see and read you know not just Facebook, but you know when the people out in this world are trying to cleanse the world of things they don't like. Whether it's pepe le pew or the Pillsbury doughboy cause they don't wear no pants or frosty because you don't know what the [*indecipherable*] is playing and things like that you know we need to speak up when we can. Because some of these things you know back in 1939, 1938 anyway somebody else tried to cleanse the world and wipe the record clean and then start over and it's been done quite a few times so when you when you just when you actually cleanse the world of the things you don't like history will repeat itself and I'm in no mood to watch our people go through what we used to go through and what we had to endure because I guarantee you I was called a wapaho back in the day and they got me a few scars here and there

S. Thull: I'm sorry, I'm sorry to interrupt Gary, but this sounds like something maybe you should be on the timer for and maybe put into Public Comment.

G. DiPiazza: This is legislative.

S. Thull: Well not what you're saying, thank you.

R. Pete: Well, you know what, I'm going to say there's a lot of people that I could have interrupted now [*indecipherable*] Gary continue.

G. DiPiazza: No that's good that um that was that was interesting I got interrupted but that's okay I'm done with like if you would like to move into public comment.

### **D. Public Comment Period**

J. Steinberg: Thanks Mr. Speaker, actually I did have a couple of legislative things. The House of Representatives just put the Violence Against Women Act legislation to the floor so I think that that's going to be something that the Tribe will want to watch. Especially as it's going to probably bring money for data mining in data systems as far as Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies are concerned. The other thing is they just, in the House are reconciling the Covid 19 Stimulus Bill. There's a lot of financing coming to Tribes, a lot of funding opportunities for Tribes in that particular piece of legislation. You probably want to have somebody kind of glean what's in that Bill and see the types of programming increases you might see or other opportunities to receive funding to support some of the impacts of Covid on the Tribe and its operations. And then the last, probably most significant thing, is on March 15th the full Senate is going to take up the Confirmation of Deb Haaland, who is a member of the Navajo Nation, from New Mexico as the Secretary of Interior and I just wanted to put that out there. I believe that confirmation hearing is going to be live on C-Span so I'm really hopeful that Ms. Haaland

will become confirmed as the Secretary of Interior. It will be the first time in the history of the US that that particular division which has exclusive jurisdiction over Tribes would have a Tribal Citizen Enrollee as its Secretary, so that's all I wanted to say. Thanks Mr. Speaker.

R. McCaslin: I would just like to start it off with once my Elder Loonsfoot there gave me this piece of copper and then he shared with me 'no matter where you look, that one time that was all of ours'. and just look out your home wherever you're going and so I take some of those words seriously. And right now, you know the 106 process, we should be educating about the 106 process, and because it's a big thing, it really is. And when you take all those different laws it just sets it all aside and Copen said it with the Federal Government, and you know I see this battle all the time. And it's an opportunity and this opportunity is when we get in discussions with the people that we chose to be our leaders you know we have an Educational Department that we should be able to branch off from and have a group over here or over there, so we can come into a discussion. I don't know too much about how April's coming up, for the Spring Membership. We're using these tools today as communications with Senators you know the real state legislating bodies and no updates, I'm a liaison, well you know I've met with several Senators this last month and today I have one at 1:00 and it's about protecting the water again in hydraulic fracturing. And so, I've been set up all the way through April. but you know it's not about me, it's about the 'we' you know, 'we understand sovereign ground'. Once we put somebody in an elected position you know only, we can take care of it or get rid of it. We understand that and you know so I don't know all these different Commissions that are, our Elders Commission could be right here. We could be on a breakout group, we could be talking, that's 'our educational system' and that's how the new world is going to start continuing to be, is in all these focus groups and our universities we should be on top of it. You know we should be corresponding with all of the universities as far as them guys teaching our history. Actually, we're living our history some of us. But you know so that's that's kind of basically to take these tools the Elder Committee, the Housing Commission, all of these Commissions and I do see that we have liaisons, I've never heard feedback well I just talked to you know Senator Toomey you know. I never hear all that stuff back or feedback or break out. But the 106 is very important, the State of Michigan just hired somebody or looking for somebody. I hope that the Tribe steps up puts the application in so that we can protect the Mounds of the Grand River or the Thornapple River branches of if you look back, if you're 70 years old today, Michigan was only a state for 114 years. And if you're older than 70 then you know it, that this country is not that old. This country ain't that old to be suffering the way that it is. So. you know at 184 years we're looking pretty damaged. So that 106, no matter where you are if you're just combined in a little county you're fine, but 'our people were there' no matter where you meet, immigrate to, 'we were there' There's actually signs and locations of all these places you know Timber Falls, you know but you got to be careful because some states don't even recognize an Indian and Pennsylvania actually one of those but they're *[interrupted by R. Pete: 15 seconds left of your five minutes]* okay, Baamaapii.

M. Chandler: I know we keep on talking about how 50% per cap is going to greatly reduce what the Executive side, the Government side can do for its citizens. My question is why haven't we put a system in place to say Casino this is how much money you're going to give us this quarter. No excuses, this is what you will give us. If you have to make cuts on your side to accomplish this, fine but this is how much you will give us, instead of us asking the Casino how much will you give us. Tell them you will give us this each quarter and if it can't be done if you can explain to us why it can't be done. Thank you.

R. Pete: Okay thank you. We've tried that before and in fact they're making every cut that they can.

S. Agosa: I have several comments first of all Gary I've noticed, and I believe you're doing it you're putting my hand down and I really don't appreciate it. You know at times I feel this environment is absolutely ruthless and unprofessional. I have never been in a business meeting before that's just so antagonistic and unprofessional so I'd really appreciate if you wouldn't do that. Regarding any Facebook posts I make about getting information out to the membership that is absolutely my right and the right of the members to have access to information and to be censored in this meeting as well as chastised for posting information on Facebook is just not okay that's unacceptable. I would like to see our leaders just have higher expectations for our entire community and that's part of it having good communication and information outreach. I'd also like to say during the Ogema update that, every single week it's shut down, it's pushed through quickly, and I'd like to know from both Ron and Gary, why members cannot ask questions of the Ogema on a number of topics. He oversees the casino and the government a multi-million-dollar operation both of them so I'd really appreciate if you would allow us, as members, that's our right to ask questions of the Ogema on a number of topics whatever we want to ask and that we receive responses. That's my expectation for leadership. My other comments regarding the per capita and how to make the 50% work, I absolutely agree with the prior comment that we have to look at everything in terms of for one there's been a number of Organizational Assessments that have been done that have never been implemented including reviewing top heavy positions and overpaid salaries at the casino. So, I would like to know from the Ogema why we've paid for Organizational Assessments, and they've never been implemented? There are a number of ways that we could cut costs in order to reach this 50%, absolutely agree that we should ask for what we're expecting from the casino and not the other way around. My other comment is regarding the Cyber Security Risk Assessment that was done about six months ago that was moved from close to open session and I've been requesting for weeks to have access to this, and I'd like to request again that this is posted on the website for members' access. I don't know why there's been a delay, but technology is very important. Also, too regarding the reopening of the government just a couple things I hope have been taken into account; one, are all employees mandated to be vaccinated, if there's going to be a full reopening has it been taken into account, the different strains the British, Brazilian, I'm sure there's others. And also, too an assessment of risk to

transmitting the virus to youth, still no vaccine for youth so how does that work and have youth been accounted for in the reopening and our families. And my last question is Biden's Covid Relief Bill hopefully will pass today and I would really like Tribal Council and the Ogema to please consider another direct payment to our members if we are given funds. And also, too just to remind you... *[interrupted by R. Pete: Okay, that's about 20 questions that you've asked so far so I guess]* right so I have five minutes, okay so I'll wrap up. From the last Member Assistance Covid Relief Payment it seemed as though there was about a million dollars left over and we have never received a response what happened to those funds and how they've been used. Those are my comments, thank you.

M. Burmeister: I understand that people have questions and concerns about the Resort and how things operate but I will contend that we're the only ones that make money. I don't see any other entities throwing money into the pot but yet everybody wants to cast stones at the Resort. I for one have been here every day regardless of the shutdown, I've been here every day, as some of my team members. And they come in here, put themselves at risk, and I take exception to somebody saying we're not doing our jobs. That's all I got, thank you.

G. DiPiazza: Okey dokey this Resolution we did for Tribal Council Procedures for the interactive let me read it one more time 'Tribal Members shall limit their comments, questions to five minutes. No Tribal Member may delegate their time to another Tribal Member. Failure to follow the rules shall result in the following actions,' you know we went over this numerous times, numerous. If you didn't want that in there, then that should have been spoke of and done. But as it speaks you get five minutes. I'm a little disrupted that somebody wanted to curtail me on a legislative and that's very important and I'm going to tell you why. Because Germany used the same tactics that the United States used on the Native Americans and seen how America did that to the Natives. Germany used that same theory and tactic and that same layout. So, when you alter history, you want to erase history, because I don't like a shirt he's wearing, and I don't like what somebody's doing, when you do that, history is going to repeat itself. And you know what and yeah, I kept knocking your hand down, because you've already had five minutes. Would you like me to send you the Interactive Resolution again, so you can read it? I don't know what...

Sara Agosa: *[Interrupted]* Gary I'd like to respond to that.

G. DiPiazza: No, I don't, I'm not going to respond. It's my time to talk so please refrain. As far as your audit that's been online since it was done, you know, I can't, I don't know the time, it's on the web. But like I said you know the way this interactive reads, it's five minutes. I don't know what else to say, if you don't like it then we'll fix it. But until that point that's what's in place. Tommy keeps waving his hand at me, I don't know if he's got to go the bathroom or what.

R. Pete: Okay I've got Larry, Sandra, Tom, and Sara again, so I got Larry first.

G. DiPiazza: She's already had her five minutes though sir.

L. Romanelli: I'm going to try and be brief, I'm going to try and answer some of these questions. First off yes, we look at the situation with the Resort all the time and we've looked at top heavy positions before. We've done reports on that. The last audit of the Resort that was just done recently there were no findings. We have excellent employees over there and I again take exception to people continually questioning them when we have people like Michael Burmeister who said he's been there every day throughout you know on his job. We have people over on this side and to keep badgering, it feels like badgering these people look they're good employees let's leave it at that and move on from there. I also want to say that I have something that I'm going to read here, two things and then I'll be done. I don't think there's much more I have to answer. We have the whole paper heart dreams that said a very well-known anthropologist researcher did state in minutes there were people enrolled who don't meet the eligibility requirements. I feel that everyone should have to meet the eligibility requirements because this is fair, we need another audit done, and she goes on. I'm going to read from an email sent by James McClurken, the person in question, and I really hate to bring these people up, but we've brought up so let's let it go. This was from January 12, 2009, and I'm going to read you two paragraphs and then I'm done. Here's what he says, I guess that your Tribe is one place where the rules of evidence do not apply, the more times an untrue statement is repeated at LRB, the more people there are who believe it. Shannon is doing me nor anyone else any good by grandstanding with my name. Any judge will want evidence and simply does not have the evidence. Let me tell you the full extent of my comments about enrollment at LRBOI. Shannon asked if there were people less than quarter blood Indians enrolled at Little River, I responded that there probably are, almost every Indian family has an ancestor who married someone of French origin, or European origin. If a genealogy is carefully compiled back as far as one can go, then many of the people who count as quarter blood Ottawa's are not. But that does not matter for enrollment at LRB, the Tribe has a right to determine who the members are. The Tribal Council has created the rules and has determined that every person on the Durant Roll is four fourths Indian blood for the sake of enrollment with a tribe. Thus, no non-Indian ancestor who lived prior to the creation of the 1907 roll is deducted from blood quantum count for the purpose of enrollment. That's what he says, now somebody please bring me all the other information that we're talking about. That comes directly from Dr. McClurken himself. And you know this was back in 2009 I repeat, so we're going on over ten years of this same thing happening. If somebody has other documentation let's bring the documentation for that, for the 50%, for my background, for attorney costs, for the eight invoices, and let's bring it all forward and stop going back and forth. I just read you something that was from the Doctor himself, thank you.

S. Mezeske: I'm going to elaborate on what Michael Burmeister has said. You know, I have worked both sides of the fence okay. And during the shutdown, and let the membership remember this, there were many, there were many on both sides that took a reduction in pay, so that they could help this tribe out. That counts for something. Those

people at the Resort work, day in, day out okay and we talk about high wages, high wages um you know go back and look a few years and you'll see what some of them were making even when they left the Resort. But the wages the wages you know I can say you know what and I will say you know Tribal Council is definitely overpaid and underworked right now. So, to say that you want to do whatever at the casino that's your golden goose that's your golden goose they are down probably 200 employees. That Resort has done everything imaginably possible during this Covid. Larry has done what was right for the government side. So, you know just give it up people, just give it up. It is, what it is. If you think that you're going to be elected to Council and go in there and clean house or take wages away, you can't do that, you can't. That is not your right, leave it alone. And you know what enrollment is closed, leave it alone. You know what, my records are sealed, and they will damn well stay sealed, so give it up. You know, if you don't think you're Native, then give up your membership, give up your membership. And if you got the documentation and I'm sure you're talking about my family, bring it forward; put your big boy pants on and bring it forward. I'm done, thank you.

*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 CLOSE THE FIRST OPEN SESSION;** by T. Guenthardt; supported by D. Corey.

R. Pete: I have a Motion by Tommy, I got support from Dave Corey, now is there any further discussion?

I. Stone: So, first and foremost I just want to declare for the inquiring minds, I'm on my lunch break right now. Secondly, I would like to say that it's discouraging to me that every time we go through an election cycle we keep going back to this person's Indian, this person's not Indian enough, who is, who isn't, how can we cut this, get rid of members, cut overhead, do all these things so that we can put more money out in distribution or through per capita and all those other things, and it gets frustrating. Secondly, I find it uh to be a bit of a hostile working environment to be quite honest with you, being a Tribal member employed for my own Tribe, when I hear the constant attacks on myself and my peers over and over and over again. And the discouraging part about that is, when you think about this and put it all into perspective, we're Tribal citizens just like the rest of the folks are on this, on this call today. And when we hear those types of things, A. what business theory is that based upon? Forced budgeting, you tell us what you want, and then make us get there? Well, you know what, you can cut all you want,

but what happens is customer service drops. You're making a cut to the customer experience. The customer experience is going to be suffering. Those customers are going to continue to move on from this property. They're going to go find another property to work at, morale is going to go down. Several study in Forbes that demonstrate that morale has a direct impact on revenue for your business. There's all kinds of business reasons why that philosophy doesn't work. And again, we keep coming back to this 50% per cap thing and you know what at the end of the day, I'm just going to say it, uh I've been around here for 20 years. Putting my time in, putting my effort in, as have many of the other people that are here now, when I hear people attacking the Ogema saying he's not Indian, that's frustrating because we come from the same family. Go ahead and pull up my background, it's well documented, my lineage is well documented and so is his. In fact, we go back to one of the original chiefs. Direct descendants to one of the original chiefs, and so if we want to have those discussions. But my frustration is this becomes an election tactic every election. And I've asked over and over again and I wish I would have done it before I left Council when I was on, you guys need a lame duck session so this kind of garbage can't continue every two years. So that we don't have to hear attacks on people's families, their lineage uh what the, you know, everybody thinks is best for the Tribe and best for the business. Um you're not operating the business, I'm sorry. For those folks that say force them to give us, whatever, you're not operating the business. You try to work under those constraints. You come to work here every day and be attacked by your own citizens for doing a job, for a service to the Tribe. And I'm not the only one that feels like this, there are several people that feel like this, we get tired of it, we get tired of it because you know what, when you come here and you put in the effort we did, then tell me what we need to cut. Thank you. and I'm done.

S. Agosa: Gary, I just want to clarify because I thought the five-minute rule applied whenever you're in the queue not a total. So now I'm being cut off? I just want to go back to my comment about the Organizational Assessments and some things that could possibly be improved in the casino. I feel like it's been twisted and gone sideways. Nobody has been personally attacking the employees at all. [*They have been. R. Pete interjected*] No they haven't. [*Yes, they have. R. Pete interjected*] This is a Tribal Council Meeting where we can express issues with management or our leadership. And to divert the ultimate reasoning or why it's been brought up, I just I don't feel that way. I don't feel that looking at management and how our funds are managed and distributed is a personal attack on the staff. My standpoint is with any company, the executive leadership establishes the goals, not the other way around. [*G. DiPiazza interrupted: You have your time up*] and that's what I like to see when it comes to our per cap distribution, thank you. [*G. DiPiazza: You have used your time up*]

M. Chandler: Whenever we start dealing with finance issues, number one, I have a Bachelor's in Business Management, I have a Master's in Organizational Leadership, and I'm working on my PHD right now in Aboriginal Training so, I think I know where I'm coming from when I come up with the thing about, we need to tell the casino this is how much money you will give us it. It didn't have anything to do with salaries but that's the



first thing that people go to, is salaries. You can accomplish these things without messing around with people's salaries. It works in other organizations and so I'm not talking salaries. I'm talking about other expenses that the casino can meet, that will tell us, or we tell them, this is how much money you will give us. Thank you.

J. Steinberg: Thanks Mr. Speaker, I'll try to make it real quick. I received a direct message; I can't respond to it but um I'm happy to respond to the direct message I got. And the other thing is, this week my daughter and I were signing up for health programs under the Affordable Care Act's Federal Exchanges and I know that she receives her care, anyway long story short, as we were going through the provider base in those plans, our clinic was not listed as a provider that was enrolled in any of those plans for reimbursement. The pharmacy was, but not the clinic services. So, I just wanted to bring that to someone's attention. I'm sure it's probably just an oversight, perhaps it hasn't been updated. But we were looking at the most recent plan documents and there were big red x's in front of our clinic services being eligible to receive reimbursement from those plans. So, I just wanted to bring it to someone's attention, so maybe it can follow up and ensure that we're receiving reimbursement for folks that are enrolled in those plans. Thank you, that's all I have.

T. Guenthardt: I'd like to call the question.

R. Pete: Gary, I have Motion on the floor from Tom, I got support from Dave Corey, and Tom has called the question, go ahead, and do a roll call.

**Roll Call #6**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

G. DiPiazza: We've adjourned First Open at 12:03 p.m.

**V Open Session**

G. DiPiazza: Mr. Speaker the Recorder is on.

R. Pete: Okay thank you Gary. I need a Motion to move us into our second open.

**MOTION TO MOVE INTO SECOND OPEN;** by T. Guenthardt;  
supported by C. Champagne.

R. Pete: I got a Motion from Tom, support from Cindy, is there any further discussion, is anyone going to abstain? Can we do a roll call.

**Roll Call #7**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

G. DiPiazza: Seven in favor, two absent, we're in Second Open at 12:22 p.m.

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

**MOTION TO MOVE RESOLUTION# 21-0310-066 AND 21-0310-067, RESOLUTION, MOTION, AND ROLL CALL INTO OPEN SESSION;** by G. DiPiazza; supported by T. Guenthardt.

R. Pete: Okay I got a Motion from Gary, I got support from Tom, is there any further discussion, is anyone going to abstain? Gary, please do a call.

**Roll Call #8**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

G. DiPiazza: seven in favor, two absent, them items have been moved.

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #21-0310-066, RATIFICATION OF MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT CONTRACT WITH ELEVATE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS;** by Guenthardt; supported by Corey.

**Roll Call #C-3**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #21-0310-067,  
RATIFICATION OF TELE-RAD SERVICE CONTRACT;** by  
Guenthardt; supported by DiPiazza.

**Roll Call #C-4**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

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

**VI. Adjourn**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN SECOND OPEN;** by T. Guenthardt;  
supported by G. DiPiazza

R. Pete: Okay I got a motion from Tom, I got support from Gary, is there any discussion, is anybody going to abstain? Gary do a roll call please.

**Roll Call #9**

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

G. DiPiazza: Seven in favor, two are absent, we've adjourned Second Open at 12:24 p.m.

R. Pete: Okay, thank you everybody have a good day.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Thull".

Susan Thull  
Temp. Transcribing Asst.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Di Piazza".

Gary Di Piazza  
Tribal Council Recorder

