



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 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 31, 2021. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Recorder DiPiazza: Mr. Speaker the Recorder is on.

Speaker Pete: Thank you so much Gary. I'd like to welcome everyone to Wednesday March 31, 2021, at 10 a.m., Tribal Council Meeting. We're going to start with opening prayer.

Recorder DiPiazza: Mr. McCaslin's going to give us the honor this morning.

Speaker Pete: Okay thank you. Thank you, Robert.

I. Opening Prayer

Elder Robert McCaslin offered Opening Prayer.

As we offer up this Wabano, this place of renewal life, each and every day we take that moment to silence we offer up to that place of the Southern Place where love is. We remind ourselves of the Constitution of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and as we exercise our sovereign powers in order to organize for the common good, to govern ourselves under our own laws, to maintain and foster our Tribal culture provided for the welfare and the purpose of our people, and to protect our homeland. We adopt this Constitution in accordance with the Indian Recognition Act of 1934 as amended by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, I'm thinking about that beginning. I'm thinking about the ones that are just grown here and to maintain and foster our Tribal Culture. And right now, we're in a trying time and that trying time, you know, the impossible is possible, and with that we go to that nightmare will remain when we cross over. That's the path in the doorway that we will foster and then to that kiwi. And I'm looking at the knowledge, the wisdom and I'm looking at all that sharing that goes on when we lose track of who we are, as people, and to set that on a road to a renewal of each and every

day. And we return to this Eastern Doorway and that is my prayer of today. Miigwetch [*Anishinaabemowin*] Robert McCaslin, a member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. That moment of silence to make this journey and to proceed on this day, that we ask the impossible to become possible.

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

R. Pete: We're calling this meeting to order at 10:22. Do a roll call Gary.

B. Roll Call

Roll Call #1

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

Quorum established

G. DiPiazza: Eight are present, we have a quorum.

Staff Present: Robert Medacco, Public Safety Director; Tara Bailey, Housing Director; Bill Willis, Budget Director; Lyle Dorr, Grant Writer; Ken LaHaye, Food Distribution Program.

Others Present: Ogema Larry Romanelli, Robert McCaslin 0748, Jessica Steinberg 0148, Sara Agosa 4478, Nikki Nelson 0421, Chelsea Densmore 3225, Susan Thull 3727

C. Approval of Agenda

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MARCH 31, 2021; by

T. Guenthardt; supported by D. Lonn.

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

Roll Call #2

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Eight in favor, one absent, the Agenda for Wednesday, March 31, 2021, has been approved.

D. Tribal Council Minutes None Submitted

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts nothing to show

B. Budget Modifications

- 1. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S. Department of Interior-BIA Law Enforcement OJS and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2021- in the amount of \$45,095**

R. Medacco: Good morning Council, this is a opportunity that we got from the BIA through the OJS. They sent out a memo to all Tribes Law Enforcement Agencies that they had an excess from a 2020 budget and if we would like to participate and apply for any of those funds. I had some programs that I wanted to bring up last year but with Covid it just didn't seem respectful to do so this seemed like a great opportunity to fund these programs without utilizing Tribal dollars to upstart these programs. This is for the amount of \$45,095 and they will go to fund a Canine Program for the department and also outfit divers that will participate in the area dive team.

R. Pete: Okay thank you Robert. Is there any questions for Robert?

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #21-0331-080
ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FROM THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR-BIA LAW ENFORCEMENT OJS
AND APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE OPERATING
BUDGET MB-2021-14 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,095; by T.
Guenthardt; supported by D. Lonn.**

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

R. McCaslin: I was just looking over the broken promises and treaties of legislation and several people are out here in the world knowing that all these being underfunded and contributing to that way of life. We know that two years administration right, the next two years will kick in, but right now we're at a great conversational piece of increasing or maintaining that for maybe next eight years. And you're on our mind, right, because some of us are writing on these to increase that ability to maintain that. I mean there's young ones out there, there's old ones, there's all kinds of people out there, that's doing that right

now. I think about that side of it and that government-to-government relationship right. That's all I wanted to share with you Robert, about those grants and stuff. Right now, we're in a real beautiful time in Indian country.

R. Medacco: Thank you.

R. Pete: Is there any further discussion? Gary do a roll call.

Roll Call #3

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Eight in favor, one absent, Resolution #21-0331-080 is passed.

2. **Acceptance of contract funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development-2021 Indian Housing Block Grant and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2021- in the amount of \$291,767.**

T. Bailey: This is the, back in October we sent in our 2021 Indian Housing Plan and that has been accepted and the reward amount is \$291,767 for 2021 so this is just putting it in the Operating Budget. In our 2021 Indian Housing Plan we put in that we would be replacing 12 roofs, updating basketball courts, adding a shuffleboard, putting an addition onto the maintenance garage, and then the funds are used for overall maintenance of our low-income units.

R. Pete: Okay thank you Tara.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #21-0331-081
ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT-
2021 INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT AND APPROVING A
MODIFICATION TO THE OPERATING BUDGET MB-2021-15 IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$291,767; by D. Lonn; supported by S. Lewis.**

R. Pete: I've got a motion from Diane, I got support from Sandy, is there any further discussion, is anyone going to abstain? Gary do a roll call.

Roll Call #4

G. DiPiazza	Yes	D. Lonn	Yes	D. Corey	Yes
T. Guenthardt	Yes	C. Champagne	Absent	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 #21-0331-081 is passed.

3. Acceptance of contract funds from the Department of Health and Human Services-Indian Health Services and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2021- in the amount of \$1,860,658.

B. Willis: This item represents modification of #1 and modification #2 to the 2021 Self-Governance Compact with Indian Health Service. Modification #1 was \$226,923 and then modification #2 was \$1,633,735 for a total of the \$1,860,658. With these two modifications, it brings us just about \$70,000 short of what we projected we were going to get for the fiscal year from Indian Health Service. So, we do anticipate getting some additional funding, not sure exactly how much, but this has got to be one of the earliest times that we've received this much funding from Indian Health Service. So, just need to accept the money and amend the Operating Budget.

**MOTION TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION #21-0331-082
ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-INDIAN
HEALTH SERVICES AND APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO
THE OPERATING BUDGET MB-2021-16 IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$1,860,658; by D. Lonn; Supported by G. DiPiazza**

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

Roll Call #5

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Eight in favor, one absent, Resolution #21-0331-082 passed.

4. Acceptance of contract funds from the Department of Health and Human Services-Indian Health Services and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2021- in the amount of \$116,023.

B. Willis: This item represents modification #3 to the 2021 Self-Governance Compact with Indian Health Service with the addition of this funding year to date we have received \$2,876,642. We estimated in the annual budget that we were going to receive \$2,833,931 so we're actually \$42,711 to the good, in other words we've exceeded what we projected we're going to get from Indian Health Services.

J. Steinberg: Bill is this going to be the anticipated base budget going forward, the \$2,876,642, or is this funding going to be part of that base moving forward?

B. Willis: You know, I guess I couldn't particularly say, yes or no. I guess I don't want to go out on a limb, I guess to say that, but we definitely want to continue to monitor moving forward our allocation. And if there's opportunities to get additional funding, we should definitely pursue that.

J. Steinberg: Thanks Bill. Just a quick follow-up then, the line item that this was dedicated to was probably, was, that hospitals, and clinics? I'm just trying to get to if this is coming out of a different pot of money. Like the Cares Act, which may not become part of the base, or if this is part of the actual appropriation to the Tribe Self-Governance Compact proper?

B. Willis: I actually appreciate that you brought that up because now that I look at this in more detail, at the award document, this particular \$116,023 is tagged as Covid 19, a vaccine related activities so, obviously that's not part of the base funding.

J. Steinberg: So okay Bill, thanks. Well, there's opportunity to continue to press it to make it become part of the base so, thank you for your answer.

B. Willis: I agree.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #21-0331-083
ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-INDIAN
HEALTH SERVICES AND APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO
THE OPERATING BUDGET MB-2021-17 IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$116,023; by D. Lonn; supported by S. Lewis**

R. Pete: I got a motion from Diane, I got support from Sandra, is there any further discussion, is anyone going to abstain? Gary, please do a roll call.

Roll Call #6

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Eight in favor, one absent, Resolution #21-0331-083 is passed.

5. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2021- in the amount of \$329,150.

B. Willis: This item represents modification #1 to the 2021 Self-Governance Compact with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Of the \$329,150, \$286,904 is earmarked for Public Safety, primarily base funding. And then the remaining \$42,246 is being dedicated to Education. So, I just need to accept the money and amend the Operating Budget.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #21-0331-084
ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FROM THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR-BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
AND APPROVING A MODIFICATION TO THE OPERATING
BUDGET MB-2021-18 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$329,150; by D. Lonn;
supported by G. DiPiazza.**

R. Pete: I've got a motion from Diane, support from Gary, is there any further discussion, is anyone going to abstain? Gary do a roll call.

Roll Call #7

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Eight in favor, one absent, Resolution #21-0331-084 is passed.

6. Acceptance of grant funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury-Emergency Rental Assistance Program and approving a modification to the Operating Budget MB-2021- in the amount of \$16,938.61.

T. Bailey: We originally received \$365,299.91 for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program that the Treasury had put out and they did a second allocation of the \$16,938.61 bringing the total for that program up to \$382,238.52, finalizing the policy today and hopefully we'll have that new program rolled out within the next week.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #21-0331-085
ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY-EMERGENCY RENTAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND APPROVING A MODIFICATION
TO THE OPERATING BUDGET MB-2021-19 IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$16,938.61; by T. Guenthardt; supported by S. Lewis**

R. Pete: Okay I have a motion from Tom, I got support from Sandra, is there any further discussion?

J. Steinberg: I just had a question, the budget in or the funding that you've received in total then you have not really crafted the Emergency Response Program to utilize the funds, or have you been able to use part of the funds that have been dedicated to this up to now? That's my question, thank you.

T. Bailey: The program is for emergency rental and no, we have not used any funds we just we just put the other funds of \$365,000 into the budget I think a week ago, and then we got the second batch of funds. So, like I said, once I get the approval on the policy, then we'll roll out the program and start using the funds.

S. Agosa: I just need clarification. With the disbursements of these Covid funds are we talking about the 1.9 trillion, HR 1319, the American Rescue Plan? Have those funds been dispersed? Or are these funds in addition to that, or funding from the Covid Relief Plan from last year.

T. Bailey: They are from the Bill that was passed at the end of December. And the Treasury, it comes from the Treasury Department, so the Treasury Department put out a notice in January, that if you wanted to become a participant in the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, we basically had to put in a notice saying that we wanted the funds and then they allocated the funds to us. So, the answer to your question is no, it's not part of the new Covid Relief Fund that was just put out, approved this month.

G. DiPiazza: The funding is for anybody, a Tribal member wherever they may live in the United States, correct?

T. Bailey: That is correct any Tribal member that who lives in the United States.

G. DiPiazza: Okay so nine county, outlying, that's everybody, good to know. Okay I'm done, thank you.

R. Pete: Thank you, please do a roll.

Roll Call #8

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Eight in favor, one absent, Resolution #21-0331-085 is passed.

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

1. Approve CARES Act Fund use for last mile funding of the Food Distribution Center Construction Project.

L. Dorr: Okay, as I described yesterday, we just completed the second round of value engineering, which means just cutting the cost on the project to the extent we can, based on the bids for the project. So, the bids were over the project, 1.3 million was the lowest bid. After that, it was 1.4 up to 1.7, 1.8 I think is what the highest of five or six bidders was. And so, we've been working since late December in through just a week or so to get the cost driven down and still driving it down. We got it down to within the 289,336 number. The reason for the expenses is primarily, material costs have gone up during this whole process. It's almost two and a half years now we've been working on it to get the funding for it, and then the design, and then the selection of a contractor. But last year starting in about June, there were the fires that happened out west, there were a couple of hurricanes that hit, those affected the material prices. But then in addition to that, there's a big housing boom and a building boom across the United States. Economy was roaring for a time, and you know whatever I'm not sure all the reasons but it's a big boon. Two by fours have gone up, tripled in prices, steel price has gone up. And so just one example on that, not to belabor it, from mid-December until a couple weeks ago, there were two steel increases, and they were both 10% so it's gone up 20% in four months. And so, at this point to try to look for more funds and do things, there's a couple of factors here; so, I'm going to go through the main points of why to use the CARES Funds. It's appropriate to be used for this, it's allowable, the other one is the cuts that can be made to the project, have been made, and the size of the project allows for us to serve members as we can portion off a part of it. People that are affected by CARES that aren't low enough income to do the other program, could be serviced from inside this building for food services and whatever along that line. So that's a great thing that was part of one of the grants that we went for, it was a CARES funding that we got. As we wait, the costs of materials are going to go up, they told us that in mid- April here there will be another cost increase. So, if we don't secure this situation it's going to go up, by not doing it we jeopardize both the project, but we also jeopardize the funders are asking where we're at with the project

because it's been two and a half years and they're asking where you're at with it, we've been describing, they're fine with it today. But if we keep having issues with it, one of the grants, the project's supposed to be done by the end of this year, and so we're going to lose confidence with funders. And it won't just affect the ICDBG Grants, it can affect other grants, other departments that receive grants, just saying that we can't handle the funds. So, just to give you the reality of it and then I mentioned before people would ask me where we're at with the funding. At this point the CARES funding, we have about 2.3 million from last year remaining. This would take us to about 2 million remaining after utilizing the funds for this. And then in relationship to that it suggests that we just kind of watch what happens as the new funds are coming in. There's significant funds coming, we just don't know what that's going to look like, they don't have the breakdown yet and they won't have that allocation formula set until probably mid-April to the end of April, but that will be continuing to come. So, I tried to answer what I could there in the questions. If it's approved, we'll bring the contract next week. It's being reviewed by legal we bring the contract to you, and they could break ground probably sometime here in April, I'd anticipate. And the project would be done sometime in, I would anticipate October, maybe November. So that's all I have for you now, anything else Ken, that I missed?

K. LaHaye: No, I believe that's pretty much all of it.

R. Pete: Is this 289,336, if we get this thing done, is that locked in now?

L. Dorr: Yeah, the approval to use those funds will allow us to go forward and initiate the contract with the company. That's what we need to finish this.

R. Pete: Okay so I understand that now but so then it won't be going up anymore after that?

L. Dorr: Exactly it'll be secured and that'll be the price of the project.

R. Wittenberg: When we first got going on this Ken, and he brought it to us, I thought there would be nothing, that one place that was sponsoring it, was that using this design nothing had to be putting anything in, and now we're going into the CARES funds. And so, I'm just curious on what all happened to that. If that's still in a factor what because I see that you're coming back with needing more money and so if you don't mind that I'm curious on that. Thank you.

K. LaHaye: Yeah 2018 when we started, we went forward with a designer that kind of gave us an estimated cost of what the building would run, and we applied for the ICDBG grant and we were awarded the \$700,000. And then as time went on, I believe that there was probably some miscalculations in some of the design costs, because of the steel prices that were rising and then we received a grant from the Shakopee Tribe of \$130,000 so as it was drawing closer to getting to where we could break ground and everything it was starting to show that because it was taking so long and that we also secured \$247,000 from the USDA and the supplemental Covid funding from the CARES Act that

we were awarded and \$136,000 of that was to go towards the building and from that with the increase in cost and everything that has happened this year which unfortunately it has driven the price of everything up. I have been working with the designer and our architect and tried to get this building reduced down, we went from 14-foot walls we took it down to a 12-foot wall to make it more economical try to eliminate some of the cost of the steel. They had concrete block all the way around the building we eliminated that and went with steel all the way around which will still look nice, and I eliminated the lean-to off the back which would keep our van out of the weather and a little more secure. The reason I did that is because I believe it was way over engineered for what it had to be and what the cost was on there but unfortunately, we couldn't get it down once the bids come in, we couldn't get it down you know far enough to what our budget has right now.

S. Agosa: Is this building a traditional building or were other structures considered, such as modular buildings? And the reason why I'm asking is that I've been on reservations out west and they often utilize mobile homes even for governmental services such as daycare and things like that and I know our weather is different here, but have you considered a modular structure to reduce cost and also so that you can get a covering for your vehicle? Thank you.

K. LaHaye: It is a pre-engineered steel building so when it comes it's already set to the size that has already been agreed upon. I've been in contact with the designer and asking can we change the trusses, can we change this, and that and we've done about as much as we could do to get that cost down. As far as the structure for the van, I was just looking at in a year or so down the road after this building's built, we can get probably get a slab and then put up a small structure that we can contain the vehicle in. Which would be a lot cheaper than what they had on the back of the building and the structure that they were proposing was steel girders and so much concrete and stuff I thought it was a little over engineered for what it was to do.

S. Agosa: I fully support if this project is completed that your department is given funds for a garage or cover. I think it's important to protect the vehicles so I would just like Tribal Council to keep that in mind for funding. Thanks, that's my comment.

N. Nelson: I just wanted to say as a citizen, I've seen the incredible improvements that Mr. LaHaye and Mrs. Ceplina have made to the Commodities Department. They have absolutely turned this department 100% around and have reached so many more citizens and have helped so many more citizens have access to healthy foods. So, I would like to say that I really hope that Council goes through with this and gives them what they need to continue to better our people. Thank you.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #21-0331-086 APPROVE
CARES ACT FUND USE FOR THE LAST MILE FUNDING OF**

**THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTER CONSTRUCTION
PROJECT; by D. Lonn; supported by G. DiPiazza.**

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

Roll Call #9

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

Motion carried (6-2-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Six in favor, two against, one absent, Resolution #21-0331-086 has passed and good luck gentlemen on that new building.

IV. Old Business

- A. **Operations Report** **February 2021**
- B. **Housing Commission Reports** **October 2020**
 November 2020
 December 2020
 January 2021
 February 2021

V. New Business

VI. Concluding Business

- A. **Next Meeting Date is Wednesday, April 7, 2021**
- B. **Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update**

L. Romanelli: Thank you Ron. Just a couple items, we continue to work on the budget revisions that we may need to do. Obviously, there's the good news is more money coming from the federal government in the amount of billions of dollars to all tribes so we don't know what the exact numbers will be yet, but which is a good thing which we may have to revise our budget in that way. We also were looking at the 50% change in per cap so we've already kind of been looking at those numbers so that's something that keeps us busy. The other thing is just today the decision was made to continue on as we are with the structure of government employees. We were going to bring back everybody on April 5th and work from the offices however on the last 14 days, 14 days solid the

numbers have greatly increased with the Covid, so we've made the determination to continue on as we have been doing for the last several months. Which means that people will still call in for appointments and we will have people in the offices, but it will be a little more sporadic than what we were planning on doing. We'd rather be safe than sorry, and we have a lot of good employees that have continued to work through this pandemic in the offices, but we just want to just continue on for a little bit longer and go from there. Overall we've done a really good job, we've had a great response from our employees we also did a study not a significant study but basically what we're realizing is that some people working from home are doing even more because after dinner they'll get back on and do what they need to do so anyway we're going to continue on as we have been for a couple months and we're going to go forward the same way but we don't know how long this will last right now I would guess you know at least a couple few weeks and maybe longer and we just continue to watch the Covid numbers every day and, I think that's it.

S. Agosa: This is regarding the membership meeting on April 10th, the last time I checked the website the time hadn't been announced yet. Has that time been determined? Thanks.

L. Romanelli: Yes, I believe it has been determined at 10 a.m. and we've been working on that as well. We want to make sure that we have it right, we had a problem with some of the IT issues where people couldn't hear them. We're going to have people pre-record some of their departments, there's two or three of the departments that are going to give a report. And rather than having them Zoom in, we thought it would be better if we just have them pre-tape a 15–20-minute issue and then we will just play the tape. And we should do better that way, so we don't have the communication problem at that part, but yeah, I think it's ten o'clock.

S. Thull: I appreciate the information about our government still working remotely. Could you find out what percent of government is actually working remotely?

L. Romanelli: I don't know if there's anybody on that could answer it, I'm not sure anybody could answer it right off the cuff but yeah, we'll try and get that number for you and see what the percentage is. The only problem the that we have is some of the people working remotely are doing it by zoom and that's not always the best way to communicate, but we have to do what we have to do, so but yeah, it's working out pretty well overall, thanks Susan.

C. Densmore: I had heard that Ogema mentioned the Spring Membership Meeting and said that it had sounded like he was going to have the Directors pre-recording like pre-taping their stuff and that might help. I know that having them live-streaming and that's a problem because of the technology issues, like it was something with the sound didn't work. And I think there was that issue last time as well, have you considered just having them come in at a specific time and only come into the room when they are presenting in order to kind of prevent that? Because I will say for both of the last Membership Meetings, it wasn't that we had trouble hearing you it was just that we had trouble hearing the people that were zooming in. I understand the whole video might not want everybody

there at the same time, but maybe having them wait in their office and then getting called down, five minutes before their scheduled time or having them there in person, in order to prevent that?

L. Romanelli: Yes, and thank you, we actually have decided on that matter of fact for example Steve Wheeler who gives our financial report he is able to come in and give his report without doing it beforehand because as you know the numbers change pretty rapidly so and he's willing to do so as he usually does to come into the room. The room is very small when you think of the people that may need to be in there so we're going to have them give them a preset time and try and get close to it so that they know that they should come in at say 10:45 and then he could leave and then another one could come in. But yeah, there's a couple that we're going to do by pre-videotaping it and a couple that will be able to come in live. And we just don't want to do it remotely and run into that, so hopefully, it so should go much better, and you should get the information you need and go from there, yeah. Thank you.

S. Agosa: I just need clarification, so this meeting, parts of it will be pre-recorded but is it going to be a live stream or using a video conference system like zoom and will there be an opportunity for Q&A at the end? And also, too if I could suggest testing the sound and I'm willing to help test with IT and possibly even doing a dry run, like the whole entire presentation with all the presenters, to make sure the sound works. And just a heads up too with the technology, to use one computer and broadcast it from one computer, instead of using another one. That was just something that I noticed in a previous meeting that would help with the sound as well and the echoing. Thanks.

L. Romanelli: Okay and then in answer to that yes. Well, the last time, the last couple times, we've done a dry run through much in much of the sound system etc. the night before or even a couple days before and then the morning of the equipment was tested now I'm not a big IT guy so I can't tell you a lot about it, but I believe we have a better system this time going in. So yes, and people will be able to call in and we'll take questions at the end of the meeting as usual too.

S. Agosa: I have two more comments about the Membership Meeting first of all I feel more comfortable using Zoom even with question answers instead of submitting questions and there's a time lag that Zoom is just much more immediate raising our hand. So, I would love to see Zoom used for these meetings. Even with a Town Hall meeting having to submit emails and there was a lag time and for me confusion when my comments would be stated. So, I definitely think Zoom is much more user friendly and my other question is, if Steve is on the phone, will we be able to review the reports at least a day or two in advance this time? And when they might be posted on the website?

L. Romanelli: Okay those questions I'm not sure I can answer, again that's in the hands of the IT. We've explained what we want to do and they're setting it up. And as far as Steve Wheeler's comments, I don't know. I know he prepares the numbers and presents it. Once

it's presented it doesn't take long to have it on our website so that people can review it, so I think that will be the same way this time.

R. McCaslin: Yeah, I'm just curious and when we take a roll call for all our members to see if we reach a quorum how will that be submitted, if we have a quorum of the overall majority of the people and how's that going to play out in this virtual Grand Council? I guess it would be considered the Grand Council, to become a quorum at that time.

L. Romanelli: Okay yes when we first started doing the interactive meetings by Zoom or whatever method we realized we talked with the Election Board, and we talked with our in-house attorneys, and we realized that it's not possible to do a quorum unfortunately. So, and that will be the same thing this time. We will allow and we've set up the room that if Tribal Councilors want to come into the room, they absolutely have the right to be there, and we've allowed enough room for them to be at the meeting. Thank you.

C. Legislative Affairs Update

Gary DiPiazza: Just a reminder of our Wednesday April 7th meeting. We'll start at 6 p.m. in the evening on the Zoom channel. Also Monday which is fifth we'll have Agenda Review at 6 p.m. in the evening. You can't readily have people at a 6 p.m. meeting that really don't know what's happening.

D. Public Comment

R. McCaslin: Yeah uh Mr. Speaker I have some uh first of all I'd like to apologize to all the people that are running for Council at this time. And if we're on pause, if we're on pause, we can build this back better. And I'm looking at the Election Board itself on Chapter 7, the recall, and we have an opportunity right now these are old practices. And you know we come with some solutions to ask our Council that is in office right now in a reconciliation of rewriting that. And the reason being is you know; we're coming to this head where we're going to elect Judges and also the new standing in Council. And if we weigh too much power to one branch, or the other branch, or the other branch, then we come into some complications; like civil rights, civil liberties of people, abuse and so you know, I take this wholeheartedly, that this would be the opportunity, not to change right now. Come together, where did we fail? And right there, I think that that would be for my Council and my Judicial system that's coming in the reconciliation of renewing the balance of power, where each and every one you know, just take the Durant Roll and if we could build something like 51 people you know the guy, 'a wheel' and 200 words isn't very much. And since we have never been able only, to reach a quorum a few times, right now it's a time to examine that and seriously on that part, because if it gets out of hand, it's all out of hand. So, I don't know what I need to do to change or help, but I don't want any memberships to change seat into the hot seat of the fire because there's so much right

now that's at stake. When you leave do a paper, what did you do you that served our Tribe? What did you acquire in establishing the help of our people? What can we do better in the future? It's only an opportunity, but right now you guys should remain in your seats and reconciliation before the next members that are coming in. Because right now, the change of the United States was a bad episode these last four years, and we see that, we understand that we comprehend that. The next administration, we don't know, we're not like them, we're unique, we have a systematic of being unique, but it's just like checking your brother, that right there, you know. The election committee, I apologize you know, I know all the hard work that's gone into it but my legislative body you know, and I know all the ones that want to do good for the Tribe. There's another opportunity for the ones stepping out, become a part, belong, believe, and become that Ottawa. You're going to be enjoying your grandkids, your grandkids could be making the laws. You know there's so much, but right now is that critical time, and I apologize to each one of you guys that are running and re-running and re-running over to wherever. There's an abuse of power here and if you can't see it, I can point it out, less than 200 words. But we all know, we all know, and with that I apologize to each one of those ones in Counsel and to the ones that are running to our Judicial system that are running a good campaign a true campaign, the Seven Grandfather Teachings over there. In respect we all carry our own truths but right now would be that perfect opportunity to that reconciliation of the abuse of power. Right now, we made Resolutions to abuse our people and we can go back but we don't have to. Right now, it's that opportunity of change so I want to ask my legislating body before moving anything, to come up with that in that 'recall part four the membership activities' on our Election Board put it to 51 people, we are Ottawa. And I guess that's all I wanted to express, my concerns and my apologies and all of that. That's um we're right there, where that administration of all, right. The administrations that govern my body, you know. When I lay down my tobacco like my ancestors did, you know they didn't ask permission, they just did it. With that I'm going to say, miigwetch.

C. Densmore: I just wanted to notify everyone that the Culture Committee is meeting today for an open meeting. We're going to try and touch base on the Spring Teachings today and we are also looking to discuss the next workshop that we're going to be doing. We would love any and all participation from our Tribal membership, thank you.

S. Agosa: I just wanted to comment along the lines of Robert McCaslin that I feel as though we are as a Tribe, in a time of growing pains, but I think ultimately everything is going to work out and we will come out on the other side in a much better place. We have sustained a serious pandemic which continues to rage and that has added a lot of stress, both to our families and our Tribal operations. Also, we have transitioned to using remote technology which is a huge step. I have hope that this coming year that things will get better will improve and too I just hope that we continue to promote education especially in our youth, thanks.

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 FIRST OPEN SESSION; by T. Guenthardt,
supported by D. Lonn.

Okay I got Tom making the motion, I've got Diane supporting it, is there any further comment, is anyone going to abstain? Gary, do a roll call.

Roll Call #10

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

G. DiPiazza: Eight in favor, one absent, we've adjourned first Open Session at 11:31 a.m.

VIII. Open Session

G. DiPiazza: Mr. Speaker the recorders on.

G. DiPiazza: Okay thank you Gary, I need a Motion to move us into our second open. I got a motion from Tom supported by Gary, is there any further discussion, does anybody want to abstain? Gary do a roll call.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO SECOND OPEN; by T. Guenthardt;
supported by G. DiPiazza

Roll Call #11

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

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

G. DiPiazza: Seven in favor, two absent, we're in second open at 12:12 p.m.

A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session

R. Pete: Okay thank you Gary. Gary are there any items moved and closed to open session.

MOTION TO MOVE RESOLUTION #21-0331-087, -089, RESOLUTION, MOTION, AND ROLL CALL AND ALSO MOVE THE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES FROM 6-12-2019 E. LITIGATION, MOVE THAT TO OPEN; by G. DiPiazza; supported by T. Guenthardt.

R. Pete: I got a motion from Gary, I got support from Tom, is there any further discussion? I'm calling on you now Shannon, go ahead.

S. Crampton: All right thank you. What I'd like to say is that the motion that was taken, was taken by four council members on the other side of the vote, an illegal action that will impact with the case with their rivals into a personal interest. And it also violates the Closed Session Meeting Procedure, as there was conversation that other Council members were under the impression, well anyway it's a violation of contract, or breach of contract but we'll get to that soon enough. I just want to make membership aware beforehand, thank you.

G. DiPiazza: There's been a lot of discussion about that and also people have spoke about the Closed Session portion on these items out in the open, in public, it's in the other some open session minutes so somebody's already broke confidentiality releasing some of that information anyway so what's the diff? I'm done.

S. Crampton: Well, there is a big diff and nobody on this side and the four council members to run this side of the case that word won so there's a huge difference and it will be explained to you very shortly, thank you,

G. DiPiazza: Looking forward to it.

R. Pete: Seeing no further discussion, Gary will you do a roll call please?

Roll Call #12

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

Motion carried (5-1-0-2)

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

The following items were moved from Closed to Open Session.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #21-0331-087,
RATIFICATION OF ADDENDUM TO BUILDING INSPECTOR
AGREEMENT WITH MARK NIESEN;** by Guenthardt; supported by
Lonn.

Roll Call #C-3

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

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #21-0331-089, RATIFICATION
OF CULTURAL COMMITTEE WEEBLY WEBSITE CONTRACT;** by
DiPiazza; supported by Guenthardt.

Roll Call #C-5

R. Wittenberg	Yes	S. Crampton	Yes	G. DiPiazza	Yes
D. Lonn	Absent	D. Corey	Yes	C.Champagne	Absent
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.

IX. Adjourn

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

R. Pete: Gary go ahead take a roll call.

Roll Call #13

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


Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

G. DiPiazza: Seven in favor, two absent, we've adjourned Second Open at 12:17 p.m.

R. Pete: Okay thank you Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Thull
Temp. Transcribing Asst.



Gary Di Piazza
Tribal Council Recorder

Moved to open 3/31/21



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019
LITTLE RIVER BAND CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES**

E. Litigation

1. Tribal Ogema and Stone v. Tribal Council

Councilor Crampton said we need to contact Mr. Novotny as soon as possible.

Councilor DiPiazza noted that Kathleen Bowers had said that the information was sent to her and then she distributes and that is why he was never involved in that email.

Crampton responded okay.

DiPiazza noted that Bowers said they are excluded from those emails and that is why he didn't know.

Crampton said we need to appoint a point person from Council to contact Mr. Novotny.

Attorney Liebing said they can appoint somebody from their group to be the contact person. If it isn't Kathleen Bowers then that makes sense. Liebing said she would have Kathleen Bowers cc'd on it just in case the person is out of the office or something.

Crampton responded yes.

Liebing said yes, that makes sense. As long as one of them gets notifications.

Crampton said since our Ogema has taken a seat on the OTF he thinks that is important. Crampton said he would like to move that it is either one of us on the other side, Ron.

Ron Pete said that is up to Council. Pete said he is not involved in any of it as Crampton knows.

Liebing suggested making a motion and that person is the one to call Mr. Novotny and it is that simple.

Pete asked Councilor Wittenberg if he would like to make a motion.

MOTION TO HAVE SHANNON CRAMPTON TO BE THE POINT PERSON OR GO PERSON; by Wittenberg; supported by Corey.

Pete asked if we do a regular roll call then.

Liebing said it is a motion like any other motion and you and . . .

Pete said he will abstain.

Pete asked if there was any further discussion.

Guenthardt asked why we are contacting the attorney.

Crampton said somebody has to contact him because the case is still open and Joe Riley was the point person to contact Novotny before. If you want to communicate with our attorney, which he is pretty sure we do, . . .

Guenthardt said we don't even have the outcome of the case.
Pete said it is still being litigated.

Crampton said that is why we need a point person.

Pete asked if anyone else want discussion. Pete asked if anyone was going to abstain. Pete said he is going to abstain. Pete noted that Gary DiPiazza is going to abstain.

Crampton said wait he should probably abstain too. There is no personal gain.

Pete noted that Shannon is also going to abstain.

Roll Call #C-6

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

Motion carried (6-0-3-0)

Moved to open 3/31/21



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Roll Call #C-6

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D. Lonn - Yes	D. Corey – Yes	C. Champagne – Yes
T. Guenthardt - Yes	R. Pete - Abstain	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (6-0-3-0)