

Approved 12/11/2024



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
EMERGENCY OPEN MEETING
THURSDAY, November 30, 2023
LITTLE RIVER BAND
VIA ZOOM
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held an emergency meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on, November 30, 2023. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Speaker Burmeister: Good Afternoon everyone, we are here this afternoon for an emergency meeting at 1 o'clock. And so, I would um Recorder Johnson can you do roll call please.

Recorder Johnson mumbled something, not clear

Speaker Burmeister: I think there is one

Recorder Johnson: No, there's is a few

Speaker Burmeister: is there a few?

Councilor Metzger: Karol Ann

Councilor Wolfe: Karol Ann, are you going to check them in like you do regular?

Councilor Metzger: Yeah

Speaker Burmeister: hmm, yeah probably have to do that

Chatter just low enough to not make out clearly

Speaker Burmeister: Ok yeah, I can't see who

Recorder Johnson: Do you want me to wait or do roll call first?

Speaker Burmeister: You can do roll call and then I will do Zoom caller

II. Roll Call

Councilor Silvis: I can hear you

Councilor DiPiazza: I can hear you

Speaker Burmeister: Karol Ann your first on the list can you um give, identify yourself please

Karol Chabot: Karol Ann Chabot 3742

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, lets see here 887-9856

Councilor Wolfe: That's Shirley

Councilor Wever: Hi, its Shirley Wever 4670

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Gary L please identify yourself

Gary Lewis: Gary Lewis 1980, Utilities Director

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Jolene O'signac please identify yourself

Jolene O'Signac: Jolene O'signac 3866

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, lets see whose (low speaking) Jolene

Recorder Johnson: Ok

Speaker Burmeister: Ok, Keegan Boudeaux

Keegan Bordeaux: Keegan Bordeaux, Legislative in-house Counsel

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Martha Howell please identify yourself. Martha Howell, please identify yourself. Let's skip down pass her. Misty Silvis, please identify yourself.

Howell: Sorry I'm on a call

Speaker Burmeister: Oh. Ok that's ok, identify yourself, does that mean you can't identify yourself or you can?

Recorder Johnson: She can, she's also working.

Speaker Burmeister: Ok, Misty Silvis please identify yourself

Councilor Silvis: Councilor Silvis 2488

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Shannon Crampton please identify yourself

Councilor Crampton: Shannon Crampton, Outlying Representative 1747

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Staci Cheney please identify yourself

Staci Cheney: Staci Cheney 992

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Who, ok we have Venus on and the Ogema, I think that's it.

Recorder Johnson: That's it

Speaker Burmeister: Ok moving to

III. Open Session

1. Adopting the Fiscal Year 2024 Tribal Government Operations Budget

Speaker Burmeister: Brad is here to um Brad is here to present this, so could you you, the floor is yours.

Brad Pringle: Sure, absolutely. Once again welcome Tribal Council and membership available via zoom; um Tribal Council has been working has been work uh consist consistently for the last six weeks. To try and put together thee ah most comprehensive Tribal budget that they could. Um after several work sessions um multiple... multiple work sessions and discussions um today's resolutions put forward ah Try to get that budget adopted or pass by resolution, in a timely manner that would meet the minimal requirements of our current laws, Budget and Appropriations Act. So, this particular resolution title Adopting the Fiscal Year 2024 Tribal Government Operations Budget; I'm going to pick up on the bottom of the page with some whereas', Whereas, the Tribal Council, pursuant to Article IV, Section 7(i)(2) of the Constitution, has the power to manage an funds within the exclusive control of the Tribe and to appropriate such funds for the benefit of the Tribe and its members; and Whereas, the Tribal Council is authorized under Article IV, Section 7(i)(1) "to exercise the following fiscal powers; 1. Subject to the veto of the Tribal Ogema, to adopt, approve or amend the annual budget presented by the Tribal Ogema and to authorize the expenditure of funds in accordance with such budgets." And, Whereas, the Tribal Ogema submitted the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Budget consisting of the Government Operations Budget and the Little River Casino projected distribution amount to the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; and Whereas, the Tribal Council met with the Tribal Ogema and/or designated representatives of Executive Staff including department directors to review individual departmental budgets; and Whereas, the Tribal Council met with the Election Board to review their budget; and Whereas, the Tribal Council met with the Tribal Court and Executive Staff to review individual department budgets; and Whereas, the LRCR budget was requested but never presented for review by Tribal Council; and Whereas, the

Tribal Ogema submitted an unbalanced budget that is non-compliant with Article IV of the Budget and Appropriations Act of 2013, requiring a balanced budget; and Whereas, the budget submitted by the Tribal Ogema contained a deficit of \$4,211,647 prohibited by Article IV of the Budget and Appropriation Act of 2013; and Whereas, the final Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Budget consisting of the Government Operations Budget and the Little River Casino Resort projected distribution amount was presented by the Tribal Ogema to Tribal Council to be adopted, approved, or amended and to authorize the expenditure of funds in accordance with such budgets; and Whereas, Tribal Council finds that the Fiscal Year 2024 proposed budget should be amended prior to enactment so that it complies with the Budget and Appropriation Act of 2013 and so that it better reflects the Tribe's priorities for Fiscal Year 2024. Now therefore it is resolved that the Tribal Council of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians hereby exercise its power to adopt, approve or amend the annual budget presented by the Tribal Ogema by approving the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Budget with the following amendments: 1. Tribal Council adopts the LRCR Fiscal Year 2024 projected distribution amount of \$22,486,874. 2. Tribal Council adopts the amended Tribal Government Operations Budget Fiscal Year 2024 in the amount of \$42,061,971. 3. Tribal Council appropriates the amount of \$42,061,971 as stated in the attached 2024 Tribal Government Operations Budget Summary to carry out the government's duties as required by law during Fiscal Year 2024. Every expenditure or other use of funds by the Tribal government during Fiscal Year 2024 must comply with all directions and restrictions found in the attached 2024 Tribal Government Operations Budget Summary. It is further resolved that this resolution does not approve, authorize or ratify any agreement or contract on the Tribe's behalf. Every agreement or contract must be separately approved by Tribal Council before it may have any legal effect, pursuant to Article IV Section 7(b) and Article V Section 5(a)(3) of the Constitution of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. It is finally resolved that the Tribe does not waive, alter, or otherwise diminish its rights, privileges, remedies or services guaranteed by law.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad,

Brad Pringle: Yup, so guess we can take questions from whoever is here, and we will do our best to answer whatever we can.

Speaker Burmeister: First of all, will there be

Ogema Romanelli: This is the Ogema

Speaker Burmeister: Just a minute Ogema Romanelli; Will there be any Councilors abstaining from this item? Any Councilors with questions? Ok, go ahead Ogema Romanelli.

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you, ah I just wanted to note, actually I thought this meeting should have been in the Lodge Room but that's neither here nor there. I just received this probably less than an hour ago ah, so I am still looking through it. So, I am concern with some of the statements that the Ogema is submitting a deficit; will let that play out later. Um, my concern here is in the brief looking at it the 3% COLA raise that we wanted for

Tribal employees, Government employees has been taken out to the tune of about \$300,000. I see that there was an increase in Tribal Council training of \$75,000 each; and I see that there's been elimination of certain moneys to economic development or thee yeah, the Commerce Department. So just was those. The only thing that I wanna insure is that if every Council member that votes yes on this, believes eh it's actually a good budget. That's all I need to know and then I will wait for the vote, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead Councilor Crampton

Councilor Crampton: Thank you, Speaker Burmeister, I just want to clarify for the members in attendance, I don't know who we was but Council never agreed to that um so that was a misnomer I just want to make clear for the membership, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead Councilor Silvis

Councilor Silvis: Thank you, um so I was in favor of a 3% COLA but it was not budgeted, its actually coming out of a supplemental appropriations and to me that is not a budgeted COLA so that's my say on that. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Any um, any other Council oh go ahead Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you Speaker Burmeister, well I just want to clarify again um that not ah, no disrespect to Councilor Silver Silvis but that's not um that not something that we are at liberty to do that's a mandate from the Budget and Appropriations Act um the budget be balanced. Its not balanced when your trying to put in ah supplemental appropriation into a budget. So, its prohibited thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Any of questions? Councilor Wolfe

Councilor Wolfe: I make a motion to approve resolution #23-1130-203 adopting the Fiscal Year 2024 Tribal Government Operations Budget

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Is there any other further discussion? Go ahead Councilor Metzger

Councilor Metzger: Ah before we go any further are these resolutions numbers up to date, don't wanna have to back track and reissue another

Brad Pringle: Nope. You can see up on the screen I will post the official numerical budget. So theres where the numbers directly come from the bottom of the spread sheet. There's where the numbers derived from the excel spreadsheet \$22,486,874

Councilor Metzger: No, not, I am talking about the resolution number

Recorder Johnson: No, the resolution number is correct.

Brad Pringle: Oh, I'm sorry

Councilor Metzger: Cause lately we been have to back track on some.

Brad Pringle: Ok can't confirm that is the correct number but I can get

Councilor Metzger: Is it the correct number? It is? Ok thank you that's my only concern right now.

Speaker Burmeister: with no further discussion Recorder Johnson can you do roll call please.

1. Adopting the Fiscal Year 2024 Tribal Government Operations Budget

Roll Call # 2

T. Burmeister - No	M. Silvis - Yes	P. Johnson - No
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - No	S. Wever - No
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	A. Metzger - Yes

Motion carried (5-4-0-0)

Recorder Johnson: 5 in favor, 4 against it has passed

Low comment by DiPiazza

Speaker Burmeister: What? I'm sorry

Councilor DiPiazza: No, thank you

Speaker Burmeister: I didn't even see it fall down there.

Councilor DiPiazza: I would like to make a motion to end close er emergency meeting

Councilor Wolfe: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Recorder Johnson can you do roll call please

Roll Call # 3

T. Burmeister -Yes	M. Silvis - Yes	P. Johnson - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	S. Wever - Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Yes	A. Metzger - Yes

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Councilor Metzger: Abstain? Is this to adjourn?

Recorder Johnson: 9 in favor, we are done at 1:17 pm



Pam Johnson,
Transcribing Assistant & Recorder