

**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS  
TRIBAL COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015  
LITTLE RIVER CASINO RESORT  
EVENTS CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Casino Resort, Events Center on November 7, 2015. Speaker Johnson said he has a few business items he wanted to take care of before they start this meeting. Johnson said first of all he wanted to recognize a couple of people and for putting this together for them so they could conduct their Council Meeting here at the Resort. Johnson said he wanted to thank George Le Vasseur and his staff because he knows it was a lot of work. Johnson said he also the Resort and their staff with the IT people to bring this together and so forth. Johnson said as they can see they only have three microphones here and it is going to be a little more difficult for them to communicate to them as they heard because they need to speak directly into these microphones so he asks his colleagues that if they have something to say on an issue to make sure that the microphone is in front and center of them so everybody in the audience can hear. Johnson said with that said they always start their meetings off with a prayer and they have a Tribal member, Terry Chivis, who is going to start them off with a prayer so he asks everybody to stand and remove their head gear if they have it.

**I. Opening Prayer**

Terry Chivis, Tribal member, offered the Opening Prayer in Anishinaabemowin.

Miigwech for this beautiful day.

Miigwech for the insects and plant life.

Miigwech for the winged ones and the gild ones.

Miigwech for the two-leggeds and the four-leggeds.

Miigwech for all your Creation which we fail to acknowledge. Forgive us.

I want to pray today for all the people out there who need prayers.

Please hear our prayers coming your way both personal and the ones on the internet.

Help us to be kind to one another.

Help us to love one another.

Help us to accept each other's differences.

Help this meeting to go well.

Be with us and the ones who are still travelling here. Be with us on our way home.

These things I ask of you today. Ahaaw.

Speaker Johnson said he wanted to say Miigwech for those wonderful words in opening their hearts and minds as they move forward on this meeting. Johnson said he also wanted to make a quick comment before he calls the meeting to order. Johnson said with the new Council in place they heard from the membership that they wanted to have some meetings on Saturday so this is their second Saturday to conduct a business meeting on behalf of Council to the membership.

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

**B. Roll Call**

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

Quorum established.

Others Present: Rosemary Smith, Linda Hill, C.A. Champagne, Norma Hinkle, Mary Hammond, Karol Patton, Bill Willis, Boo Battice, Tom Shepard, Julie Wolfe, Jennifer Crampton.

Others Present That Did Not Sign In: George Le Vasseur, Mary Thomas, Ogema Romanelli, Officer

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ADDITION OF CONTINUING BUSINESS C.1; by Burger; supported by Lewis.**

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

**Roll Call #1**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Speaker Johnson said as part of order of the meeting itself they have a microphone for the audience and asked where is that going to be located.

George Le Vasseur replied over by the stairway.

Speaker Johnson reiterated over by the stairway okay good. Johnson said when he asks or states that it is open for discussion that is an opportunity for the members and he says this for the members to raise their hands then come over to have their comment on the item that they are reviewing.

**D. Tribal Council Minutes**       10/28/15

**MOTION TO ACCEPT TRIBAL COUNCIL OPEN SESSION MINUTES DATED 10/28/15 FOR FILING;** by Medacco; supported by Burger.

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

**Roll Call #2**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**III. Continuing Business**

**A. Grants & Contracts**

Speaker Johnson noted that they do not have anything under Section III A. which is Grants & Contracts.

**B. Budget Modifications**

**1. Approval of Budget Modification MB-2015-\_\_ ; Authorizing the reduction of the Clinic Operations Budget in the amount of \$194,644**

Tribal Council must approve any reduction in amounts appropriated for the provision of direct services to Tribal members.

Bill Willis, Budget Coordinator, represented this agenda item. Willis said actually this item is a two part item. Willis said Item 1 and 2 are linked together. Willis said several probably two months ago Lee Iverson who was the Members Assistance Coordinator came to him and they anticipated they were going to be short in the funding for the Elders Supplemental Insurance Program. Willis said so they put some numbers together and determined that they were going to need funding for the balance of the year which is November and December. Willis said the average monthly premiums for this program were about \$104,000 per month and so they did that calculation and there were some funding still remaining in that Program Budget of about \$25,000. Willis said as an end result they determined they needed this \$194,000 to fund the program through the

balance of 2015. Willis said as they strategized on where to get the money they looked at the Clinic Operations Budget which had several unfilled positions one being a Staff Physician. Willis said as most people are aware or some people are aware the Clinic has brought on additional Physicians but they are funded through Professional Fees through what they call Locum Tenens Program and so they determined what is going to be some extra salaries available to fund this program. Willis said they are recommending that the Clinic Operations Budget be reduced Item #1 by the \$194,644 then Item #2 a supplemental be done to fund the Elders Insurance Program under Members Assistance for the balance of 2015.

Speaker Johnson said what they are going to do is address Item #1 first.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #15-1107-330;  
APPROVAL OF BUDGET MODIFICATION MB-2015-78;  
AUTHORIZING THE REDUCTION OF THE CLINIC  
OPERATIONS BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$194,644; by  
Medacco; supported by Lewis.**

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

**Roll Call #3**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**2. Approval of Supplemental Appropriation 2015-\_\_-4<sup>th</sup> QTR to fund shortfall in the Elder Supplemental Insurance Program in the amount of \$194,644**

Tribal Council has received a Certification of Availability of Funds #2015-019 from the Accounting Department signed by the Chief Financial Officer.

Bill Willis, Budget Coordinator, represented this agenda item.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #15-1107-331;  
APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION 2015-19-4<sup>th</sup>  
QTR TO FUND SHORTFALL IN THE ELDER SUPPLEMENTAL  
INSURANCE PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$194,644; by  
Burger; supported by Riley.**

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion. Johnson said what he is going to do to make sure that he doesn't miss anybody is if they do want to have a discussion please stand up then it is easier for

him to catch them because they have quite an audience here today and he wants to make sure that everybody has an opportunity.

**Roll Call #4**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure**

**1. Authorization of Payment of \$25,000 for Membership Dues and Appointing Joseph Riley II as the Alternate Representative to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

Given the extensive levels of Legislative Duties the Recorder is added as an Alternate Liaison if needed to support the efforts of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to support Tribal Interests.

Tom St. Dennis from the Commerce Department represented this agenda item. St. Dennis said after extensive discussions with Council and the Ogema they have identified funds to support this initiative. St. Dennis said they have also identified.....the microphone is going in and out so he apologizes.....they have identified a need to support one of their largest challenges which is the lawsuit they are facing with respect to their Tribal Sovereignty. St. Dennis said the U.S. Chamber has agreed to put them on their Leadership Council which is why they are asking for an additional support from Tribal Council to support the activity that is going to be required. St. Dennis said the U.S. Chamber has agreed in principle to put a sub for an amicus which would support their Supreme Court efforts. St. Dennis said they have also agreed to work hard on Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act, NAHASDA Reauthorization, Native American Energy Act, the Native Act, Interior Improvement Act and the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act. St. Dennis said so they have agreed to come to the table for them and represent them.

Councilor Medacco said he wanted clarification. Medacco said this is appointing Councilor Riley as the Alternate to the Legislative Liaisons to the U.S.....for this. Medacco said that is the question he asks.

Speaker Johnson said to Councilor Medacco that is what is spelled out here.

Councilor Medacco said it doesn't say that as being a Legislative Liaison but just states representative.

Speaker Johnson said they have two Legislative Liaisons right now but this is just an Alternate.

Councilor Medacco said he just wants to make it clear for the membership.

Kareen Lewis said she was just curious and asked if the \$25,000 is a Membership Fee or is that just for Councilor Riley to be able to get back and forth to meetings or something.

Speaker Johnson replied this is a Membership Fee that will last a year.

*Someone from the audience came to the podium but didn't state her name or Tribal I.D. number. This member first thanked the Council and Ogema for all that they do. She asked why the membership doesn't have an agenda from Council to make it easier for them to follow along with them on the proposals that they are proposing is her first question. The member said her second question is for Tom St. Dennis because he mentioned in his first sentence that it was for a case involving the Tribe's sovereignty and she was just wondering which case that involved. The member said the reason why she asked is there is a couple out there so she was hoping that maybe Council could clear that up today.*

Recorder Riley thanked Sharron Detz. Riley said that the agendas were actually at the sign in table but doesn't know if they were out by the time she got here but he has one right here that he can give to her if she would like.

Speaker Johnson said to Sharron Detz that on the second question this has a direct impact on their case with the National Labor Review Board and the attorneys are looking for support from the U.S. Chamber and this will help them get the amicus brief that they need. Johnson said he thinks that was one of the short comings they had in the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit and they are going to bolster that up so that doesn't reoccur when they get to the Supreme Court.

*Another Tribal member came to the microphone without stating their name or Tribal I.D. number. The Tribal member said what he didn't understand is why if they already have two Liaisons why do they need an Alternate. The Tribal member reiterated that he didn't understand that part. The Tribal member said they have two and asked what the third one is going to be for.*

Speaker Johnson answered that because of the travel that has occurred in the past they had a couple of times or at least one other time in which they had to reflect back to an Alternate to get that person on board because the other two were on travel or not available at that point to travel so they put this person in as a safety net just to make sure that if the other two are not available that this person would be available to represent this item.

*Once again a Tribal member went up to the microphone without stating their name or Tribal I.D. number. The Tribal member said to repeat those acts that they might be working on.*

Speaker Johnson said to Boo Battice to please give his name and Tribal I.D.

Boo Battice, Tribal #2644, said he just wanted to repeat those acts or whatever or the things they were working on to become more sovereign and energy efficient just so he can research it.

Recorder Riley said Boo Battice was just asking to repeat the acts that this is supporting and what else it is supporting. Riley said to Tom St. Dennis if he could repeat that for Boo Battice please.

Tom St. Dennis said he would be happy to and told Boo Battice to stop by his office and he will just give him these in writing. St. Dennis said the acts that they are specifically looking at is 511 in the House and 248 in the Senate which is a Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act. St. Dennis said that is their main one given the challenge of the NRLB Case and he is happy if he wanted to stop by his office sometime and he will just give him the whole list.

Councilor Burger said to the Speaker if she could just offer a little explanation. Burger said the National Labor Relations Act was passed and in the act there was no mention of its influence on Tribes. Burger said what happened here was the Tribe through its Resort was organized by a Labor Union. Burger said under their law their Fair Labor Law that they have on the books that is their Tribal Law they put some constraints on union organizing and in particular the right of union members to strike. Burger said when they went to court essentially their law was challenged and they lost. Burger said they also lost on appeal. Burger said the National Labor Relations Board which is an independent body that is funded by the Federal Government has been championing their opposition. Burger said what has happened with that is when they got to the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit which is the Appellate Court that they deal with and lost their case they have to bump it up to the Supreme Court because what it is it is first and foremost a question of the Tribe's Sovereignty. Burger said that is what the Tribe has a right to do in the governance of its people and its enterprises. Burger said the second thing is whether or not the law actually applies to Tribes because there is no mention in the law the National Labor Relations Act, proper, there is no mention in the law of its influence on Tribes or its impact on Tribes. Burger said what they have done is they have taken some steps to garner some support through organizations that they know first and foremost they are going to support their sovereignty cause. Burger said the National Chamber of Commerce has been very instrumental in doing that for Indian County. Burger said one of the biggest suits that they have supported is something called the Rayma Case. Burger said the Rayma Case was a contracting case between the Tribes and the Federal Government and the Tribes won that case and it ended being over \$19 billion worth of Federal Subsidies that is owed to the Tribes, being paid out to the Tribes and they are a beneficiary of that action. Burger said that is a very worth-while organization for them to be involved with and this particular case and the steps that they are at they are filing for a Writ of \_\_\_\_\_. Burger said what that means is they are asking the Supreme Court to hear their case so if they can have what is

called an Amicus Briefs which are briefs in kind from organizations that think like the Tribe does and support their cause that makes their case stronger and the appeal of the Supreme Court to take up the issue and hopefully at the end of the day come out on the side of Tribal Sovereignty. Burger said that is what they are trying to accomplish. Burger said she is very happy to talk to anyone that has questions about this anytime but in a nutshell that is what they are doing.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #15-1107-332;  
 AUTHORIZING A PAYMENT OF \$25,000 FOR MEMBERSHIP  
 DUES AND APPOINTING JOSEPH RILEY II AS THE  
 ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.S. CHAMBER OF  
 COMMERCE;** by Burger; supported by Di Piazza.

Speaker Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion. Johnson said he has Councilor Riley as abstaining because his name is on there as the Alternative or the Alternate.

**Roll Call #5**

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

Motion carried (8-0-1-0)

Speaker Johnson thanked Tom St. Dennis for bringing this forward because this is something very important and is going to be critical for their success in the future in regards to this case.

**IV. Old Business**

- A. **Financial Report**  **None Submitted**
- B. **Enrollment Commission**  **None Submitted**
- C. **Health Commission**  **None Submitted**

Speaker Johnson noted that they do not have anything under Financial, Enrollment or Health.

- D. **Housing Commission**  **September 2015**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE HOUSING COMMISSION REPORT  
 DATED SEPTEMBER 2015 FOR FILING;** by Medacco; supported by  
 Lewis.

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



**Roll Call #6**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

**V. New Business**

**A. Authorizing the Donation of \$750.00 to the Whitehall Wrestling Club**  
Tribal Council and Ogema are responsible for determining the Recipients of donations for one half of the Donated Fund Reserves established by the Revenue Allocation Plan and the Restrictions imposed by IGRA.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DONATION OF \$750.00 TO THE WHITEHALL WRESTLING CLUB;** by Crampton; supported by Lewis.

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

Councilor Di Piazza noted that this was a resolution.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #15-1107-333; AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF \$750.00 TO THE WHITEHALL WRESTLING CLUB;** by Crampton; supported by Lewis.

Speaker Johnson said he still has Councilor Lewis supporting this action. Johnson asked if anybody was going to abstain and that it was open for discussion.

Ron Pete, Tribal #4158, said he would just like to say that he thinks these types of donations he personally and wholly supports. Pete said he thinks it is great that the Tribe is doing that and those are the kinds of things that, down in the Muskegon area, which they are trying to as they know do everything they can to build a casino. Pete said these are the kinds of things that the public and the support they need to know it is not just about gaming but how they live and support the community. Pete said he really wants to thank Tribal Council for bringing this forward.

Councilor Crampton said he just wanted to add to that this request comes from a Tribal member Steve Kequom who is actively working with this program and does his best to try to keep children out of trouble in that area. Crampton said he whole heartedly supports this.

Fred Sidney Chivis, Jr., didn't give Tribal I.D. #, said that he was watching on tv of the casino in Muskegon of the meeting. Chivis said this has happened two to three times and he doesn't know if they are going to have more than that but what he looks at is Native American people here in Michigan. Chivis said each one of them has several of their own casinos Sault Ste. Marie and up North is trying to have their own.....

Speaker Johnson said to Fred Chivis that he has to caution him because they are talking about a donation to a Wrestling Team and they have on their agenda an item where they can talk about the business which he thinks he is making reference to and he would entertain this part of discussion at that point. Johnson said he wants to stay focused on the donation.

**Roll Call #7**

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

Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

Speaker Johnson said going back to what he said earlier they are going into Concluding Business and in that section they are going to have four items and one of them is the business section. Johnson encouraged anybody who wants to talk about business opportunities enterprises to be covered under that item which is B. Johnson said when they get into Public Comments he wants to do all other items that are not related to business activities so he just wanted to make it clear to everybody to fully understand so they can move along nice and smooth without bouncing around too much.

**VI. Concluding Business**

**A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Thursday, November 12, 2015**

Speaker Johnson noted that the next meeting is on Thursday November 12 and not Wednesday due to Veterans Day Holiday. Johnson asked if all the Veterans would please stand up. Johnson said Chi Miigwech, Chi Miigwech, Chi Miigwech.

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

Ogema Romanelli said he also wanted to say thank you to all their Veterans too. Romanelli said he sees John \_\_\_ down there who was honored earlier and it is nice to see him. Romanelli thanked everyone for coming to the Elders Meeting this year and he gave away his agenda that he wrote all his notes so whoever has his agenda if they could read this portion for him would work. Romanelli said he just got back from D.C. yesterday and Washington D.C. President Obama every year has hosted the Tribes and he has one representative from each Tribe.

Romanelli said he has been doing this for the seven years that he has been in office and he had the pleasure of going there for a couple of days last week and just got back yesterday morning. Romanelli said again it is a way of connecting with the Tribes that other Presidents hasn't done so they appreciate the President. Romanelli said it was a good meeting and it usually is. Romanelli said they have the chance to talk with other Tribes and the other thing that the President does is he brings members of his Cabinet to these meetings so they have the Head of Energy, Head of Interior and they go into break-out sessions. Romanelli said they have the opportunity to talk one on one with the various heads of the different departments which is important to the Tribal people. Romanelli said they really appreciated he thinks and hopes that the next President whoever that may be carries this tradition on because it is very worthwhile. Romanelli said they have a person up in Washington now by the way who is Allison Regonnes and she is now the Director of Cabinet Affairs to the White House. Romanelli said he has to check his notes but yes Allison Regonnes is the granddaughter of their own Art Magneson so if anybody knows Art and Fay Magneson this is their granddaughter. Romanelli said she was one of them that opened the meeting so they can be very proud to have a Tribal person Represented from their Tribe and she actually belongs to the Pokhagen Band and thinks she went with her Grandmother's Tribe if she is correct but Art Magneson is a member of Little River and they really appreciate that and he is sure they are very proud of her. Romanelli said they have a new attorney on board and if Shayne Machen could stand up. Romanelli said it is nice to have her aboard and again as they always do with their attorneys they always make them hit the ground running and she has done so again, her and Tom St. Dennis are working very well together and they have a lot on the agenda for her. Romanelli thanked Shayne Machen for all her hard work. Romanelli said they have the Muskegon Project and he thinks that may be what the gentleman was talking about earlier. Romanelli said their Muskegon Project received a big boost and most of this they have already heard if they came to the Membership Meeting but the Muskegon Casino Project they received a big boost by having the Scoping Hearing. Romanelli said the Scoping Hearing was put on by the Department of Interior back in October he believed and the turnout was overwhelming. Romanelli said the seating was for 500 and from his understanding was the Department of Interior wasn't expecting even half of that amount to show up and not only the 500 seats were filled but along the wall as well so they had over 600 people it is believed at the Scoping Hearing. Romanelli said it was a wonderful turnout and the majority he thinks was like seven to one or 11 to one for the project and that sent a huge message back to the Department of Interior. Romanelli said since the meeting they have been in contact with those people and they were very pleased and have already sent that information onto the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C. Romanelli said he had a chance to acknowledge them in D.C. when he was there and the supports just continues to roll in not only from their Tribal members but from the local community, the Elected Officials, business people, schools and everyone. Romanelli said they really appreciate that. Romanelli said they do have one Tribe that has been very vocal and spoke out against their efforts and that is the

Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe. Romanelli said he guessed that was another piece in the paper just the other day speaking out against their efforts again, he appreciates their ability to say what they feel and their thoughts however, the fact is that Saginaw-Chippewa almost always objects to any casino coming into the area so they don't take it personally because it is just what they seem to do. Romanelli said on the other hand Little River Band has been known not oppose other casinos in fact they have written letters of support so it is one of those things that they go through but in all of this they have to remember there are 12 Federally Recognized Tribes in the State and for those other ones he really appreciates the fact that they are either staying mum or giving support. Romanelli said they have to remember that out of the 12 they are one and that leaves 11 other Tribes and only one has come out vocally at least that he knows of and given their opposition. Romanelli said they know there may be one or two others that may be but they haven't been as vocal and they may come out as they go through. Romanelli said again they are talking three out of a dozen that may do that. Romanelli said they didn't go into this blindly and knew that this would be happening and the support has just been overwhelming and they just keep hearing more and more from the Elected Officials. Romanelli said since the last Membership Meeting he had many calls of support saying to go get the thing built and everybody is ready for it so they know that they could still be three or four years out or it could be less and they are working very hard to make sure that it is less. Romanelli said it means job creations, money coming in for services for their membership and they know it is the right thing to do and they know that they are working very hard and he appreciates everybody out there that has supported this too and don't be afraid to write into Saginaw-Chippewa and let them know as well.

Speaker Johnson said he knows there was a gentleman in the audience before but before they go to that person this has to do with business and he just wants to build onto what the Ogema has said in regards to this Scoping Hearing that they participated in or that was done by Interior and AES. Johnson said he just wanted to thank everybody in the audience here for their support who were down there and the kind words. Johnson said it really generated a lot of enthusiasm and from what he saw at the end of the meeting his take on it was the people who are working on this project AES they saw how important it was not only to Little River but also to the community. Johnson said they are seeing that they need to elevate their energy on this to make this thing move forward a little bit quicker and he really wanted to thank everybody in the audience for making that happen.

Ogema Romanelli said if he could also he wanted to thank those members that came out they had the Resort that was fully supportive and brought a group which they had appreciated and that means a lot when they see that. Romanelli said when their see their members that are fully supportive and they had Council members there as well. Romanelli said it means a lot to see the Elected Officials which means a lot to the local community because they are heavily invested in this and sometimes when these casinos or these things come to a community they

don't see the Elected Officials or the people that work for them so it was really important that they see the faces and he appreciates the Council and also the support being there as Tribal members.

Speaker Johnson said at this point there is a gentleman that wanted to speak in regards to this subject and wanted to entertain him first and ask that he gives his name and Tribal I.D.

Fred Sidney Chivis, Jr. said the things about the casino he is in favor of that since the beginning. Chivis said when he looks at Native American people is a problem because they have all these meetings and then they start saying that they are against it instead of working together. Chivis said look at American Corporations who are spending and banking trillions of dollars and yet they are fighting over millions or pennies sometimes. Chivis said that is what he is complaining of is he hopes they work together more than what they are doing.

Fran Pitts said her question is they bought that land in 2008.....

Speaker Johnson said to Fran Pitts for the record they need to have her name.

Fran Pitts, Tribal #1592, said now back to the subject they bought that land in 2008 and they still don't have it in trust and she doesn't understand that. Pitts said it also said in that article that they would not get it because it is not Treaty Land now if that is true who does it belong to. Pitts asked if it belong to the Tribe or does it belong to Grand River and she doesn't understand why it took so long to put it in trust because they should have went for it right away. Pitts said she was told at the Council Meeting when this first happened that there was \$3 million left and she said that should go to the Tribe because if it wasn't for them they wouldn't have gotten that Keno money. Pitts said she was told then that the money was for to put it into trust and to clean it up. Pitts said she didn't see where it went into trust and she doesn't see where they cleaned it up that much and doesn't think that tearing down a building costs \$3 million. Pitts said she doesn't understand this and why is it taking so long. Pitts said it didn't take them that long here to go into trust so why it down there. Pitts asked if there was a problem with the land and does it belong to Grand River. Pitts asked if they are waiting to see what Grand River is going to do to become a Tribe is that what they are waiting for.

Ogema Romanelli said he doesn't believe so and he didn't catch the second part of Fran Pitt's question. Romanelli said he will answer the first one and if she would re-ask the second one. Romanelli said they did purchase the land back in 2008 and the intent was to get it into trust to build a casino and to do development on the land. Romanelli said that is what they purchased it for. Romanelli said all this work they have been doing since 2008 is to get it into trust and it is a long process. Romanelli said it is even a longer process than when they did the work on this property. Romanelli said part of the Scoping Hearing had to do with

economics or excuse him environmental issues and they tightened up even more. Romanelli said for example they were going to try and put their Government Building across the street on the Bull Property and when they found out that there were issues, environmental issues, then they couldn't put the building there without spending a ton of money to clean up the property. Romanelli said so on the Federal Level they've tightened up the need for, to make sure that environmental issues are protected and that the impact to the local community and to the Tribe are all in place which is what this whole thing is about. Romanelli said they created a two-part determination to determine this and they did that since they built this casino and they are one of the first Tribes to use the two-part determination. Romanelli said he believed it has been used two to three times but they are one of the first. Romanelli said it is a lengthier process and that is what they are working on. Romanelli said he didn't believe it has anything to do with the Grand River Band but has to do primarily with the different processes that they have to go through now they have to show an historical tie which may be the closest they can get to talking about the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians. Romanelli said they know that out of the nine Chiefs of the Grand River Bands that is what this Tribe falls under and they have shown historically that they are tied to the area and still have families that live there part of his family included are living in the area. Romanelli said there is a true historical connection and they had to prove that as well so when Saginaw-Chippewa's complained about the Section 9 Amendment and that all Tribes have to agree they have shown that is an incorrect statement as well. Romanelli asked Fran Pitts that her second question and if he had answered it or did he not. Romanelli said they get feedback up there.

Fran Pitts said she forgot. Pitts said if that is.....now is this going to change because Grand River is supposed to get recognized next month which is what the rumor is. Pitts asked if that is going to change for them as far as the land goes. Pitts asked if they could come in there and claim it because it is partly theirs too. Pitts said it is in the Treaty for both.

Ogema Romanelli said right, they own the land, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians owns the 233 acres and so that is undisputed. Romanelli said Grand River Band has been on the list to be Federally Recognized and have been on for a number of years. Romanelli said the last thing that he heard and think it is correct was that sometime in September they were going to be.....they had the opportunity to be recognized.....Federally Recognized and believed they have been given an extension of six months which puts them back into about March or April again there are some changes at the Federal Level as to how they give Federal Recognition and there are always these changes going on and that is part of why some of this takes so long. Romanelli said again they are not opposing the Grand River Band's efforts to be Federally Recognized neither.

Fran Pitts said they are recognized by the State of Michigan as a Tribe but not by the Federal Government.

Ogema Romanelli said right they are an historical Tribe, correct.

Fran Pitts said she still doesn't understand.....what happens and she is really interested in this.....what happens if Grand River Band becomes a Tribe. Pitts said the rumor is they wanted that part that they are supposed to buy in the first place down by Lake Michigan and want to put a casino in there. Pitts asked if that will interfere with them.

Ogema Romanelli said it could sure but he thinks the one that Fran Pitts is talking about is not by Lake Michigan but by Muskegon Lake.

Fran Pitts said by Muskegon Lake and apologized it is downtown.

Ogema Romanelli said there was a Tribe from up North if she remembered corrected Lac Fleu \_\_\_ that offered to put in a bid in the Muskegon City Commission also bid to give them an option there but they haven't heard from them since. Romanelli said that is quite a stretch when they realize where Luc Fleu \_\_\_ is.

Fran Pitts said yes they are too far away because it has to be within a 100 miles.

Ogema Romanelli said yeah so if Grand River were to be Federally Recognized he thinks they would have the right to do or put up a casino as well within their area. Romanelli said now part of the problem they would have as well is the same things that their Tribe is having that there is a series of steps that they have to go through. Romanelli said their steps may be a little different than theirs because of their situation and that is the thing out of the 500 Tribes in the United States they are all unique little governments so they all have their own unique little situations that they have to go through so their steps that they have to go through may not be identical to theirs but they know they are a part of that. Romanelli said they never denied that they are part of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians.....Bands.....again that says so they have a right to be there.

Fran Pitts said one more question.

Speaker Johnson said to Fran Pitts to please listen to him.....

Fran Pitts said to the Ogema that property in back of the post office is a cemetery and who does that belong to.

Ogema Romanelli said he believed it belongs to the City or the County of Muskegon.

Fran Pitts reiterated the question the cemetery does.

Ogema Romanelli answered again that he believed that it does.

Fran Pitts said she has seen Tribal Ceremonies there before.

Speaker Johnson said what he is trying to do for everybody is give them an opportunity on the business end to ask a question or make their concerns on it okay and they normally limit in their business meetings five minutes to make those concerns prevalent to the membership and they want to give everybody one chance at least to have that opportunity.

Ogema Romanelli said can he answer that last one too. Romanelli said he can say without a shadow of a doubt that there are Native American remains in that cemetery and there was always a questions and the City stated they didn't know if there were. Romanelli said if there are and that is one reason that cemetery is still there because there was a time in the 80's when there were trying to basically take that out of there and do development and encroached all the way around there if anybody is familiar with the area. Romanelli said they encroached into a certain area and he knows that there were a few Native Americans that ensured that there were Native American bones there and they don't need to go any further but it stopped and halted all the ability for them to remove the cemetery and he thought that was absolutely right. Romanelli reiterated when they could absolutely ensure them that there were Native American bones there obviously their remains stopped that and he thought that was the right thing to do.

Councilor Crampton said he just wanted to expound on the question about Grand River because he thinks it a misconception that if they get recognized tomorrow that they will just throw a casino up overnight. Crampton said there is a long Federal Process that goes along with that and there is also a process which they have been working on for years and that is to garner local support. Crampton said just recently a Tribe in Petoskey tried to go for a second casino in Mackinaw City and they got everything in line but they didn't have the local support and they were denied by the village. Crampton said even if they got recognized, got the Federal support, the State support they would still have to get the local support and it is a long, long, process. Crampton said they are about five to seven years ahead of any effort that they have.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, said to the Ogema that he talked about Section 9 in the Compact the Tribe signed and do they need or has it been amended or changed since the original Compact was signed. Wolfe asked if they needed a letter of support from the Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Ogema Romanelli responded that they believed they do not. Romanelli said absolutely not. Romanelli said if they looked at and again they are have attorneys that are going back and forth from the different Tribes that have read what they says and what they means. Romanelli said the absolute belief is that they do not. Romanelli said since when that was put into the Compact and again that was.....

Julie Wolfe interrupted and said in 1998.



Ogema Romanelli apologized.

Julie Wolfe repeated in 1998 when that was put into the Compact or is there a more current Compact that has changed.

Ogema Romanelli said no, they had an amendment that basically said they could be excluded from that Section 9 because in their belief and again not to get too technical is that the other Tribes have not done so that have built. Romanelli said they have again, there has been about six casinos that have opened up since he has been Ogema in the eight years and did any of them get the Section 9 Amendment and his belief is no. Romanelli said it is just one of those things that they believe they are throwing out to complain about. Romanelli said he simplified that part too much.

Julie Wolfe said the second part he said there was 12 Tribes in Michigan and three are on the fence with supporting or not supporting so then the decision actually relies on the Governor for them to get their Casino Gaming in Muskegon. Wolfe reiterated her question if it was the choice of the Governor.

Ogema Romanelli said yes, they will need the Governor's concurrence and that is why they are not through this process yet because they still have to go to the Department of Interior and they have to give the Tribe the right to take the land in trust or they have to agree to take the land into trust and that is what they were talking about earlier and what Fran Pitts was asking about taking the land into trust. Romanelli said that is what they need to do then they can open a casino. Romanelli said to open a casino then it has to come back to the State and they have to have a full vote of the House, Senate and the Governor's concurrence has to sign off. Romanelli said if all of those things don't happen the casino isn't happening and it is not a done deal by any means but there are very.....they are so far along in this process and it is a rough process then they also hear there are way too many casinos. Romanelli said casinos still make money and by every means and they know it's not the only thing that they should be working on and they are not because they are working on other things too. Romanelli said the Section 9 the other Tribes the Four Winds, the Three Fires and he doesn't know that there are three Tribes again them but is just saying that there were rumors of. Romanelli said the only thing that they have heard about is the Saginaw-Chippewas.

Julie Wolfe said okay let her take in what she said. Wolfe said her understanding of what the Ogema said was that they signed the Compact that stated they will not pursue off Reservation Gaming but then they in turn asked for an amendment to that Compact and it was approved. Wolfe said now that is in the books.

Ogema Romanelli said they still have some work to do on their Compact as well, for changing the Compact, and they do that. Romanelli said there is five or six

Tribes now that are working with the State or not working with the State because they have to look at their Compacts again.

Julie Wolfe said so since 2008 when they purchased the land it has never changed, the Compact, for the Little River Band.

Ogema Romanelli said they have changed the Compact, yes.....

Julie Wolfe said it allows for off Reservation Gaming or it doesn't.

Ogema Romanelli said it doesn't at this time he believed. Romanelli said he may not be hearing the question right.

Speaker Johnson said to Julie Wolfe that they also have people in the audience that want to ask questions and so he wants to make sure that everybody has an opportunity. Johnson said he has Councilors Crampton and Burger who are raising their hands also.

Councilor Crampton said he just wanted to expound on what the Ogema was saying and they are not amending their original Compact but pursuing a different venue, a different option that was offered by the Interior which is for an application for a two-part determination. Crampton said it is a total separate application.

Councilor Burger said she just wanted to build onto what Councilor Crampton was saying. Burger said the process that the Tribe went through to build this casino was based upon the Tribe Reservation Lands. Burger said they took the lands into trust in their Reservation Territory and the Compact Document Section 9 talks about Reservation Territory and there are lots of Sections in their Compact that talk about Reservation Territory. Burger said the Muskegon Casino effort is a process under Interior whereby they are proving that there is an unmet need and a need for economic development that will have a separate agreement and will not become a part of the current Compacting Process because it is a two-part determination. Burger said what she thinks would be very helpful for the membership would be if they had an explanation of a two-part determination so they could understand they are not asking for them to take the land into trust as a Reservation Territory but asking them to take the land into trust for the purposes of economic development. Burger said in this case, gaming, and is a totally different set of laws and a totally different process. Burger said what they had to do in that process, because she assisted in writing some of the documentation, is they had to demonstrate that they had population base and they all know that they have population in Muskegon. Burger said it is part of their service delivery area in IHS and they had to demonstrate that they had an unmet economic need meaning people need jobs and they demonstrated that. Burger said they have also demonstrated that there are close ties between that community and the government which is seated in Manistee County on the Reservation and that those

ties create a community continuum. Burger said so the two-part determination proves is an application that is separate in part and falls under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and the Department of Interior is involved. Burger said all of the stuff that they read and she respects the Chairman at the Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe greatly because he is a tremendous advocate for Indian people and for Indian issues and he has the right to oppose them. Burger reiterated that is his right because he has to look out for the best interests of his people and he believes he is doing that just like any of them would do if they were asked about positions on certain issues. Burger said they are going to look out for the best interests of their people but at the end of the day their processes is separate in part from the Section 9 Language in the Compact and under a different body of law. Burger said so they have done all the research, the leg work, and it is in the hands of Interior, yes, the Governor has to approve it at the end of the day because that is required under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Burger said they should look at the State of Michigan because this Tribe is bringing jobs to an area in the State, proposing jobs to an area in the State that sorely needs the economic boost. Burger said at the end of the day the Governor is a businessman and she can't imagine that he is not going to come down on the side of employment.

Speaker Johnson said he has Sharron Detz also raising her hand and Ron Pete but he is going to get her next along with someone else in the audience. Johnson said he also wanted to build onto Councilor Burger said. Johnson said in that two-part determination it spells out very clearly about the restrictions and some of the restrictions involved in whether they can put the land into trust. Johnson said one has to do with what is the nearest Tribal Reservation to where they are proposing the casino and they are clearly outside the boundary. Johnson said when he says outside the boundary they are not hooked in with any other Tribes because they are far enough away and the closest one would be Gun Lake and they are still far enough away to meet that requirement so it does not compromise the two-part Determination.

Sharron Detz, didn't give Tribal #, said what concerns her is that Grand River Bands.....

Speaker Johnson said they cannot hear her.

Ron Pete said to Sharron Detz that no, it is on but she needs to hold it closer.

Sharron Detz said she guessed what concerns her is Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians is a State Historic Recognized Tribe not Federally but State Historic Recognized Tribe. Detz said if it is the Governor the bottom line is the Governor is the person that needs to okay whether there is whose casino is going to be in Muskegon it's difficult for her to believe that the Governor who runs the State of Michigan who State Recognized Grand River is just going to ignore that to allow another Tribe to come into Muskegon. Detz said the Arch\_\_\_\_\_ Group has been funding Grand River for years, years, years and years for their part of the casino

so she just has some small concerns about moving forward. Detz said the main one being the Governor she just doesn't understand how a State can recognize a Tribe and then say this is not really their land.

Ogema Romanelli said he thinks part of that comes down to the fact that it's not another Tribe coming into the area and that is what they kind of have determined because their largest concentration of Little River Band Tribal members and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is there. Romanelli said it is not like an outside group coming in at all and that is what they have trying to establish with this two-part and their last known Reservation is 17 miles from there and their largest concentration of members is right in Muskegon County and whether they call it an Agreement, a Compact they are all Treaties and all Agreements so he thinks that is part of it. Romanelli said he is probably not explaining it as well as he could because it gets into the legalities but they are not moving in there they have been there forever and they are connected. Romanelli said they are all Odawa and their families still reside there. Romanelli said they take the names of the people of Little River and the people of Grand River and they are united and all connected.

Speaker Johnson said to Sharron Detz that she is going to have to speak into the microphone because they cannot hear her.

Ron Pete said he has got it.

Sharron Detz said she agrees with him that they are all connected. Detz said she thinks of herself as Grand River she means her parents were born and died Grand River and that is who she is but/and they are connected. Detz said they are not so connected there is a lot of Grand River members out there who cannot get into Little River and therefore they don't have access to Education, jobs, medical, so they are really not equal. Detz said there is a lot of Grand River members that need the boost that Little River members got to be successful and would not.....she can assure them they would not call them connected. Detz said it is not.....she is not saying that it is not good or bad or whatever but she really takes issue with him saying that they are connected and that they have a history and.....and she was born in Muskegon.....

Ogema Romanelli said as was he.

Sharron Detz reiterated that she was born in Muskegon so she knows the connection that is there but she doesn't think that Grand River people feel connected to Little River people because they don't have any help or medical and that is what a casino would do for them and for their families and would boost their economy. Detz said she doesn't want to.....want all of them to forget about that because those are their people too and she agrees with him.

Ogema Romanelli said that's why.....

Sharron Detz interrupted and said she didn't know the answer.

Ogema Romanelli said that's why.....

Sharron Detz interrupted and said she doesn't know the answer and she just doesn't want to kind of gloss over it and forget about it.

Ogema Romanelli said okay, understood, and if they continually remind themselves that they are nine Chiefs.....represented by nine of the nineteen Chiefs of the Grand River Band that kind of helps. Romanelli said he never said they were equal he said they were connected and there are some qualities that go on and again they have people that are from Saginaw-Chippewa that are now members of their Tribe. Romanelli said they have Grand River members that three years ago were Grand River and now have gone over to Little River Band so it isn't a disconnect at all.

Councilor Crampton said he wanted to jump back to their question about whether they would get a casino verses this Tribe. Crampton said although they are State Recognized the Gaming Process requires Federal Recognition through the Interior and they don't have that because they are not recognized yet. Crampton said even though they are recognized by the Governor as a State Tribe he does not have the power to give them gaming until they go through the Federal Recognition Process.

Speaker Johnson asked Ron Pete if he had someone in the audience that wanted to speak.

Ron Pete replied that he thought he did but now cannot remember. Pete asked the audience that if someone wanted to speak if they could wave their hand please. Pete said he would just like to comment himself if they wouldn't mind.

Speaker Johnson said to Ron Pete to go ahead.

Ron Pete, Tribal #4158, he has been around now for a while and has been here for 11 years and remembers 2008 when the land in Muskegon was purchased. Pete said actually for the last five months now he was asked by the members of the Shoreline Development Committee to sit on the committee that is working with the Muskegon Project so to get up to speed on what was going on but he just wanted to say too the Ogema, the Speaker, and all of Tribal Council along with Tom St. Dennis or all of the people actually his cousin and dear friend that they lost Memberto is that there has been lots of time and effort put into this because it is a long process. Pete said it has been long and tedious but they stuck with it and kept going and kept moving forward so even though he doesn't quite understand all of the.....he was in Muskegon as most of them know in Fruitport supporting the meeting that was down there, the Public Comment Period, so just on behalf of just him just speaking for him he would like to applaud all of them for their

tenacity and for what they are doing by sticking to this to make this thing an opportunity for all of the people.

Councilor Di Piazza said the Governor he did sign off on the Sewer Project if they haven't noticed between M-55 and here that three miles stretch the sewer line is going in and the progress is coming. Di Piazza said actually they are going for economic development that is why the Governor signed off on that sewer line and also they have to remember with Meijer just doesn't come in doing an area without doing their due diligence of the economy, the people, the spending habits and Meijer didn't come in at 55 just for Manistee a lot of that came in because they are here. Di Piazza said they bring people in to gamble which in turn are going to help Manistee County grow and actually that is what is going to happen in Muskegon also is the are going to start and the whole Manistee County is going to progress from what they are doing that casino and any other business ventures they do down there. Di Piazza said he is excited for the sewer line and there is going to be new businesses that are going to come in along that line what exactly they don't know yet but that is why that sewer line is in there to open up that whole three miles stretch for new businesses which can only help them. Di Piazza said it is like he said he doesn't like going shopping but if the wife wants to go shopping she can drop him off here and he can gamble while she shops. Di Piazza said it is a good thing the Meijer in what is coming in the years to come. Di Piazza said he is excited for them.

Councilor Crampton said there were two other currently seated Elected Officials here when the purchase of the Muskegon Property went through and that was himself and Ogema Romanelli. Crampton said he doesn't want the membership to believe that this is something driven by the Elected Officials before the purchase of the property went through they were appraised that they had the opportunity to do so the Ogema asked for the approval of the membership to make the purchase to seek gaming in Muskegon. Crampton said there was an overwhelming yes by the membership before any dollar was spent.

Julie Wolfe, Tribal #1062, asked the Ogema if he could talk a little bit about the \$300,000 purchase that they just made in Muskegon and future plans for that and what they are doing with it now and also can he talk about the ½ million dollars that just got replenished in Future Gaming Stock Reserve. Wolfe said the way she read is that ½ million dollars is going to be spent in the next two months and is not a carry-over for 2016. Wolfe reiterated her question to the Ogema if he could talk a little bit about that.

Ogema Romanelli said he can talk about the \$300,000 purchase and asked Julie Wolfe if that was what she was talking about.

Julie Wolfe said yes.

Ogema Romanelli said what they are talking about in for those of them that maybe were not at the Membership Meeting there is a farmhouse and anybody that is familiar with Muskegon it is actually a very nice looking farmhouse with the barns in the back and they can see it from the expressway. Romanelli said that is contained within their 233 acres basically and is a little carve out. Romanelli said that has been an important little piece for Little River because of its location. Romanelli said if they understand the property divide they have the 87 acres that used to be the racetrack and that goes from Harvey Street to the expressway then they have Ellis Road and then they have another 55 acre parcel that goes towards Meijer. Romanelli said they recently acquired the Ellis Road going from Harvey Street almost to the expressway. Romanelli said in order to do that to tidy things up is the best way he can say it, to get that property that road getting the house became an important piece of that. Romanelli said they now own not only the house and barns along with the little carve out but they also have ownership of the road from the county deeded that over to the Tribe so they now own Ellis Road which now makes that whole piece of property the 87 and 55 connected and that is very important for a number of reasons. Romanelli said one is they can build anyway they need to there it makes it one continuous piece of property that it wasn't before and anybody that knows how to building is going in Muskegon with the Meijer and they see these little growth of either Credit Unions, banks, dentistry offices and it is all building up out there and talking about encroaching and in a sense it is encroaching on their 233 acres. Romanelli said that is becoming more and more important to the Little River Band while they would love to get doing some things they have to be careful that they are doing it in the right time and the right frame. Romanelli said they have Tom St. Dennis working on it and have a Shoreline Group which includes again, Ron and they have Council members that they are working in unison to make sure that they are doing it at the right time and the right place. Romanelli said still he believed in it from day one and he believes in it right now. Romanelli said he thinks that the land alone is going to become significant piece for the Little River Band because of what they can do economically there 233 acres in that prime area is amazing, it is amazing to have it and now they are connecting it as they go along. Romanelli said all these things they are doing is priming and prepping themselves for what will happen in the future and when they look seven generations out he thinks it is absolutely the right thing to do and believe history will show them. Romanelli said this didn't happen overnight. Romanelli said they all.....not all of them.....but those ae 50 and above which he is well above that remembers sitting at kitchen tables and designing and talking about their Tribe's and their people and when they see what is happened he thinks of his dad every time he looks at a place like this and he thinks about his grandma and his dad and them sitting around an old kitchen tables thinking about the future of their people and now they see what was happening from what they were doing many years ago. Romanelli said now they are sitting at the kitchen table although it looks a little better than what they had back in the day and they are looking 7 Gens out and saying okay what are they going to do. Romanelli said he thinks they are all in a better place in so many ways because of the long term thinking and now it is them

and he along with everybody sitting up at this table looking at long term thinking and that is what this is. Romanelli reiterated it is not going to happen overnight and they knew it wasn't going to be a cake walk but the things they are doing he thinks in history will show that they have done the right thing for the generations to come and their selves. Romanelli said he doesn't know if that answers that.

Julie Wolfe said to the Ogema that she will ask it a little more directly. Wolfe asked what are the future plans for the property that they just purchased being that farmhouse and are they going to rental that property while they are waiting to build their casino or is the house going to be torn down. Wolfe said there is a rumor that it is pre-promised to Bike Time Event Coordinator to rent the farmhouse.

Ogema Romanelli said yes they have the option of either leasing out the farmhouse or possibly even selling if need be. Romanelli said there is a lot of options that they have going forward. Romanelli said he thinks Julie Wolfe talked about a \$500,000.....

Julie Wolfe said she asked the question about \$500,000 that just got replenished in the Gaming Reserve Fund.

Ogema Romanelli said yes.

Julie Wolfe asked what do they spend those dollars on and is that \$500,000 going to be spent in the next two months or is it a carry-over because it is a ½ million dollars.

Ogema Romanelli said he thinks what they are talking about is restocking the Gaming Reserve Fund to go forward. Romanelli said he doesn't believe that is in answer to her question. Romanelli said it is really hard to hear what Julie Wolfe is saying but no it is not designed to be spent in the next couple of months. Romanelli said what it is designed to do is give them the abilities to move this project forward as soon as possible so that they have the money available if they need to have some legal work done or whatever because they are now at a place now that they.....the Section 9 was a hold up for a long time and there were some politics at State level that held them up for like two or three years which they didn't really appreciate but it was held up. Romanelli said once this Section 9 happened they were already doing work behind the scenes which what that 45" document that they talked about happened. Romanelli said that didn't happen overnight either and there is a lot of work from a lot of people. Romanelli said now that has been freed up they then took it to the BIA and now that the BIA has turned it over to the Department of Interior things are moving fairly quickly. Romanelli said the Department of Interior it is now in their hands as Councilor Burger said. Romanelli said they have done a lot of their work and it is now up to the Department of Interior to do their work and they don't know how long that is going to be and he thinks the fact is they want to be as ready as possible so that if



and when they need to move they can move quickly. Romanelli said business moves a heck of a lot faster than government does and he appreciates the fact that they looking out to say be ready because if they can save a half of a year at any time it is in their best interests when they figure the amount of revenue that they are going to get. Romanelli said they can slow things down or speed things up a half a year or even a couple of months absolutely and that is what they are trying to do is think ahead and make sure because they don't know what the timing is going to be but he believed those are the reserves that Julie Wolfe is talking about.

Julie Wolfe said correct and she has one last comment. Wolfe said she doesn't know if this is in the business section. Wolfe asked what is the state of them allowing 18 year olds to gamble in this facility. Wolfe asked the Speaker if that was in the correct section.

Speaker Johnson said to Julie Wolfe that is a very good question and he would entertain her to do that because they can't answer that question here at this table and that has to be addressed to the Board of Directors. Johnson said they have open sessions and he would invite that she go to the open session of the Board of Directors and ask them their position on this but at this point they do have the ability if they want to move forward on that issue.

Julie Wolfe asked if they didn't have a resolution in place by Tribal Council that mandates 18 year olds to be allowed in this facility.

Speaker Johnson said it does not mandate them it gives them the opportunity to do it if they want to. Johnson said he also wanted to build onto the response to the Ogema in regards to the Shoreline Project. Johnson said the Task Force is comprised of and he might miss a name but he doesn't think so they have Ad Hoc members of Ron Pete, General Manager, Tom St. Dennis, Attorney, Glenn Zaring, Information, and then they also have as the voting members on the Task Force the Ogema, Councilor Medacco and himself. Johnson said those are the key players on the Task Force and they meet at a minimum, at a minimum once every two weeks to talk about this issue because they want.....they got this bird up and flying and they want to keep this bird flying and if they have to meet more regularly they will do that because this is a priority with them. Johnson said they also when Robert Memberto-ba was around he helped them generate the team that is supporting them on this project and that included AES and what they had to do for Interior is do a three-pros bid for somebody to do the EIS which is an Environmental Impact Study while they selected an AES from all the people they looked at because they had a rich history and they were very successful on putting together a plan so they got a good player on that. Johnson said they also selected Dykema who is an attorney housed out of Lansing that has very close connections in both Lansing and Washington so they have these people working for them. Johnson said as a matter of fact they were sat down with Councilor Burger when she was the Tribal Manager and they worked very closely together to talk about the needs of the Tribe and when they got done putting this document together it is

at least five inches thick and so when Interior got it it took them two months to read this thing and how this was going to impact the Tribe. Johnson said they also brought in MRG out of Lansing who is going to do their Marketing work and then they also as a side note they still have to pay taxes on that property and that all comes out of that funding that one of the Tribal members asked about the \$500,000. Johnson said these are part of the players and this is where the cost is going and he feels very strong about this team and feels that they are going to do the right things at the right time for them to keep this thing moving at a very good clip. Johnson said the open Board Meeting Councilor Di Piazza said is Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Johnson said he would invite anybody to do attend that.

Fran Pitts, didn't give Tribal, said to the Ogema that she has a question for him. Pitts said she heard that they borrowed \$18 million to re-fix this casino and she hears that they don't have enough money and they want more. Pitts asked if that was true.

Speaker Johnson said they have not been asked for any additional money on this project. Johnson said they have been very firm that the money on the resolution was \$18 million.

Fran Pitts asked Ron Pete what does he say.

Ron Pete asked the Speaker what the protocol is on this.

Speaker Johnson said at this point his question to them and he will go again to the Board but his comment was if there was any additional money that was asked for on top of the \$18 million and his response to that was no. Johnson said they have not received any requisitions or any proposals to spend any more money on this project.

Ron Pete said that is correct he hasn't put forth anything in front of them at this point.

Fran Pitts said one more thing. Pitts asked if they were going to let them know ahead of time if they do want more money. Pitts said she don't understand where.....they have \$18 million out there anyway but if they get \$18 million and they have that loan to pay for and a couple years down the road they come up with a \$180 million for Muskegon and somebody states that will pay for it well, that is going to take a long time for that casino to even get on its feet to pay for it. Pitts said they are not rich and asked where are they getting all this money. Pitts said she is not spending any more money here.

Ron Pete said to Speaker Johnson that he is not going to get heavily involved in this thing right now because that is not the appropriate place and time during this meeting however, he will just say this. Pete said they are moving forward on this

project and as they walk through the casino there are walls up and stuff done and it is moving along. Pete said he is not going to stop this thing where it is because it has to get done in its conclusion and as they know as early as this past Thursday when they had a Budget Meeting and gave them projections of what they are doing so far this year regardless of all the walls that are up, regardless of all the dust that is up, regardless that they have machines that are up the floor because they have walls and dust right now until they reopen them they are still guaranteeing that they are still doing and distributing more money than they did last year.

*Someone from the audience asked Ron Pete a question and he remarked that questions should be directed to the Speaker because it is his meeting.*

Fran Pitts asked Ron Pete if it was going to be ready and he wants it ready by December.....

Councilor Di Piazza said he can't hear it.

Ron Pete said no just.....

Speaker Johnson asked Fran Pitts to repeat the question so that they can hear.

Ron Pete said the question was are they going to be ready in December. Pete said to Speaker Johnson that ready in December is a pretty broad question so let him just answer a couple of those things if he has his permission. Pete said the most important thing that has to be ready for him in December with the construction and people knew this all along was that he gets the Willows back in December. Pete said he can't keep running the Willows out of the Conference Center because as Tribal Council knows in the Conference Center on New Year's Eve they serve 900 people dinner. Pete said 900 of their top elite players they bring on property and New Year's Eve is the largest night for them a year. Pete said December 17<sup>th</sup> was the original date that he would get the Willows back and that has been cut in stone because he made them write it in blood and they are getting it back by December the 17<sup>th</sup> guaranteed. Pete said so they will get the Willows back to serve food then they will have the Conference Center which they can do the things because at that time on New Year's Eve they feed approximately 1,400 people all at once and they get them on property, why, to game which is the first thing. Pete said the Sports Bar was never scheduled to be back on the schedule until January 21<sup>st</sup> and at this point the Contractors and everybody is giving him January 21<sup>st</sup> as a date in stone which is incredibly important for me because their Grant Opening will be Super Bowl Weekend which is the first weekend in February. Pete said that is going to be a huge hit. Pete said to Speaker Johnson that the other third thing that he got to go right now and it is over up and down this road then he will be done is the Spa. Pete said it is important for them to have the Spa to be up by February the 14<sup>th</sup> which is Valentine's Day and they are going to get the Spa back to them already running to go somewhere around the same

time as the Sports Bar so at this point he believed that is all the update that he is going to give and hope that is enough. Pete said he can give them more when it becomes \_\_\_\_ then he can do what he can do.

Speaker Johnson said what he would like to do is he will entertain one more question under business then he would like to move into Legislative.

Ron Pete apologized to the Speaker for going too far.

Marcella Leusby, Tribal #0133, said she had heard the rumor that they have taken out the bar and dancing place and it will not be put back in. Leusby said she would like to know why that is.

Ron Pete asked Speaker Johnson if he wanted him to answer that question.

Speaker Johnson said yes.

Ron Pete said okay here the go again. Pete said he said he was done but they know usually he is never quite done. Pete said every Sports Bar that he ever be in in his life, a true Sports Bar, as they know he has been pushing for a Sports Bar for eight years in this place. Pete said the closest Sports Bar that they had that was a true Sports Bar they would have to go to the Lakes Mall in Muskegon which is 87 miles away. Pete said the next closest Sports Bar that is a true Sports Bar would be in Traverse City which is 64 miles north. Pete said they have a great opportunity here something that is going to be unbelievable Sports Bars don't have bands and dance floors. Pete reiterated that they don't. Pete said he will tell them this the Sports Bar will not have a band stage and a dance floor however that being said it will have the capabilities if there was a light weekend if they wanted to book a band in there they have a port-a-stage with the Resort currently owns. Pete said they can make a dance area in there by the removal of some of the tables. Pete said there will be a fully functional 100% bar in there with machines in the bar which gaming people can tell them are some of the best rated machines that they have on property because people like to for some reason drink and pound money into machines. Pete said they like to dance too so there will be the availability of them if the Resort chooses from a good marketing end to have a band in there and dancing on a weekend but it is not going to be a traditional thing like the Grove was because simply Sports Bars if they go into Buffalo Wild Wings he can guarantee them they don't have a band or a dance floor. Pete reiterated that they will have that option available to them because they didn't like to take anything off the table. Pete said to Marcella Leusby that he hopes that answers it and that was the best he can do.

*Fran Pitts was making comments but the Speaker was also talking and they were not picked up on the tape recordings.*

Speaker Johnson noted they have two more areas and they are getting close to 12:00 p.m. Johnson said what he would like to do is go into Legislative then go to Public Comments. Johnson reiterated that he wanted to make sure that everybody had an opportunity to speak and they have already gone back to people for a second and possibly a third time so they are going to move on.

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

Councilor Crampton said he believed they just covered everything legislatively.

Speaker Johnson said just for their membership to let them know first of all they have Council members that represent at various levels in regards to legislative affairs. Johnson said they have both Councilors Burger and Crampton represent Council at the federal level and Councilor Medacco and himself represent Council at the state level. Johnson said these are legislators or they are the ones who are the Legislative Liaisons for those areas. Johnson said he just wanted to pass along that there was a question about a couple of Bills out there. Johnson said there are two outstanding Bills out there right now that are very of interest and if anybody can watch them to watch them very closely. Johnson said House Bill #511 he believed could be voted on if it hasn't this week will be addressed next week and has a good chance of passing which has to with the National Labor Review Board Act. Johnson said there is also a Senate Bill #248 which is mirrored to the House Bill and again that one is out of a committee and its being discussed as they speak right now however they are concerned for everybody here it may pass but may not pass well enough to override a President's Veto if he elected to veto the bill. Johnson said so he just wanted everybody to understand that also from the State or community he wanted to thank one of their fellow employees who has walked on, Robert Memberto-ba, who was very instrumental of putting together the Units of Government for Manistee in which involves the County, City, Township and Little River and they meet once a month and they talk about issues that can enhance the community. Johnson said one of those issues that came out of it as they can see that is near completion is the Sewer Project. Johnson said again that is the five Units of Government coming to an agreement if they will and the fifth unit was the State as they heard earlier so they have discussed that. Johnson reiterated again that is the communication that is going on and that is what Little River is doing to enhance the community not only themselves because they will be getting money on the sewer in their Wastewater Treatment Facility but they are also going to be able to grow the community especially commercially with that line and all the growth as Councilor Di Piazza indicated north of town here. Johnson said that is all the update he has for Legislative Affairs.

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

Susan Thall, Tribal #3727, said she has a question about the item they had under Continuing Business. Thall said they said that the.....well they voted for the

supplemental but they said that it was \$104,000 per month for the Elders Insurance and asked if she was correct.

*Tribal Council replied yes.*

Susan Thall said okay and asked if they could her how many Elders that is covering.

Councilor Di Piazza answered 263.

Susan Thall asked if anybody had that information.

Councilor Di Piazza again answered it is like 263 right now.

Susan Thall asked is that something that they signed up for.....

Councilor Di Piazza said it has gone through Members Assistance and that is he believed anybody over 65 is the Elders Supplemental Insurance.

Susan Thall asked do they have to sign up for it.....

Councilor Di Piazza replied yes.

Susan Thall asked or is it just.....she is wondering how that works because she has heard some people were covered by it and didn't even realize it.

Speaker Johnson said he has Councilor Burger who he believes wants to respond and told her to go ahead.

Councilor Burger said the Elders Supplemental Insurance applies to Elders that are Medicare age eligible and have to be enrolled in Medicare Part A and also in Medicare Part B to be eligible for this insurance. Burger said that has been one of the discussion points amongst the Council is the number of Elders that the insurance actually covers and how the eligibility rolls out because if they are an Elder that does not have Medicare Part B they are not eligible to receive that insurance so those are some of the things they are looking at in the discussion they are going to have this afternoon as perhaps affecting some changes in the overall structure of that insurance they want the feedback from the group because one of her main concerns is that they have well over 400 Elders in their group and the coverage does not reach to every Elder in the group and that is because of the age eligibility criteria that is set on it with Medicare Part A & B. Burger said so some Elders yes, some Elders are signed up and didn't really know when the insurance was implemented years ago and they had to have the Elders actually opt out because they had insurances through their retirement through the UAW and other organizations and it impacted their spouses so she thinks there is a broader

need for discussion to find out exactly what or where their gaps are as far as coverages and to find out what might fit better and cover more people long term.

Susan Thall thanked Councilor Burger the apologized. Thall asked how many did they say it was covering right now.

Councilor Di Piazza reiterated again about 263. Di Piazza said he could be off by a couple but.....

Councilor Burger said just over 260.

Susan Thall repeated just over 260. Thall thanked them and said she appreciated that answer. Thall said one more thing as Councilor Burger was saying they are talking.....again.....their communication is not good still so everyone needs to pull together and work on this because they have to have better communications among their members especially for those that live outside of Manistee. Thall said she would really appreciate it and thinks that she herself would like to see as this is an Elder's Meeting she would like to see an Elder's Newsletter put online, she really would because she thinks they need to start communication. Thall said she knows that she has asked before on communications for Tribal Council that when a new ordinance is put on that a message is sent out and she knows that the Ogema's Meet and Greet at least a year ago it wasn't at this last one but it was at least a year ago that she asked that she knows that she used to get a message from Glenn Zaring's Office that their Newsletter was online or something was going on. Thall said she knows she gets some messages from Historical Preservation because she is on their line but not everyone knows that they could get these messages and the message.....she had asked at the time that they have a better line of communication at that time Glenn Zaring and George Le Vasseur were there and George Le Vasseur said it was possible and all he had to do was put a disclaimer, correct her if she is wrong, a disclaimer on their website saying that they were going to use it somehow for a that they could sent them messages.....she can't remember exactly how he said it but said that he would have to put a disclaimer first and then they could use those e-mail addresses to send out information, they know, that is current and is right now this is happening, they know, and she thinks that nothing has been done about it. Thall said Glenn Zaring said yeah they could do something so but she knows that it is the go ahead maybe wasn't given or maybe it wasn't given or a policy change. Thall said they really need to address this communication everyone talks about it and they are tired of not knowing what is going on and they want to be a community and want for their own sovereignty they have to show that they are together and that they know what is going on and can't have a 100 people here in Manistee knowing what is going on and the rest of the Tribe is just out there and they know nothing, they know, so they need to do something about communication, Tribal Council and the Ogema it is really their responsibility Ogema to work on this and they need to get their departments together and have them better informed.

Speaker Johnson said they are still in Public Comments and they are getting close to their meal.

Ogema Romanelli asked if he can address or answer part of that and he also had another issue that he had to bring up.

Speaker Johnson said to go ahead, sir.

Ogema Romanelli said he thinks, they know, communication he takes responsibility for that, they know, what they can do now he also understand that they had problems with the Currents as well. Romanelli said as they know they went to, because of financial reasons, went to an every other month being E-Currents rather than the paper. Romanelli said he thinks if he knows correctly the...that amount has been put back in to give the Tribal members 12 full months or at least 11 months, right, only during the Holidays do they not have one out but there is an effort to put 11 months back worth of hard copy Currents in the hands of the membership is that correct. Romanelli said that he thinks is a step in the right direction. Romanelli said now the next part is what information they get in there. Romanelli said he does believe that belongs to everybody's responsibility both their Directors for the different departments to find out what is going on which they are working on and then if it is the Elders he guessed he would suggest that the Elders Commission which he knows Ron Pete is putting in information in the Currents on a regular basis now that wasn't happening so much and Council can put in their section so they are working on content not only just getting the Currents out because sometimes and he has to agree there is just some fluff in there that they put in and for his part the Ogema's part he knows there is fluff because he put it in there. Romanelli said simply at times he runs out of time and it is like this month he was in D.C. and had to go to D. C. and he was on a plane trying to finish his article so it looked a little funky but he finished putting the article in so he agree that he needs to put some more substance in the information. Romanelli said the Currents isn't the only thing for communication, they know, because he thinks the Ogema's Meet and Greet is a good opportunity for communicating and thinks it works out very well but it doesn't work out for everybody but it does. Romanelli said he thinks their Membership Meetings and there are other things that they can do too, they know, to communicate better so yes he thinks its.....he will take his part in it and thinks they need to expand on that and get better communication. Romanelli said with that said he does also want to.....he was mistaken not mistaken but forgot to note this he just got an e-mail while he was on a plane from Lucy Hunter who asked him if he would speak to this group about trying to put together a Talking Circle from their membership on Boarding Schools and the trauma of Boarding Schools and she wondered if anybody would be interested in joining that group and they know they have Tribal members that have family or themselves that have attended Boarding Schools. Romanelli said Lucy Hunter is heavy into this and if she don't.....he doesn't have a number for her right now but if anybody is interested she would like to start a Talking Circle and he had to bring that out. Romanelli said if they need to



contact anybody they can contact him at the office and he will get them the information. Romanelli said he also asked Lucy Hunter to put something in the Currents or the Rapid River News about this as well so she said she would do that. Romanelli said the Rapid River News is actually a weekly thing online that they can look at too as a way of informing but again he thinks the information could be better.

Helen Green, Tribal #3578, said she wanted to talk about like they got this thing about closing Enrollment and asked if they had a contingency plan for those people who were adopted and don't know they are adopted. Green said sometime people don't know until they are 40 when their parents pass away that they were even adopted then they dig and find out that they are a Tribal member of this Tribe. Green asked if there is going to be something in the plan so they can become Tribal members here. Green said she doesn't care if they close Enrollment but they need to protect people who don't know that they are members and when they do find out that they welcome them in. Green asked if they are going to have that kind of plan going on.

Speaker Johnson said he sees Councilor Crampton would like to respond.

Councilor Crampton said yes they are. Crampton said he wants to go back to Susan Thall's comments. Crampton said he has been coming to communities like Chicago, Wisconsin or wherever he is requested to meet with membership so if she has a need for a meeting he was recently joined by Councilors Riley and Wittenberg from Council also go to Milwaukee. Crampton said they will come to their community and meet with them. Crampton said they rent the hall and pay for the gas and they do it all so if they want them there they will come and meet with them.

Speaker Johnson said at this point he wants to thank everybody for the respect and the good hard questions that they asked from all of them and they look forward to doing this again. Johnson said with this new Council in place they want to meet at least two times or maybe more on Saturdays so they can have this discussion with them so they get a better feel and direction of their government and if they are going the right way.

## VII. Adjourn

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING;** by Di Piazza; supported by Lewis.

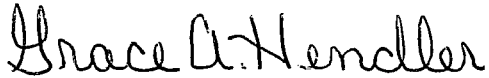
### Roll Call #8

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


Motion carried (9-0-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned and the time was not noted.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grace A. Hendler  
Transcribing Assistant



Joseph Riley II,  
Tribal Council Recorder