



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017
LITTLE RIVER BAND
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on November 8, 2017. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Acting Speaker Lewis said welcome to their November 8, 2017 Meeting and their Opening Prayer will be given by Councilor Medacco.

I. Opening Prayer

Councilor Medacco said good morning.

Father God, Lord, Creator thank you for this day you have given us today.
As we start out today Lord we want to keep Frances Pitt in our hearts and our prayers for she passed earlier.
Also Carla Battice and her family in your prayers Lord.
They might seem short lived but they have a lasting effect.
The words that we speak and the actions that we do.
We just ask today that you just guide our hearts, guide our minds.
Give us that clear vision that you have laid out for us.
We just thank you that you have given us an opportunity to change those hearts and those minds in the community.
We just ask you to look over the Tribe.
We just ask for your blessing over everybody's lives.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

The regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked Acting Recorder Wittenberg if he could do a roll call to establish quorum.

Acting Recorder Wittenberg said yes.

B. Roll Call

J. Riley - Absent	J. Friedel - Absent	F. Medacco - Present
S. Crampton - Present	G. DiPiazza - Present	R. Pete - Present
R. Wittenberg-Present	D. Lonn - Present	S. Lewis - Present

Quorum established.

Others Present: Jennifer Crampton.

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

C. Approval of Agenda

Acting Speaker Lewis said they will move down to approve the agenda for November 8, 2017. Lewis recognized Councilor Di Piazza.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017 AS PRESENTED; by Di Piazas; supported by Wittenberg.

Roll Call #1

J. Riley - Absent	J. Friedel - Absent	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Acting Recorder Wittenberg noted the agenda has been approved.

D. Tribal Council Minutes 11/1/17

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TRIBAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 11/1/17 FOR FILING; by Medacco; supported by Wittenberg.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked are there any abstentions. Lewis asked Acting Recorder Wittenberg to do a roll call.

Roll Call #2

J. Riley - Absent	J. Friedel - Absent	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Acting Recorder Wittenberg noted the Tribal Council Minutes for 11/1/17 has been approved.

III. Continuing Business

- A. Grants & Contracts
- B. Budget Modifications
- C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

Acting Speaker Lewis said there is nothing under A, Grants & Contracts, B, Budget Modifications and C, Approval of Budgeted Expenditure.

IV. Old Business

Reports that are due: August and/or September 2017

- A. Financial Report
- B. Enrollment Commission

- C. Natural Resource Commission
- D. Commerce Commission
- E. LRBOI Tribal Government Preference Report

Reports received:

- September 2017
- September 2017
- November 2017
- No Meeting
- None Submitted
- None Submitted
- None Submitted

Acting Speaker Lewis said the reports that are due for August and September, 2017. Lewis said the Little River Band Tribal Government Preference Report and they are accepting reports under financial Reports under A, September 2017, B, Enrollment Commission for September 2017 and November 2017. Lewis said that moves them down to New Business.

V. New Business

- A. **Resolution to Repeal Resolution #16-1105-334 – Authorization to Prohibit the Allowance of Paid Time Off “Cash Out” Policies at any Tribal Enterprise or Entity**

Upon reviewing current policies and proposed changes presented by the Little River Casino Resort Tribal Council has determined it is in the best interests of the Tribe to repeal the resolution.

Councilor Pete said if there isn't any more discussion on it then he would like to make a motion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #17-1108-377;
APPROVING REPEAL OF RESOLUTION #16-1105-334;
AUTHORIZATION TO PROHIBIT THE ALLOWANCE OF PAID
TIME OFF CASH OUT POLICIES AT ANY TRIBAL
ENTERPRISE OR ENTITY;** by Pete; supported by Lonn.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked are there any questions on this.

Ogema Romanelli said yes, if he could just have a brief overview of what this is here. Romanelli said they are repealing something that was in place and the intent.....

Acting Speaker Lewis asked Andrew Gentile to come up and speak on this.

Andrew Gentile, General Manager of the Resort, said it is his understanding that the Tribal Council last year based off the report of some issues related to PTO Cash Out decided to repeal that going forward and the property, the Resort, was given one year to prepare for that. Gentile said it was originally enacted a 240 maximum that they could accrue to and then effective January 1, 2018 there would be no more cash out. Gentile said he brought to Tribal Council's in a work session that would really damage a lot of front line team members especially those that work for tips. Gentile said a lot of tipped employees can't afford to take PTO because when they do take Vacation Time they end up only getting paid minimum wage so when their Vacation Time gets capped and they can't afford to take time off because they got to pay their bills they end up essentially losing that benefit. Gentile said what he had requested and he believed they had two or three work sessions was that they look at an opportunity to revise the policy and look at what changes in 2017 went in so in 2017 they got capped to 240 hours and they can only cash out at any one point and time up to half of their balance. Gentile said the property saw significant reduction in that expense line item. Gentile said his proposal was to not punish the majority of the team members because one or two team members at the higher ranks maybe had taken advantage of the policy so therefore it is really.....his recommendation is they are punishing the wrong people by taking it completely away. Gentile said allow the repeal and allow them to put in a policy. Gentile said the policy that they submitted in the work sessions to Tribal Council and he believed everybody was in favor of was starting January 1, 2018 team members could cash out again or continue to cash out but they could only cash out once a quarter which helps from a cash flow standpoint for Finance. Gentile said once they do that cash out they can't keep coming back and they can Budget for it more appropriately but it also requires them that they have to keep at least 40 hours in reserve. Gentile said that way nobody can cash all the way out to zero and then two weeks later they end up with pneumonia or something bad happens and they have no time. Gentile said so the maximum stays in place where they can only go up to 240 and they can cash out once a quarter but they can't cash out below 40 hours this way they will always still have some time in case something bad does happen so that nobody ends up in a jackpot where they cash it all out and they get really sick and they have no more paid time.

Ogema Romanelli thanked Andrew Gentile and that he appreciates that.

Acting Recorder Wittenberg said this is the first step.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked any other questions. Lewis said they already have a motion by Councilor Pete and supported by Councilor Lonn. Lewis asked any abstentions. Lewis asked Acting Recorder Wittenberg if he could do a roll call.

Roll Call #3

J. Riley - Absent	J. Friedel - Absent	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

Acting Recorder Wittenberg confirmed Resolution #17-1108-377 has been approved.

VI. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, November 15, 2017

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

Ogema Romanelli thanked them. Romanelli said as Council is aware their 2018 Budget is just about done. Romanelli said they just met with Joe yesterday and ironed out a few different things that were kind of in question between the two branches but he thinks they have those worked out. Romanelli said he thinks they are in pretty good shape going forward so they are going to present.....they are fine tuning those things and they will have it back to them probably by the end of the month for sure. Romanelli said he guessed they are right there. Romanelli said that was one thing. Romanelli said the Elder's Meeting was held and they elected new Elder's Meeting Representatives. Romanelli said a couple of things that came out of there. Romanelli said one was and they talk about it and he thinks it was brought up at the Tribal Council part of the meeting where it lists reports and it says none submitted. Romanelli said people get confused by that because it looks like they are all behind whether it be departments or the commissions or committees. Romanelli said it is just a note and he doesn't know if they could change it to, they know, something else. Romanelli said it is not a big deal but he has heard it over the years. Romanelli said they keep thinking that, for example, the Financial Report is way behind because it says none submitted well a lot of times it is just a place holder basically so he doesn't know if they need to change anything but he just thinks.....thought he would bring it up. Romanelli said the other thing is they had the Pharmacy come and speak to the Elders and while he thinks that Keith Jacques did a good job explaining the Pharmacy part of it they kind of tagged him off base when the Elders got asking questions on some of the things that were taking place within the Pharmacy as it pertains to Elders Benefits. Romanelli said he thinks he already sent an e-mail that said he thinks they really need to put something probably in the Currents would be the best place to explain some of those concerns that they had because the Elders had a lot of concerns. Romanelli said if they were like him he came away a little more confused than when he went in thinking he had more

knowledge of the situation when he couldn't answer it he just figured that they need to put something in place. Romanelli said Keith Jacques was also saying that some of the decisions haven't been made by the Elected Officials so he guessed they can address that too but he has asked Don Mac Donald and Keith Jacques to put something in the Currents kind of ease the people's mind because they were a little concerned and rightfully so. Romanelli said that's important and that is what they are going to be doing. Romanelli said he will have a few meetings and of course those Liaisons to the Health Committee are welcome to come or any Council member.

Acting Speaker Lewis thanked the Ogema and asked him if that was it.

Ogema Romanelli said that should do it.

Acting Speaker Lewis thanked him again.

C. Legislative Affairs Update

Acting Speaker Lewis asked does anybody have anything.

Councilor Crampton said oh, he was just looking at some things they just published in October for the 101 Program. Crampton said if they are over 62 they can apply for a grant which has no pay back and the loans are capped on one's personal wealth because what they are doing is upping their equity in their home value. Crampton said he would like to start talking about this to some of their Elders and some of their members about getting into some of these programs.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked anybody else on Legislative.

D. Public Comment Period

Acting Speaker Lewis asked are there any public comments.

Councilor Di Piazza said just a fire has been lit for Fran Pitts over at the Lodge and feel free to come and lay some sema. Di Piazza said they are always looking for some help also as far as fire tenders. Di Piazza said that and Celebration of Life will be Saturday at Stronach Hall at 2 p.m. Di Piazza said she is going to be missed.

Acting Speaker Lewis recognized Councilor Lonn.

Councilor Lonn said they also had another Elder pass away, Dennis King. Lonn said she doesn't know when his funeral is but she does know there is a Celebration of his life at Aki and that is Saturday as well.

Acting Speaker Lewis recognized Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton said he just wanted to echo the sentiment about Fran Pitts. Crampton said she was a very vocal advocate for this Tribe and he feels that somehow they are diminished. Crampton said she will be missed.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked anybody else. Lewis thanked them.

The purpose of closed session is to discuss business matters considered privileged or confidential involving consideration of bids/contracts, pending legal issues, and/or personnel matters.

MOTION TO END THE FIRST OPEN AT 10:16; by Wittenberg;
supported by Crampton.

Tribal Council asked don't they have to do a roll call.

Acting Speaker Lewis apologized.

Roll Call #4

J. Riley - Absent	J. Friedel - Absent	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - No	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (6-1-0-2)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

VIII. Open Session

Acting Recorder Wittenberg said to Acting Speaker Lewis that the recorder is on.

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 11:05 a.m.

MOTION TO GO BACK INTO OPEN AT 11:05; by Di Piazza;
supported by Medacco.

Roll Call #5

J. Riley - Absent	J. Friedel - Absent	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

A. Items moved from Closed to Open Session

Acting Speaker Lewis asked do they have any items to move from Closed to Open Session.

Acting Recorder Wittenberg said yes and that he would like to make a motion.

MOTION TO MOVE MOTION AND ROLL CALL VOTE ONLY ON RESOLUTION #17-1108-378, 379, 380, 381 AND 382; by Wittenberg; supported by Di Piazza.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked are there any questions.

Councilor Crampton said the Capital Budget for the Resort is not included in that is it.

Councilor Medacco said yeah.

Councilor Di Piazza said motion and roll call only.

Councilor Crampton repeated motion and roll call only.

Acting Speaker Lewis agreed motion and roll call only. Lewis said motion and roll call vote only. Lewis asked any questions. Lewis asked Acting Recorder Wittenberg if he could do a roll call.

Roll Call #6

J. Riley - Absent	J. Friedel - Absent	F. Medacco - Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	R. Pete - Yes
R. Wittenberg-Yes	D. Lonn - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

The following motions and roll call votes were moved from Closed to Open Session.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 17-1108-378, APPROVING 2018 EXPENDITURE WITH IMAGINE THIS; by Pete; supported by Medacco.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

Roll Call #C-4

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes
D. Lonn - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Absent
J. Friedel - Absent	R. Pete - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 17-1108-379, RATIFICATION OF CROSSMATCH CMT MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT; by Pete; supported by Medacco.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

Roll Call #C-5

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes
D. Lonn - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Absent
J. Friedel - Absent	R. Pete - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 17-1108-380,
APPROVING TRIBAL OGEMA'S EXECUTION OF CONTRACT
WITH JMT CONSULTING;** by Pete; supported by Lonn.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

Roll Call #C-6

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes
D. Lonn - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Absent
J. Friedel - Absent	R. Pete - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 17-1108-381,
RATIFICATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY
AND BETWEEN THE INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN,
INC. AND LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS FOR
PARTNERSHIP IN THE MICHIGAN TRIBE HOME VISITING
NETWORK;** by Pete; supported by Lonn.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

Roll Call #C-7

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes
D. Lonn - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Absent
J. Friedel - Absent	R. Pete - Yes	S. Lewis - Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 17-1108-382,
APPROVAL OF LITTLE RIVER CASINO RESORT 2018
OPERATING BUDGET;** by Medacco; supported by Lonn.

Acting Speaker Lewis asked if anyone was going to abstain from the vote.

Roll Call #C-8

R. Wittenberg - Yes	S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes
D. Lonn - Yes	F. Medacco - Yes	J. Riley - Absent

J. Friedel -	Absent	R. Pete -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes
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Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

This concludes the items moved from Closed to Open Session.

IX. Adjourn

Acting Speaker Lewis asked can she get a motion to end. Lewis asked Acting Recorder Wittenberg if he could do a roll call.

MOTION TO END THE MEETING; by Pete; supported by Lonn.

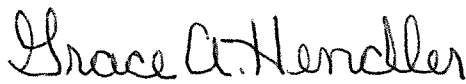
Roll Call #7

J. Riley -	Absent	J. Friedel -	Absent	F. Medacco -	Yes
S. Crampton -	Yes	G. DiPiazza -	Yes	R. Pete -	Yes
R. Wittenberg -	Yes	D. Lonn -	Yes	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (7-0-0-2)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grace A. Hendler
Transcribing Assistant



Sandra Lewis,
Tribal Council Recorder