

Approved 11/06/24



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024
LITTLE RIVER BAND
VIA ZOOM
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held a meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on September 11, 2024. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning, everyone. We are here this morning to have our regular scheduled Tribal Council meeting. It is Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

We will begin with

I. Opening Prayer

and I have had, I have asked Councilor DiPiazza to do the prayer so if you're able to stand, please stand.

Councilor DiPiazza: (Speaking Anishinaabemowin) You know what I said, as I pray to all creation, we can all work together for the betterment of all of our people and to give them all a better way of life. With that being said, Miigwech, Miigwech, Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Councilor DiPiazza. So, we will be moving down. Next is to, um

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

I will call this meeting to order at 10:05am. Next, the Zoom users, if you are, um, if you are a Tribal citizen, please list your name, your Tribal ID. If you are an employee, please list your name and the department that you work in. Thank you. Carrie Frias, please identify yourself.

Carrie Frias: Carrie Frias, attorney.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Chelsea Densmore, please identify yourself.

Chelsea Densmore: Chelsea Densmore, 3225.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Delia, please identify yourself.

Delia Ross: Delia Ross, 2446.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. JoJo Green, please identify yourself.

Joanne Green: Joanne Green, 3580.

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

Jolene O' Signac: Jolene O'Signac, 3866.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Kathleen Bowers, please identify yourself.

Kathleen Bowers: Kathleen Bowers, budget coordinator.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Kimberly McClellan, please identify yourself.

Kimberly McClellan: Kimberly McClellan, 2918.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Laura Echelbarger, please identify yourself.

Laura Echelbarger: Good morning, 2276.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. Thank you. Lee McCaslin, please identify yourself.

Lee McCaslin: (Anishinaabemowin) Lee O748.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Mark Huddleston, please identify yourself. Mark Huddleston, please identify yourself.

Mark Huddleston: Mark Huddleston, 3230.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Mark Huddleston: Good morning, everyone.

Speaker Burmeister: Good morning. Martha Howell, please identify yourself.

Martha Howell: (Anishinaabemowin) Martha Howell, 3635.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sandy Mezeske, please identify yourself.

Sandy Mezeske: Sandy Mezeske, 0018. Thank you. Shannon Crampton, please identify yourself.

Shannon Crampton: Shannon Paul Crampton, Outlying Tribal Council Rep, 1747.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Sky Gonzalez, please identify yourself.

Sky Gonzalez: Sky Gonzalez, 1042.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Susan Thull, please identify yourself. Susan Thull, please identify yourself.

Susan Thull: 3727.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Tina McClellan-Payment, please identify yourself.

Tina McClellan-Payment: 2917.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Venus, please identify yourself.

Venus Battaglia: Venus Battaglia, Staff and Tribal Member, 1102.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Phone number 19064584756. Please identify yourself.

Vickie Laporte: Good morning, Vickie LaPorte, 3384.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay. Isiaz Tomey, please identify yourself.

Isiaz Tomey: Isiaz Tomey, um Government I.T.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Alright, moving down on the agenda, General Business

B. Roll Call

Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call, please?

Recorder Johnson:

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

We do have quorum.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay we have another Tribal citizen that has joined us. Linda Andre, could you please identify yourself? Yea. Linda Andre, could you please identify yourself?

Linda Andre: Hi.

Speaker Burmeister: Hi, could you please identify yourself, your name and your Tribal ID, please?

Linda Andre: 3211.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Moving down on the agenda under II General Business, we are at

C. Approval of Agenda

Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from this agenda? Any Tribal Councilors with questions? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Item V.G was permanently removed, not postponed or moved. The same for C.1 it's the same item that should not be postponed that was permanently removed.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other comments from Councilors? Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you, Speaker. I was just inquiring if we had got the um uh the two resolutions for that I, for the items that I had submitted. If we haven't, then we need to postpone those.

Speaker Burmeister: We have not got those resolutions.

Councilor Crampton: Okay, have they been requested?

Speaker Burmeister: Yes. Well, actually, the Housing, Chapter 1 of the Housing Regulations, that one, we had, when we had our discussion on Monday, we talked about two other areas, um the Fair Market and the Elders weren't specifically identified in the Housing Resolution that the Commission prepared and signed.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, it wasn't in line with the Council's wishes. I agree on that one. That's, but I was looking at the other two, the one that I was looking at. Hold on.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, so I just wanted to note on that one, and then on the um lets, yeah, that one, that one should be postponed mm hmm.

Councilor Crampton: Well, the Membership Meeting Procedures is postponed until we get the second work session of clarification. And the Adopting uh the Budget and Appropriations Act is the other one that I needed the resolution for.

Speaker Burmeister: Yes, in that one, we haven't gotten a resolution either on that one, but it was requested.

Councilor Crampton: Okay, thank you. Those will need to be postponed.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other comments from Councilors? Okay. Um coun. Any citizens with questions on the agenda? Back to Tribal Council. Okay, with no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Recorder Johnson, go ahead, please.

Recorder Johnson: So, I'd like to make a **motion to accept the agenda for Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 10 a.m. with additions of Tribal Council Minutes for 9/5/24 Emergency Meeting.** Um down to IV.B, C. Both are removed. Adopting the

Membership Meeting Procedures ordinance, Adopting of the Budget and Appropriations Act of 2023. Uh.

Councilor Wolfe: Postponed.

Recorder Johnson: Yeah, I said postponed, didn't I?

Councilor Wolfe: You said removed.

Recorder Johnson: Oh, my apologies. Let me start over. **Um section IV, Old Business, B and C, both are postponed. Uh Adopting the Membership Meeting Procedures ordinance and Adopting the Budget and Appropriations Act of 2023-100-04. V. um New Business, A is updated, approving funds for expenditures during the fourth quarter of FY2024. Postpone C, approval changes to Chapter 1 of housing regulations. Uh postpone F, uh payment of annual dues to the National Congress of American Indians. G is removed. Um econom uh EDC funding in the amount of \$2,062,495. And that is also down in closed under V.C.1 that was moved to open but is completely gone. Uh under C.2, um that is postponed, approval of amendment of article, Arctic IT resolution for network support. And then down in VIII, open session A2, that item was removed. Um that's the EDC one. And then 2, postpone from closed approval of Arctic. Um that is removed as well. Or postponed.**

Councilor Metzger: Support.

Recorder Johnson: Yay, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: There's a lot. Any councilors with any further discussions on the agenda? Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? Okay, with no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the agenda, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Nine in favor, it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down under General Business

Add: D. Tribal Council Minutes 09/05/24 Emergency Meeting

Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any Tribal Councilors with questions? Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? Okay, with no further questions, Recorder Johnson, go ahead, please.

Recorder Johnson: I'd like to make a **motion to accept Tribal Council minutes uh uh emergency meeting for 9-5-24.**

Councilor Metzger: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Just writing me a note. Are there any further questions from Councilors? From Tribal Citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call on the minutes, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Nine in favor, they've been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. I'm just checking on uh one citizen that entered. Um We have one citizen, Lee Guest, can you please identify yourself?

Lee Ivinson: Good morning, Lee Ivinson, ID 99.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Let's see, we have another one, I thought.

Recorder Johnson: At the top.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, phone number 231-794-0066. Can you please identify yourself?

Michael Burmeister: Michael Burmeister, 945.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, moving down

III. Continuing Business

A. Grants & Contracts

- 1. To enter into Memorandum of Agreements with Indian Health Services Funding Safety-Grate-Back-up Generator in the amount of \$153,849 LRBOI cost \$3,151 for a total of \$157,000. (150,007.00)**

Ogema Romanelli, Gary Lewis, and Greg Walter have brought this item forward. So, Gary, the floor is yours.

Gary Lewis: Yeah, thank you. So, this is to... 157 I was going to mention it.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Gary.

Gary Lewis: So, this is to enter into uh a memorandum of agreement with the Indian Health Service. They have funding for us to install a generator at the housing lift station,

as well as put in a safety grate that has not been there since day one. Um the total cost of the project is \$157,000 and then our total cost is \$3,151 for this project.

Speaker Burmeister: Is there any going to be any tribal councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Councilor DiPiazza?

Councilor DiPiazza: uh the same as before is that uh is going to be run off natural gas, correct?

Gary Lewis: Correct.

Councilor DiPiazza: mm that will be enough to run that whole lift station?

Gary Lewis: Yes, correct.

Councilor DiPiazza: size. I'm good.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other questions by councilors? Councilor Wolfe, go ahead.

Councilor Wolfe: So, this is just to move it the next step showing the tribe's commitment of the \$3,151 that we need. There will be more process before the um project is even started, correct?

Gary Lewis: Correct. So, once we sign this agreement, we send it back to IHS and then they'll formulate the RFP for us, and we'll get that out for a bid and then we'll bring that back once we um identify a contractor that we're going to hire.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, thank you.

Gary Lewis: And then I believe Kathleen will probably do an acceptance of funds as well so.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Any other councilors with questions? Tribal citizens, any questions? Back to Tribal Council. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: seeing no questions, I'll make a **motion to approve resolution 24-0911-154, authorization to enter into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between Indian Health Service and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians for safety grate and generator for the Aki lift station. Total project funding \$157,000. LRBOI cost of project \$3,151.**

Councilor Metzger: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any further questions from councilors? Tribal citizens? Councilors? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Yes. Nine in favor, it's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Thank you, Gary.

Gary Lewis: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Moving down under Continuing Business

B. Budget Modifications

- 1. Acceptance of contract funds from the U.S Department Interior BIA G2G IRR roads and approving a Modification to the Operating Budget MB2024___ in the amount of \$760,458.00.**

Ogema Romanelli, Steve Parsons, and Kathleen Bowers have brought this item forward. So, Steve the floor is yours.

Steve Parsons: ah Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Um this particular item is, uh we do this annually. It's a little late this year, as we've talked about. But essentially, this is acceptance of um monies from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for our BIA roads program. Uh the amount this year is a little higher than we've normally gotten in the past because they've uh included uh some leftover funds from the infrastructure bill from a few years back. They had that money left over in Federal Highways, and they've allocated it to the various groups that they fund, including tribes. So that's the amount of the money. Uh the resolution will uh break out in terms of where the money goes in the roads budget. So, it'll be allocated appropriately once this is approved. Um again, my apologies for this coming in as late as it did. Uh I don't know what the problems are with the Bureau as far as getting this information out to the tribes. But we didn't receive this. Uh it was signed off on October 2nd of this year. And this is money, by the way, which is for fiscal year 2024, which technically started um on October 1st of last year, 2023. So, we should have had this money almost 12 months ago, but we didn't, but that didn't happen. But we do have it now. And with our program agreement, we're allowed to include it uh in our budget funding. And we can certainly use these funds to for any other projects that we have that we have not completed yet. Um I'm going to stop here because I don't want to get in the weeds on this. I feel like I'm going there right now. Um I know Kathleen was uh instrumental Kathleen Bowers was instrumental in helping to pull this together for me. And I believe she's on the Zoom call. And I guess, um I don't know if she has anything she'd like to offer. I'm not trying to put her on the spot. But if I missed anything, Kathleen, or if there's any other information you think would be needed, I certainly have to defer to you.

Kathleen Bowers: I think you covered it well, Steve.

Steve Parsons: Well, thank you. Um yeah, and that's pretty much it. Um and uh just a quick comment, we are under what's called a program agreement with the BIA. It's typically referred to as a government-to-government agreement, as the federal government and the tribal government are the parties involved with this. Uh we do have latitude as far as uh budgeting uh in terms of you know how we spend the funding for different projects. Um and this uh allocation by the by the BIA will come under that agreement. So we are, you know, whatever we're doing now, we're allowed to continue that with these funds, because they're allowed to carry over from year to year. Because the question, I think the obvious question is, there's really only two or three more weeks left in fiscal year 2024. Uh but we are allowed to carry it over. We can spend this money next year. We just need to accept it into the budget to be able to do that. And that's it.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Steve. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: So, I presented the question about Section 8 of the agreement where it had the, um made available as soon as possible after October 1, 2024. And we did get an email response. And then that agreement was in error.

Steve Parsons: Yes.

Councilor Wolfe: So, are we going to update the agreement? Or are we going to include that email with this for um tracking accounting purposes or auditing purposes that show we were eligible to spend it and that the agreement had?

Steve Parsons: In response, I would say, whatever you are, you, me, the council are comfortable with. Um I did, I did I do have a copy of the email I got from Scott Hewitt. And where he clarified that there was a problem with how they put the dates in there.

Councilor Wolfe: Well, I just.

Steve Parsons: But yeah, it doesn't read properly, obviously. But um.

Councilor Wolfe: well, what's important is it be a printed email attached to the agreement for filing and record keeping purposes.

Steve Parsons: That's absolutely fine.

Councilor Wolfe: At some point, if you're not here and it gets questioned.

Steve Parsons: Got it.

Councilor Wolfe: Then where do we find that it.

Steve Parsons: Right.

Councilor Wolfe: Was okay to authorize that way?

Steve Parsons: Um.

Councilor Wolfe: I would like to see that added because from my understanding of the email, he wasn't sending a new copy.

Steve Parsons: And yeah, and we can certainly do that. I think when the documentation, Um I can provide that to the recorder or anybody else on your staff if you want to include it with your information that you file on this. Um with all due respect to Scott, he's in a tough spot because he's trying to work with tribes that he works with all the time. Uh also trying to work with the federal government who always doesn't hold up on their end. And so, he's, this in my sense is, I don't think he's in a position or we're in a position that, well, we could, but I don't think we'll get an outcome on it where we'll actually get a new uh reference funding agreement with the correct dates on it. But I think with his email clarifying it, uh people would understand that it was just, they didn't revise the form properly. I guess they use the same template year after year, and they didn't go in and put the proper dates in at the bottom. And that's, that's what caused all this.

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah. But just because you say it transfers on and carries over. So that email copy added to this agreement would be.

Steve Parsons: Yeah absolutely.

Councilor Wolfe: a clarification enough.

Steve Parsons: Yeah.

Councilor Wolfe: So, we didn't run into any issues later.

Steve Parsons: Yeah. And that's a good point. And I don't mean to be lax or uh not taking the uh um the government-to-government agreement seriously, but uh it is, it does provide for the ability for us to carry over funds. And I'm relying on that because that's in the contract itself. We can always refer back to that and say, you know, you've, you've sent us a reference funding agreement that says we're going to receive this much in funding. Um and we have the ability to move the money to the fiscal year that we need to spend it in. And I do think that argument, you know, would carry some weight. And then basically then it's, you know, pinning down who actually made the error on their part. I'm not sure they want to go there, but with that being said, I'll be happy to do that. Um I don't know if I should get it to the recorder or somebody else on staff, but um I can certainly make that available to you.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay. Thank you.

Steve Parsons: Thank you.

Councilor Wolfe: And just with them being 50 weeks late, I don't want to add another thing saying, oh, we need a correct document. I would rather, you know.

Steve Parsons: Yeah.

Councilor Wolfe: Cause we got clarification and that's acceptable.

Steve Parsons: Okay. Thank you. And again, I, I, I don't want to make it sound like I'm, I want to disparage or beat up on the federal government, but there are times when this kind of stuff happens and it, it's just not a priority for them. And I'm not, you know, but as long as we get it straightened out on our end and we can make sure that what they said they were going to do is being done.

Councilor Wolfe: Correct.

Steve Parsons: Um then I, you know, at that point I'm, I'm ready to move forward. So, but thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other questions from councilors? Any questions from citizens? Go ahead, Mark.

Mark Huddleston: I was wondering if all the projects that you have planned uh to use this money with, have they all been on hold for the whole year?

Steve Parsons: Uh good question. And actually, there are two projects that we haven't finished yet. Um we, they slowed down simply because the money was running short, but um this is going to help put those back into motion. But at the same time, um we have the ability to move projects into the following year if we need to. Um and that was going to be a last resort. If the funding wasn't available for whatever reason, we could always move it into 2025 and do it that way. But yeah, this will help a lot. So, the, the, the two projects that we're, didn't have much progress on, we can go ahead and, and once this money is accepted by the tribe and we have it in our budget, we can go ahead and move on those. But that's a good question because that's part of the ripple effect of this process is that when the feds don't hold up their end for whatever reason, then it impacts us, and we have to find a way to deal with it. So, but sorry, I'm editorializing. I will quit. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead. Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Uh Mr. Parsons, I want to say Chi-Miigwech for sticking with this, you know, securing those funds that are duly ours, you know, not, not letting it fall through, you know, uh seven, you know, quite a good chunk of change.

Steve Parsons: Yeah.

Councilor Metzger: And the tribe desperately utilize them. So, I want to just say Chi-Miigwech on that and following through. Thank you.

Steve Parsons: I appreciate that. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other comments from Councilors? Okay. With no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion. Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I'd like to make a **motion to adopt resolution 24-0911-155, acceptance of contract funds from the U.S. Department of Interior, BIA G2G IRR roads and improving a modification to the operating budget MB 2024-39 in the amount of \$760,458.**

Councilor Metzger: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Any further questions from Councilors? Tribal citizens? Back to Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Nine in favor. It's been accepted.

Steve Parsons: Miigwech. Thank you, Council.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Steve. We have a citizen that has joined us. Um Tina Bray, could you please identify yourself?

Tina Bray: Tina Bray, 3287.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. We also have another person that has joined us um.

Larry Olson: Olson 1532.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Alright, moving down on the agenda,

C. Approval of Budgeted Expenditure

There's nothing listed under that. Next is

IV. Old Business

- A. Acceptance of grant funds from Inter-Tribal of Michigan 2024/2025 Native Connections and approving a Modification to the Operating Budget MB2024__ in the amount of \$70,000.**

Ogema Romanelli and Kathleen Bowers have brought this item forward. So, Kathleen the floor is yours.

Kathleen Bowers: Thank you. Um this is the last year of this Native Connections grant. And right, right at this moment, um uh the position that would manage this grant is vacant. Um we are looking to accept the funds while we are uh actively searching for a new grant manager on that. Um do you want me to read through what's in the budget for the for this grant?

Speaker Burmeister: Yes, please.

Kathleen Bowers: Okay, salary \$36,000, payroll tax \$2,763.36, workers comp \$100.80, retirement plan \$1,080, employee insurance \$20,055.84, travel \$2,000, supplies \$5,000, tribal activities \$2,000, and professional fees of \$1,000, which adds up to \$70,000.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any tribal councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: So Kathleen, at agenda review, you had said um we're accepting the funding dollars, but um someone else may be able to spend those where we don't have, when we have the position vacant, and that we probably would end up that we would not have to resend any back to intertribal council, because you can do a modification to where the expenditures happen.

Kathleen Bowers: Right, we can do modifications um up to 10% moving money around. Um and this is their set amount for uh salaries and stuff, but we can, we do have flexibility to move that around. If we find somebody that, you know, it's more of a salary or more employee insurance or however that goes, but we can, we have the flexibility to do that.

Councilor Wolfe: But if you had the position vacant, and it remains vacant till say, the middle of 2025, you can take the salary and employee insurance wages and move it into tribal activities and host an event rather than sending it back.

Kathleen Bowers: Correct, correct.

Councilor Wolfe: And you're saying you can do it only by 10%?

Kathleen Bowers: Well, 10% through here. And then if it's more than that, that we need to move, we'll have to come back to tribal council to do that.

Councilor Wolfe: Because I know that was a concern of some of the other councilors of accepting it and then sending it back.

Kathleen Bowers: Right. We're hoping to get some of this position filled so that we can spend that money down.

Councilor Wolfe: Would it be better to accept it the other way all into activities and supplies and other line items and then when the position is filled, move it to salary and the other items?

Kathleen Bowers: This was their suggestion because I had a call with um Jenna uh Killips regarding this and she this is the way she suggested to keep it at this point.

Councilor Wolfe: Okay, thank you.

Kathleen Bowers: Mm hmm.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Kathleen. I have a question for you. Um I know there's usually reports that are due on this grant. So, until we hire somebody, um will that be covered so we are not delinquent on filing reports?

Kathleen Bowers: Absolutely. I'm still doing the financial report and um the ITC I talked with them. I think they're going to have Dottie help out with just doing the survey monkey to get those taken care of.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you.

Kathleen Bowers: You're welcome.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other questions from councilors? Tribal citizens with questions? Back to councilors. Okay, with no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor DiPiazza, go ahead, please.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'd like.

Councilor Wolfe: You had a hand up.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, okay. Boo, come to if you could please come to the podium.

Boo Battice: Boo Battice, 2644. I just keep hearing positions. What direction, what position is this for? Is this for cultural purposes? I don't um native connections. Where does where do I apply for the position that it, we're talking about? Is what I'm asking?

Speaker Burmeister: Oh, Boo, once the position is posted, um you could apply online with an application and see HR for all because they don't need a resume and cover letter and that type of thing.

Boo Battice: Right. But what I'm asking is, what's the title of the position that is going to be put possibly so I know what direction I'm going to have to write my.

Speaker Burmeister: native native connections coordinator, isn't it?

Councilor Wolfe: It was.

Kathleen Bowers: It's a coordinator position.

Boo Battice: Okay, that's that's.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Boo Battice: What I was looking for. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Alright. You're welcome. Okay councilor DiPiazza you had your hand up. Go ahead.

Councilor DiPiazza: Well, with that being said, I'll make a **motion to approve resolution 24-0911-156 acceptance of grant funds from the Intertribal Council of Michigan 2024/2025 native connections and improving a modification of operating budget MB24-40 in the amount of \$70,000.**

Councilor Silvis: support.

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any councilors with further questions? Citizens? Back to Tribal Council. With no further questions, recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Nine in favor. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um next item was

Postponed B. Adopting the Membership Meeting Procedures Ordinance.

Moving down to

C. Adopting the Budget- Appropriations-Act-of-2013-100-04.

That was also postponed. Moving down to V, or excuse me

V. New Business

Updated **A. Approving funds for expenditures during the Fourth Quarter of FY2024.**

Brad Pringle had brought this item forward. So, Brad, the floor is yours.

Brad Pringle: Good afternoon, Council and Membership. Um this resolution is for the appropriation of funds for the expenditures during the fourth quarter of 2024.

Whereas Tribal Council has adopted the Budget Appropriations Act of 2013, Ordinance 13-100-4. And whereas Section 5.7 of the Budget Appropriations Act requires Tribal Council to appropriate funds for expenditures for each fiscal year. Now it therefore resolved that Tribal Council over Band of Ottawa Indians hereby appropriates \$9,485,456.50 for expenditures during the fourth quarter beginning October 1st of 2024. That consists of quarter gaming distribution at \$2,810,859.25, quarter general fund supplement of \$1,052,878.75, and half budgeted per cap at \$5,621,718.50.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad. Will there be any Tribal Councilors abstaining from this item? Any Tribal Councilors with questions? Any Tribal citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council. With no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor Silva, go ahead.

Councilor Silvis: So, **I'd like to accept resolution number 24-0911-157 for appropriating funds for expenditures during the fourth quarter of FY 2024.**

Councilor DiPiazza: (Anishinaabemowin) Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Are there any questions from Councilors? Citizens? Councilors? Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: Are we on projection for that amount of gaming distribution?

Brad Pringle: Uh I can't verify that because the government financials, we haven't seen three or four months of those government financials.

Councilor Wolfe: The last government financials we've seen since is April of 2024, and we're appropriating funds for October through the end of the quarter.

Brad Pringle: That's correct.

Councilor Wolfe: I don't believe with the reports that we received, we're on target for that distribution amount, so I can't support the item. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other Councilors with comments or questions? Okay. With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Five in favor, four against. It's been accepted.

Brad Pringle: Thank you, Tribal Council.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Brad. Okay, moving down under um new business V

**B. Approval of Gaming Enterprise Oversight Authority Act of 2024
Ordinance #24-800-08.**

Councilor Wolfe has brought this item forward, so Councilor Wolfe, the floor is yours.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you, Speaker. Um this item is for approval of the Gaming Enterprise Oversight Authority Act of 2024, ordinance 24-800-08 has been posted for 30-day public comment. No public comments were received. A final work session was held September 5th, and the ordinance is ready for permanent adoption. Um the purpose of the ordinance is to create Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Gaming Enterprise Oversight Authority for the purpose of maintaining appropriate oversight and competent management of the tribe's gaming enterprise and to manage the gaming funds within exclusive control of the band and to ensure consistent regulatory compliance and the maximization of income for all existing and future gaming enterprises. And that's all I have. Open for questions.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any councilors that are going to abstain from this item? Any councilors with questions? Any citizens with questions? Go ahead, Mike.

Mike Ceplina: Mike Ceplina, 0692. Who will be on this board? Do you have to be a tribal citizen or have some uh some other qualifications for it?

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah, the board will be made up of, is it five? Five, and they all have to be tribal citizens. Once this is adopted, it will be um posted for those board members, and then the Ogema would bring the names forward and Tribal Council would ratify them.

Mike Ceplina: Okay, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Any other citizens with questions? Back to Tribal Council.

Councilor Wever: Um oh, we got two.

Speaker Burmeister: Shirley? Um oh.

Councilor Wever: We got the Ogema and.

Ogema Romanelli: and the audience.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Um Matt, you want to?

Councilor Wever: Matt that's.

Matthew Chandler: Matthew Chandler, (Anishinaabemowin), 1687. Um could you explain in plain English um what this does? I know oversight and to make sure everything is functioning correctly. Um but what kind of specifically would be the duties of this board, um if you're privy to explain that? Miigwech.

Councilor Wolfe: It's to. I'll get to the right page.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Silvis.

Councilor Silvis: So, uh the purpose of it is to, maintaining appropriate oversight and competent management of the tribes gaming enterprise and to manage the gaming funds within the exclusive control of the band and to ensure consistent regulatory compliance and the maximization of income for all existing and future gaming enterprises.

Matthew Chandler: I appreciate your answer. I understand that's what's on the form. But again, in plain English, what is the purpose, the overall purpose, or is this something that we're throwing together as a reaction instead of being precautionary? Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: So, Tribal Council has been working on this for a long time. This was the outcome of the 20 20 2021 ruling of the court order of the oversight of the board of directors for the casino. This is an oversight act that um we're putting in place to oversee the management at the casino. It's a board of directors group of five people. Um they have assigned duties and then they're going to be with applicable laws, policies and procedures, including the authority um for positions. They're going to approve the organizational chart, look at the salary administration policy, travel training reimbursement policy, finance department policies and procedures. So, they're going to work along with um the Ogema for management and oversight of the resort.

Speaker Burmeister: Does that. Okay. Ogema Romanelli, you are next in the queue.

Ogema Romanelli: Sure. I'll defer to an audience member that has a question

Speaker Burmeister: Um.

Ogema Romanelli: if that's okay.

Speaker Burmeister: Mike, Mike.

Yanaoa Naodan Kizenz: Thank you, Ogema.

Ogema Romanelli: You're welcome.

Yanaoa Naodan Kizenz: Thank you, board members. Uh.

Councilor Wolfe: I have a question?

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. You need to state your name and your tribal ID.

Yanaoa Naodan Kizenz: My name is Yanaoa Naodan Kizenz. I am a member of the Iroquois of Akwesasne, Haudenosaunee First Nation. I am not a tribal member of this tribe. However, the tribe that I belong to is a 508C1A registered non-taxable entity. I would like to act as an advisor to the council on creating such a 508C1A and giving them back their money and going back to...

Speaker Burmeister: Mike, excuse me. Um you'll have to wait until public comment.

Yanaoa Naodan Kizenz: I understand.

Speaker Burmeister: Cuz this, Yeah, but this is for um tribal citizens to ask questions.

Yanaoa Naodan Kizenz: I understand. But I'm asking a question.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, No, or comments. So, if you can please wait til um public comment.

Yanaoa Naodan Kizenz: Certainly.

Councilor Wolfe: We don't allow.

Speaker Burmeister: We don't allow.

Councilor Wolfe: public comments from non-tribal members.

Speaker Burmeister: Did you hear that? Okay. Go ahead, Ogema Romanelli.

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you. I think uh what pertains to this action is the Stone Ogema versus Tribal Council Court. Uh I think it was 220-051 AP. And what that did was that clarified what actions the Ogema can take and what actions the Tribal Council can take. I believe in that court uh decision; the Tribal Council has a right to create a board. Uh but the problem that I see within this document is that there are many violations, multiple violations of that court order uh that are stated in this document. So, I just wanted to note that for the record.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Yeah, I just wanted to raise the notion that this was something that was hastily thrown together. This was uh, I think, ordered under Councilor Champagne, Speaker Champagne. And um I found it on my desk when I came in um to uh carry out the rest of his term. Um so I carried it on. I know Councilor Wolfe, as Speaker, carried it on. And um now it's under Speaker Burmeister. And it's, I think it's

like, what, two years? So, this isn't something very hastily thrown together. And there were a lot of things that were went over um with a very good attorney and advisor that comes from Indian Country out in Oklahoma. So, he's experienced almost everything. Um this is a well put together document. We've gone through it. We ferreted it out. I feel almost 100% that this is a very workable document. And um the main argument about the 2016 um ruling was that Councilor brought it forward in an emergency manner, and that was not an appropriate manner to bring it forward. There were some other items, but those have been clarified in the document. Um but that was the overarching. It wasn't us usurping the Ogema's authority, because that's a misnomer. If you read the Constitution correctly, it says the uh Ogema can oversee the enterprises in accordance with ordinances and resolutions adopted by Tribal Council. Not in his own. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Any other comments or questions from citizens? Back to Tribal Council? Oh, sorry about that... Diana.

Diana Harris: Diana Harris, 2404. Uh just for the record, I just heard Mr. Crampton say that he has not been at his desk for two years. Aho.

Councilor Crampton: Speaker, I believe that was a false statement.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Um Carrie Frias is. Gary, first of all, you had your hand up. Do you have?

Councilor Crampton: Um Speaker, I wanted to respond to that directly to me. That was a false statement.

Councilor DiPiazza: Of course you do.

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah, I, I'll put you in the queue, Councilor Crampton, because I have Carrie Frias also.

Councilor Crampton: Okay, then everybody else who wants to respond immediately like the Ogema needs to wait then too.

Councilor Wever: Speaker.

Speaker Burmeister: Um

Councilor Wever: Shannon's out of control.

Speaker Burmeister: Yep.

Councilor Wever: Can you um mute him?

Speaker Burmeister: Yes, we're gonna go in the um queue. Councilor DiPiazza, you are first in the queue. So please go ahead.

Councilor DiPiazza: Okay, well, a little history on some of the ah Board of Directors and that Oversight Act that was um invoked back in, well, a long time ago. But when the Council did away with the Board of Directors back then and invoked a different oversight, and the courts had ruled that that was an illegal action, it wasn't an emergency meeting or action, they deemed that the action of invoking the oversight authority back then was illegal. And then that Board of Directors was dissolved. So technically, there hasn't been anything in place in eons. And I'm the one that kept bringing it forward, trying to get something in place, because we do have that authority to write ordinances. And at this moment, there's nothing in place. Is it perfect? Possibly not. Is it a living document like everything else? Absolutely. So, um I've been arguing this that there was nothing in place for a long time. And I appreciate that acknowledging I was correct. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Carrie Frias. Go ahead, please.

Carrie Frias: Yes, I was just wondering if the Ogema could state what are the perceived violations that he sees in the in the ordinance?

Ogema Romanelli: Sure, I don't have those with me at this time. I could uh. If this passes, I will note that I will be forced to challenge uh this document if it is passed as is. And the problem is, is that uh this the Constitution was mentioned, but the Constitution clarity was brought up during about a four-and-a-half-year battle through the courts who identified the abilities and responsibilities of our elected officials. So, if this is passed as is, I will be forced to challenge uh that document. Again, we it is very costly to the tribe. I prevailed in that case after four and a half years. Uh and it's a very costly process when you have a four-and-a-half-year court battle. So, uh I'm just saying that the and I agree with Councilor uh DiPiazza that and the council, they have a right to create a board of directors. Nobody disputes that what they contain within that board and what duties or responsibilities they have. That's what's called into question. So, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Councilor Crampton. You are next to the queue.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Uh well, for the membership and the council, I wanted it noted that the question to Mr. Romanelli was to state his objections, which he did not. And then he went on to filibuster on some other issues, but he didn't answer the question. Um now, back to what was just happened with Mrs. Harris. You all witnessed it is on tape. So, I I imagine it will probably disappear before I take it to court. But Mrs. Harris, you have exactly 24 hours to apologize.

Councilor Wever: Wow.

Councilor Crampton: I never read those statements. Nobody ever made those statements. You went up there on a little political rambling, like last time when you said you had

your spirits. Um that shouldn't be allowed. The meeting procedures ordinance doesn't allow that. You constantly allow these things Speaker. If you go through and read the meeting procedures ordinance that there should be none of that. There should be a respectful um commentary. And when you have the um, somebody lying, you don't know that that's a lie, right in front of you Speaker. You know, that's not what I said. Everybody here knows that's not what I said. So, you have a very dishonest person that just violated all of our teachings. Very dishonest person. And again, let's hear it. You have 24 hours. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, we're getting back to the topic here. Um Councilor Wolfe, you are next in the queue.

Councilor Wolfe: Thank you. So, one thing I want to point out to membership. This document has been around and in the works for two years. The Ogema seen it on the calendar on the work sessions, all the involvement, he could have brought forward anytime any of those complaints or issues what he had with it. It was posted for a 30-day public comment. No public comments were received to the Tribal Council. Now we're bringing it forward as legislation. And now there's a lot of problems with it. This was reviewed and prepared for us with us by our attorney. Um and what we find is the tribal Ogema is burdened with the responsibility for managing all business enterprises of the band in addition to performing wide range of duties of the executive branch of governmental of the government and cannot reasonably be expected to actively be involved in day-to-day management of any or all of the tribal enterprises without assistance of qualified and experienced business managers and advisors. Now we just heard since 2016. There has been no oversight over the Ogema's management, because that's his constitutional duty. This is a document that is prepared an ordinance to clear up some of that miscommunication to have that in and bring back the checks and balances to Tribal Council and to tribal membership for the management of the resort. Tribal Council finds it necessary to establish a subordinate organization that can assume the primary responsibility for overseeing the management of gaming enterprises of the band to assist the general manager and the Ogema with oversight to day-to-day business activities in the gaming enterprise. So that's what this is for. This isn't to go through on a power struggle and say this or that or we need more, or we need less. It's to bring back the checks and balances what are guaranteed by the constitution. That's why he manages, and we have fiscal responsibility. That's why we separated into a three-part government, a tri-part government to have that accountability to have those checks and balances in place. That's what this ordinance creates. Checks and balances, reporting, identification. So, I'm fully confident that this is a good document and ready to move forward with it. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Councilor Metzger. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Uh as you heard, uh I've been working on this document for two years at least, you know, even longer than that. And the concerns that I'm hearing now weren't brought up prior. This is a document that protects

the tribe. This is a document that protects the people, the government, you know. So, to start hearing negativities on it now when there's been over two years of working on the document seems kind of, I don't know what you'd want to call it, you know. But we just heard from a fellow council member that he knew that there was no document in place on the oversight and has for years but did nothing about it. I see that as failing the tribal members and failing the enterprise. We got some council members that are very diligent in their work. This is a very well-written document. It's protection, protection of the tribe. Some might see it as a power struggle. I don't. I see it as protection.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Lee, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Lee Ivinson: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead please.

Lee Ivinson: Lee Ivinson, uh ID 99. Uh I appreciate the statements of Councilor Metzger um in stating, you know, that uh he feels confident that this document is a sound document. Um and I appreciate uh the time that Tribal Council had taken over. It sounds like a couple of Tribal Council administrations to come up with the document, well over two years. Um and noting that with the two years, um it probably wouldn't hurt to take a little more time um and perhaps, you know, cross the aisle to see what the Ogema's office and the legislative branch um can come to a common uh agreement on. Um I have reviewed the document uh in all appearances. Um there have not been many adjustments from the prior act. Um and as for protection of the tribe, the Ogema's Oversight Act Executive Order pretty much has the same protections that this document is stating. So again, it's taken two years, over two years, a couple administrations to get through this document. It may assist in taking a little more time to fair out uh any of the indifferences. As Metzger said, Councilor Metzger said, you know, it's not an argument, it's not a power struggle. I don't view it as that either. Um I do take it back to constitutional authorities' um and the Ogema's right to manage the enterprises. So, I just ask that you take that into consideration. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Um before Ogema, you're next in the queue, but I have a few people that entered the meeting.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay, sure.

Speaker Burmeister: and I just want to make sure they identify themselves. So.

Ogema Romanelli: Sure.

Speaker Burmeister: Um first is Valerie 4340. Could you identify yourself, please?

Valerie McDonald: Yes. Valerie McDonald 4340.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Lynn Saunders, could you please identify yourself? Oh, did she drop off? Okay never mind for her. Um Alicia Goff, can you please identify yourself? It says no, Mic. Um she's in HR. Okay, go ahead. Go ahead, Alicia. It doesn't look yeah. Um, Alicia Goff is in HR. Doesn't look like her mics working. So, we're going to move on. Um Ogema Romanelli, you were next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you. Regarding this document, as was stated, I think earlier that this has been around for a couple of years, at least, I think starting again with uh Speaker Champagne when he was a speaker and when he was a tribal member. Uh I've over the years, attended meetings, made the statements, the we've referenced this court ruling after four and a half years, which clearly shows the direction we should be going. So, it's not that I did not respond. I've responded multiple times, uh, ad nauseum at times. Uh, so that's incorrect. I've been very aware of this, but it keeps changing and changing, uh, similar to some of the other things where they're postponed and changed. So, uh, I was very, uh, open about the concerns that I had if you were going to provide this document. The other thing that was stated is that there has been no oversight for years. That's incorrect. There has been oversight for multiple years, and it's stated also that the Ogema should have advisers. The Ogema clearly has a set of advisers that help with the resort. One is an attorney. One has a large uh business background. Uh one has a marketing background, and these people have advised me for years. Council is aware of that group. So, to say there's no uh oversight is incorrect. Also, we had just a recent court ruling or decision uh that came through within the last two or three weeks where a couple of tribal citizens uh were taking the Ogema to court, basically stating that the the resort was in bad shape and that the Ogema was not doing his job. Again, the decision went against that with, uh, I believe no standing. There's no basis to it. I absolutely have a group of advisers, which I think, no offense, highly, highly outweigh the board that we've had in the past, which had tribal council members on a mixture of that. Uh these were people that stepped up, have stepped up. We've done a great job and continue to advise on a regular basis. Again, I state that the council has the right to create a board, but that board should not usurp the authorities of the Ogema or his advisers. So, with that, I say if you pass this in its as is, uh I will be forced to challenge. And again, we're talking about multiple, multiple problems in the cost, the time that it takes to fight the case. Uh that's the part that's unnecessary. I wish you luck in creating a board, but this isn't it. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Councilor Crampton. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Um I can say that I put together the best team in the world, yet the proof is going to be in the pudding and the Ogema's advisory board has turned into the last two most dismal years in history of the tribe and distribution. That's not a um hyperbole. That is actually a fact that everybody knows. The worst months have been turned in by the Ogema and his advisory board. I'm not so worried about him going to court because he's currently in violation of a court order with the creation of that, which the court, which the uh council has a memo on, plus the illegalities. So, let's put that all together. There's a court order saying he can't do it. We have legal advice saying

that it's illegal. We have some of the most poorest, no, I'm sorry, the poorest performance by any group that's ever been over there managing the casino. And again, that's a fact. I defy anybody to bring somebody who's performed worse, but you're not going to find it because that's a fact. This is a document that wasn't written by Councilor DiPiazza. He had nothing to do with this other than being on council when it was created. Councilor Champagne brought this forward, and it was worked on after him by Speaker Wolfe and forwarded and I put it on my desk when I came in and I moved it forward and so has Speaker Burmeister. There is no work sessions from Mr. DiPiazza. There is no input from Mr. DiPiazza. So again, he's trying to claim other people's work and that's just, again, against our teachings. This gets ridiculous after some time, but again, I'm going to go back to the statements that I did make. We have a court order that says that the Ogema is in violation, so I'm not so worried about him taking that to court. Um we have legal advice saying the advisory board is illegal and we have the poorest performance no matter what he just said to you about having the experts in your hand and on paper. Oh, I'm sorry, we're not getting some of the reports and I think this is um the group over there that just withheld six percent money without Tribal Council approval. So, you've got record the poorest performance ever that can be brought forward on paper.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Crampton, can we stick to the topic of this ordinance, please?

Councilor Crampton: That was. It was rebuttal. I know you don't like anybody speaking against the Ogema, but I'm sorry. I'll stop. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor DiPiazza, you are next in the queue.

Councilor DiPiazza: I appreciate all the bus rides, but uh actually, this was brought forward under when Ms. Wolfe was the acting speaker, not under Champagne, so your timelines are all screwed up. Everybody's. And I was the one that pushed it to at least get it to legal to go through. And yeah, I did comment on quite a few of it, and I'm not the one that kept bringing forward and every second open to send this to the FBI or investigation. How many times has that happened? Three, four. I can't even count. What has been my comment every time? That there was no controlling document. And some have been on here two years, too. So, when some say I haven't done it or looked at it, and it's my fault because I didn't act on it, that's a mis rumor. So, you can take that any way you want. I take what that comes out of some of my colleagues' mouths with just a grain of salt because that's all it is. I know where I've been, and I know what I'm doing. So do what you want with it. I'm good.

Speaker Burmeister: Lee, you were next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Lee McCaslin: (Anishinaabemowin) Miigwech. Skin on for our visiting relative from Akwesasne. I wanted just to acknowledge that, but uh this is the whole body of my council, and I wanted to share that. And and right now, this oversight that you're speaking of is well deserved and well needed. Miigwech. Miigwech and done.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Councilor Crampton. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, not to take it too much of the time, but the paper trail can be led from uh Councilor Champagne uh actually requesting it. And nothing happened because he I got some problems and relinquished after that. And then Councilor Wolfe then has the next set looking for lawyers to work on this. So, I've reviewed all the emails. None of them contain Mr. DiPiazza. And um I'm not sure who keeps saying all these things about him, but I'm just trying to get this passed. He did not create this. He's just trying to grab other people's work. Um as I said before, members should look at this as a gauge, is when you have the Ogema staying up there, he picked the very best people for the job. Well, then how could they turned in the poorest performance of anybody that's ever sat over there? That's reality. I can say that I've created the best team ever to be on Council. Where's the proof of that? There's no proof of that. So that would be an illegitimate statement. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Councilor Metzger. You are next in the queue.

Councilor Metzger: Uh yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Uh I don't see any more comments or questions. So, at this moment, I'd like to make a motion. I make a

Speaker Burmeister: Oh okay, go ahead.

Councilor Metzger: I'd like to make a **motion to adopt Resolution 24-0911-158, adopting the Gaming Enterprise Oversight Authority Act of 2024, ordinance # 24-800-08.**

Councilor Wolfe: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah. Okay. Um Any further comments from Councilors? Citizens? Mike?

Mike Ceplina: Mike Ceplina 0692. You know, the Tribal membership hears you weekly. You know, you go back and forth between the Ogema, the Tribal Council. And I was hoping that, you know, you work for the people. You all work for the people. I was hoping that you could get together and come up with a solution. It's pretty simple. You know, we need somebody to oversee our casino to make sure it's being run right. And it's a pretty simple procedure to do that. So, I would hope that you can come together and get this done. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead.

Dan Metzger: Um Dan Metzger, 889, Tribal member. I would like to see this Oversight Authority Act approved because I would like to see it extended on further programs that are running through this Tribe that are being missed, poorly ran. But uh we do need an Oversight Authority Act. We need Tribal members on it, not people that is good friends

that he wouldn't even mention their names or if they're Tribal members. I'm addressing the Chairman on that one. You know, I do believe there's a lot of things that have been mismanaged. So, that this would prevent a lot of it. I'd like to see it passed through. Thank you. Chi- Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is Councilor Wolfe. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Wolfe: Moving forward with this document, I think it's already been noted once at the meeting. This is a living document. Any ordinance created by Tribal Council, we can open it up at any time, change, make adjustments. We have an Administrative Procedures Act that we all follow for our ordinances. So, there are things in here that we find don't work or can't work or more discussion is needed. After permanent adoption of this ordinance at any time, it can be changed and modified. It's a living document. Our Constitution is a living document. We can change it with the Secretary of Elections. This doesn't stop or impede anything or make it only one way. We're open to this. We're open to communication. Definitely, I am 100%. You can see I've sat here through three, four speakers and have still supported the item and moving it forward. So there tells you my commitment to represent the people and to have discussions and to be open to it. I brought this forward for the public posting for 30 days. No comments were had. No comments were officially submitted. No personal phone calls were made to me that said, hey, can you do this? I don't want to be identified, but can you ask about it? I don't think we had much membership comments in the final work session on September 5th. That was just six days ago. Anybody could have attended that work session and said, hey, wait a minute, take some more time. We don't agree with this. I have this concern. I have that concern. It wasn't presented to us. We make everything so emergent at the last moment. oh, we better not do it. We're going to court. We're going to waste all the money. You know, that's, it's nonsense. There's been plenty of time for open discussion, agenda review. Monday, someone could have came on and said, hey, wait a minute. I want to speak up. I missed my cue. I missed my time, but I want to let you guys know now, not at final adoption, permanent adoption of an item before the membership. It's valuable. It's important. It's necessary. It's a governing document of the tribe to protect the interests of the membership, bring back checks and balances. With that comment, I called to question.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, since the question was called, um we are going to vote on this item. Um we have a motion on the floor. Hmm? Right, we have to vote on call to question. Yep. Wait to you get.

Councilor Wolfe: for the procedures.

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah. Yeah. Your set? Councilor Crampton, you have your hand up. Um we are going to vote on this. Recorder Johnson is just getting all the paperwork straight. So go ahead. Hmm?

Councilor Crampton: Oh, no, I'm just waiting to see if it goes through because the question has been called.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Okay. Did you get? Okay um we have a motion on call the question, but we don't have a second for that. Okay, recorder Johnson, can you do a roll call on that item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Seven in favor, two against. Go to the question.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, so we do have a motion on the floor. Um the motion was made by Councilor Metzger, supported by Councilor Wolfe. Uh so, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for that item, please?

Councilor Wolfe: Should he restate the motion?

Speaker Burmeister: Al?

Councilor Metzger: Yes, uh the motion is resolution, uh to **adopt Resolution 24-0911-158, adopting the Gaming Enterprise Oversight Authority Act of 2024, ordinance # 24-800-08.**

Speaker Burmeister: You ready? Okay, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Seven in favor, two against. It's been accepted.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, moving down to under new business V

Postponed C. Approving changes to Chapter 1 of Housing Regulations.

Moving down to D, under new business V

D. Posting for thirty-day public comment proposed changes to Enrollment Ordinance #04-200-01.

Councilor Crampton has brought this item forward, so Councilor Crampton, the floor is yours.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you, speaker. Yeah, um this is for the enrollment ordinance and the major changes would be, well, the changes that I'm putting up for 30-day public comment are under 201, that would be definitions, and that's just for the

adopting the language to make the enrollment cards do not expire. And then if you go on to 513, the next change is the wording for the cards.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Councilor Crampton: So, it's scrapped off number 514, and it's just, I think it's incorporating under 513, but that's for the 30-day um public comment, and this is just for posting, this is not adopting it. So, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Will there be any Tribal Councilors that are gonna abstain from this item? Any Councilors with questions? Tribal citizens? Back to Council? Okay, with no further questions, I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Councilor Metzger?

Councilor Metzger: Thank you, Madam Speaker. If there's no questions or comments at this time, I'd like to make a **motion to approve posting a 30-day public comment, propose changes to the enrollment ordinance 04-200-01.**

Councilor Wolfe: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: Will there be any other questions or comments from Councilors? From Tribal citizens? Back to Tribal Council? With no further questions, Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for this item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Six in favor, three against. It'll be posted.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. We have a Tribal citizen that has joined us. Phone number 231-329-1568. Can you please identify yourself?

Shawna Gonzalez: Shawna Gonzalez, 4700.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next Tribal citizen is Delia Guest. Could you please identify yourself?

Delia Ross: Delia Ross, 2446.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, moving down on the agenda under new business

E. Financial Reports April 2024

Ogema Romanelli um has represented this item. So, is there, um okay... is there any um comments or excuse me, is there any councilors that are gonna abstain from this item? Councilor Wolfe?

Councilor Wolfe: I'm going to abstain from accepting this report. The work session happened when I was out on training and I did not attend, but from the reports and comments, I don't think it was an appropriate work session. The documents weren't presented in full, and it didn't last very long. So, I'm not comfortable accepting the report. So, I will be abstaining.

Speaker Burmeister: We have to vote on that.

Recorder Johnson: Yeah.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Uh so we have, is there anybody else that's gonna abstain? Okay, so we need to vote on that approval.

Councilor Crampton: Sorry, speaker, I couldn't get my hand up. I'll be abstaining too. I tried to get into the meeting. It didn't start right on time. And then when I did get on, I learned that it was actually about four minutes.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, thank you. Can we do that? Alright. Um we're gonna do the first one, the abstention on Councilor Wolfe. I'd like to entertain a motion, please. Hmm? Oh, we don't need a motion. Okay, doesn't, okay So Recorder Johnson, you're ready. Can we do a roll call for this item?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Councilor Metzger during roll call: Can you state what the motion is?

Recorder Johnson: There is no motion. It's on Julie, we're voting on whether Julie can abstain.

Councilor Metzger: From the financial reports or?

Recorder Johnson: uh huh.

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah, from the April one.

Councilor Metzger: Oh, yeah, I'm in agreeance with that.

Recorder Johnson: (Back to roll call). Five in favor, four against, she can abstain.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, we have another one.

Recorder Johnson: Shannon.

Speaker Burmeister: um for Councilor Crampton to abstain from the April financials. Um Recorder Johnson, can you do the call for that item, please?

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Councilor Crampton during roll call: can I vote on this?

Recorder Johnson: Julie voted on hers.

Councilor Crampton: Oh okay. (back to roll call).

Councilor DiPiazza: Voting on your own abstention. Okay.

Recorder Johnson: Four in favor, five against, he votes.

Councilor Crampton: uh absolutely not. The meeting procedures override Robert's rule since we have them written down. If you read our meeting procedures ordinance, and that's why I've tried to tell you guys 100 times, well, more than that. If you read the meeting procedures ordinance, it says you can take the vote just like prescribed in the Robert's rule.

Speaker Burmeister: Crampton, you abstained, so no comments.

Councilor Crampton: You can't force a member to vote. Okay, thank you.

Councilor DiPiazza: You abstained you can't comment.

Recorder Johnson: Financial gain.

Speaker Burmeister: No. Okay um go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I'll make the **motion to approve the financial report for April 2024.**

Councilor Wever: Support.

Speaker Burmeister: You can. Okay will there be further comments from councilors? I see Councilor Metzger; you had your hand up. Go ahead.

Councilor Metzger: Yeah, thank you. The situation that just developed, uh I was, I missed half of it, but we just voted on to accept council member Crampton's abstention, which got voted down. So, he is no longer abstaining. So, he does have commentary rights and dialogue after that vote. So, to cut him out is, how would I state it? I'd state it illegal. He's allowed to vote.

Speaker Burmeister: Yes.

Councilor Metzger: We voted down his abstention. So, he can have dialogue. So just to clarify that last situation that just happened, is he allowed dialogue?

Speaker Burmeister: Yes.

Councilor Metzger: Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Um Carrie Frias also has a comment. Go ahead, Carrie.

Carrie Frias: Sorry, I didn't realize my hand was still up, but I'm not sure that you need to vote on whether to abstain or not.

Recorder Johnson: Is it for financial gain or not, or.

Carrie Frias: because like Councilor Crampton said, I don't think you can force someone to vote that wants to abstain for you know whatever reason that may be.

Speaker Burmeister: Um go ahead, Mike.

Mike Ceplina: Mike Ceplina 0692. I'm just wondering why the financial reports are so far behind when we have people that work for us that are supposed to be doing this, not only here, but for the casino too. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Let's see here um. Councilor Crampton, you have your hand up next.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah. If you guys, the speaker should have the Tribal Council Meeting Procedures Ordinance handy and ready at all Tribal Council meetings on Wednesday. It's not like you're brand new to this.

Speaker Burmeister: No, um you're not here to see that. It is right here.

Councilor Crampton: Okay, well then look.

Speaker Burmeister: Its being looked at right now.

Councilor Crampton: Okay then look at the bottom where it says abstentions where at the very bottom of it says, you can't force me to vote. Now we have a bigger issue than that. Um Councilor uh Wolfe declared no deliberation, which is in the Meeting Procedures Ordinance. I declared the same thing. We have a rights portion in our constitution. And in there, there is the equal protection under our law. Our Tribal Council just treated two members differently in the same situation. So, I'm gonna teach you all about civil rights and I won't be voting. Thank you.

Councilor DiPiazza: Inaudible.

Speaker Burmeister: Gary.

Councilor Metzger: No sidebars.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor DiPiazza. Councilor DiPiazza, stop. I'll put you in the queue. Go ahead, Mark. I just...

Mark Huddleston: I thought I read in the uh Procedures Act that if you abstained, you only had uh one chance to comment again and there was a like five-minute limit on it, I thought.

Speaker Burmeister: Mark, I'm gonna, um I'm going to read on from our Tribal Council Procedures Ordinance on page 12B, abstention from voting. Tribal Council members shall have a duty to vote for each matter up for vote while the Tribal Council member is in attendance at a Tribal Council meeting, subject to a Tribal Council member's obligation to abstain from voting. An abstention shall be valid only for the reasons stated below. Number one, abstention required. Tribal Council members shall abstain from voting when that Tribal member or Tribal Council by majority vote deems that the item presents a conflict of interest as a term is defined by Article IV, Section 6F2 of the Constitution of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Number two, no participation in deliberation prior to beginning deliberations on an agenda item. The Tribal Council speaker shall read the following statement. Any Tribal Councilor who intends to abstain from voting on this agenda item must state that intention now. Any member of the Tribal Council who declares that they intend to abstain from voting based on a conflict of interest must also declare the circumstances and or nature of the conflict. The Tribal Council in accordance with Article IV, Section 6F4 of the Constitution of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians shall then deem by majority vote if that member should abstain from voting on the agenda item provided however, that if the Tribal Council member believes that a conflict exists, they cannot be compelled to vote.

Mark Huddleston: Does that continue on to state additional comments?

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah, if you abstain, um it goes down to table an item after that.

Mark Huddleston: I had it wrote down. So

Speaker Burmeister: It's on page.

Mark Huddleston: I'm not gonna take the time. I don't need to. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead Councilor Campton.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, that's not, there's nothing in there about in the abstentions about that. But if you go further down and you read a little bit further into the abstentions, haven't got it right in front of me, but I know where you're at. And if you go a little bit further, it talks about the other ones. Now, what you just read said, if a Council member declares a conflict of interest, Council Wolfe did not declare a conflict of interest, neither did I. We declared non-participation in deliberations. You guys really need to go through these things and comprehend what you're reading. Now, if you go further down the document, I don't like, again, I don't have in front of me, but I know where you're looking. You're gonna find that there's excuses. There's no participation in deliberation is listed right there in front of you. So, I've been absolutely correct in my assessment. You can't force me to vote. You just violated my civil rights, and you just took a vote that doesn't mean anything. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: We're back to the item. So, we are back to, um there's a motion on the floor. Um Recorder Johnson, can you do roll call for the motion? Gary and then Councilor DiPiazza and then Councilor Wever supported it.

Recorder Johnson: Mm hmm.

Roll Call #

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

Five in favor, two against, two abstentions. It's passed.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. We are under new business um

Postponed F. Payment of Annual dues to the National Congress of American Indians.

Moving down to

Removed G. Economic Development Corporation Funding in the Amount of \$2,062,495.00.

Um moving down to

VI. Concluding Business

A. Next Meeting Date(s) - Wednesday, September 18, 2024

B. Ogema Weekly Status and Business Update

Ok thank you. Moving down to

C. Legislative Affairs Update

1. Tammy Burmeister

I have no updates this week. Recorder

2. Pam Johnson

Recorder Johnson: Uh uh thanks. Um so, I attended um this weekend with all the busy events going on and stuff. Um I was at Rice Camp all weekend and uh Gun Lake was present and Wyatt, their food sovereignty uh person had presented a gift um inside of it. And there's a beautiful basket, some syrup, some sage, um some jams, a salsa, some beans and other miscellaneous things. I just wanted to make note and we'll go ahead and pass it um so everybody can see it. And then it'll be um in ah the back office as usual. And uh just want to say that we had a great turnout at Rice Camp. We had uh more participants this year than what we've had um last year. It was the second one. So, it turned out to be um great. Even though it started out chilly both days, it turned out to be beautiful um and just wanted to share that with everybody, um the gift that we received from Gun Lake. Um seem like I had one other one, but I'm good.

Speaker Burmeister: Kay. Thank you. Councilor

3. Julie Wolfe

Your next.

Councilor Wolfe: Um just want to note and give a little report on the conference I attended last week. I attended um the Midwest Regional Annual Meeting for the um Food and... uh It's FDPIR, Food Distribution on Indian Reservations Program, I think, something. I don't have it in front of me, but um that was a really well-attended event. Um it was opened by the Ogema. Then I, myself, participated in the entire conference. We went over a lot of um updates and things from the USDA that are um there. We are one of the first uh regions for food distribution programs in the region that have the storefront concepts. So, we got to take them over there and show them and um showcase that. They were very impressed. They liked the way it was set up. Um they did discuss the, and I don't know if some people seen in the national news about the food shortages from the USDA for delayed orders, incomplete orders, and non-compliant. Um they are working to resolve that. I think on September 9th, there was another mandate by the federal government to complete that. But when in the discussions, our food distribution program doesn't have any ramifications of that. We've been receiving complete orders and everything. Um we did get a lot of compliments to the Food Commodity Program. And I just want to mirror that, how well they set up and did the conference and how active they are in keeping compliant with USDA federal regulations. One important thing to note, there was uh executive director. And in that tour, she had noticed that they were very compliant and had a lot of posters posted for um the members to see that uh made them follow regulations and what their rights were. And they had just redone those new. And she was really impressed that we were so moved forward on that um for our tribe here. So that's about all I have on that. Thank you. No other updates.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Next in the queue is

4. Gary DiPiazza

go ahead.

Councilor DiPiazza: Op I just want to remind everybody, it's September 11th and its opening day of bear season. So be cautious out there. It's not a teddy bear. And I wish everybody luck. Deer season open, uh what? Um I don't know. Anyways, after a week ago or so, be cautious. Know what's your know what's behind it or you want to partake. And again, waterfowls open. Always check your 1836 regulations and any for times of opening and for sunrise and sundown. And I did attend the sturgeon release like I have for, I don't know, very long time. And uh this year was their highest was 807, which was, and they were huge. They were big. They were lunkers this year. So that's exciting. Um there was something else too. Nah, I'll save it for public comment, I think. I'm good.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

5. Shirley Wever

You are next.

Councilor Wever: Yes, I'd like to say, um you know, that's funny. Gary bring, Councilor uh DiPiazza brings up, it's uh September 11th. Do you know that it's been 23 years since 9-11 and I think it's fading, and people don't even remember it anymore. So, I think we should remember it and take time out for the victims. And remember, this could happen again. And I hope it never does, but it could. And um and then we have uh some birthdays that are 9-11. I have across the road from me, two little twins, twins, their birthdays today. And I probably will never forget their birthday. And then it's also our uh Councilor Wolfe's birthday today. So, when you get time, wish her happy birthday. And there's one thing else I wanna mention. I forgot that Manistee is famous for, um his name is, let's see just a minute, cause it's my uh brother's and my um uh dad's name, James Earl Jones. He had grandparents that lived here in Manistee that um he was raised. They brought him up. But I also heard that his uh grandparents are buried in Dublin, Lake County. So, if you ever get a chance, but I don't know if it's by Dublin store, but uh look them up, maybe they are there. And maybe we should bring a little, if he's cremated a little piece of Earl, or James Earl Jones home to Manistee. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Councilor Wever: Awe, thank you, Diane.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead Councilor

6. Al Metzger

Councilor Metzger: Uh thank you, Madam Speaker. Appreciate this moment. And uh as Councilor Wever mentioned, it's been 23, it's been 23 years since uh the attack um on the soil of United States of America. And even though that action happened 23 years ago, and we withdrew from Afghanistan, say three, four years ago, the effects of that war are still being felt. Uh the burn pits that were constantly going on in Afghanistan has poisoned many, many US service members. I...I know one in particular, one that's very dear to my heart, and uh she has suffered cancer from the US government. So, I say, chi-Miigwech to the US government for trying to kill our people. You know uh It's kind of

like Agent Orange, same thing with the Vets uh Vietnam vets, where the US government was poisoning people uh to eradicate. So those wounds that were were uh taken upon 23 years ago are still being felt today and they will be felt on for next two or three generations. So, uh when you have time, just take a moment and reflect on how grateful you are to be able to walk today. I say, chi-Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

7. Ron Wittenberg

You are next.

Councilor Wittenberg: Uh thank you, Miigwech. Nothing at this moment.

Speaker Burmeister: Alright, thank you. Councilor

8. Misty Silvis

Councilor Silvis: Thank you. I just wanted to add also my thoughts and prayers going out to the families of those who lost their lives in the 9-11 Twin Towers attacks. That's all, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor

9. Shannon Crampton

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. Um yes, there was a recent uh leader's settlement in North Dakota where most of the leaders were petitioning the BIA to um start a youth police academy for Native American tribes. And I think that they were talking about um National Guard to take them, I have them posted at the National Guard um stations uh around tribes. I know they were talking about uh Camp Grafton out in North Dakota. Also, there's this lower Sioux tribe right now is moving forward with, they haven't got their um papers in uh order to start producing marijuana. So, they're taking their hemp that they've been growing for that uh and they're turning it into hempcrete. And now they're building hempcrete houses for their people at a very low cost. They have the machinery. Now they didn't have that in the past. They have it now. And if you haven't seen it, it's very its awesome to watch. It's almost like pouring something. It's insane how they build these houses now, but it's very cheap and it reduces the carbon base footprint. So, it doesn't hurt the um ecosystem either. Right now, most of the houses uh materials that are used to build houses, the houses you're living in, the houses I'm living in, building we're sitting in right now, all have carbon emissions. These don't. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I forgot to add in my update that I will be out next week. I'm attending the Indian Gaming Association Media Conference and Expo. It's out in Washington. It'll be September 16th through the 18th. So, I'll be out of the office. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Moving down under

D. Public Comment Period

Whoa. Um Mike, you raised your hand first and then Matt. And then I can't, I can't recognize.

Mike Ceplina: You know, I see under this that uh they wanted to give over \$2 million to the EDC. This tribe has given them millions of dollars. I would like to know where the millions of dollars went. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Matt, did you want to respond to that?

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah, I want to respond to the comment.

Speaker Burmeister: Oh Okay. Go ahead Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I just wanted to respond that that item was removed. It was a request from the EDC. The majority of tribal council didn't support that funding initiative for them, because I agree with you. We've gave them millions of dollars and haven't seen um profits or dividends come back to the tribal members, what they were created for. So that item has been permanently removed.

Speaker Burmeister: Go ahead, Matt. Misty, I put you in the queue.

Matthew Chandler: Matthew Chandler, citizen 1687. Um and please bear with me, because I'm talking about a difficult subject. This month is suicide prevention month. And that is something that I struggle with almost on a monthly basis. I was in three different combat zones when I was in the military. And I still see the faces of people that I've killed every time I close my eyes at night. About five years ago, I was really getting beaten up in the public. I had people threatening my life, saying that I should die. Um I had people trying to set me up, trying to say I was in one place when I wasn't another place. And I hit an extremely low place. I was probably about 20 minutes from eating a bullet at that point. If it wasn't for four individuals, I think I would have ate that bullet. Of course, one is being the strongest Anishinaabe Kwe that I know, and that's my wife. And then another Anishinaabe Kwe who's no longer in this area, but I won't mention her name. Then an individual who is not native, who is 80 years old, who I consider an elder, my mentor, and my friend. And then the last person was Shannon. I went to a bunch of different people within the tribe. They didn't want anything to do with me. Shannon, along with these other individuals, helped pull me out of that. And he directed my um love of woodworking and started making guitars and started playing guitars and the discussions that we have with one another about life. So, whenever I tell somebody that I am friends with Shannon Crampton, that's the reason why. Nobody else would help me, but he did. And I'm sure most of you know, when I first shake hands with you or I've greated you, and you start to say something, I said, just remember, I'm friends with Shannon because I don't want to hear the other stuff. But I just wanted to make that public because one thing I've learned is there's a lot of strength in talking about it. And the more I talk about it, the more I'm able to live with those 13 faces I see every time I close my eyes and every time I go to bed. Chi-Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Silvis, you had your hand up. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Silvis: I actually just wanted to respond to Mike. Um the EDC did bring forward to tribal council a dividend policy plan to be worked on. So that is in the works that will bring profits back over, but it's kind of now in our hands. So, I just want to let you know that. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Lee.

Lee McCaslin: Ani um yeah, I just wanted to acknowledge that I was at the Natural Resource um Commission meeting the other night in the Filer City. Filer City biomass that's taking progress uh for the removal and storage, um not too far out of town. Um There's some literature on it and we're at the end phases of uh what's going on there. I also wanted to acknowledge the uh Okahoe that's sitting there from uh Akwesasne, you know, skin out to you. As uh I said in their council, and I listened to contamination up there and on the Akwesasne um where General Motors come in and they uh and if he gets an opportunity to speak and the contamination dump that they had uh proceeded to move forward on without acknowledgement. So, I just wanted to say that uh it's in the natural resource's hands now, you know, to uh acknowledge that over to the tribal chief here, the Ogema. Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Thank you. Next in the queue is Mark. Go ahead, please.

Mark Huddleston: Yeah, I was uh attending some of the budget meetings for the departments this week. And is it my understanding that they do have people in certain departments writing grants for those departments?

Speaker Burmeister: That is. That's correct, Mark. In departments they do have people that write grants, yes.

Mark Huddleston: Alright. So, we don't have a grant writer, I guess, and I'm not pointing fingers or trying to start an argument or anything. What my thought would be if there's money there and there's people writing the grants already and working on grants, um would it be, I mean, even people working remotely that had extra time, can we make like a stipend or something for these people that are actually already doing the work? You under... See what I'm saying? Like they're writing grants but they're not getting paid for it?

Speaker Burmeister: There...Mark, if I may um interrupt, it's the people that are writing grants are specific to their positions in the department. It's for their specific purpose. It's not like for other areas, but if that.

Mark Huddleston: Alright.

Speaker Burmeister: makes sense.

Mark Huddleston: So, they are specifically their job description and criteria is just the grants in each department. Is that what you're saying?

Speaker Burmeister: Well, something, yeah, go ahead, Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Wolfe: I wanted to respond for some clarification on that. When we're saying that people in the departments are writing grants, their grants the tribe has already received and they're reoccurring grants. So, in the absence of a grant writer, they're continuing forward with that grant. Some of them grant dollars are tied to their position that if we don't apply for the grant, their position would be gone. So, they take the initiative and bring forward the grant for tribal council to accept the applications and move it forward in the absence of a grant writer. The purpose of the grant writer, what is a need for the tribe and tribal membership is to expand opportunities, to bring in dollars and create revenue that can be moved forward to implement new services programs and secure funding for um BIA services, the police services, natural resources to continue programs. So, we're really at a deficit when we leave the grant writer position vacant. So, if that helps clear it up to what your kind of asking, I think I'm understanding is they are writing grants, but they're writing them specific to their job or their program, and they're only doing an absent in need. So, it falls under their job description in the last item that says other duties as assigned, and they're not professional grant writers. And most of the time it's not advocating for more or bigger grants. And then we're not getting notices of the grants that are out there, new funding that's coming available because they're focused on their day-to-day job and just managing that small grant that keeps some of their program funded. Thank you.

Mark Huddleston: Thank you. Yes, we need a grant writer. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Gary, you are... Councilor DiPiazza, you are next in the queue.

Councilor DiPiazza: I just wanted to kind of clarify why I voted yes on the uh gaming oversight authority. Um under 208 of that, E1 of that section is prohibited classes, which all elected officials that Little River Band of Indians are prohibited from sitting on that, which under that court ruling, that would be part of that. Now that plays into some other situations where we shouldn't be sitting on boards. So, I'm kind of glad it's actually in played what happens after this. We'll see what happens. But even under our constitution, article three, I, I'll just leave you with the ex post facto law. So just because this is in place, it doesn't mean you can go back into retroactive with that. With that oh, and plus I did bring it up for the 30-day comment. First one was something happened, missing pages. So, I don't know. I'm not, yeah, some of them have a tendency to forget what's going on. So, but that's good. I'm good.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you, Councilor Wolfe. Go ahead. Weren't you going to ask Gary to repeat that?

Councilor Wolfe: Oh, I was just, I'd asked Tammy if she had heard it. I didn't hear the first number that you said, what has the prohibition?

Councilor DiPiazza: Hmm?

Councilor Wolfe: What was your number that you referenced in the ordinance that has the prohibition?

Councilor DiPiazza: Oh, really? 802E1.

Councilor Wolfe: Yeah, I just heard 201E, so I couldn't find it there. So, eight. Yep. Thank you.

Councilor DiPiazza: 8.02E1, non-constitution is article three, I, in case you missed that.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Okay, um let's see here. Go ahead, Chelsea.

Chelsea Densmore: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Chelsea Densmore, 3-2-2-5. If you guys were just talking about um a grant writer and the need for a grant writer, I hope that uh when you guys are considering these positions, you're also considering contractual employees that you can write in a certain amount that they would receive upon receiving the grant. Sometimes it's percentages, sometimes it's base amounts. Having a contractual employee would be an easy way to uh resolve it in the meantime. Having a virtual or hybrid employee is also a super great option because you're giving people um incentives that aren't just more money, it's also the incentive of the flexibility of either where you live or how often you're coming into the office. I think there's a lot of ways that we can resolve the issue that we have with trying to get, A, more tribal members into um the government and into the casino and working for us, right? But I also think there's a way that we can resolve the issue of not having enough staff by being more flexible with the options. I know that this is probably more of an executive conversation, but I just wanna make it on the record, whenever you guys are talking about, especially like a grant writer, right? A contractual employee would absolutely resolve that issue quickly and would give us the opportunity, like Julie said, to get so many more grants and be applying for everything else because we're not just trying to maintain the status quo. So that was all I had, Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Go ahead, Councilor Crampton, and then I have you in, yea.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you, speaker. Uh well, first off, I wanted to say, uh Miigwech to Matthew. I'm honored to call him one of my friends. Um There's nothing wrong with being friends with me. In fact, if you go and you find out, I look in our papers, you're gonna find out my school prints, all kinds of stories about my

accomplishments. If you come up here to Traverse City, walk in any music store, walk in any place, and you're gonna hear praises about me. Um go into any food pantry, you're gonna say, oh yeah, Shannon donates here on this day and this day, and he comes down and works. It's only in Manistee where they make up this stuff you guys and it's just a small group that keeps trying it. Every place else is, you're gonna find totally different. I'm honored among all the other tribes because in fact, they get petitioned by SAGCHIP and GTB to jump ship and come there. In fact, I was told by the SAGCHIP, um well, I won't go too much into it, Chairman, that they would make a spot for a council for me if I would come there. So, you guys understand that this is not something that happens any place else. It's a unique little thing down there with a bunch of people that I don't believe should be there in the first place. That's my disagreement. Now onto the public comment. Taking somebody else's work and posting it for a 30-day public comment. Yeah, that's an old trick. Sorry, but that's how that happens. Now, a couple of weeks ago, the Ogema um came forward and said he wanted to know who said the project was dead in Muskegon, who said that the um the governor doesn't wanna meet with us. And I provided council with an email showing that Mr. Romanelli was in receipt of that email over a year ago. With the governor definitively stating that she said no. So that was just more games and smoke screens. But yes, we have the email from over a couple of years ago where Mr. Romanelli was told that exact information. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Wolfe, you are next in the queue.

Councilor Wolfe: So, I just wanted to respond to Chelsea's comments and um those are well taken and well supported. That was the discussion in that um review of the grants budget to um add more people to that and then possibly consider remote. That was the discussion. And where it goes from here is we put that in a memo to the Ogema and then he changes his proposed budget or submits it as proposed. So just to let you know that, like you mentioned it right at the end that it's more of an executive conversation because we make laws, not employees, but thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Diana, you are next in the queue.

Diana Harris: Diana Harris, 2404. Uh I just wanted to say that someone who can talk on and on about their way of grandeur is trying to control. And I am pretty tired and fed up with someone saying things about himself and talking about himself like he's some kind of God. That's all I have to say.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Ogema Romanelli, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Ogema Romanelli: Thank you. Again, Councilor Crampton uh makes mention of the Muskegon Project. At a meeting two or three weeks ago, Councilor Crampton said that the Charette uh group stated that they would not support that basically the Muskegon Project was not going forward. I talked to uh Mr. Charette, and he said he had no time said anything of sorts. Uh he's willing to come before the council if needed to restate his position on that. Regarding the other issues, the Tribal Council recently met with our

lobbyists and our attorney who are working and have worked with the Muskegon Project. I was not invited to that meeting, which I think is unfortunate. My understanding is that you were told very clearly that the project is moving forward and that the project is not dead. And I would like to ask the speaker to qualify that or not. It was a closed session. So, the problem we have here is that you continue to allow one of the Tribal Councilors to speak on this subject that's in closed session. So how does that work with that? And now you're now closing it down. I know what you have. Okay, I will leave it at that. I think this is extremely unfortunate. And this council, the council officers really need to be able to explain to the membership where we're at. It's very detrimental to the project to allow one councilor to speak out on something that you had in closed session. And I would like to know why you did not invite the Tribal Ogema to that meeting. Speaker?

Speaker Burmeister: Yeah. What you're asking, I don't see who's invited to the meetings other than when we have work sessions and we write on there, who should attend the next one?

Ogema Romanelli: Okay, why wouldn't I be included?

Speaker Burmeister: I don't know. Pam?

Councilor Crampton: I can respond, that's an easy one.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Next in the queue. I'm gonna follow the queue here uh. Let's see here.

Ogema Romanelli: Okay, I'm going to exit this meeting.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Ogema Romanelli: I think it's very unfortunate what continues to go on in these meetings. Thank you very much.

Speaker Burmeister: Al, did you want to?

Councilor Metzger: (inaudible) questions and since he's gone.

Speaker Burmeister: okay, I have Kim that was next in the queue.

Councilor Crampton: Yeah, but you let Julie respond immediately.

Kim Hinmon: I just wanted to thank um thank you all for your time today. So, um as the previous Native Connections Coordinator, I just want to say thank you for the time that I've served here. um I have enjoyed my time. I came in partway through year number one of a five-year grant. And I have since took a position with Grand Travers Band. Um I

look forward to working for their tribe and I find it very sad and unfortunate that I will no longer be working for this community. Um I sacrificed quite a lot to be able to come up here and work for my tribe. Um I've enjoyed my time here. I like to think that I have made a positive change in this community. Um I like to think that I've brought culture back to this community. And um I would like to know why when I submitted my budget for approval, everything was for taxes and wages and benefits, but at my leaving, everything was adjusted so that I had an operating budget. But hearing both Kathleen and previously our tribal manager speak out that when I needed money, that money would be appropriated to me. But when I need money, when I need an operating budget, I was appropriated less than \$2,000 for an operating budget that was previously closer to nine to \$12,000. So, in terms of money and we're looking for our tribal community and we're looking for positive change, I'm not gonna toot my own horn and claim that I did, but I like to think that I did. And as a tribal citizen, as a loyal tribal citizen, why was that not adjusted then? And I guess indirectly, I don't think that that's a question that you can necessarily answer. Tribal council, that would be something that the Ogema and his advisory needs to address. Um but we have tribal people who are here, who are invested in our community. And why was my position shut out? What did I do wrong? And why is that? And I would like somebody to look into that because I was happy working here for this community. And the only reason why I left is because I had no operating budget. How can I continue to do the job that I was hired to do when there is literally no money to do it? And with that, I'd like to say thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Metzger, you're next in the queue.

Councilor Metzger: Uh yeah, now I'm gonna switch because earlier I had a response for the Ogema, but he walked out. Uh Ms. Hinmon, chi-Miigwech, for all the hard work that you put in, you know uh it might seem that you've been overlooked by some people, but not by all. The gifts that you shared, the stories that you shared, the wisdom that you shared and brought back to the community, I say chi-Miigwech for that. You know and the best endeavors, you know best wishes on your next endeavor, but you do have a home here at Little River Band. You know you have people that do care, that are culturally sensitive. So, I just you know chi-Miigwech. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Wolfe, you're next in the queue.

Councilor Wolfe: Hmm, I hope I remember everything. Um when it was brought up in public comment in those response, what Councilor Crampton made was not closed session information. He made a general comment in response to comments made by the Ogema at the podium. He didn't bring up closed information. The Ogema, in turn, brought up the enclosed information and then asked Tribal Council to comment on it. So, there's a difference there. Everything that was said by Councilor Crampton was not closed information. It was all public information. We've been hearing since before the Ogema was elected that the project's not dead when we did not get concurrence by the governor in December of 2021. And it was noted there that the project is dead. We can resubmit, we can create a new project, and we haven't done that or took those initiatives. We haven't recreated a feasibility study. The only action that has

happened, which cannot be completed, was this body took action to change the application or submit the application to the DOI to put the land into trust for gaming purposes. First, it was non-gaming, was the action Tribal Council took, and then someone told the attorneys, be it the Ogema meeting we weren't invited to stand down on it. When we followed up on it and found out that it was stand down and we wanted that done, then this body took the direction to put it in for non-gaming, I mean, for gaming purposes. And we're only talking about the 60 acres. And at that time, it was presented to us, hey, we're on the fast track. We need this done right away because they will accept, and it will save money because we won't have to redo our environmental impact studies. We won't have to redo some of those hearings and input from public like we had to. That was in February. We're now in September, not a peep out of the DOI because of the legislation at the state, because of the non-concurrence of the governor. The governor hasn't met with Little River Band. Plenty of meetings have happened without any representation of this body between the Ogema and the governor. So, when he says we asked our shared lobbyists and our shared attorneys to inform us on theirs without his, there's nothing wrong with that. That's very appropriate. We have to make decisions based on membership. We work for the people. The Ogema has different executive decisions that he makes under management responsibilities, under the powers of the Ogema to execute and enforce laws. Two different obs...two different objectives. Do we work together? Do we come to at the end sometimes? Does it seem like not so good sometimes? Most definitely. But that's not on our part. We're not constantly walking out of meetings. We're not constantly calling them short. We're not constantly saying, when this is done, you guys gotta leave. We're left sitting in that room when people exit because they don't like to answer the hard questions. They don't like the accountability that we're asking or demanding or questioning or looking for answers for. So, when you think this body's not working together and we're not doing that part, I can guarantee we are. I can guarantee we all take the extra effort to look at things, to read things, to become informed. What's the point of having a work session, having a meeting, having a conversation if you just wanna listen to what's being presented and not speak for yourself, not question, not say, well, where's this? You know there's a lot of things on the table that put this tribe in jeopardy because of management decisions that tribal can't always correct with a law or legislation or ordinance or resolution. There's only three things this body can do, motion, ordinance, and resolution. We take those serious. We work on them. May seem like it's not, but it is. And we are moving forward. This... this uh ordinance that got adopted today, it's a step in the right direction. So those are my comments. I think I forgot some of them but thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Crampton, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you. I wanted to respond to the Ogema asking why he wasn't invited, but I think Councilor Wolfe kind of covered it. There's a separation of powers. And in my experience, when you have the Ogema sitting in there browbeating people, they don't talk freely. So then when you hold another meeting with them, they say a whole bunch of different stuff. And we've had employees walking around here for years, begging us to take back the procedure's uh manual so that they can come forward

with the complaints. For years, and you're all aware of it. So that's the reason why we had people come in without him. There's a separation of powers. And we might wanna hear the real story without him browbeating them into an answer that they don't, like he just told you, there's no closed session information. That was a uh letter that Mr. Romanelli said to Council that he tried to get one of their uh their people to bolster us into buying the property. And all of his questions were answered in there. The governor said no, and it even gave the date that she said no and called him. So yeah, there's a definite no. Plus, there's two or three times it's cited that, no, the governor does not want to meet with us. So, Mr. Romanelli, that's why he left because I mean when you get embarrassed like that, we should just release the email so the members can see another time that he just stood up here and lied. Why not? I'm not scared of releasing it, but you guys don't want to because, and not all of you, there's four of you, well, three of you with me that would release it. But the rest of you know that that's just an absolute embarrassment with showing me as a liar. The things that go on here and the membership, this is for the membership. What's going on around here right now just goes to my point that this is some back wood mom and pop shop and that's how it's being run. It's right now they're using the excuse if we catch them doing something illegal or something improper, your question, oh, you started, you made this meeting, you said something bad, then they walk out of the room. It's the most child, and it plays right into what I'm talking about. No professionals would do that. Only some mom and pop, mom and pop cattle group would do something like that. But that's the flavor of the day. And again, Mr. Romanelli is nothing but a liar. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: No more name calling Councilor Crampton if you're going to speak again. Um go ahead Councilor Wolfe.

Councilor Crampton: That was not a name, that was the absolute truth.

Councilor Wolfe: (Inaudible mic off)

Chelsea Densmore: Hi, sorry, we can't hear you guys.

Councilor Wolfe: We train other people to fit in there and feel that and go through things. So, when you say what is wrong with you, there's nothing wrong with you. And I just want to reassure you that, and I want to say that you are appreciated and valued by myself. And I can speak for the whole council on that because you know you stepped into prevention, and you know after I left it stayed vacant for a long time and was never the same. We all know our kids suffered when we didn't have a prevention worker in there because there were no activities, there were no events for them. So, you did bring a lot back and you did offer that. As far as budget and being accepted um in different terms like that, that wasn't the way you presented it. And then the way that it got changed after you left, that was all recommendations from the executive. We didn't have a control or a say into how much would be budgeted because I would like to see that position like it was for me, 100% tribal revenues uh supported for that position. And those \$70,000 go into activities, go into services for the people. But you know that' how the change was over the last seven years because I left in 2018. But you know for me, that would be an

absolute goal. That's why I say, let's get more grant writers in. But I do appreciate it. And I hope there is some collaboration with Little River and Grand Traverse Band in your new position because we share Manistee County as the same service delivery area. So, um you know I wish there was other things that had transpired, and you were still a member of the team working for the tribal members. So, thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Boo, you have your hand up? Okay, um you're next to the queue. The gentleman that's standing there, you are not a Little River Band tribal member so we cannot allow you to speak. No, sorry, but that's how it is. Yep um so Boo, you are next in the queue.

Boo Battice: Boo Battice 2644, um I forget your name. Thank you for all the service and the culture is what we need back here. And to actually get less of it really saddens me. It really does. It's about to drop tears. There you go. And hopefully you can send someone else back in this direction. I don't know if you worked with Pat or who was working over there, but um Pat's done a lot of work too with the people. Um Julie, it's your birthday?

Councilor Wolfe: Yes.

Boo Battice: Happy birthday. I was raised, that's the most important day. We have all these Christmas, all these different days, but today's your day.

Councilor Wolfe: Miigwech.

Boo Battice: Enjoy this day. You made it a whole another year. Blessings. It's your day. Um I'd like to say, yeah, we do need mention of a better grant writer because I've been looking for help to write grant and fishing uh my whole life. My whole life. I was 16 when I got on a fishing boat, 18 when I actually purchased my own, worked with Lee. Um he was actually for the people. So, he can't even say Little River anymore. But uh he was good people, and he had a principal program to where we would be living off of a principal and that would never go down and um you don't get to hear him talk no more. You don't get to see his long braids, his groovy jive. Um anyway, with the natural resources, I would like to thank Lee also on the internet or wherever, I don't really do that thing because I'm a people person. I like to be right here live. The technology, I'm still, it's hard for me to grab on to as I follow the red road. But I'd like to thank Lee for mentioning things of filer and um the contamination over in the Manistee Lake there and how he keeps up on these things. Um current scheduling, it's really sad. I missed the um ricing there, but I was attending one of the longest holding three fires powwow in Grand Rapids. And it was awesome to see our princess there. And that family has done a lot of work um by showing up. You know all these people show up to council and all this, but none of them smelling the sea. You know I see a few people at the powwows and they're there for the right reason for the medicine and things, not just to sell a taco. Um there's a few people actually dancing and patting the grass down and respecting the flags that's hung. My most uh favorite flag is the POW. We still, it's not over. It's not over, my number is 2644 here. And to be numbered, you know I'll never I still don't

understand, but I still got to go down in history. That's why I got a fishing boat is for us to go down in history. Now they tried to really sink this boat, but the eagle shall fly again. It's named the eagle for a reason. They don't have Dolores or any other girly names. It's the eagle and it came to our tribe, but that's a whole, that's us, because that's what we do. Um Ron Yob sat in the courthouse with my dad once a month because my dad carried a traditional Grand River Band card to actually go practice our fishing rights. And when the DNR are saying, you're going to end up club floating in this river, and my dad grabs his radio right out of his pocket and he says, you want to say that out loud over the radio? And then the conversation's over. But as a kid, what, as a seven, eight-year-old, I'm a fisherman and I shall I shall be out there. I'm looking, I'm still looking for guidance, but the guidance is the grant, the grant writings. And the grant was set up in 1973 by the consumer's power when they dug up thousands of our forefathers for that energy hill. The hill was way taller, way taller. We could see Baldwin. That was an annual meeting. It was before the ghost supper, but after the harvest, my daddy told me about his daddy carrying chairs. But just as much as the three fires powwow just happened, the meeting at the energy hill happened every year, three fires. That wasn't just Wiseman from Thistle. We were all meeting at that power hill. Grand River, Traverse, all em, Chip, the Sags, they all came to this. And they set up grant money for the local. And we wasn't considered local until like 1994. And that's, you know, yeah, they do have a lot of money set up through fishing for the rest of the uh tribes and things, but there was, and I was kept out of the consent meeting in June 26, I believe of uh 2019, I was kept away from a lot of that, but there was specific just for the local tribe. Not any other tribe could touch it. And if someone's standing here and there's enough to, and all I hear is, you're gonna put people out of business. You can't do that. And I say, I'm 500 years behind and \$10 million should be enough to open an awesome fishery and feed the local people and have drumming and culture and everything within the fisheries. And they say, you think it's a lottery ticket? No, I think it's a payback. And for me to pay back a payback will never make sense.

Speaker Burmeister: Boo.

Boo Battice: I still would like to say happy birthday, Julie.
It's the most important day of our lives. Thank you everybody for showing up. It's good to see you because every day is a blessing.

Speaker Burmeister: Boo your time is up. I didn't know if you heard the buzzer.

Boo Battice: Yeah, respect.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you.

Boo Battice: Respectfully. Can I get back in line?

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. No. Um Councilor Wittenberg, you are next in the queue.

Boo Battice: I'm denied speech in line. I can't get back in line.

Speaker Burmeister: Everybody has one chance during public comment by five up to five minutes. Go ahead, Councilor Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: (Anishinaabemowin), boo, boo. Don't go nowhere. I wanna see you afterwards if you don't mind for a second. Uh I wanna say Miigwech to this young lady for all she did. My Sama as with you. I know we had other people that were in there trying to do things and they just spun around, spinning their tires. So, my Sama is with you, I have been to other nations and other nations ain't like ours. And you go to other nations; you'll see what they do for their kids. I was up there in P-Town. I'm happy to go to P-Town when they had their power because you know what their elders did? They got the sewing machine with the young'uns to turn around and do ribbon shirts for the men for the giveaways and things like that. There's a lot going on up there. They even have a lodge going on up there. They got a lodge going on some of these others. I know in Ottawa, Mississippi, I've been down there. They got two lodges down there, which I had uh the honor in being invited to. We have people like Jack Chambers. We have people like George Martin at one time used to come up here and turn around and share those things. Different people, oh, they're not from our tribe, this and that and blah, blah, blah, blah. And so, they weren't invited. Lunar Nation is in that, uh to me, uh in their category, in their level to turn around and get up and speak. And those that do, and partially are, uh don't do it. And so, then we have turn around and uh we have different ceremonies. Uh right here, we turn around and just a handful of people are noticed those things, not, I only see a couple of council people that turn around and go to them. Your uh I won't get into bashing who and who and who and who because we can turn around and go on and on and on. But uh I do wish, because we can throw money every which way, but where it needs to be. Our kids are our tomorrow. Because each one of us you see sitting up here, our time is limited, very limited. Because in today's uh world, you never know when the shade will be pulled. And so, we have to be ready, and we have to look at it and they talk about seven generations in the future and turn around and look in that, you know, I say Miigwech for our princess uh going down there in Grand Rapids to represent us. I say, that's awesome. Now, one is doing everything what and her parents are turning around because she's not, her parents are taking her around. And that's what we look at ourselves as parents or what are we doing to help our kids? That's the awesome thing of doing it. Then we got our grandmas and grandmas, our (Anishinaabemowin), and nope, (Anishinaabemowin), turned around to help guide us. But are we listening? No. There's a lot of things that I do, again, wish uh I went on a journey. I wish things could have been different, but uh personally, myself sitting up here, uh even before when I first come up here uh some time ago, going on 18 years that uh they had a good program and it was awesome and it was weekly and that was down there at the old, uh in front of Kmart, it's a government building down there. That was awesome. You know. Can it happen again? Of course it can happen. Uh hopefully it uh will. And we can get back into these things because we say we wanna, we talk about our language, and we very seldom use it. They said to keep using whatever you may know and just turn around and keep using it. You turn around and we have our tradition. We have walk out teachings of the seven grandfathers. I hear it on and on and on, but

then I turn around and look and uh things just ain't happening the way they should be. And I think that's what we need to do personally. And I'll be the first one in line when I get up in the morning and look at myself instead of coming up here and looking out. One has to look in before they can look out. You don't have that peace within yourself. You ain't giving no peace out there because all it's gonna do is just ruffle feathers, as they say. And uh we need our (Anishinaabemowin), our feathers nice and smooth and show the beauty that they are. Miigwech, Miigwech, Miigwech, Miigwech, Aho.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. Councilor Crampton, you are next in the queue. Go ahead, please.

Unrecognized: I thought they can only do five minutes.

Councilor Crampton: Thank you.

Unrecognized: He already had his five minutes.

Councilor Crampton: Um thank you, speaker. Uh first of all, happy birthday to Julie Wolfe and thank you to Ms. Hinmon for your service to our tribe. Um I think that what just happened a little while ago with the speaker, I wanted to make sure that everybody understands. There's a list of derogatory names. Um if you open up the dictionary, the word liar is a noun. It's not a derogatory name. Um I think that we are, and I've said this before, there is a way that the group down in Manistee does things and there's a way that things are written, and comprehension is absolute key. If you look at the meeting procedures ordinance, it states that tribal members, tribal members are given the chance to comment on every item up for vote. And the speaker does that when she asks them uh if there's any public comment. Okay, when we get to public comment at the end of the meeting, at the end of the meeting, that is for the public that's in the attendance. So, when you're telling a member that they can't speak, I'd like you to look at 705 of the meeting procedures ordinances and go down to B where it says, tribal members and other members of the public in the audience. So, they're contemplating tribal members and other members of the public. There's a distinction. So, I think we've been employing this absolutely the wrong way. I've said it from day one. I'll keep saying it. You're not comprehending what's being written. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Councilor Metzger, did you still have a comment?

Councilor Metzger: Uh no, I'd like to make a motion if possible.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay, we have an um a couple of other hands. Linda Andre, did you have a comment? Cause I think you were responding. So, I don't know if you were asking that to be in the queue. So, I just wanted to make sure that we don't overlook you.

Linda Andre: Um I did want to speak, but I my app doesn't show me how to raise my hand. I need to update it.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay.

Linda Andre: Can you hear me?

Speaker Burmeister: You can go ahead right now then. I thought you were trying to you know raise your hand. So go ahead, Linda.

Linda Andre: Um I I'm kind of puzzled uh about, and you don't have to respond, but I'm puzzled about why you have to vote if somebody wants to abstain. That does not make any sense to me. I mean, there might've been a reason, but it just doesn't, I can't see why the council has to approve somebody else's abstention. And I haven't been to a council meeting in a long time, but uh I don't like pointing fingers and saying I did this, and I did that. Just... just move on. Uh do what you're supposed to do and vote on it. And uh there's no reason to say I did this, or I did that, or you didn't do this, or you did that. Um and I wanted to say that I'm um lax and I'm going to do better about reading in the 30-day comment um actions in that are posted in there. Thank you. That's it.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Thank you. Um Councilor Silvis, you are next in the queue.

Councilor Silvis: I just want to say thank you, Kim, for the time that you've put it here. I'm sorry to see you go. I hope you have, you know, best of luck. I hope things work out better for you up there. Um but also, to answer Linda's question about voting on an abstention, um I feel that's kind of necessary because there are times when you could probably have nine councilors sitting here abstaining on absolutely everything. Um so, I think it needs to be voted on just to make the fairness of making sure that we can still do our job. So, but that's why I was going to make a motion to end, but I'll let you guys go. Thank you.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Um Councilor, thank you, Councilor Silvis. Go ahead, Councilor DiPiazza, you are next in the queue.

Councilor DiPiazza: Yes, I will. I will miss you, Kim. You've done a wonderful job for us. And if you need something, you know where I'm at. I've got some things planned coming that may be of your interest for what you do. With that being said, Miigwech, Miigwech, Miigwech.

Speaker Burmeister: Thank you. I have myself next in the queue, and I also want to thank Kim. Um I got to know her when I actually was an employee in the accounting department. We worked very close on the grant. Um so, you are going to be greatly missed, um but you still are all in our circle. So, I'm hoping that we'll still see a lot of you. I appreciate all your work that you've done um because before you came on board, that grant just sat there. Um so, thank you very much. And if you need something, I hope that you come back, and we can still work together. Thank you, Kim. Go ahead, Councilor Wittenberg.

Councilor Wittenberg: ♪ Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you ♪ ♪ Happy birthday to Julie, happy birthday to you ♪ ♪ Hope you have many more and grow older than I am today.

Speaker Burmeister: Your supposed to say are you one are you two.

Councilor Wittenberg: Happy Birthday.

Councilor Wolfe: Miigwech everyone.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay. Any other comments? Okay, there's no other comments.
Councilor Metzger.

Councilor Metzger: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. At this moment, since there's no other comments or questions, I'd like to **make a motion to end first half at 12:52.**

Councilor Wittenberg: Support

Speaker Burmeister: Alright, Recorder Johnson, can you do a roll call for um to end first open, please?

Recorder Johnson

Roll Call #

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

nine in favor, we are Closed at 12:52.

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.

VIII. Open Session

Recorder Johnson: I make a **motion to go into Second Open.**

Speaker Burmeister: Recorder Johnson can you do roll call please.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Eight in favor, one absent. Were in Second at 2:45.

Speaker Burmeister: Okay um councilor DiPiazza.

Councilor DiPiazza: I make a **motion to close Second Open.**

Speaker Burmeister: You mean adjourn?

Councilor DiPiazza:

IX. Adjourn

My apologies. Yep.

Councilor Silvis: Support

Speaker Burmeister: You ready Pam?

Recorder Johnson: Yep

Speaker Burmeister: Okay recorder Johnson can you do roll call please.

Recorder Johnson:

Roll Call #

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

Eight in favor, one absent. We are done at 2:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chantel Gamelin
Transcribing Assistant



Pam Johnson,
Tribal Council Recorder