



**LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL
EMERGENCY MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022
LITTLE RIVER BAND
VIA ZOOM
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians held an Emergency Meeting at the Little River Band Government Center on September 15, 2022. Following are the minutes of that meeting.

Acting Recorder Lewis said Mr. Speaker the recording is on.

Speaker Crampton said all right. Crampton thanked her. Crampton said welcome everybody. Crampton said they have Called an Emergency Meeting by the Tribal Council Speaker on September 15, 2022 at ah, 10:00 a.m. Crampton said the reason for the amendment is an emergency amendment to the Budget & Appropriations Act of 2013, Ordinance #13-100-04, Article V, Section 5.11 is the article that will be amending. Crampton reiterated the reason for the amendment is to keep ah, ah, Council in compliance. Crampton said the section that is going to be amended deals with late submissions and the original draft reads as follows: The Ogema shall present a Draft Budget to the Tribal Council no later than September 1st. The Tribal Council shall review the Tribal Budget proposal in a work session and shall present any comment in writing no later than September 15th. Tribal Council may provide assistance and input during the information... the formulation of the Budget at the request of the Ogema. Crampton said when they were supposed to receive it September 1st they got it this morning which is the 15th and would make the ah, um, Tribal Council would have to review it and send back their submission in a matter of hours which is not realistic and make them out of compliance so the addition is they are going to amendment it to state late submission will move calendar timelines back equivalently so each day that the submission from the Ogema was late will now extend the calendar. Crampton asked is there any questions.

Ogema Romanelli thanked him. Romanelli said he doesn't know if they announced who is present or who is on the call. Romanelli said if they want to do that or need to do that.

Speaker Crampton said he can't see his screen if the Recorder would like to do that before they go or go into anything else.

Ogema Romanelli said then he does the response.

Councilor Wittenberg left his seat to draw the shades down in the Lodge Room at 9:59 a.m.

Acting Recorder Lewis said yes, um, Susan.....Susan Thull please identify.....

Susan Thull said #3727.

Acting Recorder Lewis thanked her. Lewis said Valerie Mc Donnell.

Acting Recorder Lewis said that's good.

Speaker Crampton said better ask her again.

Acting Recorder Lewis said Valerie Mc Donnell.

Valerie Mc Donnell said #4340.

Acting Recorder Lewis said Connie Waitner.

Councilor Wittenberg returned to his seat in the Lodge Room at 10:00 a.m.

Connie Waitner said #0022.

Acting Recorder Lewis said Staci Cheney.

Staci Cheney said #0992.

Acting Recorder Lewis said Sandy M.

Sandy Mezeske said #0018.

Acting Recorder Lewis said okay, ah, Cynthia Champagne.

Councilor Champagne said Tribal Council Member.

Acting Recorder Lewis said okay, 887-9856.

Councilor Wever said ah, good morning it is Shirley Wever, Tribal Council.

Acting Recorder Lewis said okay, and then ah, 269 391-0737.

Sara Agosa said hi, #4478.

Acting Recorder Lewis said okay, 794-7667.

Bill Willis said Budget Coordinator.

Acting Recorder Lewis said okay, and um, did she get the 2739. Lewis said 215-2739.

Karen Love said #2494. Love said good morning.

Acting Recorder Lewis said good morning. Lewis said 794-7667.

Bill Willis said ah, that is Bill Willis again, he believed she already called that ah, Budget Coordinator.

Acting Recorder Lewis said okay, all right. Lewis thanked him. Lewis said and then um, they do have their Admins on Venus Wilson-Torres and Grace Hendler.

I. Call to Order

The Call to Order was not noted verbally but the Roll Call Record stated 10:00 a.m.

Speaker Crampton said please do a roll call to establish quorum.

II. Roll Call

T. Guenthardt - Present	C. Champagne - Present	P. Johnson - Present
S. Crampton - Present	G. DiPiazza - Present	S. Wever - Present
R. Wittenberg- Present	J. Wolfe - Absent	S. Lewis - Present

Quorum established.

Acting Recorder Lewis said they have a quorum.

Speaker Crampton said all right. Crampton thanked her. Crampton said ah, go ahead Mr. Romanelli.

III. Open Session

A. Emergency Amendments to the Budget & Appropriations Act of 2013, Ordinance #13-100-04, Article V, Section 5.11

Ogema Romanelli said okay. Romanelli thanked them. Romanelli said he didn't get the information beforehand but from what he just read he is in total agreement with it. Romanelli said he thinks that it only makes sense that 15 day ability would apply. Romanelli said if they are going to be late it should go down 15 days. Romanelli said the only other suggestion he would have because they had problems with ah, the Budget submissions through the process. Romanelli said it starts early in the year that in each case they have the same ah, ability to move the deadline so if there is a response from Council that is late then they would be given the same amount of days whatever that is if it is 15 days or 30 day that they

would move in every case they would move it within the Budget & Appropriations Act but other than that he understands the reasoning.

Speaker Crampton said oh.....

Ogema Romanelli continued....he does have the Budget Coordinator on if they need to ask any questions so.

Speaker Crampton said oh. Crampton thanked him. Crampton said he noticed the wording it doesn't state any certain access....late submission so if there is a late submission back from Council that would kick his calendar back.

Ogema Romanelli said okay, either way. Romanelli said okay, that sounds good. Romanelli thanked him.

Speaker Crampton asked is there any discussions from the me....ah, Tribal Council. Crampton said any questions.....Gary.

Councilor Di Piazza said ah, just concerned because having an emergency meeting on it they had work sessions all along on it. Di Piazza said this could have been taken care of a week ago, two weeks even yesterday.

Speaker Crampton said how is it that Council controls the Ogema's submission.

There was some disturbing noises in the background on the ZOOM recording coming from a Participant's connection.

Councilor Di Piazza said it is late.

Speaker Crampton said so what is he saying the Ogema can't read their act. Crampton reiterated is he saying the Ogema can't read the act for himself.

Councilor Di Piazza said no, he didn't say that.

Speaker Crampton said okay, he is asking him what is he suggesting that the Tribal Council do to force to submit by September 1st.

Councilor Di Piazza said he didn't say that. Di Piazza said he said they had numerous work sessions on this item. Di Piazza said if he knew September 1st that the Budget wasn't going to be submitted this could have been taken care of even yesterday instead of an Emergency Meeting.

Speaker Crampton said they can't control when the submission was in and he was willing to go even by Monday to still tackle it if the submission came in to have their ah, part done by the 15th. Crampton said he is sorry they can't control when the Ogema turns it in.

Councilor Di Piazza said well, his concern was calling an emergency meeting and he doesn't believe it is really an emergency but so be it.

Speaker Crampton said okay. Crampton thanked him. Crampton asked any other discussion.....any discussion from the membership.

Sara Agosa asked Shannon if he could please put her in the queue, Sara Agosa.

Speaker Crampton said yes, and he can't see that.....his screen is off so Sandy if she could call them out. Crampton said he thinks she is the only one in the queue Sara so go ahead.

Sara Agosa said her first question is why the Budget was late to begin with. Agosa said she has some concerns that the timeline is being revised and as a Tribal member she would like to know why the Executive did not meet the deadline to begin with. Agosa said that is her first question. Agosa said her second question is how would this extension impact the rest of the timelines um, she feels that Tribal members should have a solid understanding of this Budget Process and when things are due. Agosa said she feels uncomfortable that the timeline is being adjusted she would just like to see the timeline set in stone to ___ with. Agosa said those are her questions.

Speaker Crampton said okay, he doesn't know.....he thinks the only question that he dug out of there was why was the Executive late. Crampton said if he missed another question please let him know.

Ogema Romanelli said yeah. Romanelli thanked them. Romanelli said they do have Bill Willis on the call regarding the late submission but he can answer the other question. Romanelli said he doesn't believe the timelines themselves are being changed the timelines are still in affect whether it be September 1st or September 15th or whatever the timelines are. Romanelli said within the ordinance he thinks the understanding is that if it's late in submission from either side that the time to respond then only makes sense the same 15 day or whatever the response is. Romanelli said the response time is adjusted but the dates themselves are not adjusted. Romanelli said as for the late submission ah, they do have Bill Willis online if he cares to respond.

Acting Recorder Lewis said something in the background on the ZOOM recording but it was not picked up clearly to understand.

Speaker Crampton said okay. Crampton said um, Susan Thull.

Susan Thull thanked him. Thull said ah, she would like to um, hear the response from....a response from Mr. Willis because she does believe that um, if they are

missing a due date there should be a reason so could they have that....could they ask Mr. Willis to answer that.

Speaker Crampton said ah, yes. Crampton said she can ask.

Susan Thull asked Mr. Willis could he please give them the reason that this ah, his submission is late.

Bill Willis said yeah, by....by all means. Willis said ah, so he takes first and foremost he takes full responsibility for the timeline not being met ah, because they ah, on an annual basis provide, they know, these timelines and the process in and of itself to the membership at the Budget Hearing but with that said um, there is a number of reasons why um, this thing was late ah.....he is not going to get into all those things he means it is not as simple as just putting numbers on paper they have to look at a number of different things, a number of different types of information but one of the things that their still ah, they know, he doesn't want to say struggling with but trying to figure out is um, there has been talk for some period of time about outsourcing ah, some of the IT stuff given the limited staff they have etc. etc. and so forth. Willis said that was one of the big challenges in getting this thing wrapped up um, they know, by the particular timeline so. Willis said but it in...he guessed in speaking to the issue further the timelines in the ordinance always been problematic from the beginning date to the end date. Willis said um, they know, the ordinance talks about, they know, the Budget needing to be approved by Tribal Council in the month of November that has been a challenge. Willis said um, and that's not anybody's necessarily any Branch of Government's fault in particular it's just....it's just the nature of the game. Willis said the nature of the beast. Willis said um, because even by moving this timeline out another two weeks adjusting the ordinance to allow Council an additional two weeks Council that September 15th date even when they have submitted it on time has never been met and there is a number of reasons for that because Council has the ability to meet individually with the departments and that is a scheduling problem. Willis said and so he thinks the entire ordinance and the dates associate with the particular responsibilities needs to be looked at in whole so it works for everybody. Willis said so um.... Willis thanked them.

Susan Thull thanked Mr. Willis. Thull asked can she follow-up on that. Thull said um, has he suggested any alternative dates to the Council.

Bill Willis said well, not necessarily alternative dates but looking at the ordinance in and of itself he means the beginning of the process is ah, if they read the ordinance starts with the submission of these Performance Plans and Performance Reports by the individual branches of the government. Willis said that has never been done although that has been a requirement in the ordinance since 2013 um, they know, there is other stuff in here a not to exceed amount um, that is required under Section 5.05 to be submitted by the Council to the Ogema. Willis said that has never been done and then he is not again, pointing fingers necessarily but

some of these timelines and some of these responsibilities just haven't been fulfilled and if they are not going to do them then they definitely need to revise the ordinance to allow them to, to, to do their best to comply with it so. Willis thanked them.

Susan Thull thanked him for his answer, Mr. Willis. Thull asked could she ask one more question. Thull asked does he um, foresee meeting the ah, deadlines from here on out or does he think there will be deadlines that aren't going to be um, missed. Thull said she is just worried about um, seeing their Budget turn into ah, what she can only term as a fiasco last year um, she just feels that they ah, weren't served well at the end of the year with that Budget in the beginning of the year. Thull said um, so does he foresee dates that are going to ah, be missed again this year. Thull thanked them.

Bill Willis asked might he add....

Susan Thull said sorry he is cutting out.

Bill Willis said he was asking the Tribal Council Speaker if he could respond to that they are kind of taking control of the meeting here and they know, that is not the intention.

Speaker Crampton said oh, no them guys are in a conversation go ahead.

Bill Willis said okay. Willis said he guessed his overall response to that is it sounds like Council is by...through the amendment....emergency amendment of the ordinance is going to move the next timeline, which is Budget Comments ah, from the Council back to the Ogema. Willis said if Council is always going to move that timeline two weeks that moves the requirement for them to submit their comments to the Ogema to September 30th. Willis said that does not give the Council enough time to meet with departments if they choose to do so um, and get comments back to the Ogema so there is a good chance that even by moving this timeline they know, two weeks forward that they will not be able to even meet that date necessarily.

Susan Thull thanked Mr. Willis.

Speaker Crampton said op, ah....

Susan Thull said she done. Thull thanked them.

Speaker Crampton said before the Ogema goes he would just like to say that Mr. Willis explanation would be correct if the Council takes the full two weeks but he doesn't plan on them taking the full two weeks. Crampton said the extension in there um, and his scenario would work week if all those weeks were taken by he doesn't think that Council is going to take that much time to get it back. Crampton

said so um, this all could be avoided by turning the submission in on time. Crampton said Mr. Romanelli.

Ogema Romanelli thanked him. Romanelli said he just wanted to he thinks Bill answered the answer he was going to give and did a better job by the way. Romanelli said he thinks again, if the Council is not prepared to use the two weeks then if they would turn it in early then he would think theirs would move up as well, they understand, so and it would get it back on track. Romanelli said as far as the fiasco as Susan put it last year he thinks that was resolved through the courts and he should hope that wouldn't happen again. Romanelli said again, not assessing blame but what that did was it caused a lot of problems at the Resort too because there was timelines that they needed to have to do their Marketing for example, the Marketing has to go out months in advance and that delated the process and it just creates some other problems. Romanelli said so hopefully they can get on track. Romanelli said as he said earlier he supports the change in this if it applies across the board to all the dates. Romanelli said hopefully they can get on track. Romanelli said it might not hurt to look over the old Budget & Appropriations Act because they also know that there is transmissions from the Resort that come at an untimely time within their strategy so maybe they can look at that too. Romanelli said he wouldn't mind ah, the Resort or himself submitting the reasoning to maybe looking at that as well so that they could all stay on track. Romanelli thanked them.

Speaker Crampton said he just wanted to add that Council is ah, has been working on the Budget & Appropriations Act and making amendments to it and they were going to post it for a 30-Day Public Comment but they are doing an emergency amendment right now and they will still follow through so they can take a look at what he is suggesting.

Ogema Romanelli said okay. Romanelli thanked them.

Speaker Crampton asked are there any other comments. Crampton said Councilor Johnson.

Councilor Johnson said um, so um, she gets they are just doing or looking at doing the one change for today so since they been working on those other changes is it still going to be posted for 30 days.

Speaker Crampton said yes.

Councilor Johnson said then um, she guessed she kind of had the same concern is they knew this was coming out or this change they obviously already knew it was late so how come this wasn't added late yesterday.

Speaker Crampton said because it still had timelines to get the Ogema into place. Crampton said they wouldn't be in compliance until today unless she wants to try and sit down and do the appropriations before 4:00 and get it back to the Ogema.

Both Councilor Johnson and Speaker Crampton were laughing.

Councilor Johnson said no she means she understands the why for it she guessed her thing is they knew this was going to be late so why wasn't it done as a late add yesterday it would have made more sense verses trying....doing it today. Johnson said she guessed it would have made sense as a late add yesterday.

Speaker Crampton said Council wasn't out of compliance yester.....until today.

Councilor Johnson said okay. Johnson thanked him. Johnson said that's it.

Speaker Crampton said um, is there any further questions.

Acting Recorder Lewis said she sees no hands raised.

Speaker Crampton said okay, he will entertain a motion.

Councilor Wittenberg said he makes a motion.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #22-0915-160;
160;EMERGENCY AMENDMENTS TO THE BUDGET &
APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2013, ORDINANCE #13-100-04,
ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.11; by Wittenberg; supported by Lewis.**

Speaker Crampton asked what is the last number Recorder does she know.

Councilor Guenthardt said he thought it was 160.

Acting Recorder Lewis said 160 that is what she thought.

Councilor Wittenberg said 150.

Acting Recorder Lewis repeated 160.

Councilor Wittenberg questioned 160.

Acting Recorder Lewis said yeah, 160.

Councilor Wittenberg said so he will read that part Resolution #22-0915-160.

Acting Recorder Lewis said yeah.

Speaker Crampton said okay, is there support.

Acting Recorder Lewis said support.

Speaker Crampton asked is anybody going to abstain. Crampton asked is there any further discussion on the item. Crampton asked any further discussion from the membership. Crampton said seeing none please do a roll call.

Roll Call #1

T. Guenthardt -No	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - No	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Absent	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (6-2-0-1)

Acting Recorder Lewis said Resolution #22-0915-160 has been approved.

Speaker Crampton said okay. Crampton thanked everybody. Crampton said he will entertain a motion to end the meeting.

MOTION TO END THE MEETING; by Lewis; supported by Wittenberg.

Speaker Crampton asked is anybody going to abstain. Crampton asked any discussion. Crampton said seeing none please do a roll call.

Roll Call #2

T. Guenthardt -Yes	C. Champagne -Yes	P. Johnson -	Yes
S. Crampton - Yes	G. DiPiazza - Yes	S. Wever -	Yes
R. Wittenberg- Yes	J. Wolfe - Absent	S. Lewis -	Yes

Motion carried (8-0-0-1)

Acting Recorder Lewis said they are adjourned.

Speaker Crampton asked the time.

Acting Recorder Lewis said at 10:23 a.m.

Speaker Crampton said at 10:23. Crampton said all right. Crampton thanked everyone.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grace A. Hendler
Transcribing Assistant



Sandra Lewis,
Acting Council Recorder