



Tribal Council Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 15, 2024 at 5:15 PM
PIA Conference Room

PETERSBURG INDIAN ASSOCIATION
PO Box 1410
15 N. 12th Street
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Phone: 907-772-3636
Fax: 907-772-3637

I. Call to Order/Roll Call - Called to order by President Debra O’Gara at 5:16 PM

Present Council:

- ☒ Debra O’Gara, President
- ☒ Nathan Lopez, Vice President
- ☒ Jaclyn Eide, Secretary
- ☐ Heather Conn, Treasurer
- ☒ Jeanette Ness, Council Member
- ☒ Brandon Ware, Council Member
- ☐ _____, Council member

Excused: Heather Conn

Absent:

Quorum: [X] Yes [] No

Present Staff: Lauren Barbour, Bookkeeper; Jalyn Pomrenke, Housing Director;
Susan Harai, TTP Director; Brandon Thynes, IGAP Director; Andy Edfelt, Facilities

II. Amendments and Approval of Agenda

- Brandon Ware moved to approve the agenda
 - Jeanette Ness seconded
 - Debra O’Gara would like to move New Business item A, Hear from Tribal Citizens interested in filling Council seat, to before Reports and New Business Item C, Report on THRHA Strategic Planning, April 25, 2024, to be included in the Housing report.
 - Motion passed 4-0

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

A. April 10, 2024 Monthly Meeting

- Nathan Lopez moved to approve the April 10, 2024 Monthly Meeting minutes.
- Jeanette Ness seconded
- Debra O’Gara wishes to correct under New Business Item B. to add “No decision was made” and under New Business Item C, that it was a one time payment for all of her past and current work on graduation stoles.
- Motion passed 4-0

IV. Persons to be heard related to the Agenda

V. Persons to be heard unrelated to the Agenda



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- Ray Born, USFS District Ranger
- Chad VanOrmer, USFS Regional Forester
- Frank Sherman, USFS floor supervisor
- Josi Tyler, USFS Recreational Planner
- Victoria Moore, JOM Parent Committee
- Cindy Fry, Petersburg School Special Education Director
- Brad King - Petersburg Middle/High School Principal
- Will Ware, small tribal business owner
- Derek Lopez, small tribal business owner
- Avery Herman-Sakamoto, tribal citizen and canoe rower

VI. Reports

- A. Finance - Lauren Barbour: Written report included in the minute packet
David Rogers/Quick Pro Accounting - telephonically (Excused)
 - PIA may have our Tribal Administrator and Treasurer fly to Anchorage to meet with QPA David and Allison Rogers
- B. IGAP - Brandon Thynes: Written report included in the minute packet
- C. Facilities - Andy Edfelt: Written report included in the minute packet
- D. Housing - Jalyn Pomrenke: Written report included in the minute packet
 - She did some landscaping in front of the building
 - Reference New Business Item C
- E. Roads/TTIP - Susan Harai: Written report included in the minute packet
 - Susan Harai will schedule a meeting to look at the 2025 TTIP.
 - Discussion on the Hutli Project, Susan Harai suggested July 5th as the dedication day, but asked for direction and involvement from the council.
- F. ICWA/638 - Rachelle Larson: Written report included in the minute packet
 - Gloria Gorman BIA Regional Human Services Director is coming to town on May 21, 2024
 - The budget for the 638 Consolidated Funds was unanimously approved via email on April 28, 2024 with a vote of 5-0, 1 vacant council seat.
The budget is as follows;
 - ATG: \$172,000
 - JOM: \$50,000
 - JP&T: \$200,000
 - Total: \$422,000
- G. JOM - Heather Conn: No report given.
- H. Acting Tribal Administrator/President - Debra O'Gara:



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- Debra O’Gara wrote a letter in support of and advocating for Heather Conn, who was elected the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principal of the Year and will be applying for the National Distinguished Principal of the Year.
- The Resolution “Title: Designation for THRHA for Department of Energy Tribal Electrification Program (TEP) and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)” was passed and adopted on March 15, 2024.
- Correspondence letters were presented
- A letter of support was written for PMC.
- Attended a meeting in Fairbanks for the Alaska Inter-Tribal Working Group (ITWG). It was for Alaska tribes that are interested in building capacity and/or strengthening their tribal court/justice systems and sharing resources for addressing domestic and sexual violence in their tribal community. Funding comes from the Department of Justice, Violence Against Women Act (DOJ VAWA).
- Auke Bay Dancers are joining the Séet Ká Kwaan dancers during Mayfest parade
- OBI has donated 600 lbs of Herring roe on kelp. PIA is going to disburse 200 lbs to Wrangell, and 200 lbs to Kake.

I. SEARHC Report: Written report included in the minute packet.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Designate a second PIA representative to the SEITC Board
 - Brandon Ware, Council member, has agreed to be a second PIA representative to the SEITC Board
 - A letter from the council is needed to appoint Brandon Ware to the SEITC Board
- B. Proposal to post approved minutes to the PIA webpage
 - Tabled until the next meeting
- C. Discussion on forming committees and review proposed PIA Idea Form
 - Tabled until the next meeting

VIII. New Business

- A. Hear from Tribal Citizens interested in filling Council seat
 - Moved to before Reports on the Agenda
 - Brenda Norheim spoke about her interest in filling the vacant council seat



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- Christine Yatchmenoff the other applicant was not able to attend

B. Report from T&H Tribal Assembly, April 17-19, 2024

C. Report on THRHA Strategic Planning, April 25, 2024

- Moved to Housing report.
- Debra O'Gara attended this meeting.
- Housing priorities were established for each community
 - i. Homeownership through new construction or renovating existing homes
 - ii. Repair and maintenance of existing homes
 - iii. Accessibility for elders and disabled homeowners and rental properties
 - iv. Increase financial stability through education

D. Proposed Petersburg tax exemption ordinance

- PIA is going to do more research on this matter

IX. Comments from Council Members

X. Next Meeting

- June 18, 2024

XI. Executive Session

- Jeanette Ness moved to enter executive session at 8:00PM
 - Brandon Ware seconded
 - Motion passed 4-0
- Jeanette Ness moved to exit executive session at 8:44 PM
 - Nathan Lopez seconded
 - Motion passed 4-0

XII. Decisions, if any, following executive session

- Brandon Ware moved to appoint Christine Yatchmenoff to fill the vacant seat to be filled until 2025
 - Jeanette Ness seconded
 - Motion passed 3-1
- Debra O'Gara will schedule a finance meeting

XIII. Adjourn

- Nathan Lopez moved to adjourn at 8:48PM
 - Brandon Ware seconded
 - Motion passed 4-0



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Minutes Approved by vote of the Council

Date: September 18, 2024

As Presented [] As Amended [X]

The minutes were amended under Reports: ICWA/638 to include the approval of the 638 consolidated funds budget via email on April 28, 2024.