



Tribal Council Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 15, 2025 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 2024 Council:

Debra O’Gara, President
Nathan Lopez, Vice President - Excused at 6:30 PM
Jaclyn Eide, Secretary
Heather Conn, Treasurer
Jeanette Ness, Council Member

Present 2025 Council:

Carol Martinez, President
Nathan Lopez, Vice President - Excused at 6:30 PM
Heather Conn, Treasurer
Jeanette Ness, Secretary
Jaclyn Eide - Excused at 6:45 PM
Adam Ware

Excused:

Absent: Brandon Ware and Christine Yatchmenoff

Quorum: 2024 Council [X] Yes [] No

Quorum: 2025 Council [X] Yes [] No

Quorum lost at 6:45 PM

Present Staff: Finance Director - Hillary MacDonald

II. Approval of Minutes

- January 02, 2024 Special Tribal Council Meeting
 - Motion: Approve the January 02, 2024 Special Tribal Council Meeting Minutes as presented
 - Moved by: Heather Conn
 - Seconded by: Nathan Lopez
 - Motion passed 4-0

III. Swearing in of Tribal Council President

- President Debra O’Gara swore in the newly elected President Carol Martinez

IV. Swearing in of Tribal Council Members

- Debra O’Gara swore in two of the three elected Council Members
 - Jaclyn Eide
 - Adam Ware

V. Appointment of Officers

- Vice President: Nathan Lopez



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- Treasurer: Heather Conn
- Secretary: Jeanette Ness
- PIA Enterprises LLC Liaison: Nathan Lopez

VI. Amendments and Approval of Agenda

- Motion: to Amend the agenda to add items E-I under New Business
 - Moved by: Heather Conn
 - Seconded by: Nathan Lopez
 - Motion passed 5-0

VII. Persons to be heard related to the Agenda

VIII. Persons to be heard unrelated to the Agenda

IX. Reports

A. Finance - Hillary MacDonald

- Full written report included in the minute packet
- William will arrive on January 16th to start work on the FY 2023 Audit prep.
- David and Allison Rogers of Quik Pro Accounting have been relieved of the contracted duties
- Hillary MacDonald and John Friel are working on Indirect negotiation packets for 2024 and 2025.
- SF-425's are currently being worked on, close out letter for spent contracts will be submitted with the next SF-425 reports

B. IGAP - Brandon Thynes:

- Full written report included in the minute packet
- Julie Ruhle has been hired as the new IGAP Assistant, she started on January 02, 2025.
- E-Waste and PSP monitoring programs continue.
- SEITC will be having a meeting later this month.
- Brandon Thynes is working on the 2026 work plan.

C. Facilities - Andy Edfelt:

- Full written report included in the minute packet
- Maintenance continues as normal
- He has talked with Island Refrigeration about heating air exchange for the boiler which might lessen heating expenses.

D. Housing - Jalyn Pomrenke:

- No report given, she is currently out of office



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E. Roads/TTP - Susan Harai:

- Full report included in the minute packet
- \$970,186.75 in funding will become available after the 2023 Single Audit is filed.
- BIA is still in the process of closing out the spent BIA FAST Act Grant.
- Currently working on the LRTP Update, Safety plan update, trail maintenance, GIS, and the City Creek Red-line survey.

F. ICWA/638 - Rachelle Larson:

- The General Assistance funds are no longer frozen. Confirmation has been received to run our General Assistance program, applications are now being accepted.
- All other programs and assistance continues
- Rachelle Larson attended the monthly SHARE coalition meeting

G. Tribal Administrator Assistant - Stephanie Aikins:

- Started on January 02, 2025
- She has been learning her role and about PIA and helping out around the office.
- Stephanie Aikins plans on attending the SHARE Coalition meeting, will start work on the Tribal Victim Service Program grant and will start organizing the PIA Google Drive and PIA's Resolutions.

X. Unfinished Business

A. Update on the First Floor Renovations project

- It is set to start in February.

XI. New Business

A. Review and discussion for finishing up new policies

- A work session will be held once everyone has gone through the policies

B. Initial discussion on plans for the Howkan parking lot

- There has been discussion about putting retail stores, to make a small strip mall
- Shed for firewood to go with the firewood grant
- Bowling alley
- SEARHC Clinic
- Stores on the bottom with housing on top
- Do we want to generate money, use it for storage, or to meet a community need.



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- Before making a decision, there needs to be parking lights, signs and rules.
- The Council would like to involve the tribal community and hear their ideas, have a public meeting, and then create a survey to see which idea is the most popular.
- C. Review and discuss plans for the children's canoe
 - It was commented that the children would love to play in the canoe, children have been heard and seen pretending to play in canoes even in the absence of one.
 - There are also concerns with putting the traditional canoe at the playground.
 - The original intent for the canoe is for it to be a children's canoe for play to be placed with the Hutli Plaza
- D. Approve resolution for new bank account signers at First Bank
 - Motion: Approve resolution for new bank account signers at First Bank
 - Moved by: Heather Conn
 - Seconded by: Jeanette Ness
 - Motion passed 4-0
- E. Approve resolution to confirm SEARHC election results
 - Motion: Approve resolution to confirm the SEARHC election results
 - Moved by: Heather Conn
 - Seconded by: Jeanette Ness
 - Discussion:
 - The resolution needs to be reworded that the alternate representative may only represent Petersburg only if the SEARHC representative is unable to attend
 - Motion is amended to add the verbiage "to serve as the alternate representative only in the absence of the primary representative"
 - Motion passed 4-0
- F. Discussion on PIA Enterprises LLC board seats
 - It was suggested for the PIA Enterprises LLC Board to remain as is with the current members.
 - There are currently four board members, but there can be five.
 - Debra O'Gara will stay on the PIA Enterprises LLC Board
- G. Discussion on Chrome Books/Laptops/Tablets for council
 - It is unfair to ask that the Council Members use their own personal laptops. PIA Business should be separate from personal.



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- Not every member may have access to a computer or laptop.
- Formatting doesn't always transfer from different devices. It would be useful for everyone to have the same device to stop formatting issues.
- Jaclyn Eide was excused at 6:45 PM
 - Quorum lost at 6:45 PM
 - Jeanette Ness took minutes for the rest of the meeting
- Tabled until the next meeting due to lack of quorum

H. Discussion on phone line for Tribal Council Chair

- President Carol Martinez would like a direct phone line to her office. Hillary MacDonald reported that the phone line would cost \$28.00/month. To have an actual phone like the rest of the PIA offices, it would cost \$200.00.
- Tabled until next meeting

I. Discussion about recording future meetings for accuracy and preparation of minutes

- Tabled until next meeting

XII. Comments from Council Members

- Heather Conn reminded the Council that there is a Constitution work session scheduled for February 1, 2025 in the PIA Conference Room at 9:00 am

XIII. Next Meeting

- Council Meeting - February 19, 2025

XIV. Executive Session

XV. Decisions, if any, following executive session

XVI. Adjourn

- Meeting Adjourned at 7:03 PM

Minutes Approved by _____ Date: _____

As Presented [] As Amended []