



**Tribal Council Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 5:15 PM**  
**PIA Conference Room**

PETERSBURG INDIAN ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 1410  
15 N. 12<sup>th</sup> 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 5:20 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 - Left meeting at 6:38 PM
- ☒ Christine Yatchmenoff, Council member

Excused: Nathan Lopez, Heather Conn

Absent:

Quorum: [X] Yes [ ] No

Quorum lost at 6:38 PM, all motions were passed with the full quorum

Present Staff: Everett Bennett, Tribal Administrator, Lauren Barbour, Bookkeeper,  
Jaclyn Pomrenke, Housing Director, and Brandon Thynes, IGAP Director

**II. Amendments and Approval of Agenda**

- Brandon Ware made a motion to accept the agenda
  - Jeanette Ness seconded
  - Jaclyn Eide moved to amend the agenda to add item E. Resolution to create a Tribal Liability Corporation for the purpose of managing and operating a tribal for-profit entity or business, under New Business, and to move New Business to after Persons to be heard unrelated to the agenda and before Reports, and to postpone Unfinished Business till August meeting. Also to postpone the Approval of the June meeting minutes till the August meeting.
  - Motion approved 4-0, 2 absent

**III. Approval of Previous Minutes**

June 18, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes

- Postponed till August meeting

**IV. Persons to be heard related to the Agenda**

- No Persons to be heard

**V. Persons to be heard unrelated to the Agenda**

- MaryAnn Rainey - Tribal Citizen concerns
- Ray Born - USFS District Ranger - USFS updates



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**VI. Reports**

**A. Finance - Lauren Barbour:**

- Written report included in the minute packet
- No report from David Rogers as it is Quarterly Reporting month

**B. IGAP - Brandon Thynes:**

- Written report included in the minute packet
- PSP levels were high and in the danger zone. levels have dropped again to the safety zone.
- Brandon Thynes has received one application for an assistant.
- E-Coli testing continues
- E-Waste collection continues
- Upcoming event: July 19th will have a green crab walk to look for the invasive green crab in our area.

**C. Facilities - Andy Edfelt:**

- Written report included in the minute packet
- Regular maintenance continues

**D. Housing - Jalyn Pomrenke:**

- Written report included in the minute packet
- The annual inspection of all fire extinguishers and alarm systems have been scheduled with SE Fire extinguisher services.
- We are at 100% occupancy for all commercial and housing rentals
- Celebration reimbursements are nearly complete
- Upcoming event: Backpack distributions will be on Wednesday August 7, 2024 from 10:00am - 4:00 pm. Hot dogs will be served

**E. Roads/TTP - Susan Harai:**

- Written report included in the minute packet
- The Hutli Ceremony was held on July 5, 2024. It was a success with over one hundred people in attendance
  - The Hutli Pole sign has been ordered. Work continues on the children's canoe.
- City Creek Trail Phase 2 is at 40% complete.
- The Harvey Lake Cabin and Trail Maintenance Agreement has been executed for \$328,477.75, effective through April 30, 2029
  - PIA has partnered with the USFS to fix the Harvey Lake Cabin and Trail so that it can again be available for the public to rent and use.
- City Creek Trail maintenance continues





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- The transit bus continues to run
- The TTP Referenced Funding Agreement for FY2024 is \$970,186.75
- Action items needed from council
  - Review and Approve TTIP - Refer to New Business item B.

#### **E. ICWA/638 - Rachelle Larson:**

- Written report included in the minute packet
- Resolving financial discrepancies for general assistance. no applications will be accepted until the discrepancies are resolved.
- Tribal members are being aided in submitting federal/state forms.
- One application for job training and placement is pending.
- ICWA services continue. The 2024 budget has been approved and an additional award of \$31,794 is available for drawdown.

#### **G. JOM - Heather Conn:**

- No report given

#### **H. Tribal Administrator - Everett Bennett:**

- Written report included in the minute packet
- 105 L documents have been submitted on June 20, 2024 and confirmed on July 8, 2024
- The application for OVC Tribal Victim Services has been submitted
- Employee health insurance has been submitted and is pending additional information.
- A few quotes have been received on updating the website. Work has been started, but nothing has been launched.
- Books have been added to the Tribal Library, and computers have been located and are being set up. The hope is to have computers available for supervised use by tribal citizens by mid August.
- The Project Manager position has been advertised. no qualified applicants at this time.
- Update on purchase of a for profit business
  - An offer on Tides Inn and the car rental business has been made and accepted.
  - Refer to the Presidents report and to New Business item E for further information on the formation of a TLLC (Tribal Limited Liability Company).
- Proposed North Nordic building purchase offer
  - Tongass Federal Credit Union submitted an offer several months ago to purchase the North Nordic Building, which they are currently renting. Everett Bennett has been given authority to negotiate with TFCU on the sale of the building. Refer to the President's report.



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- Everett Bennett will be out of town, but still working. July 22 - August 2, 2024. They will be attending a SEARHC meeting and BIA Welfare Assistance Training.
- I. Council President - Debra O'Gara:
  - Resources included in the minute packet
  - Update on policy revisions
    - Headway is being made on the policy updates with the assistance of the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center.
    - Procurement policy is drafted and will be reviewed by the council.
    - Employee policies are being drafted; staff will have an opportunity to review the policies before the council makes the final review.
  - Plans for rehabilitation of John Hanson, Sr. Hall
    - North Wind Architects is finished with the draft design.
    - An on-site visit with the engineers is set for July 30, 2024. Final floor plans will be completed and then bids will be put out locally.
    - A historical report has been written and reviewed, corrections are currently being made.
  - Update on Airport sub-division
    - Everett Bennett and Debra O'Gara had a meeting today (July 17, 2024) with the Borough and THRHA to talk about the subdivision. THRHA currently has \$2.7 million in PIA ICDBG grants for infrastructure. Phase one will include installing utilities to at least 11 lots; 7 of which will be designated for Tribal housing at zero expense to the Tribe and 4 of which the Borough will retain ownership. This proposal will be presented to the Borough Assembly as soon as the written agreement can be drafted up.
    - THRHA will begin the Environmental Assessment as soon as possible.
    - No action needed from PIA at this time.
  - Update on PIA first floor rehabilitation
    - The floor plans proved to be too complex and expensive after putting the job out for bids twice; a new simpler design is being drafted.





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- Cedar Social Club, the intended long-term tenant, has been notified and revised options have been discussed; we are waiting for their response about continuing to rent space.
- Refer to New Business item D for approval of the revised floor plan.
- Proposed resolution to BIA to amend PIA constitution
  - A template for the process to amend the PIA constitution has been identified. Work will continue towards this goal.
- Revised Budget overview
  - Revision of EP First Floor
  - John Hanson Hall Rehabilitation
  - Purchase of Tides Inn
    - Research has been done on how to manage the two businesses. A Tribal LLC has been determined the best option. It will be a separate Board from the Tribal Council, but still part of PIA.
    - Refer to New Business item E for more information.
  - Sale of North Nordic Building
    - A resolution has been presented to authorize Everett Bennett as the tribes' authorized representative to negotiate with Tongass Federal Credit Union on the sale of the North Nordic Building
      - Jeanette Ness moved to approve the resolution to authorize Everett Bennett as the tribes' authorized representative to negotiate with Tongass Federal Credit Union on the sale of the North Nordic Building
        - Brandon Ware seconded
        - Amended to fix a typo in the resolution to change "...authorized negotiate with..." to "...authorized to negotiate with..."
        - Motion passed 4-0 with 2 absent

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

- A. Proposal to post approved council minutes on webpage
  - Postponed till August meeting



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- B. Discussion on forming committees and review proposed PIA Idea Form

- Postponed till August meeting

**VIII. New Business**

- A. Action: review and approve tenant request to remodel the North Nordic building at the tenants expense

- Brandon Ware moved to approve the tenant remodel to the North Nordic building at the tenants expense

- Jeanette Ness seconded

- Discussion

- The tenants want to put in walls for more security, move the door to the shared bathroom and move the ATM.  
(Floor plans included in the minute packet)

- Motion passed 4-0. 2 absent

- B. Action: review and approve Tribal Transportation Improvement Program

- Brandon Ware moved to approve the TTIP

- Jeanette Ness seconded

- Motion passed 4-0. 2 absent

- C. Action: review and approve Chilkat weaving class in August 2024

- Jeanette Ness moved to approve the request from Tlingit and Haida to hold a Chilkat weaving class in August of 2024 and for PIA to donate the space and to set aside \$1,000 for scholarships, with a limit of \$100 (total cost of class) per tribal citizen.

- Jaclyn Eide seconded

- Discussion

- The class will have tribal preference, but is open to the public
- Discussion on if the Council wishes to offer scholarships. Scholarships will be offered only to tribal citizens, and will be funded from the Opioid fund.
- PIA wishes to be involved in the sign ups, Everett Bennett will reach out to Tlingit and Haida

- Motion passed 4-0. 2 absent

- D. Action: review and approve revised concept and draft floor plan for PIA first floor rehabilitation

- Jaclyn Eide moved to approve the revised concept and draft floor plan for the PIA first floor rehabilitation.

- Christine Yatchmenoff seconded





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- Motion passed 4-0, 2 absent

E. Action: review and approve Resolution: Authority to create a Tribal Liability Corporation for the purpose of managing and operating a tribal for-profit entity or business

- Brandon Ware moved to pass the resolution to create a Tribal Liability Corporation for the purpose of managing and operating a tribal for-profit entity or business

- Jeanette Ness seconded

- Discussion

- The Council will make the decision on who will run the TLLC.

- The Board will comprise of a minimum of 3 PIA citizens

- Amendment to add Everett Bennett to the second to last be it further resolved "The PIA Tribal Council directs Everett Bennett to develop, with all due expediency and diligence, such necessary organizational documents required..."

- Motion Passed 4-0 with 2 absent

- Brandon Ware moved to appoint Everett Bennett, Brandon Ware, and Debra O'Gara as the officers of PIA Enterprises, LLC.

- Christine Yatchmenoff seconded

- Discussion

- The Council wishes to have more representation on the TLLC Board from tribal citizens outside of the PIA Council. Further discussion on how to appoint these positions will be had.

- Motion passed 4-0, 2 absent

**IX. Comments from Council Members**

- No comments from Council members

**X. Next Meeting**

- August 21, 2024

**XI. Executive Session**

- No executive session

**XII. Decisions, if any, following executive session**

- No executive session

**XIII. Adjourn**

- Jeanette Ness moved to adjourn at 7:06 PM
- Christine Yatchmenoff seconded



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- Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM

Minutes Approved by motion of the Council

Date: August 21, 2024

As Presented ☒ As Amended ☐