

**Petersburg Indian Association**

Tribal Council Meeting

January 17, 2024

PIA Conference Room

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call 05:03 pm**

Present: Cris Morrison-CM, Joe Stewart-JS, Jaclyn Eide-JE, Heather Conn-HC, Mary Ann Rainey on Phone

Debra O'Gara-DO, Jeanette Ness-JN, Nathan Lopez-NL, Everett Bennett-EB

Excused Absence: Mark Martinson, Brenda Norheim (JS Excused after swearing in of new council members)

**II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

A. January 5, 2024, Special Council Meeting

B. January 10, 2024, Canvassing Meeting

C. January 10, 2024, Special Council Meeting

Approved by unanimous consent.

**III. Swearing in of Tribal Council President**

Debra O'Gara sworn in as PIA Tribal Council President

**IV. Swearing in of Tribal Council Members**

Heather Conn, Jeanette Ness, and Nathan Lopez were Sworn in for 2-year terms as PIA Council Members

Annette (Everett) Bennett Sworn in for 1-year term as PIA Council Member

**V. Recess 10 min (time)**

**VI. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Amended to move Appointment of officers to New Business, Moved by EB, 2nd by JN, Motion Passes

**VII. Persons to be Heard Related to Agenda**

None

**VIII. Persons to be Heard Unrelated to the Agenda**

Ray Borne, USFS, provided an update on USFS projects and asked if anyone has any concerns or issues with parks, etc. that need to be addressed please let USFS know so they can address them.

Phil Hofsetter, PMC, provided an update on the new PMC Hospital, PMC board will hold a work session January 30, 2024. There will be an open house January 31, 2024, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm in the borough chambers to discuss design changes that have been made. PMC is working to increase specialty Clinics with SEARHC and other providers. The Home Health Adult Care program is up and running.

Cris Morrison, Tribal Member, voiced concerns about losing staff due to the campaign that was run by the newly elected board and cautioned more staff may leave if they don't feel valued.

**IX. Reports**

A. **Finance:** Finance report was not available to the Council prior to the meeting. David, Quik Pro Accounting, reports the 2021 Audit has been submitted and they are awaiting the reconciliation process. The 2022 audit has been postponed due to work on FY24 budgets and January 2024 reporting, but they anticipate this will be submitted to Porter & Allison, the audit firm by mid to late February and it should be about a 2-week process.



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As of end of November 2023, there is \$7.3 million in the bank accounts with an estimated \$100,000 in accounts payable outstanding. Most of the funds (approximately 99%) are obligated to grants and projects.

Lauren Barber- Bookkeeper, provided updates on moving to a bi-weekly pay schedule and suggested this change happen by March 15, 2024, to lessen the impact on staff. No action taken by the Council at this time, to be addressed at the February Meeting.

- B. IGAP:** Brandon Thynes, IGAP Director: Asked for approval for using 2023 Indirect rate to be able to submit grant, once the 2024 indirect rate is approved it can be adjusted but council approval is needed to be able to submit the award request.

Moved to use 2023 Indirect Rate be approved for the IGAP grant submission.

Motion by HC, second by NL, passed unanimously.

Request for letter of intent to work with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA on Climate Regional Resilience Challenge Grant CRRC.

Moved to approve Letter of Cooperation with NOAA CRRC.

Motion by HC, second by JN, passed unanimously.

- C. Roads/TTP:** Susan Harai, TTP Director: Provided an update on Hutli Project. Susan advised that PIA is not liable for anything on this area, clarified that all projects have agreements in place and that the Petersburg Borough accepts responsibility for any liability of the project. Canoe is expected to be complete by October 2024. All other Hutli projects are expected to be completed by April 15, 2024. Program income funds were used to pay for these projects except for the signs on City Creek Trail which used program maintenance funds.

The PIA Transit van made an estimated 8,000 trips in 2023. This is up from the prior year due to covid. Vans of this type should be replaced about every 7 years, and TTP hope to have two vans in the future and possibly expand the program after feedback survey.

JN commented that she continues to hear this is the best service from community members.

- D. ICWA/638:** Rachelle Larson-Social Work Director: Awaiting reports from Quik Pro Accounting to submit reports due January 31, 2023. She expects to be able to submit by deadline.
- E. JOM:** Alex Helms, JOM Director: The elections for the JOM Parent Committee is completed and six new students were enrolled in December 2023.
- F. ARPA:** Rebecca Lee, ARPA Director: Report attached. Clarification was explained about the Utilities/Fuel and Food Assistance programs; the chart on report shows funds spent or obligated for December 2023 and January 2024. ARPA funds must be obligated by December 31, 2023, and spent by December 31, 2026.

## X. Old Business

None

## XI. New Business

- A. Elizabeth Petrovitch Building First Floor Remodel Contract Extension: Change Order #3:**



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Northwind Architects will have 95% Final Review by January 29, 2024; 100% Final Base Bid Documents by February 5, 2024; and Exterior Structural Addendum by February 19, 2024.

Motion to approved attached change order #3.

Moved by JC, second by EB, motion passed unanimously.

**B. Check Signers**

Motion made to remove prior check signers on all PIA bank accounts and add the following: Debra O'Gara, Heather Conn, Jaclyn Eide, Nathan Lopez, Jeanette Ness, Annette (Everett) Bennett.

Moved by EB, second by JN, Motion passed unanimously.

**C. Announcement of intent to create three committees, Culture, Finance, Enrollment, to include 3-5 people made up of staff, board and tribal members.**

**D. Appointment of Officers:**

Motion to appoint Nathan Lopez as Vice President, Jaclyn Eide as Secretary, Everett Bennet as Treasurer.

Moved by JN, second by HC, passed unanimously.

**XII. Comments from Council Members**

Thanks to Tina and James Kerr for stepping in as emergency maintenance while staff was unavailable to address the broken water line last week.

Thank you to Rebeca and Election officials for their work during this election.

Council would like to invite all staff to a meet and greet lunch provided by DO Thursday January 18, 2024, at noon in the PIA conference room.

**XIII. Next Meeting: February 21, 2024, at 5:00 pm**

**XIV. Executive Session:**

Motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Moved by JE, second by HC, passed unanimously. Began at 07:20 pm.

Motion to exit executive session.

Moved by JN, second by NL, passed unanimously. Ended at 09:34 pm.

**A. Request for Letter of Interest:** Acceptance of board resignation from JS. Council requests letters of interest from tribal citizens for 1 year term of service.

Moved by JN, second by JE, passed unanimously.

**B. Acting Tribal Administrator:** Council appoints Debra O'Gara as acting Tribal Administrator until position is filled.

Moved by JN, second by EB, passed unanimously.

**C. Hiring Committee:** Formation of hiring committee to fill vacant Tribal Administrator position to include Lauren Barber, Debra O'Gara, Nathan Lopez, and Jeanette Ness.

Moved by HC, second by JN, passed unanimously.

**D. PTO Review:** Council directs the President to review and follow current PTO policies.

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Moved by NL, second by JE, passed unanimously.

**XV. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn 09:44 pm.

Moved by JN, second by NL, passed unanimous.

Approved by council on February 21, 2024

