



Tribal Council Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024, Wednesday, 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 5:15 PM

Present Council:

- ☒ Debra O’Gara, President
- ☒ Nathan Lopez, Vice President
- ☒ Jaclyn Eide, Secretary
- ☒ Everett Bennett, Treasurer
- ☒ Heather Conn, Council Member - excused at 6:24 PM, available via phone. On phone from 7:30 PM - 7:50 PM back at 7:59
- ☒ Jeanette Ness, Council Member
- ☒ Brandon Ware, Council member

Excused:

Absent:

Quorum: [X] Yes [] No

Present Staff: [X] Lauren Barbour, Bookkeeper [X] David Rogers (telephonically), QPA [X] Jalyn Pomrenke, Housing Director [X] Susan Harai, TTP Director [X] Brandon Thynes, IGAP Director [X] Andy Edfelt, Facilities

Absent: Rachelle Larson, ICWA/638 Director

II. Amendments and Approval of Agenda

- Nathan Lopez moved to amend the agenda to change under Unfinished Business, John Hanson Hall “renovation” to “rehabilitation” and to add under New Business, item F. Tlingit and Haida High-Speed Internet Collaboration Opportunity
 - Jeanette Ness moved to accept the amended agenda
 - Everett Bennett seconded
 - Motion passed 5-0
- Debra O’Gara moved the New Business item A. Review, Discuss and vote on filling the vacant Council seat to after the approval of previous minutes

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

A. February 21, 2024 Tribal Council Meeting

- Nathan Lopez moved to approve the meeting minutes
- Everett Bennett seconded
- Motion passed 5-0

B. March 4, 2024 Special Tribal Council Meeting

- Jeanette Ness moved to approve the meeting minutes



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- Nathan Lopez seconded
- Motion passed 5-0

C. March 12, 2024 Special Tribal Council Meeting

- Jeanette Ness moved to approve the meeting minutes
- Nathan Lopez seconded
- Motion passed 5-0

IV. Persons to be heard related to the Agenda

V. Persons to be heard unrelated to the Agenda

- Ray Born - USFS District Ranger
- Lillian Feldpausch - USFS Tribal Relations Specialist
- Gina Esposito - USFS Archaeologist

VI. Reports

A. Finance - Lauren Barbour: Written report included in the minute packet.

David Rogers/Quick Pro Accounting - telephonically

- Review 1st quarter FY 2024 report
 - Questions and discussion on select line items
- Update on 2022 audit preparation
 - 2022 audit preparation has been completed and submitted. The audit draft should be complete by late May
- Quickbook clean up
 - The quickbook file should be complete by late May

B. IGAP - Brandon Thynes: Written report included in the minute packet.

- Will be starting to bag compost soon
- Debra O'Gara would like to have an additional representative, either a Council member or Tribal member, join Brandon Thynes to be on the SEITC (Southeast Indigenous Transboundary Commission) board.

C. Facilities - Andy Edfelt: Written report included in the minute packet.

D. Housing - Jalyn Pomrenke: Written report included in the minute packet.

E. Roads/TTP - Susan Harai: Written report included in the minute packet.

- Staking the City Creek Trail during the nice weather.
- Transit bus only has a 7 year life, so TTP will be budgeting for another transit bus in 2025, and will keep this one as a back up. TTP is hoping to apply for a grant to purchase the new transit bus.

F. ICWA/638 - Rachele Larson: Written report included in the minute packet.

- Discussion to put the Job Placement and Training program on the agenda for the next meeting



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G. JOM - Heather Conn: No report given.

H. Acting Tribal Administrator - Debra O'Gara:

- Nathan Lopez chaired while Debra O'Gara shared her Acting Tribal Administrator report. Written report included in the minute packet.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Update on John Hanson Hall rehabilitation planning

- The contractor could not make it to do an overview of the scope of work for rehabilitating the John Hanson Hall.
- Shannon Crossley, works for North Wind Architects. She will be in town on April 11 - 13 and would like to meet with staff, Council, Elders, ANB/ANS members and other Tribal Members to learn the history of the building.
- There are two bid proposals, both under \$10,000
- First Phase is to look at the historical and cultural significance of the building and how to preserve it.
- Phase two is to put together drawings, scope of work, and a bid package for the work to be done. This will include the historic and cultural preservation of the building, but will also update the building to make it more accessible and appealing to renters.
- Both phases will be complete by the end of June.

B. Status on planning/negotiations for Airport subdivision and other possible properties for housing options

- The THRHA and PIA joint letter was sent to the Borough.
- The HUD application is complete, the deadline is April 19th 2024.
- THRHA is sending over an engineer to look at the available lots.
- Steve Geisbrecht and Karl Haggerman are also looking at the available lots.
- PIA may also send an engineer to look at the available lots.

VIII. New Business

A. Review, discuss and vote on filling council vacancy

- This item was moved up the agenda to after approval of previous minutes
- The candidate, Brandon Ware, spoke on why he would like to join the council.
- Everett Bennett moved to appoint Brandon Ware to fill the vacant seat until election of year 2025
 - Jeanette Ness seconded



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- Motion passed 5-0
- Brandon Ware was sworn into office to start effective immediately
- B. Proposal for reorganization of the 638, ICWA and JOM programs
 - Heather Conn made report via telephone from 7:30 PM - 7:50 PM
 - A 638 Director could look into contract services for the JOM services and adult education, while also doing all of the other 638 programs.
 - There was discussion about dissolving the JOM Parent Committee, it was questioned on whether it was needed to run the JOM program or not. This will be looked into. The Parent Committee would just be supporting the 638 Director, not in charge of the JOM Program.
 - Everett Bennett moved to have Heather Conn explore the idea of having two separate positions, an ICWA Case Management Director and a 638 Director position.
 - Jeanette Ness seconded
 - Motion passed 6-0
- C. Proposal to provide up to \$300 reimbursement for travel to Celebration 2024 for Tribal Citizens
 - Everett Bennett moved to provide up to \$300 reimbursement for travel to Celebration 2024 for Tribal Citizens
 - Nathan Lopez seconded
 - Discussion - per household or individual
 - Everett Bennett moved to amend that a short report about their experience at Celebration is given by the Tribal Citizens receiving the reimbursement.
 - Nathan Lopez seconded
 - Motion passed 6-0
- D. Proposal to contract for a new web design
 - Everett Bennett moved to direct the Acting TA to seek a contractor for developing a new website for PIA
 - Brandon Ware seconded
 - Discussion
 - Motion passed 6-0
- E. Proposal to post approved council minutes on webpage
 - Jeanette Ness moved to post approved council minutes on the PIA webpage
 - Nathan Lopez seconded
 - Discussion



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- The motion was tabled.

F. Tlingit and Haida High-Speed Internet Collaboration Opportunity

- Nathan Lopez will set up a meeting with Tidal Network to gather more information.

IX. Comments from Council Members

- Welcome to Brandon Ware as the new Council member

X. Next Meeting

- April 10th, 2024 at 5:15 PM

XI. Executive Session

- Jeanette Ness moved to enter into executive session at 8:57 PM
 - Everett Bennett seconded
 - Motion Passed 6-0
- Everett Bennett moved to exit executive session at 10:00 PM
 - Nathan Lopez seconded
 - Motion passed 6-0

XII. Decisions, if any, following executive session

XIII. Adjourn

- Everett Bennett moved to adjourn at 10:00 PM
 - Jeanette Ness seconded
 - Motion passed 6-0

Minutes Approved by the PIA Council

Date: April 10, 2024

As Presented [X] As Amended []