

**ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - MAY 1, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Williams Jr. at 6:03 pm at the Cape Fox Corporation's Board Room per agenda (in packet).

PRAYER

Invocation was given by Councilmember Nora DeWitt.

ROLL CALL TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Joe Williams Jr., Vice President Charles (Chuck) Denny, Secretary Carrie (Wallace) Denny, Treasurer Trudi Swink, Councilmember Nora DeWitt and Crista Thomas.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilmember Richard Shields Sr. (Excused for medical).

OTHERS PRESENT: Tribal Administrator Charlie White, Tribal Administrative Assistant Valena Johnson, Maintenance Supervisor Rick Makua, Accountant Jay Johnson, Rural-Cap Representatives, Forest Service Ranger, Ketchikan Daily News Reporter, Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District (KGBSD) Superintendent Michael Robbins and Board Member Bradford and Keenan Sanderson.

Meeting recessed at 7:35 pm and was called back to order at 7:55 pm. The public was then excused. Tribal Administrator Charlie White was excused at 8:15 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rural-Cap senior management was introduced.

KGBSD Superintendent Michael Robbins reported their support of teaching the "Traditional Values" in the school district and they have no hesitation to fight this in the courts. M.Robbins stated the lawsuit is not an attack on Native values, it's that they don't feel comfortable teaching those values of different culture they aren't fully educated on. They both excused themselves as they had another meeting to attend. Appreciation for their attendance at the meeting was expressed.

It was announced 6:30 pm tonight outside the courthouse is a drum circle for tomorrow's hearing and is hosted by KIC.

Tribal Administrator Charlie White asked if there has been a revised budget to fix the deficit. He suggested OVS draft a letter of support for student allocation increase to give to Legislature. He liked that they are asking the Tribes for their support.

President Joe Williams stated he would like to have a representative from OVS be on the school board hiring committee. He explained OVS is a federally recognized Tribe just like KIC. He also wanted OVS to address the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Program funding.

Rural-Cap representatives stated their main mission is poverty alleviation. They work with Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) and Head Start. Capacity building gives a community the ability to develop what needs to be developed. Advocacy illuminates the needs of the community. They commented on working with the State Treasury on tax cuts due to not having the same opportunities as the lower 48 states. Grant opened today and the application is easy. They stated they are here to serve in making the Community better for future generations. They commented finance facilitates the movement of money from the Government to you. Other issues discussed were limited housing, affordable housing units in Anchorage, Rural Villages self help programs, elder homes, mobile homes, and rent vouchers. They stated they represent 24 different regions through board members and Saxman's President Joe Williams is one of them. They advised AmeriCorps is currently working with youth and is happy to connect us with an AmeriCorps representative if we are interested. AmeriCorps is a non-profit and we are fortunate to have a for-profit subsidiary with Toya Stoves. Broadband has a digit equity plan that is due by December and the federal government called under represented populations and nobody was doing the outreach in rural communities. They advised the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is working with Feds so enough funding is set aside for Tribe. Also discussed was the Head Start Program, work force development, launching a teacher apprentice program, and qualifications and difficulty in pushing forward. Weatherization and home repair has 37K available and 1/5th of the program provides weatherization in the State. To function, they explained 45K is additionally needed and there are no easy options but they are working on it.

President Joe Williams declared a 20 minute recess and called the meeting back to order at 7:55 pm.

Forest Service Ranger gave updates to the Council on events project and job positions within the Forest Service.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Tribal Administrator Charlie White excused himself at 8:15 pm due to personal reasons. All staff reports were deferred until the next meeting with the exception of the Finance Report.

Motion/Second Trudi Swink and Crista Thomas to keep CDC Cash Call on the agenda.

President Joe Williams stated he preferred to defer until more information is provided as it clearly doesn't state what is being asked for. Question called. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS

FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: Trudi Swink and Crista Thomas; NO VOTE: Chuck Denny, Nora DeWitt and tie breaking vote given by Joe Williams; Motion failed.

Nora DeWitt requested to add at the end of New Business #18 Elders Snow Plow Removal, #19 Canvass Board Election Updates, #20 Letter of support requested by KGBSD. The Council concurred in accepting the agenda with revisions. Council also concurred to add Canvass Board Election next on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1 FEBRUARY 21, 2023 MEETING MINUTES Council concurred to accept the minutes of February 21, 2023 once the corrections are done. Trudi Swink stated the minutes don't include anything about the Wal-Mart cards being discontinued or Lori being hired to run elections. Felt no action should be taken until the minutes are passed and no further action is to be taken. Also evidence was shown that those topics were in the March meeting not the February meeting. Nora DeWitt stated that the minutes stated that the rental policies passed and they instead failed. Also noted is the minutes need to be signed by the person who created the minutes and the President is to sign off on the minutes once they are completed and passed.

Motion/Second Nora DeWitt and Chuck Denny to correct the minutes of February 21st and include in the next packet with changes and then they can be accepted. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: Chuck Denny, Trudi Swink, Carrie Denny and Nora DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passed.

MARCH 6, 2023 MEETING MINUTES – Defer to next scheduled meeting

STAFF REPORT

2 SOCIAL WORKER REPORT

CCTHITA Social Worker Jackie Johnson stated she has not received any new cases. She stated the ICWA trial is still being decided upon.

Motion/Second Nora DeWitt and Chuck Denny to accept the Social Worker's report. All in favor, motion carried.

3 MAINTENANCE REPORT

Maintenance Superintendent Rick Makua updated the Council on current issues with water heater needing to be replaced. Rick was asked if the City of Saxman is willing to put in writing their offer to reimburse OVS for the maintenance costs incurred. If not putting this in writing is desired.

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and Nora DeWitt to accept the Maintenance Report. All in favor, motion carried.

4 TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Tribal Administrator Charlie White presented Council with travel summaries for Treasury Compliance and reported training in Anchorage, Broadband Summit in Arizona and meeting with Interior Secretary Bryan Newland in Juneau. He stated OVS needs to come to an agreement with KIC on the Broadband issue as he is getting pressure from the Feds. He felt this needed to be resolved soon. Nora DeWitt asked for information regarding the Local and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF). Charlie White explained the benefits of this grant and that he has informed the Council through his monthly reports about this grant activity. It was mentioned the Finance Bookkeeper did not have the background information on this grant and needed this.

Motion/Second Nora DeWitt and Chuck Denny to accept the Tribal Administrator's report. All in favor, motion carried.

5 PRESIDENT REPORT

President Joe Williams provided the Council with reports involving his past trips and other Council related updates. He informed the Council of his urgent decision to contract a grant writer for the Denali Commission grant. All in favor, motion carried.

6 TRIBAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT - None

7 FINANCE REPORT

Accountant Jay Johnson explained LATCF stands for Local and Tribal Consistency Fund. Council felt that they needed to approve grant fund applications. It was mentioned that Charlie White is becoming overloaded and needs a grant administrator. President Joe Williams stated Rural-Cap is offering to help with grants. ARPA funds were discussed and a budget for 2023 is needed. Jay Johnson presented the financials for approval.

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and Nora DeWitt to accept the Finance Report. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: Chuck Denny, Trudi Swink, Carrie Denny and Nora DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

8 COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM

The Council wanted to consider zoom be considered an unexcused absence unless a valid reason such as travel or sick. It was felt zoom was needed during Covid but not needed now. Crista Seludo stated she has health issues and zoom is needed by her. Concern was Councilmembers

depend on zoom as a means of not having to attend the meeting in person. It was decided to hold off on any action temporarily and work on staff training for this program.

9 FOOD CARD EXTENSION

The financial ARPA assistance program was discussed and the Council has yet to create a budget for this year and by not having the food cards available it will make the Council accountable to create the ARPA budget timely.

Motion/Second Trudi Swink and Carrie Denny to extend the Food Card Assistance for an additional two months (June and July) then after a budget is made it can be extended. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: Chuck Denny, Trudi Swink, Carrie Denny and Nora DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passed.

10 FINALIZING 2779 BEAR CLAN HOUSE RENTAL DETAILS

A draft rental agreement was presented and the Council made edits and once a clean document is done it can be brought forward. This can be put back on the agenda for the May 9th meeting.

Motion/Second to approve the Housing Rental Policy and Procedures changes and revisions; to have the Tribal Administrator advertise the rental for 10 consecutive days; in the newspaper on Wednesday and the weekend; and distribute door to door. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion/Second Nora DeWitt and Carrie Denny to reconsider the rental amount of \$1500. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: Chuck Denny, Carrie Denny and Nora DeWitt; NO VOTE: Trudi Swink; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passed.

Motion/Second Nora DeWitt and Carrie Denny to make the rental amount be \$1500 per month for 2779 Bear Clan Avenue house. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: Chuck Denny, Carrie Denny and Nora DeWitt; NO VOTE: Trudi Swink; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passed.

Motion/Second Trudi Swink and Carrie Denny to make the rental amount be \$1200 per month for 2779 Bear Clan Avenue House. . ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: NO VOTE: Chuck Denny, Nora DeWitt and tie breaking vote Joe Williams; YES VOTE: Trudi Swink and Carrie Denny; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion failed.

Motion/Second Trudi Swink and Carrie Denny to allow pet(s) for 2779 Bear Clan Avenue House.. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: NO VOTE: Chuck Denny, Nora DeWitt and tie breaking vote Joe Williams; YES VOTE: Trudi Swink and Carrie Denny; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion failed.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion/Second Nora DeWitt and Chuck Denny to reconsider the agenda and add Canvass Board Election Report. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion/Second Nora DeWitt and Chuck Denny to add Election Report to agenda as the next matter of business. All in favor, motion carried.

11 DENALI COMMISSION GRANT PROPOSAL

President Joe Williams would like to present Far North Strategies LLC, grant writer for the Denali Commission Grant. It was noted per the procurement policy make sure its not over 50k as it may be an audit finding. President Williams asked to approve the Resolution to approve the grant as it was already signed due to the deadline.

Motion/Second Trudi Swink and Carrie Denny to table this action until the next meeting. .
ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: Chuck Denny, Trudi Swink, Carrie Denny and Nora DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passed.

12 CDC CASH CALL REQUEST

The article from Ketchikan Daily News reported on the trip to Anchorage. The City of Saxman, OVS and Cape Fox went on this trip and discussed and toured various economic development projects. The article was in the packets for the Council to read. Trudi Swink explained the cash call from CDC came from the City of Saxman Building and Ordinance Committee meeting. She stated they have no administration and needs someone to run the CDC. Nora DeWitt felt that CDC should call a meeting to gather all three entities instead of leaving OVS out. The Council concurred to table this meeting until after recess and reconvene until May 9th, 2023.

***** DISCUSSION CONTIUED AFTER BEING RE-ADJOURNED MAY 9TH, 2023 *****

Tim Lewis of Cape Fox explained the cash call of \$80,000 requested by CDC and it will be used to build administration. Lack of communication and transparency was voiced and CFC President Clifford Blair explained whomever is appointed to the CDC Board is responsible for reporting back to their entities about what occurred at the meeting(s). Frank Seludo was requested to have a letter sent from the CDC to formally request the CDC funds and explaining what it is for. Then the Tribal Council can address this at their next meeting.

Nora DeWitt asked about the broadband project update and believed there was suppose to be an MOU/MOA between CFC and OVS.

13 OVS TRIBAL OFFICE RELOCATION

BACKGROUND: Cape Fox has put forth an offer on the School House building. The City of Saxman is moving their offices into the Cape Fox building and CF would like OVS to consider also moving into the same building. The School House future plans are still undecided. COS and OVS would share rent and utility costs.

Motion/Second Nora DeWitt and Chuck Denny to move OVS office relocation to the Cape Fox building to the Executive Session due to confidentiality issues. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: Chuck Denny, Trudi Swink, Carrie Denny and Nora DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passed.

14 ADDNG TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR TO OVS BANK ACCOUNT

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and Nora DeWitt to make Tribal Administrator Charlie White an authorized signer for all OVS bank accounts and authorize him to do wire transfers, and sign checks for OVS. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: Chuck Denny and Nora DeWitt; NO VOTE: Carrie Denny, Crista Thomas and Trudi Swink; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion failed.

ABSENTEE BALLOT DISTRIBUTION

Council concurred to have Valena and Florence distribute absentee ballots when needed.

15 DEBIT CARD

BACKGROUND: OVS to get an additional debit card from the bank for travel when needed. This item was considered to be a part of 'Adding Tribal Administrator to Bank account' item and it was also decided that OVS did not wish to have an additional debit card to use.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATES

Meeting recessed until May 8th, changed to May 9th at 5:00 pm.

May 9th, 2024 meeting called to order at 5:08 pm.

ROLL CALL TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Joe Williams Jr., Vice President Charles (Chuck) Denny, Secretary Carrie (Wallace) Denny, Treasurer Trudi Swink and Councilmember Nora DeWitt.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilmember Richard Shields Sr. and Crista Thomas.

Opening Prayer was given by Councilmember Nora DeWitt.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CFC President Clifford Blair, CFC Employee Tim Lewis and City of Saxman Mayor Frank Seludo presented CDC's request of OVS to match the City of Saxman's and CFC's contributions.

FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

COUNCIL/PRESIDENTS COMMENTS None recorded.

16 FOR YOUR INFORMATION (FYI)

MMIP Work Group invitation and if any Councilmembers would like to attend they can.

ADJOURNMENT

Council concurred to end the meeting.

Submitted by Nora DeWitt: _____

Notes provided by: Chuck Denny, Nora DeWitt and Valena Johnson.

Signed by President Joe Williams Jr.: _____

Date of Approval by Council: July 22, 2024