



ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN
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ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 4, 2024

A. ALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Saxman IRA Council was called to order by President Joe Williams Jr. at 6:00 pm per agenda. For the record zoom was available.

B. PRAYER

Invocation was given by Secretary Nora DeWitt.

C. ROLL CALL:

President Joe Williams Jr.	P	Secretary Nora DeWitt	P
Vice President Caryl Williams	P	Treasurer Charles (Chuck Denny)	P
Councilmember Carrie (Wallace) Denny Resigned		Councilmember Mike DeWitt	P
Councilmember Trudi Swink	Z	UE-Unexcused; P-Present; Z-Zoom; EX-Excused	

OTHERS PRESENT: Bookkeeper Amy DeTienne on zoom.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

E. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

M/2 C.Williams and Charles Denny to accept the agenda. The Council concurred to add Carrie Denny's resignation to the agenda as item I.6.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

F.1. October 8, 2024 deferred

F.2. October 24, 2024 deferred

G. STAFF AND PRESIDENT REPORTS

G.1. Social Worker's Report – Jackie Johnson

A written report from Social Worker Jackie Johnson was provided. Motion by C.Williams and the report was accepted by unanimous consent. Hearing no objection President J.Williams so ordered.

G.2 Maintenance Report – Rick Makua

Motion/Second C.Williams and Charles Denny to accept Rick Makua's written report. Discussed were:

- #2 Mike Nayler would not tow a vehicle without a title and so they called the other tow company.
- #4 correct spelling from Blest to blessed.
- #5 correct to City of Saxman Gym
- #7 Still working on two vehicles at Andy Guthrie's home and the tow company was unable to tow as it is full of stuff. This was discussed and it was mentioned that this person is not able to walk and has been using his truck as storage. It was suggested to use the IGAP funding to assist with removal.
- Under #G2 correct spelling from Tonguss to Tongass.
- #1 correct spelling of tenet to tenant

- Correct spelling of bruch to brush.
 - #5 the name should be Clint
 - #E5 correct the spelling of acle to axel.
 - #7 correct the spelling of tailer to trailer.
- Question called. All in favor, motion carried.

G.3. Tribal Administrator Report – vacant

G.4. President's Report - Joe Williams Jr.

Motion/Second Charles Denny and C.Williams to approve the President's Report. All in favor, motion carried.

G.5. Tribal Finance Report – Amy DeTienne

Bookkeeper A.DeTienne presented the October ARPA Financial Report. She noted we have until December 31st to spend the funds. There are two large expenses to be paid and one is the \$35,000 for the Corpuz land purchase and the \$40,000 cash call. The Council is still considering the purchase of the Wolf Street property and noted the house has no heat, no electricity, no running water so the low bid is justifiable.

Chair Chuck Denny reported the Finance Committee met and moved funds around and verbally stated what these amounts were. He was asked to present this in writing and when presented for formal action it needs to be presented in a budget modification format or resolution. Chuck Denny mentioned we need sand and the chemicals for snow removal and sanding of the roads. Also needed is the projected costs of building repair/maintenance to the end of the year and the financial information on the Small Tribes Grant so we can look at staff expenses for the year.

Motion/Second N.DeWitt and M.DeWitt to accept the ARPA Financial Report for 2021 through September 2024. All in favor, motion carried.

H. OLD BUSINESS

H.1. Food Card and Utility Assistance Program

BACKGROUND: President Williams requested each participant to sign a form stating they understand the program will terminate on 12/31/24. The deadline date to submit application will be 12/10/2024 for card pick up available 12/13/2024. Staff will distribute end of program flyers to each household, post at the OVS Tribal Office, and also send out notice in the City of Saxman water bills. It was suggested to consider another food/utility card be given for the month of December. It was decided to discuss this during the Finance Committee meeting.

H.2. Land Purchase (Corpuz Property adjacent to Kushnick) and C.J. Seludo Property

BACKGROUND: Update on the progress of the purchase of properties.

Waiting for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to approve.

H.4. Retrocession from CCTHITA and Associated Documents

BACKGROUND: Update on the status of this, advising of any deadline dates and what steps are next.

J.Williams notified CCTHITA President Peterson and he extended their willingness to help us. He will set up a teleconference regarding this. It was asked if the paperwork was submitted for this. A.DeTienne stated it was and she did get a copy of the documents. She will make copy available to the Council.

H.5. Schoolhouse Agreement

BACKGROUND: City returned lease agreement for signature.

President J.Williams advised the Council the City of Saxman is the landlord and we are the tenant, and we are not in the position to negotiate. Also discussed was the situation of OVS applying for grants or providing the funding for building repairs and improvements some consideration should be given to OVS (i.e. in the way of a credit to OVS rent).

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and C.Williams to approve the Schoolhouse Lease Agreement. N.DeWitt suggested when there is an expense or grant available for the Schoolhouse building OVS can negotiate a MOA with the City and this can be done on a grant by grant situation This can be negotiated on a per grant situation. C.Williams stated the agreement says we agree to pay back to August 2022. It was clarified that OVS paid for 2022 and only 2023 and 2024 needs to be paid. It was further noted there is no Attachment A or B. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: Chuck Denny, M.DeWitt, C.Williams, T.Swink, N.DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passes. President Williams asked for the record to show this is a unanimous vote.

H.6. Job Opening Tribal Administrator, Tribal Administrative Assistant, and IGAP Coordinator
BACKGROUNDS: Advertisements are in the process of being renewed. Recap of applications received to date.

Still being advertised.

H.7. ARPA Budget Modification

BACKGROUND: Budget as it stands now, is presented in Finance report.

The Finance Committee needs to meet and prepare the ARPA Budget in proper format.

H.8. Student ARPA Assistance for School Clothing and Needs

BACKGROUND: Program Closeout for 2024.

All awards have been made.

H.9. Website/Network Update

BACKGROUND: Report on all progress made and the tablet update dates.

It was reported the domains for OVS have been purchased to keep people from impersonating us. It has been purchased for three years and the needed license has been acquired. They are working on the website. They will send A.DeTienne the instructions. It was confirmed to place Adobe on the Council's tablets. They will work with Council on our vision and will continue to develop and administrate OVS cloud structure.

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and M.DeWitt to accept the report. All in favor, motion carried.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1. Tribal Administrator Duties

BACKGROUND: Move to appoint/assign Joe Williams Jr. and Amy DeTienne to jointly carry out the Tribal Administrator duties until such time as the position is filed.

This is deferred to the executive session.

I.2. Vacation Payout for Charles White

BACKGROUND: Mrs. White is asking for Charlie's vacation hours to be paid to her. She is also asking for a copy of the contract between OVS and Charles White.

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and M.DeWitt to approve the payout of vacation hours of 311 hours. The suggestion that this situation may also be a workers compensation claim and his wife filed this today.

ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: M.DeWitt, C.Williams, Chuck Denny, N.DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: T.Swink; Motion Passes.

I.3. Tidal Energy Update

BACKGROUND: Recap of the kick-off meeting that happened 10/20/2024.

A.DeTienne reported they will have a series of meeting and they will meet every other week. They have discussed the following:

- Project management.
- The rules that pertain to this project.
- Feasibility study.
- Sharing information with others who have done this type of project.
- Location of placing the meter and looking at 3 Bears as the hook up site for the feasibility study.
- Obtaining the amount of energy consumed at 3 Bears. The amount of usage can be determined at this access point on a commercial level.

There are four different groups working on this with OVS. November 13th will be the next meeting and they meet twice a month at 4:30 PM. A feasibility study is a part of the grant and it granted \$50,000 for this project. \$30,000 to Sieman for the study and \$20,000 to OVS .

A copy of the signed agreement will be provided to the Council. Previous copies were given but they were not signed.

I.4. EPA Grant \$1MM Award for Saxman

BACKGROUND: \$20MM Award through IJT (Indigenous Just Transition) and OVS would be eligible for \$1MM. Proposed projects are a joint office building for OVS and the City of Saxman, Micro grid for power from the Tribal Energy Project, Water Infrastructure. Johnny from IJT will present at the meeting.

It was mentioned #I.4 EPA Grant Award for Saxman. Johnny Buck from Yakima is the Interim Executive Director of the Indigenous Just Transition (IJT). They discussed other projects they are doing and gave OVS ideas of what type of projects are eligible for funding. The idea of constructing a building to house both the City and Tribal offices was discussed. President J.Williams thanked these consultants for thinking of OVS. A thought was to use this facility as a place to use for shelter in disastrous situations. It was thought to have a kitchen and a shelter base for the community. A project construction date of 2027 was estimated. It would be helpful to leverage other dollars.

The consultants stated OVS can develop a million dollar project and provides secure climate control shelter and a designated meeting place. Under this OVS can offer resilience training on disaster training and practices. There is high resilience building in this so facility is durable and will have energy efficient appliances, equipment with solar panels and power This would be a multipurpose facility. The consultants asked the Council to think about how OVS can use the million for the front end needs and then look at a construction grant for a portion of the project too.

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and M.DeWitt to join as a collaborative entity with IJT for the EPA Community Change Joint Grant application for 2024 in the amount of one million. T.Swink asked if there is a way to have a food pantry for the community. It was confirmed this could be done with the resilience portion of the grant. This Council action will start the grant process. It would be helpful if they could be provided with the number of offices needed. President Williams thought 7 offices for the City and fairly similar for the Tribe and a future potential of 10. The Contractors felt this was doable and they can come back with a proposal. They will also need input from the City. All in favor, motion carried. President Williams declared this to be a unanimous vote.

I.5. Holiday Breaks and Office Closures

BACKGROUND: Thanksgiving Day and Native American Heritage Day 11/28/2024-11/29/2024, Joint Christmas Party with the City on 12/20/2024. Christmas Break for OVS 12/21/2024 – 1/5/2024.

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and N.DeWitt to declare the holiday break be ½ day of Christmas Eve (closing at noon) and coming back to work for ½ day on December 31st and closing for January 1st; To also approve the joint Staff and Council Christmas party for both the City of Saxman and OVS. All in favor, motion carried President Williams declared this to be a unanimous vote.

Discussed was to use the upper portion of the Community Center for the party on the 20th.

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and M.DeWitt to have Cape Fox cater this event. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: Chuck Denny, C.Williams, M.DeWitt, T.Swink, N.DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passes.

I.6 Resignation of Carrie Denny

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and C.Williams to accept the resignation from Carrie Denny. All in favor, motion carried. The deadline to apply for the vacant seat will be noon on November 25th. All in favor, motion carried.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The second meeting for the Council will be on November 18th at 6 PM.

J. COUNCIL/PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

N.DeWitt asked everyone to be patient as this is a trying time for everyone. She noted how supportive everyone has been and it was good to see this at the services.

M.DeWitt stated the participation of OVS at the service was impactful and people were grateful we stood up and was unified in our support of Charlie's family. He stated the family thanked OVS for their words of comfort and support. He stated it was good to see the Council stand together.

C. Williams stated it is overwhelming with everything happening right now. But we need to make sure we have Council participation for Tidal Energy Project and the million dollar grant. She stated it will be a lot of extra meeting and it is very important we participate and come together for the committee meetings. She stated she is really pleased with the community and Council for their participation in the services for Charlie White.

Chuck Denny stated the service was really good and the family said it was a good presentation by us. He reminded the Council there is a policy still needed on the pressure cookers and appliances that can be loaned to the Community. He complimented the Council on completing the agenda and having a good meeting. He stated he is looking forward to the next meeting.

A.DeTienne thanked everyone for their support and appreciated how unified we are because this gave her hope and she looks forward to our projects. She said the more we come together the stronger and more successful this is going to be. She encouraged all to love our families and take the time off if you need to show your families that you appreciate them.

J.Williams thanked everyone for attending and participating in the services for Charlie. He stated the presentation was well received. The departure of Charlie was hard for him and he was working hard and producing for our community.

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion/Second to go into executive session. No objection and unanimous consent was declared. The meeting recessed at 8:43 PM.

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and C.Williams to come out of executive session and call the meeting back to order at 9:17 PM. All in favor, motion carried.

RECONSIDER AGENDA TO ADD AGENDA ITEM RURAL CAP LETTER

Motion/Second N.DeWitt to reconsider the agenda and add Rural Cap Representative to the agenda. President Williams declared unanimous consent and add this item to the agenda. President Williams so ordered.

Motion/Second N.DeWitt and C.Williams to recommend Joe Williams Jr. as our Rural Cap Representative and authorize the letter to be sent. All in favor, motion carried. President Williams declared unanimous consent,

BIA PROVIDERS CONFERENCE IN ANCHORAGE

This conference is December 2nd - 6th.for Providers. Amy and Joe confirmed they will attend.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chuck Denny to adjourn by unanimous consent. No objection, so ordered. The next meeting will be on Monday, November 18, 2024.

Submitted by Nora DeWitt:

Nora DeWitt

Signed by President Joe Williams Jr.:

Joe Williams Jr.

Date: 12/16/2024