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**ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – JANUARY 22, 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

This meeting was called to order by Vice President Caryl Williams. Zoom capability was available.

**B. PRAYER**

The opening prayer was given by Secretary Nora DeWitt.

**C. ROLL CALL:**

CODE: Ex=Excused; UE=Unexcused; P=Present; Z=Zoom

President Joe Williams Jr. Anchorage/medical	Ex	Secretary Nora DeWitt	P
Vice President Caryl Williams	P	Treasurer Charles (Chuck Denny)	P
Councilmember Amos Gray	P	Councilmember Mike DeWitt	P
Councilmember Trudi Swink	P		

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

none

**E. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

Motion/Second M.DeWitt and A.Gray to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

**F. CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**F.1. January 6, 2025 (Exhibit F.1)**

Motion/Second M.DeWitt and N.DeWitt to approve the minutes of January 6, 2025. A correction was made on page 2 item G.4 correcting the date of bank statement reconciliation to year 2024 instead of 2025. All in favor, motion carried.

**G. STAFF REPORTS**

**G.1. Maintenance Supervisor's Report – Rick Makua**

The written report dated 12/12/24 was in the packet and it was noted this was taken care of last month.

**G.2. Tribal Administrator/Finance Report – Amy DeTienne**

A.DeTienne distributed and presented her report (Exhibit G.2). She explained the difference between retrocession and withdrawal. It was determined OVS was using the word retrocession and it should have been withdrawal. Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) has asked OVS to give them one year to show OVS they can do a better on their delivery of services.

A.Detienne reported she was told Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA) over spent the Saxman Home Repair Project by \$358,000 and they used Small Tribes Funding to cover this expense. Amy asked who authorized this and it was not confirmed on how this came about. She stated she is working with OVS Consultant Will Ware.

She explained IGAP 2026 is a mirror of year 2025. She commented this grant budget can be modified until it is finalized. She reported moving some connex containers to OVS' lot and these will house OVS program and road program supplies. She explained this will make this area eligible for 105L funding.

She explained OVS facilities can be added to CCTHITA's 105L inventory and they will pass these funds through to OVS. She stated we need to have OVS facilities appraised and this will start the process. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will pay back from the date of the appraisal. She estimated the appraisal will cost \$4,000 and wants to get this done sooner than later. She advised setting up the connex will give OVS more square footage for the 105L program. She commented she is nervous for 2026 funding as OVS will be receiving only \$150,000.

A.DeTienne reported she received a phone call regarding dialysis services and talked with owner Marina McIntyre. Marina advised she is still looking to get funding. This was discussed and it was suggested Marina come to Saxman and meet with the Council.

CCTHITA advised the Small Tribes Grant (STG) is overspent and it was asked if they have the actual record of how this is overspent. Nora DeWitt stated she looked up the minutes and in February 2023 the Council authorized the Tribal Courts Grant be used to fund the repair project over expenditures. She also said OVS has not received the closeout report. It was noted Carrie and Tom Denny's home is not completed, Trudi Swink's home did not have the snow skirting put on and the Brandon's foundation was broken and they did not fix it. She explained the Brandon's signed off on their project and this was found out after the fact.

Motion/Second A.Gray and M.DeWitt to accept the Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne's report. All in favor, motion carried

## **H. OLD BUSINESS**

**H.1. Broadband** – Amy DeTienne and Will Ware (Exhibit H.1 #1 and Exhibit H.1 #2)

**BACKGROUND:** An update of the Broadband situation with Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) will be given.

It was asked for an update from Alaska Village Initiatives (AVI) Broadband Consortium Project Coordinator Brad Angasen. It was noted there is a Broadband Workshop on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm and Consultant William Ware will be on zoom.

## **H.2. Withdrawl from CCTHITA**

**BACKGROUND:** An update will be provided.

This was previously discussed. A question was asked, "How are they going to better service our community". One reason for the withdrawal is CCTHITA needs to do better. It was also thought this needs to be discussed with Saxman tribal citizens. It was thought the 105L process is a three year process and this should have been undertaken earlier. It was thought a lot of steps are missing and more information is needed. Concern was expressed over administrative needs, staff availability, and enough funds to fund needed programs. This will be further discussed during the strategic planning meeting.

## **H.3. Schoolhouse 2025 Lease Agreement**

**BACKGROUND:** The Finance Committee met and reviewed various sources of revenue to determine what the revenue/expense look like for FY2025. It has been determined there is sufficient funds to pay the rent for the Saxman Schoolhouse for FY2025. A copy of the signed lease (Exhibit H.3) was provided to the Council.

#### **H.4. Schoolhouse Building Repair Request for the City of Saxman (Exhibit H #4)**

**BACKGROUND:** The stairs, porch and bell tower needs repair or replacement and this will be reviewed with the Council.

A report (Exhibit H#4) was received by Building Supervisor Rick Makua. Discussed the building ownership and possible conveyance. This will be discussed during the Strategic Planning meeting.

#### **H.5. OVS Policy Project**

**BACKGROUND:** OVS Council will discuss this project, determine the priorities and make a schedule to work on the policies.

The following policies were named: Personnel, Election, Constitution, Enrollment, Procurement, Finance, Technology, Tero, Transboundary, Roads, Housing, Education, and Audit. It was determined the Committee Chair N.DeWitt will meet with Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne to determine what policies are the priority. This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **H.6. Strategic Planning Retreat – Juneau, Alaska**

**BACKGROUND:** The Saxman IRA Council is planning a strategic planning retreat in Juneau to allow the opportunity to meet with various agencies in Juneau (CCTHITA, THRHA, BIA, State of Alaska Department of Highways etc.) The City of Saxman will be invited so both entities can participate.

It was reported President Joe Williams was able to negotiate favorable airfares and schedule the Sealaska Board Room. Amy was directed to work with the City Administrator, Mayor and OVS President. It was suggested OVS host one dinner with the City of Saxman officials. The location will be determined. Everyone was asked to email their questions and thoughts about this retreat. The old strategic plan for both OVS and the City of Saxman was requested. It was reported the Sieman's Tidal Energy Grant remaining funds of \$24,000 is given to OVS since the project cannot be completed and OVS still has the \$20,000 from this grant for OVS use. The total funds available is \$44,000.

Motion/Second A.Gray and M.DeWitt to use up to \$30,000 of the Sieman's Tidal Energy Grant to pay for the Strategic Planning Retreat. The Small Tribes Grant has a deficit of \$54,158 and it was asked how this is going to be covered. It was explained that some of the expenses have to be reclassified, and this hasn't been done yet. There will be 18 people attending.

A recess was declared at 8:30 for 5 minutes. The meeting was called back to order by Chair C.Williams at 8:32 pm.

\$30,000 is the estimated budget cost of this trip. Question called and the following poll vote was taken: YES VOTE: A.Gray, C.Denny, M.DeWitt; NO VOTE: T.Swink, N.DeWitt; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passes.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

### **I.1. OVS Purchase of Water Due to Emergency (\$1642.00 approximate)**

**BACKGROUND:** In January President Williams was contacted about problems at the water plant and was asked if OVS could purchase water for each household like they did in December. A phone call vote was taken and this report will be given and needs approval.

Amy reported Caryl said everybody voted yes. The Council needs to accept the phone poll vote to approve this expenditure of \$1642 and to use IGAP funding for this expense.

Motion/Second T.Swink and M.DeWitt to approve the phone poll to approve the purchase of bottled water for each Saxman Tribal member's household in the amount of \$1642. It was asked in the future if this happens again does OVS have the funds. A.DeTienne stated yes and IGAP funds can be used. She reported CCTHITA sent two water infiltration kits and cases of water for each household. Question called. All in favor, motion carried.

## **J. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **J.1. Finance Committee (January 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>) Report – Chuck Denny**

(Exhibit J.1 and Exhibit J.1 #2)

N.DeWitt explained during the budget workshop there wasn't any money appropriated for travel or Presidential Expense. She asked how the Travel to Washington D.C. for NCAI Winter Session in February, 2025 was going to be paid.

Motion made by N.DeWitt to fund NCAI Winter session & use Sieman's Tidal Energy Grant. A second to the motion was called three times and there was none. This motion died from lack of second.

## **K. EXECUTIVE SESSION** None

## **L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

## **M. NEXT MEETING DATE(S)**

Next OVS monthly meeting February 3, 2025.

Policy Committee will meet Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

Broadband Committee will meet on Monday January 27<sup>th</sup> with Consultant Will Ware at 4 pm.


## **N. PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

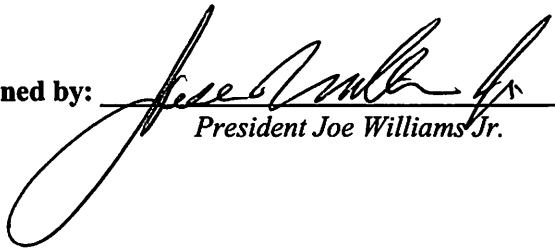
A.Gray explained he would have liked to have J.Williams go to D.C. but his primary concern was him having recent surgery and his health.

C.Williams explained in order for the Council's to make decisions OVS policies needs to be accessed so action can be taken in a timely manner. She stressed the need to work on the policies and there is more than enough work to keep the Council busy until July. She supported and needed Council to meet every Thursday to work on this. She thanked everyone for coming.

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion/Second M.DeWitt and A.Gray to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Submitted By:   
Prepared by: Nora DeWitt, Secretary

Signed by:  Date of Meeting: February 3, 2025  
President Joe Williams Jr. Council Approved