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ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 21, 2025 AT 6:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Joe Williams Jr.

B. PRAYER

Opening prayer was given by Secretary Nora DeWitt.

C. ROLL CALL:

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

President Joe Williams Jr.	P	Secretary Nora DeWitt	P
Vice President Vacant		Treasurer Charles (Chuck Denny)	P
Councilmember Amos Gray	P	Councilmember Mike DeWitt	P
Councilmember Trudi Swink	UE	Elder Advisor Denai Mahi	UE
Youth Advisor Kayla Williams	P		

OTHERS PRESENT: Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne, Brita Alexander CCTHITA Navigator and Mayor/City Administrator Frank Seludo (arrived at 6:43 pm)

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) Saxman Navigator Brita Alexander reported she comes to Saxman two times a week (every Tuesday and Thursday 10 am to 2 pm). The Summer Youth Employment Training Program for Saxman has two positions so far. She received a notice on some CERT Training available in Saxman and this will be for CPR, first aide, and emergency response. She reported Saxman has two CCTHITA Delegates and some of the discussions at the CCTHITA Annual Convention was shared. She said in her next report she will add the number of address corrections she has made.

E. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Motion/Second C.Denny and A.Gray to approve the agenda by adding H.15 Contributions to the City Of Saxman's Fish Egg Distribution and H.16 Appointment to Daanaa Saati (CDC). All in favor, motion carried.

F. CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

F.1. April 7, 2025 – Regular meeting minutes

Motion/Second C.Denny and A.Gray to approve the minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

G. STAFF REPORTS

G.1. Tribal Administrator/Finance Report – Amy DeTienne

Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne reported the following:

- Sam's registration is done and she was able to access the grant information. She was able to view the Title 6 grant and worked on this today.
- She reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ketchikan Senior Services, and it contained the award letters and grant documents.

- She also found there is training in New York and the grant pays for these expenses.
- She said she noticed there is one portion of the grant that will allow the purchase of fish for the elders in the amount of \$1740. As she learns more she will provide an update.
- She expressed her excitement to work with the grant writers.
- She said she talked with the City Administrator, and they are working on getting the MOA done.
- She reported spring cleanup is at the end.
- Need to know the various aspects of managing the building OVS is renting.
- Discussed the handling of OVS rent credits and rent payments.
- The bookkeeper printed her report all on her own and Amy will continue to work with the bookkeeper.
- She reported the Social Worker Jackie Johnson's boss came to town and is working with Jackie. She stated she will do a follow up letter to get Jackie actively trained.
- She said tomorrow at 8 am CCTHITA and OVS will continue to work on the withdrawal process, funding information on the various programs. She mentioned Tribal Courts is one of them. As these programs are looked at OVS can see what programs OVS wants CCTHITA to manage.
- She reported OVS election is this week. Election judges are Mae Denny, Denise McCullough Debbie Tavares and alternate is Delina Mahai.
- She stated Mr. Dalton complained about some drainage problems and asked to be put on the list to have this taken care of.
- She advised Consultant Will Ware was where he should be with his contract.
- She responded to questions about the recycling program she mentioned in her report. The grant required OVS to meet with Program Coordinator Santeena to develop a list of environmental areas of concern and what consists of a green star community rating. They are also working on garbage pickup for the seniors.
- The award to graduating seniors was mentioned.

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

G.2. President's Report - Joe Williams Jr.

President Joe Williams Jr. reported he recently attended CCTHITA Tribal Assembly and advised President Richard Peterson asked about the economic opportunity of bingo that OVS is considering. He stated Janice Hotch was willing to come to Saxman and do bingo training, and the bingo equipment supplier is located in Ketchikan. With no objections this was put on the agenda as I.4. Games of Chance.

President J.Williams reported he asked CCTHITA for confirmation of notification of trespass on this property and was given permission to remove the abandoned vehicles on this property. When the workers went on the property to remove the vehicles the home occupant told them to get off the property and so they did.

He advised he was contacted by KIC Tribal Administrator Richard Harney regarding Broadband. He stated he tried to call KIC President Gloria Burns regarding the suspension of the Health Board and she hasn't returned his call.

He reported being contacted by Mr. & Mrs. Sherry regarding the Tidal Action Energy project. He stated they are starting up his little business of generating power for batteries. President Williams invited him to attend OVS's next meeting on tidal energy scheduled for Wednesday, April 30th at 4:30. The Council will receive a text reminder for this meeting.

Motion/Second C.Denny and A.Gray to accept the President's report. All in favor motion carried.

G.3 T&H Navigator Report – Brita Alander

Done previously during Public Comments.

G.4 Calm Harbor Report – Marina

Tribal Administrator A.DeTienne stated she received this written report (Exhibit G.4) from Marina at Calm Harbor.

H. OLD BUSINESS

H.1. Broadband Negotiation

BACKGROUND: A letter was sent to Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) in February and as of 4/16/25 there is still no response.

President J.Williams directed Secretary Nora DeWitt to prepare a letter requesting a meeting with the KIC Tribal Council regarding the suspension of the Health Board and the Broadband situation and request a joint meeting for May 9th.

H.2. Corpuz Land Purchase (adjacent to Kushnick's property) - President Joe Williams Jr.

BACKGROUND: Still waiting on approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Left on the agenda until the property sale and cleanup is completed.

Discussed previous.

H.3. Withdrawal from CCTHITA

BACKGROUND: At the last meeting the report was at status quo and an update is requested if there is activity.

Tribal Administrator A.DeTienne stated she will be meeting with CCTHITA team on April 22nd.

H.4. Resolution ARPA Budget Modifications 2024

BACKGROUND: This is currently being worked on and is deferred to a Finance Committee meeting and then will be referred to the Council for approval. The Continuing Budget Resolution authorizes spending until April 30th. If the 2025 budget is not ready the Continuing Resolution will need to be extended.

Motion/Second C.Denny and A.Gray to approve an extension of the continuing resolution to May 16th. All in favor, motion carried.

H.6. ELECTION 2025

BACKGROUND: Election update will be given.

The election will be April 24th and the election judges will be Mae Denny, Debbie Tavares, Diannah McCullough with alternate being Dena Mahi. The following are the candidates: President for one year term is Joe Williams Jr.; Council position for a one year term is Kayla Williams; and three positions for a two year term is Trudy Swink, Amos Gray and Nora DeWitt.

H.8. Tribal Budget 2025

BACKGROUND: Once all of the 2024 funds are closed. The 2025 budget will be prepared for Council approval. Deferred.

H.9. OVS/KIC Health Board

BACKGROUND: No update on the status of the KIC/OVS Health Board.
Discussed previous.

H.10. Denali Grant Writer Proposal

BACKGROUND: Proposal was approved. Tribal Administrator A.DeTienne stated she needs to produce approval of this per the minutes and the contract needs the President's signature. Discussed was the need for traditional food and knowledge of processing these foods. It was suggested to see about a discount from Tongass Trading or 3 Bears on the purchase of pint and half pint canning jars. Also discussed was funding for the water project, youth employment, youth social programs, youth food programs, more energy efficiency for homes, heat pumps, energy efficiency education, documenting historical stories to give Saxman's history.

H.11. Gift Purchase

BACKGROUND: Gift for previous Councilmember. She identifies as Tsimshian Wolf. Caryl asked the Council to reconsider a gift for her. It was suggested to give a Tsmishian flag framed.

Motion/Second C.Denny and A.Gray to approve a gift for Caryl Williams in the amount of \$300.
ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: A.Gray, N.DeWitt, C.Denny and M.DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None. Motion passes.

H.12. MOA or MOU with COS

BACKGROUND: Meeting with MOU/MOA on April 17th. Will have update on the development of MOA/MOU for work on the tribal office building and the City's request with repairs and various projects.

Tribal Administrator A.DeTienne explained the credit to rent when OVS pays for repairs and improvements to the building OVS is renting. She noted this would be complicated as the rent payments are currently being paid by grant funds. This needs to be discussed further and noted she would schedule a meeting next week to further discuss this.

H.14. Bank Authorization

BACKGROUND: The new bookkeeper needs to be provided with authorization. Jeannette Rosier. Approved minutes will be taken to the bank.

A.DeTienne stated she needs the minutes, signed and given to Treasurer C.Denny to take to the bank. Secretary N.DeWitt said she could print them tonight and President Joe Williams can sign.

H.15 Fish Egg Contribution to COS for community

Motion/Second C.Denny and A.Gray to pay \$630 to the City of Saxman for the distribution of fish eggs using the ETIPP funds. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE:

A.Gray, N.DeWitt, C.Denny and M.DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None.
Motion passes.

H.16 Appointment to Daanaa Satti (CDC)

President J.Williams appointed Councilmember Amos Gray.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1. Check Signer Authorization

BACKGROUND: New bookkeeper needs to be provided with authorization. The approved minutes need to be given to bank to add all council members.

The minutes need to be processed and then provided to the bank.

I.2. Saxman Public Internet Access

BACKGROUND: Seek council input on public access to internet. Need approval on purchasing WAN.

Tribal Administrator A.DeTienne stated she wanted to look at a system to have public access to internet from OVS. This could be available to visitor use and all areas of the Totem Park. She noted this could be a source of funds and noted the specifics would have to be worked out and thought our consultant Russell could help with this. She explained every independent tourist would get a tourist slip and they can put a code on this and charge appropriately. They could provide pictures of the totem poles and other information on this. There is concern of cyber theft but there are ways to protect the system but wanted to see what the Council thought.

Mayor J.Williams directed the Tribal Administrator to look into this and come back with a proposal to the Council.

I.3. Abuse of Totem Poles and Frog Wall

BACKGROUND: Complaint received from a tribal member about a company posting an advertisement on a totem pole.

City Administrator/Mayor Frank Seludo stated he spoke with Alaska Pest Control and they said this will not happen again. He explained when they spray the poles they are required to post a warning sign on the area they are spraying. He stated the City sprays the poles twice a year and the next time will be in August. He will work with them to ensure this doesn't happen again.

I.4. Bingo

President J.Williams deferred this to the Economic Development Committee and would like to have this up and running by Fall.

J. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS Council Committee Listing Included

BACKGROUND: The Council Committee List is presented for Council to reference.

C.Denny stated the Wood Mizer Committee met on April 8th at 5 pm. Committee members present were A.Gray, J.Williams and C.Denny. A.Gray was appointed as Secretary. As soon as the notes of the meeting are done they will be presented.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION None

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

M. NEXT MEETING DATE(S)

May 5, 2025 at 6:00 pm is the next regular meeting.

April 28, 2025 Special OVS meeting to certify the election.

N. PRESIDENT AND COUNCILS' COMMENTS

Newly elected Council member Kayla Williams asked who was responsible for the bike path. She was told it is the Alaska Department of Transportation.

Council member Mike DeWitt stated he was excited about getting grants for the community and this would keep the community encouraged.

City Administrator/Mayor Frank Seludo apologized for leaving the meeting but he had to take a call. He stated they are getting closer to getting the MOU done on both the City and OVS working together.

Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne thanked the Council for the continued work everyone is doing and expressed her appreciation for their hard work and strength. She encourages the Council to attend the City Council meetings when able. She distributed and explained some missing current forms she would like the Council to complete and give back to her.

President Joe Williams Jr. thanked everyone for their attendance and noted this says a lot for us all wanting to work together. He stated tourism season is upon us and that next year he would be looking for a tour guide.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second C.Denny and A.Gray to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Submitted by Nora DeWitt: 

Signed by President Joe Williams Jr.:  Date of approval: 6/02/2025