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ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 16, 2024 AT 6:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by President Joe Williams Jr.

B. PRAYER

Invocation 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 Caryl Williams	P	Treasurer Charles (Chuck) Denny	P
Councilmember Amos Gray appointed	P	Councilmember Mike DeWitt	P
Councilmember Trudi Swink	P	Youth Adviser filled the vacant Council seat	

OTHERS PRESENT: Consultant Russel Kearney, Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne, Tribal Members Delina Mahi, and Frank Seludo

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS None

E. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Motion/Second C.Williams and M.DeWitt to accept the agenda with added items. The following items were added to the agenda:

I.6. IGAP Contract Services from Sam Demmert of Wave Length Consulting – Nora DeWitt

I.7. Second December Food Card Distribution – Nora DeWitt

I.8. Donation – Caryl Williams

Question called. All in favor, motion carried.

Presentation by IT Contractor Russell Kearney

The Council concurred to allow Contractor Russell Kearny the opportunity to do his presentation. He reported the basic framework has been put in and the Council needs to discuss what is wanted on the website. He gave some ideas to dress up the website. Training will include showing the Council how to download the minutes and other information, access policies and grant awards. He reported he was able to obtain through the Microsoft Tribal Division G5 licensing. This will give OVS a better system to operate on and it also gave a discount. He suggested using the site to develop a newsletter, introducing OVS with pictures which will better engage people. He suggested putting Councilmembers' bios on the website. This was discussed and some did not want their bios on the web for security purposes. He will schedule appointments with individual Council members to set up their tablets.

E.1. Vacant Council Position Appointment

There are two applicants, Amos Gray and Johnathan Trout Dillon. President J.Williams called for nominations. N.DeWitt nominated Amos Gray and C.Williams seconded. N.DeWitt nominated Jonathan Trout Dillon with no objections. President J.Williams asked to distribute paper and a ballot vote was taken. Amos Gray was declared the newly appointed Council member.

E.2. Oath of Office to newly appointed Council Member

Secretary N.DeWitt administered the Oath of Office to Amos Gray. He was seated as Councilmember and will no longer hold the Youth Advisory Position.

F. CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

F.1. September 16, 2024 – Secretary N.DeWitt

F.2. October 8, 2024 – Secretary N.DeWitt

F.3. October 24, 2024 – Secretary N.DeWitt

F.4. November 4, 2024 – Secretary N.DeWitt

F.5. November 18, 2024 – Amy DeTienne

F.6. November 21, 2024 – Secretary N.DeWitt

F.7. December 3, 2024 – Secretary N.DeWitt

Motion/Second C.Williams and A.Gray to approve the minutes as a block. C.Williams requested to pull agenda items F1, F3, and F4. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion/Second C.Williams and A.Gray to accept the minutes corrected as follows:

F1 September 16, 2024: Page 7 item I.1. change word shaving to having.

F.3. October 24, 2024: Page 1, bottom of the page change the word into to in.

F.4. November 4, 2024: Page 1 item G.2 the name Nailor to Nayler; Page 5 item J. 2nd paragraph from the bottom of the page, change the word area to are. Question called. All in favor, motion carried.

G. STAFF REPORTS

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

Exhibit G#1 included in packet.

G.2. Tribal Administrator's Report – Amy DeTienne

A.DeTienne verbally reported she coordinated with the IGAP person and was able to obtain an extra \$70,000 sub-award grant. She explained the need to replace the water/sewer line on South Tongass Highway before the State does the highway improvement project. The water/sewer lines replacement will be a joint project with the City of Saxman. Once the State lays the pavement on South Tongass Highway it will be six years before the road can be torn up if there are any water or sewer line problems. It is better to acquire the funding to replace these lines as they are very old and corroded.

Amy advised she was able to take a few courses and they provided information on:

- Close out process on the ARPA Grant
- ARPA grant funds have to be obligated before December 31st
- If adjustments need to be made to a prior report this has to be done before 1/31/2025
- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Contracts

She advised both her and the wages paid to the previous Tribal Administrator can be paid out of the IGAP Grant. She reported she was able to obtain access to ASAP and was able to see the grant information. She received instruction on how to draw down that grant funds. She filled out and submitted the request for \$50,000 for the Tidal Energy Project last week. Once received Sieman can be paid and the other \$20,000 is OVS's portion to be used at their discretion. She said the grant documents can be uploaded on the Cloud.

Amy explained each grant has an award system and you have to have the Grant assign you a role and the organization appoints a payment requester. Amy explained the process she went through to do this and it

was a huge hurdle. She said the next thing she has to deal with is the SAM'S System. She discussed the positives of working on a Strategic plan with the City Of Saxman.

Motion/Second C.Denny and A.Gray to approve the Tribal Administrator's verbal report. All in favor, motion carried.

G.3. President's Report - Joe Williams Jr.

President J.Williams reported he and Amy was able to meet with IGAP worker Santana Gray and Sam Demmert. He said all the IGAP paperwork will be submitted on time. He reported they are working on trying to get the water/sewer pipes replaced on South Tongass and Eagle Avenue. He stated Johnny and Tara wrote the grant for the new Tribal and City offices.

Motion/Second C.Williams and A.Gray to approve the verbal report presented by President J.Williams. All in favor, motion carried.

H. OLD BUSINESS

H.1. Food Card Adjustments

BACKGROUND: The Committee met and reviewed the various food card requests to 3 Bears and prepared a spreadsheet breaking this down per applicant. This was reviewed with Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne. She will now review the data and use this for the final close out with the food cards. Once reviewed any adjustments will be done.

Tribal Administrator A.DeTienne was able to review the information and will reconcile the list to ensure none are duplicated. She reported they received 100 food cards applications. She thanked the Food Card Committee for their work. It was mentioned that the Council approved funds for 90 homes and since this has increased to 100 homes the Council needs to authorize the expenditure for ten additional homes.

Motion/Second T.Swink and C.Williams to add ten additional homes (\$7500) to the 90 homes that was approved at the meeting held on December 3rd, using ARPA funds.

ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: C.Williams, T.Swink, C.Denny, M.DeWitt, A.Gray, N.DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passes. President J.Williams declared this a unanimous vote.

H.2. Broadband Negotiation Planning Session

BACKGROUND: There was a negotiation workshop held July 26th and had to be rescheduled as not all of the parties could attend. At the last meeting it was suggested that an attorney be consulted.

Tribal Administrator A.DeTienne stated at the last meeting Consultant Will Ware recommended the Tribe consult an attorney regarding the letter received from Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) President Norman Skan. He recommended using an attorney not in conflict with KIC. He suggested using the firm used by Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA), Hobbs Law Firm and specifically Attorney Edmond Goodman. President Williams asked permission to contact CCTHITA President Richard Peterson to seek assistance with this legal matter. He also asked permission to request a copy of the original agreement with the Federal Government and ANTHC regarding Saxman's health care.

Motion/Second C.Williams and N.DeWitt to give President J.Williams the authority to contact CCTHITA President Richard Peterson regarding his thoughts on how to proceed regarding the letter received from KIC President Norman Skan. All in favor, motion carried.

H.3. Corpuz Land Purchase (adjacent to Kushnick's property)

BACKGROUND: Waiting on approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). An update on this purchase will be provided.

President Williams reported Desiree Duncan of CCTHITA is retired and a new lady named Irene Leighton will be helping OVS. President Williams reported he was contacted by someone in the family and they threatened a lawsuit because the property is the site of a burial ground. This was discussed and he gave the history of the reason the headstones of the Bear and Beaver are near the area and they are there as a memorial.

H.4. Retrocession from CCTHITA

BACKGROUND: Information was obtained at Provider's Conference and will be provided.

Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne attended the Compact and 105L training provided at the Bureau Of Indian Affairs (BIA) Conference. She asked Instructor Brian Mercer about the timeline for the retrocession. The BIA thought OVS wanted to give all our programs back to the BIA to manage for OVS. She stated this was a misunderstanding and she clarified our situation.

It was explained to her Title 4 gives the Tribe the power to negotiate the needed funds. It was clarified the BIA has one year to complete the retrocession so OVS must stay with CCTHITA for year 2025 and OVS will work with the BIA on transferring OVS programs.

Discussed the inactive Saxman T&H Chapter and how this affects the tribe.

H.5. Schoolhouse 2025 Lease Agreement

BACKGROUND: The current lease agreement is for 2024 and ends December 31, 2024. The Finance Committee needs to review the income for 2025 and determine if there is sufficient funds to cover this lease for 2025.

In order to determine funding the finances available for 2025 needs to be determined.

H.6. Job Openings Tribal Administrative Assistant and IGAP Coordinator

BACKGROUND: Report will be provided on the status and plan for these positions.

Amy DeTienne reported one person, Maria Williams, applied for the Administrative Assistant. She said she would get the word out and she would like to hire for the IGAP position. She acknowledged the policy needs to be developed to loan the food processing equipment to the community to put up food in 2025.

H.7. Resolution ARPA Budget Modifications 2024

BACKGROUND: The Finance Committee met and approved the ARPA budget revisions on December 3, 2024 #1. Once the expenses from December 3rd to current has been entered and future costs for contracts and payroll is encumbered the final budget will be modified for Council's approval. The Finance Committee will be meeting on the 19th.

H.8. Website/Network Project – Jason and Russel Karney

BACKGROUND: A presentation will be provided on December 16th. Discussed previous.

H.9. FY2023 Audit Update

BACKGROUND: The Tribal Administration met with the Auditor while attending the BIA Provider's Conference in Anchorage and will provide a report on the 2023 audit.

Amy reported she obtained a couple of websites to see what grants we have received. 45% done with the grant, agreements & expenditures to the auditor. Amy provided an updated to the Auditor explaining how we are structuring our files and that there will be electronic access.

H.10. IGAP Grant Update

BACKGROUND: September 30, 2024 is the ending date of this grant an update is needed.

Also, an update on the FY2025 grant application.

Done previous.

H.11. Wolf Street Home Purchase

BACKGROUND: The Finance Committee met regarding the 2024 ARPA funds and there were not sufficient funds to purchase. The Council will further discuss this purchase.

President Williams gave update and requested an additional \$100,000 to purchase the building.

He said we can use other federal dollars to cleanup and improve the property. President

Williams OVS was in a position to make the purchase and believed we should. It was explained at the last Finance Committee meeting this was discussed and there was not enough funds to make this purchase. President Williams suggested OVS meets with the Saxman City Council and see if we can partner on this property purchase. He asked for permission to talk with the City to partner or perhaps approach a payback plan or perhaps do a joint venture.

Motion/Second C.Williams and A.Grey to look at negotiating funding for the additional \$100,000 for the purchase of the home on Wolf Street. Discussed this not being enough because there was no funds set aside in the 2024 ARPA Budget. The motion maker and second rescinded the motion. President Williams stated he would contact the realtor and suspend the purchase.

H.12. Cash Call For Daanaa Saati (CDC) Board

BACKGROUND: A report (Exhibit H#12) was prepared and is provided in the packet. The OVS Council needs to approve payment of \$40,000.

Councilmember T.Swink read the report that was included in the Council's packet.

Motion/Second N.DeWitt and C.Williams to authorize the cash call payment of \$40,000 to Daanaa Saati (CDC) Board. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE:

T.Swink, M.DeWitt, C.Williams, A.Gray, C.Denny, N.DeWitt; NO VOTE: None;

ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion Passes. President Williams declared a unanimous vote.

H.13. Appointment of Indian Education Association (IEA) Committee Representative

BACKGROUND: The previous representative resigned from the Council and needs to be replaced.

President Williams appointed Councilmember Amos Gray to this position.

H.14. Schoolhouse Building Repair Request for the City of Saxman

BACKGROUND: The stairs, porch and bell tower needs repair or replacement. Once budgeted OVS needs to start the process of preparing a MOA with the City of Saxman (COS) on requesting a credit to OVS rent. This was the process OVS determined it would follow at the meeting held on December 3, 2024.

This was deferred.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1. Extra Duty Pay

BACKGROUND: In the budget modification extra duty pay is included for staff and Council. This is due to extra duty and hazardous duty for employees and Council. Re-consideration is requested for the position of youth advisor.

Motion/Second A.Gray and C.Williams to reconsider the extra duty pay for the youth advisor position and move these funds to another line item. All in favor, motion carried.

I.2. Calm Harbor Dialysis Clinic Update

BACKGROUND: OVS contributed funds to this project and an update will be provided by the Tribal Administrator.

Amy reported she spoke with the owner and she has committed to keep us informed on the milestones and activity of the clinic.

I.3. OVS Policy Project

BACKGROUND: OVS Council will discuss this project and what is needed.

Amy reported she found the policy binder given to previous Tribal Administrator which was prepared by the previous Tribal Administrator Winona Wallace. She will continue looking for the policies prepared by the previous Tribal Administrator so the Policy Committee can begin the review process. A reminder was given the policy on the canning equipment still needs to be developed and address the processes of borrowing (i.e. a deadline to return and how do we collect if it doesn't come back).

I.4. Visitation and Tour of Various Agencies in Juneau (CCTHITA, THRHA, BIA) – President, Tribal Administrator, and Consultant Will Ware

BACKGROUND: The above named persons will travel to Juneau to meet and tour these agencies to see how they run their programs and discuss the needs of OVS.

It was confirmed Will Ware's contract was returned, it is signed and the requested changes were made. Another agencies desired to meet with is the Alaska Department of Highways. It is suggested this date be the last week of February or the first week of March. There is a Cape Fox Board meeting March 6th - 7th.

I.5. 105 L Funding

BACKGROUND: An update of this funding source will be provided.

A presenter at Provider's discussed 105L funding. So long as a building has a roof and four sides it can constitute a facility and is eligible for 105L funding. Amy thought of obtaining a storage shed to house the sand and rock salt for the road and then this will be eligible for the funding. She stated the process is you have to send a letter of intent and this starts the process.

I.6. IGAP Contract

Amy said she met with IGAP Coordinator Jonathan Law and Contractor Sam Demmert at the IGAP Conference. She stated Sam Demmert company is Wave Length Consulting and was able to apply for the sub-award and submit it for \$70,000 in funding but the award has not been made yet. She stated he is charging \$12,700 flat rate for 220 hours of work. If OVS feels everything is going well we can extend the arrangement to another 3 to 5 months. She advised she sent them 50% of the funds due them. Amy explained the hardship it is to have to pivot on matters like this when there is crisis. When you have to come to the Council for a decision and have only 48 hours or so to decide. She explained in that moment she needed to contract with him and didn't want to miss out the opportunity for the sub-award of \$70,000. This was discussed and suggestions were to do a group text and obtain Council approval, or phone poll vote to Council to obtain approval. These were both used in the past.

MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING

Motion/Second C.Denny and N.DeWitt to extend the meeting until the business is finished. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion/Second N.DeWitt and C.Williams to approve the contract to Wave Length for \$12,700 using IGAP Funding. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: M.DeWitt, A.Gray, C.Williams, T.Swink and N.DeWitt; NO VOTE; C.Denny; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passes.

I.7. 2ND Food Card Distribution in December

Motion/Second N.DeWitt and A.Gray to use the food & utility assistant December's approved list for the second payment for food from 3 bears. All in favor motion carried.

I.8. Donation

Motion/Second C.Williams and A.Gray to authorize \$250 death expense to Joe Williams Jr. family for death expenses for his daughter Stephanie. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: A.Gray, C.Williams; NO VOTE: C.Denny, M.DeWitt, T.Swink, N.DeWitt; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion failed.

I.9. Elder Council Advisory Position

Motion/Second C.Denny and A.Gray to reconsider the agenda and add Elder Council Advisory Position. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion/Second C.Denny and A.Gray to appoint Delina Mahi as the Elder Advisory Representative position to the Council. Discussed was advertising this position and the youth advisor position through distributing a flyer and on the facebook page on Saxman Village news

page. Voice vote taken and the motion failed. Staff was directed to distribute a flyer and advertise on Facebook. The notice will call for a letter of interest.

J. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

J.1. Food Committee Report

BACKGROUND: The Food Committee met on December 5, 2024. The Committee reviewed the Financial Report and planned how to proceed with reconciliation. The Committee Report is included in the packet (Exhibit J#1)

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEXT MEETING DATES

January 6, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

N. PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL'S COMMENTS

Amos Gray asked for a copy of OVS' Constitution & Bylaws. N.DeWitt, Tribal Secretary said she would email it to him. Amos asked for the date of The BIA Provider's Conference next year as he would like to plan so he can attend.

Nora DeWitt thanked Amos for being on the Council. She thanked Deanna for her attendance & input. She expressed her appreciation on all the information and discussion.

Caryl Williams thanked Amy for stepping up and accepting the job of Tribal Administrator. She said Amy has been a blessing for us as she is bringing things back to our table and we are getting a handle on things. She expressed appreciation for the teamwork everyone is doing.

Chuck Denny said it was good to see a full Council at the meeting, felt there was good discussion and debate and is looking forward to the meeting.

President Joe Williams Jr. thanked Amos and welcomed him aboard. President Williams explained what is said at the table remains here and we will always be relatives and friends. He said in our community we have strong opinions and felt it was good to express our opinions. He advised Amos he was the youngest person on the Council and he is the future of this community. President Williams thanked Delina for attending the meeting and making comments. He stated he appreciates all of the Council and felt there was good interaction. He encouraged all Councilmember's attendance at the Provider's Conference. He expressed his appreciation for the support given when his daughter passed. He asked Rural Cap to look into people who pass away and have difficulty getting home. He appreciated the Council's patience and appreciates the Council presence. He stated he is looking forward to the retreat.

It was announced the Christmas party is at Jeremiah's and RSVP has to be provided by tomorrow 20th at 5 pm.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second C.Denny and M.DeWitt to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by Nora DeWitt: Nora DeWitt

Signed by President Joe Williams Jr.: Joe Williams Jr. Date: 1/6/25