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ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN
MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 5, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

A.CALL TO ORDER 6:03 PM by President Joe Williams Jr.
B. PRAYER By Nora DeWitt

C. ROLL CALL: By Mariya Williams
CODE: E=Excused; UE=Unexcused; P=Present; Z=Zoom

President Joe Williams Jr.	P	Secretary Nora DeWitt	P
Vice President Amos Gray	P	Treasurer Chuck Denny	P
Councilmember Trudi Swink	P	Councilmember Mike DeWitt	P
Councilmember Kayla Williams	Ex	Elder Advisor Dena Mahi	E
Youth Advisor – Vacant			

OTHERS PRESENT: Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne, Mayor Frank Seludo, and Tribal Administrative Assistant Mariya Williams.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS
Mayor Frank Seludo said there is going to be a Townhall Meeting on Tuesday January 20th to update the community about housing and water.
Housing
The maximum rent is twelve hundred dollars and the maximum for utilities is two hundred and eighty dollars. The apartment manager and staff is double checking everything first time around. The applicants are a work in progress. Checking the value of assets versus income i.e.; Boat, land, car and income.

Water rate study – August 2025
The study was sent out to the community, and it states a 32% increase. That does not include sewer charges paid to the borough. Which approximately is eighty-nine thousand a year. To fix the pipe the city needs an engineer plan approved from D.E.C. for 10 inch pipe in back road. Water line wasn't approved by D.E.C. 2" pvc pipe is brittle. Stanleys property needs a pipe that also services adjacent house. Public meeting on Tuesday January 20th to talk about water and housing. Rounded up the water rate study to 35% because council has to decide how to handle the 32%. Page 15 and 16 in the study that was sent out to all residences shows budget when water study was completed. Notices will go out in July 2026 and reminders of water rates going up. Mayor Seludo said they are looking for grants to help cover costs and there is a 20-year restriction of these homes unless the City pays off the project sooner. A few things still needed on the project which include installing a fence on the outer perimeter to prevent falls from a 10 foot drop on the corner.

Old Salvation Army Church
Councilmember Gray asked what is being done with the Salvation Army. Mayor Seludo said they are looking to turn that property into a rental. A.Gray spoke about the need for daycare with all of the new housing units being built this would be a need for Saxman. He stated the day care he uses, AVG, is closing and those children will need daycare.

Added Housing Projects
Councilmember Swink asked is Saxman ready for the influx of water for 28 more people using water. Mayor Seludo said yes. Mayor Seludo explained there were 38 more housing units being built and they are privately owned. This project would fall under commercial or possibly under personal.

Tribal Administrator asked if the costs are supplemented? Mayor Seludo hoped it is divided but they are double checking applicants compared to the guidelines and restrictions for low-income housing for the 20 year restriction.

Frank Seludo said due to the water conservation and cold weather snap that it is best to drip water but not run too heavy because the water levels are currently low.
President Williams asked about the "No Parking Signs" status for the winter months? Mayor Seludo said it is in progress.

E. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda C.Denny. Seconded by A.Gray. All in Favor, motion carried. C.Denny added to add New Business I.4. Council attendance and policies.

F. CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

F.1. Meeting Minutes June 26, 2025 KIC and OVS -Defer for next meeting or just remove "for"
F.2. Meeting Minutes September 5, 2025 Strategic Plan Q2 -need signed
F.3 Meeting Minutes Q3 Unsigned Draft
F.4 Meeting Minutes December 1, 2025
F.5 Meeting Minutes December 15, 2025

N. DeWitt asked to pull F.5 for corrections. - Change Page 8 – Second, NCAI Claim. Roll Call Vote written incorrectly. Doesn't say which way roll call vote went. Next motion for two uber trips. No Second to the motion. And the motion failed. Change the wording. It's correct but worded wrong.

Motioned to approve F.2 and F.4. by Chuck Denny and Second by Amos Gray. All in favor, motion carried.

December 15th - Change Page 8 – Second, NCAI Claim. Roll Call Vote written incorrectly. Doesn't say which way roll call vote went. Next motion for two uber trips. No Second to the motion. And the motion failed. Change the wording. Its correct but worded wrong.

F.1. minutes need to be done ASAP. – Comment by President Williams it's important to get the minutes done and correct in a timely manner and not have any issues if we are audited. Schedule time with Nora DeWitt to meet regarding minutes. Nora noted that there should be no concern about the Auditor because the past Tribal administrative assistant was behind for over a year and wasn't addressed in the audit.

G. STAFF REPORTS

G.1. Tribal Administrator Report – Amy DeTienne
Amy DeTienne said Schmolck did call to service the furnace at Wolf but hasn't looked at it yet.
The property across from Joe Thomas' home (on Bear Clan) has to go through a public bidding process and the City of Saxman has put in a bid. The listing was incorrectly posted and had to go out for a public bidding process and start all over again. The decision will be made by Jan. 20th.

Motion to approve by C. Denny seconded by Amos Gray. Question called; All in favor, motion carried.

G.2. President Report – Joseph Williams – Defer until next meeting.

G.3. Social Worker – Jackie Johnson – No report from Jackie

G.4. IGAP – Florence McGilton – No report from Florence.

H. OLD BUSINESS

H.1. Wolf Street Property
BACKGROUND: Clean up continues. Phone poll attached.
Attached is copies of phone poll that happened from the council regarding testing of wolf street property. Three phone polls are included in the packet. Only one is regarding Wolf Street property. Need a motion to approve the phone poll. State date in the future. Date how many yes's and how many no's. Motion was made at the last meeting. 12/15/25.

Motion to accept the back up by Nora DeWitt. Seconded by Amos Gray. All in favor, motion carried.

H.2. IGAP/Green Star Community Rating – Alaska Forum
BACKGROUND: Travel in February.

Governance schedule was provided in packet. Travel needs to be booked.

Motion to authorize travel for IGAP/Green Star Community meeting in February to send Joe and Florence. Including, car rental, hotel, airfare and per diem for travel for attendance all week long.

Motion made by Nora DeWitt and Seconded by Amos Gray. Feb 1st to 6th 2026. Motion made by Chuck Denny seconded by Amos Gray for days. IGAP to pay for trip.

All in favor. ROLL CALL VOTE; YES Amos Gray, Nora DeWitt, Trudi Swink, Mike DeWitt. No VOTES: 0; MOTION PASSES.

H.3. Haa Kusteeyix Bank Account
BACKGROUND: Bank Account was set up correctly and the $500 transferred.
Councilmembers Gray and Williams will have to sign at the bank to fix incorrect bank account. In the tribal administrators report, $5000 dollars given was put in bank account. Asked if the $10,000 was sent and The funds have not yet been received from Mrs. Fairbanks.

H.4. Health Services Committee
BACKGROUND: A meeting is needed.
A.DeTienne reported N.DeWitt sent the document KIC requested.

H.5. FCC Broadband
BACKGROUND: A meeting is needed.

H.4. and H.5. is a filler when update is on. Check to see if letter regarding Health Service Committee was sent and update by next meeting.

H.6. Providers Conference
BACKGROUND: Still on hold as of 12/31/2025.
Still on hold, not happening in 2025. Will report if there is a 2026 conference.

H.7. Forest Plan Revision Letter
BACKGROUND: On behalf of Tlingit & Haida, we are pleased to share a **draft Cultural Tree Management Plan** for your review and feedback. This draft and its associated materials are intended for consideration in the revised Land Management Plan for the Tongass National Forest and reflect a commitment to the stewardship and long-term protection of culturally important trees and priority habitat within our homeland forests.

Alliance meeting covered it. Amy read the resolution regarding Forest plan.

Recess at 7:21 PM. President called for a recess. Meeting resumed at 7:24 PM.

A. DeTienne read the resolution regarding the Forest plan and a survey was sent out today. To gain more indigenous knowledge so then Shenna can draft and update the document and resend it. N.DeWitt expressed concern about exposing areas used for customary and traditional use and having the non-native community finding this out and then going into these areas and depleting the sources. She questioned how confidential would the information be. Tlingit & Haida is requesting comments on their document. The Alliance is covering what was read and they too are seeking comment.

M.DeWitt asked how to get there again to protect the cedar. He said this is not like the spruce root where you have to go up north to get. He asked how to replicate a 40 ft tall pole like we used to when we had giant trees that could be used. Now it's hard to find such a tree. We won't have cedar for all the projects our people want to do. He emphasized how important this document is.

H.8. Supporting Tribal Workforce Growth
BACKGROUND: Building a workforce training course for our community to incorporate into services OVS offers. Left this item on so we don't lose sight of it. There is a Water Treatment Level 1 and 2 class being offered at the end of January, beginning of February. This information should be provided to our citizens.

President Williams commented training for Saxman residents on maintenance is absolutely necessary. He called upon the council to work diligently on reaching out and letting people know about training opportunity.

Councilmember Gray is interested in attending training and will follow up confirmation if available to take training in Juneau.

H.9. THRHA
BACKGROUND: 2025 Annual Self Monitor Report in packeThe report was discussed and concern was expressed about the need to follow up on OVS properties, rentals, project updates and housing plan. This report exposes non-compliant issues and concerns.

H.10. ICDBG
BACKGROUND: The Council needs to pass a motion to accept the phone poll report and vote. Two phone polls on ICDBG grant.

Motion to approve original and amended phone poll regarding ICDBG. Motioned by Amos Gray. Seconded by Nora DeWitt. All in favor motion carried.

H.11. 105L Program
BACKGROUND: It was stated OVS need to be working on this and get it submitted as soon as possible. Keep this on the agenda for status updates.
Amy DeTienne said she will work on next week. It will be a lengthy process but OVS needs to get the official application completed. She said she was told it would be in our best interest to submit this application in our own name, thus owning the process.

H.12. Schoolhouse Property Transfer
BACKGROUND: The City of Saxman has given the schoolhouse property to OVS, and the Committee will work with Administration and the City to ensure the transfer is done.
It was suggested to have the Committee work with the City of Saxman and Amy DeTienne to help get this done. It is best to keep it on the agenda to get it moving and accomplish transfer this year.

H.13. OVS Withdrawal From CCTHITA/ Title 1 Contract with BIA
BACKGROUND: OVS has extended this action for another six months and needs to plan this transition.
A.DeTienne reiterated we do have our own contract with BIA for the JOM Program. Once decided, items will be added. She will do the drawdown and the Committee can meet to plan the budget and look at service numbers. The other decision is which programs does OVS want to take over. Would it be ICWA, scholarships, etc. In taking over financial assistance OVS needs to be careful because the allocation of funds may not be enough.

Six month Holding pattern. Government so far behind. See what past looks like to then determine future. Get information.

Chuck Denny, Nora DeWitt, Amos Gray, Trudi Swink – Committee for BIA and anyone else that would like to. Amos Gray is chair.

H.14. JOM Program
BACKGROUND: Funds were drawn down for the JOM Program. The Committee needs to meet with Tribal Administrator to develop this program.
A.DeTienne stated she did a drawdown of $10,000 and there is about $27,000 left.
The JOM Committee is Amos Gray, Mike DeWitt, Trudi Swink, and Delina Mahi.

H.15. Pentecostal Property
BACKGROUND: The property was given to OVS, but payment needs to be made and the property sale documented. How does OVS want to proceed?

Reluctant to work until deed is transferred. Joseph Williams will contact the realtor and start conveyance paperwork. Sharli Arntzen charges a 3% fee and the sellers pays the fee. The fee can be taken out of the seller proceeds. Concern was expressed in using Tlingit & Haida to do the conveyance paperwork as the last service on the Corpuz property was lengthy and drawn out.

It was suggested the Housing Committee set up a meeting with Sharli Arntzen.

H.16. Parking Lot Lights
BACKGROUND: At the last meeting the lighting in the back was not adequate and Council asked to have this addressed. Rick Makua is out of town until late January. This item will be added to Robert DeWitt's list.
The Tribal Administrator will call to ask how to fix lights.

H.17. Flag design
BACKGROUND: The Committee met and chose two designs for the Council to select and the artist needs to submit them. Also, the artist is requesting payment.
Motion to use bear/eagle design on page 2 by C.Denny with black used on Totem Park outline. Second by M.DeWitt. Council wanted to see the design with the lettering surrounding the circle. Question called, all in favor, motion carried.

Council discussed the contest was for a design for the flag, but now we want to use the design as a logo, place on letterhead and other items. Question arose in fairness to the artist it would seem correct to compensate the artist for the additional use. President Williams asked to have the flag ready for his next trip to Washington D.C.

*On next agenda for letterhead payment. Include email for payment. Blurb on the artist. When the flag goes to Washington DC.

H.18. OVS Financial Report & Budget Presentation
BACKGROUND: 2023 audit is complete. 2024 budget needs to be presented for final closeout and then the audit can be completed. 2025 budget needs to be developed, presented. Once done the close out of fiscal year 2025 can be done and the audit scheduled. For 2026 the budget needs to be developed and until this is done a continuing resolution needs to be submitted before 1/1/2026.

N.DeWitt suggests two meetings a week, with the 3rd meeting held on a Saturday. The Committee needs to meet until its done. The need of having a 2026 budget available as soon as possible. On the 7th and 8th meeting at 5:30 pm start time. Start at 2 pm. Amos will catch up. Meet on the 16th depending on progress on the 8th.

Motion to have barebones spending for the month of January to February to keep tribal office running, including paying all office needs, salaries and wages. Motion made by Nora DeWitt. Second by Amos Gray. All in favor motion carried.
Defer to next meeting Joseph Williams.

ROLL CALL VOTE YES; Amos Gray, Trudi Swink, Nora DeWitt, Mike DeWitt. 0 VOTE NO. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1. Governance Schedule
BACKGROUND: A schedule for OVS is attached. Conferences and events are listed as are holidays. Please review for additions and or corrections.

Amy DeTienne said, she created a calendar encompassing the City of Saxman, OVS, Cape Fox and Ketchikan on this calendar. This would give each one respect, so we can try not to have conflicting dates. The calendar cited Holidays, regular meetings, travels IGAP coordinator and Joseph Williams, possible conferences, including strategic planning. She said she is looking for suggestions and anything forgotten or that needs to be added. It was suggested to add Grand Camp sometime in October the first weekend following the first Sunday which would be the 10th, 11th and 12th. He said they can only get TFCC on 15th and 16th but cannot have traditional foods at Ted Ferry Civic Center, so this will be at the Saxman red hall for that night. Then to update monthly would be great to happen for each meeting . Council member asked if anyone was going to Alaska Municipal League. Approve everything asap. Don't want to wait a month before. Council concurred to approve travel now.

Tribal Transportation: M/2 AG and CD to send President J.Williams to the Tribal Transportation meeting on January 25th through 30th and to pay airfare, hotel, transportation, perdiem and conference fees. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: AG, ND, CD, TS, MD; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passes.

NCAI: M/2 AG and CD to send President J.Williams and Vice President A.Gray with N.DeWitt as the alternate to attend NCAI winter session on February 8th through 14th and to pay airfare, hotel, transportation, perdiem and conference fees. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: AG, ND, CD, TS, MD; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passes.

REZ 2026: M/2 CD & AG to send President J.Williams, C.Denny and N.DeWitt to Rez 2026 Economic Development Conference on March 22nd through the 28th and to pay airfare, hotel, transportation, perdiem, handicap scooter for N.DeWitt and conference fees. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: AG, ND, CD, TS, MD; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passes. C.Denny advised he had a Cape Fox Corporation board of directors meeting on the 27th so will not be able to attend the full conference but can attend a portion of it.

Another item for the Governance Schedule is February 16th the Elizabeth Peratrovich Proclamation given at Kayhi. The President or Vice President usually attends.

I.2. ANTHC Cooperative Project Agreement
BACKGROUND: Funding made available through IHS or EPA Tribal to purchase a generator for the Saxman water plant.

Motion to accept presentation of tribal cooperative project agreement by C.Denny. Second by A.Gray. FYI to what was agreed to. All in favor, motion carried.

I.3. OVS Roads Program
BACKGROUND: This program needs to be explained, understood and developed. How does OVS want to proceed?
Nora DeWitt said to keep the roads committee moving along. Find out all questions. Become more knowledgeable about it and find out status of roads money. The committee can get together and Joseph Williams can do a presentation.

I.4. Council Attendance and policies
BACKGROUND: What is the policy on monthly stipend when attending two meetings versus excused and unexcused absences.
Chuck Denny says it would be good to have the council follow through on procedures and keep it up to date. This was directed to the Policy Committee

J. COUNCIL COMMITTEES
J.1. Start-up Committee This is the Transition Committee and there is $200,000 to set up the office to start these programs.

J.2. Flag Committee This committee has completed all tasks and the flag design is chosen.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION None
L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

M. NEXT MEETING DATE(S)
M.1. January 19, 2026

Mayor Seludo stated at the City they have a youth group started. The City has set aside 8% of the building rentals for cultural related activities and this goes into the youth fund for travel. He stated they should be having a quarter 4 meeting the last week of February. Also a CDC meeting will be scheduled soon. He discussed that last summer they did the summer youth employment program and they had 5 workers. He suggested if this is something OVS wants to get going now is the time to plan.

N. COUNCIL/PRESIDENTS COMMENTS
None recorded.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting by C.Denny and seconded by A.Gray. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

TA Assistant Mariya Williams: Mariya Williams

President Joseph Williams: Joe Williams Jr.

OVS Meeting Date Approved: 03-17-26

Handouts not in the packet but distributed at the meeting:

Exhibit D#1 entitled: "City of Saxman Water and Sewer Rate Study"

Exhibit H.7.b entitled: Alliance of Sovereign Tribes of Southeast Alaska to underscore the urgent need for meaningful protection and access to cultural trees and traditional timber resources, etc....