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**ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – FEBRARY 3, 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Joe Williams Jr. in the meeting room of Saxman Tribal Offices. Zoom was available.

**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	Z	Councilmember Mike DeWitt	P
Councilmember Trudi Swink	P		

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne and Delina Mahi.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS** None

**E. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

Motion/Second C.Williams and M.DeWitt to accept the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**F.1. January 22, 2025** – Regular meeting minutes (Exhibit F.1)

Motion/Second C.Williams and M.DeWitt to approve the consent agenda items. All in favor, motion carried.

**G. STAFF REPORTS**

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

Jackie Johnson is out of Town until February 13<sup>th</sup>. Her report is deferred.

**G.2. Maintenance Supervisor's Report** – Rick Makua

The written report (Exhibit G.2) from Maintenance Supervisor Rick Makua was distributed. It was explained Mike Simpson is helping at the water plant as the ANTHC Representative Sarah was in Saxman to help with the problems at the water treatment plant. This expense will be paid with IGAP Grant funds.

Motion/Second C.Williams and M.DeWitt to accept the Maintenance Supervisor's Report. All in favor, motion carried.

**G.3. Tribal Administrator's Report** – Amy DeTienne

Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne reported the following:

- Travel for strategic planning meetings was done and the hotel arrangements are made.
- She is working with the Saxman City Clerk to finish up on the list of presenters and the agenda.

- All Council Member's tablets are up and going.
- IGAP Coordinator Florence McGilton is in Anchorage attending the IGAP meetings.
- Florence advised Amy she is sending a list of prospective funding opportunities.
- On Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> she and President Williams will have the opportunity to attend a meeting with IGAP representatives that are responsible for funding water projects.
- The Policy Committee met and they have started the review of OVS policies.
- She is reviewing the 2024 strategic plan to allow a measurement of how OVS is progressing.
- This program will be discussed during the strategic planning meetings.
- The Connex has been placed on OVS property located on Eagle and Totem Row. Tlingit & Haida (T&H) supplies have been relocated to the Connex.
- There is a temporary hold on releasing federal funds but she has gone online and requested the IGAP reimbursements and also set up a payment schedule for these funds.
- A drawdown was done on the energy grant funds and she set up a payment schedule to keep a scheduled transfer of these grant funds.
- She is focusing on strategic planning to ensure it flows smoothly and is productive.
- The facilitator is CCTHITA President Richard Peterson.
- It was suggested to discuss more funding opportunities at the strategic planning meeting and land for the wood mizer.

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

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

President Williams reported the following:

- Met with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regarding the Corpuz property (next to Kushnick home) and he signed a document that was holding up the process. He advised the recent actions of President Donald Trump has slowed down the action of the BIA and the transfer could take as much as six months. He said he spoke with them on the need to have the property cleared and also thought he needed to ask them to put up corner posts on the property. The BIA gave assurance once able they will get moving on this.
- He also met with ETIPP Tidal Action grantor and the preliminary study is done and they found that the tidal movement here is not sufficient enough to generate electricity. This brought about the question of what will happen to the balance of funds generated. President Williams stated he talked with Jerry and Jerry believes the balance should go back to the Tribe, but this is a Sieman's decision. President Williams said this letter was drafted and these funds will be the property of OVS. President Williams noted this is the funds that have been earmarked for the retreat.
- He reported he was re-elected as Chair of Rural Cap and they agreed to fund his trip to Washington D.C. as he will represent all the Tribes Rural Cap services. Rural Cap funded all of the expenses except for his per diem. He asked the Council to approve per diem for this trip.
- Met with Amy and talked about the agenda for the retreat.
- Met with Santana Gay who is the IGAP person and OVS requested at least 10 million to fund Saxman water pipes. Santana advised it would be good for Saxman representatives to go to Anchorage and meet the funding representatives and they will be discussing funding needs. She advised OVS can use IGAP funding for this travel. He felt this was a good opportunity to secure funding for this water/sewer project.
- KIC President hasn't contacted OVS President Joe Williams regarding the Broadband.

- Met with Brad Angasan regarding the Broadband Consortium through Alaska Village Initiatives (AVI) and Brad told him he did not see online where OVS got the license. Brad also reported that he could not find the record of the 1.2 to 1.9 million Cape Fox Corporation received for the broadband.
- He will set up a meeting with KPU for him and Amy to meet with them,

Motion/Second C.Williams and A.Gray to reconsider the agenda to add per diem for NCAI Conference in Washington D.C. as agenda item New Business I.3. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion/Second C.Williams and M.DeWitt to accept President Williams's verbal report. All in favor, motion carried.

## **H. OLD BUSINESS**

### **H.1. Youth and Elder Advisory Positions**

**BACKGROUND:** These two advisory positions appointments is deferred to the next meeting. M.DeWitt suggested OVS consider setting aside funds for the Elder and Youth Advisors to attend the Youth/Elder Conference with Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Conference.

### **H.2. Broadband Negotiation Planning Session Will & Joe**

**BACKGROUND:** A letter was reviewed at the Broadband Committee meeting and the letter was authorized to be sent to KIC. There has not been a response to the letter and a joint meeting has been requested. President J.Williams stated he will reach out to the new President of KIC.

### **H.3. Corpuz Land Purchase (adjacent to Kushnick's property) - President J.Williams Jr.**

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

This was noted in the President's report. He reported the BIA gave the Kushnick Family 10 days to remove their stuff off this property.

### **H.4. Withdrawal from CCTHITA**

**BACKGROUND:** This is status quo and there is no update.

### **H.5. Resolution ARPA Budget Modifications 2024 - Defer to next meeting**

**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.

### **H.6. Website/Network Project Training Opportunities**

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

Tribal Administrator A.DeTienne reported OVS Consultant Russell has been working on Council and staff's tablets and they are all up and running. She is pleased with the progress and the next stage is to plan the website. She suggested the Council consider a logo for the website and to also consider a design for an OVS flag. This is deferred to the next meeting.

**H.7. Schoolhouse Building Repair Request for the City of Saxman –** This has been deferred to Strategic Planning meeting.

**BACKGROUND:** The stairs, porch and bell tower need 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.

#### **H.8. OVS Policy Project**

**BACKGROUND:** The Policy Committee met and established a priority of policies to be worked on. The #1 policy is the Election Policy (Exhibit H.8), and this is prepared for the Council's review and approval. The following priorities for policy review & development is as follows:

1. Election Policy
2. Budget/Finance Policy
3. Council Rules & Procedures & Travel Policy
4. Constitution Policy
5. Enrollment (noted to ensure a review once established done on a monthly or quarterly basis)
6. Personnel
7. Procurement
8. Audit/Internal Controls
9. Management Systems & Standards
10. COVID 19 Funeral Policy
11. Technology Policy
12. TERO
13. Food Preservation Equipment Loan Policy
14. Records Retention

This Committee agreed to meet every Thursday.

#### **H.9. STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT – JUNEAU, AK.**

**BACKGROUND:** The Council's of OVS and the City of Saxman (COS) will have a Strategic Planning Retreat in Juneau to meet with various agencies in Juneau (CCTHITA, THRHA, BIA, Alaska Department of Roads etc.) This is being planned but the Council can still request presenters.

#### **I. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1.1. Election Ordinance Revised**

**BACKGROUND:** The Policy Committee meet and made changes to the Election Ordinance. These changes are presented for Council's approval (Exhibit I.1). This is deferred to the next scheduled meeting.

##### **1.2. Council Committee Listing**

**BACKGROUND:** The Committee List is presented for Council review and approval. Councilmember Amos Gray will replace the appointments that Carrie Denny served on. C.Denny asked Amos to be on the Woodmizer Committee and this was approved.

The following is the complete list of appointments:

DATE	OVS COUNCIL COMMITTEE	Caryl	Chuck	Amos	Joe	Mike	Nora	Trudi
2/3/2025	Audit Committee			X	X	X		
7/8/2024	Community Dev.	X	X				X	
2/3/2025	Constitution	X	Chair	X			X	
7/22/2024	Daanaa Saati (CDC)	X					X	X
7/8/2024	Economic	Chair				X	X	X
2/3/2025	Enrollment	X	X	X			Chair	
7/8/2024	EPA - IGAP					X	Chair	X
7/8/2002	Finance	X	Chair				X	X
7/8/2024	Food Grant	X					Chair	X
1/8/2024	Food Card ARPA Financial Assistance	X					X	Chair
2/5/2025	Grants				X		Chair	X
6/24/2024	Housing	X				X	Chair	
2/3/2025	IEA Committee			Rep		Alternate		
7/22/2024	KIC/OVS Health	Alternate					Rep.	
6/24/2024	Land Purchase					X	Chair	X
7/8/2024	Negotiations				Chair	X	X	X
7/8/2024	Policy	X	X			X	Chair	X
2/3/2025	Roads		Chair	X		X		
8/5/2024	Schoolhouse Rental Cte	X				X	Chair	
7/8/2024	TERO		X			X	Chair	
2/3/2025	Transboundary		Chair	X		X		
2/3/2025	Wood Mizer		Chair	X		X		X

The Tribal Secretary N.DeWitt will make these changes and send this out to the Council. Although the Food Committee's duties are done this cannot be closed until they review the final computer printouts, grant financial and close out report.

### **I.3. Per Diem for President Williams To attend NCAI Tribal Leaders Conference in Washington D.C.**

Motion/Second C.Williams and C.Denny to authorize per diem to President Joe Williams for his trip on February 10<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> to Washington D.C. to attend the Tribal Leaders/NCAI meetings in Washington, D.C. Also to include two travel days and use the Sieman's Grant funding (6 days at \$408.00). Roll call vote taken as follows: YES VOTE: C.Williams, A.Gray, T. Swink, C.Denny, M.DeWitt and N.DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passes.

**J. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**J.1. January 27, 2025 – Broadband Committee Meeting**

Notes of this meeting is included in the meeting packet (Exhibit J.1)

**J.2. January 30, 2025 Policy Committee workshop**

Notes of this meeting is included in the meeting packet (Exhibit J.2).

Council concurred to change the name of this Committee to Policy/Ordinance Committee as this Committee will work on policies and ordinance.

**K. EXECUTIVE SESSION** None

**L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

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

February 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm - Regular Meeting

Strategic Planning Retreat in Juneau February 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

Policy Workshop on Thursdays February 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

**N. PRESIDENT AND COUNCILS' COMMENTS**

A.Gray apologized for not being in person and is still working on a schedule for child care.

M.DeWitt stated this meeting shows the committee meetings meeting prior is working. He is looking forward to things moving forward. He thanked everyone for their due diligence in preparing for the meeting and participating.

C.Williams thought this was the best OVS meeting she has been to. She asked everyone to show up for the Committee meetings.

N.DeWitt stated her appreciation for the work of the Council and Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne.

President J.Williams stated his appreciation of the Council's participation in the Committee meetings and explained this will make our meetings shorter and more efficient and less. He expressed his excitement about the strategic planning meetings in Juneau.

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion/Second C.Denny and C.Williams to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Submitted By: Nora DeWitt  
Prepared by: Nora DeWitt, Secretary

Signed by: Joe Williams Jr.  
President Joe Williams Jr.

Date of Meeting: 1/22/25  
Council Approved