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ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN – MINUTES - APRIL 13, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER by President Joe Williams Jr.

B. PRAYER 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 Amos Gray	P	Treasurer Chuck Denny	P
Councilmember Trudi Swink	P	Councilmember Mike DeWitt	P
Councilmember Kayla Williams	P	Elder Advisor Dena Mahi	P
Youth Advisor – Vacant			

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

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS None

E. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

M/2 C.Denny and M.DeWitt to accept agenda. Items added were I.2 Election, I.3. Enrollment, H.22. AFN Report of those that have not yet given their reports, the next meeting of April 22, I.4. Graduating Seniors, and M.2 Joint City of Saxman and OVS Council Meeting. Question called, all in favor, motion carried.

F. CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL OF MINUTES All minutes deferred.

F.1. Meeting Minutes February 2, 2026

F.2. Meeting Minutes February 17, 2026

F.3. Meeting Minutes March 2, 2026

F.4. Meeting Minutes Q3 2025 COS and OVS

F.5. F.4. Meeting Minutes Q1 2026 COS and OVS

G. STAFF REPORTS

G.1. Tribal Administrator and All Administrative (Building Supervisor, IGAP, and Finance) Reports – Amy DeTienne, Tribal Administrator (Exhibit G.1)

Amy reported the nonprofit paperwork is done and gave an update on trying to acquire a Bank of America credit card. She will meet on April 16th with the auditors on completing the 2024 and 2025 audits.

M/2 C.Denny and M.DeWitt to approve the Tribal Administrator's report. All in favor, motion carried.

G.2. President Report – Joseph Williams (Exhibit G.2 – Trip Report 3/22-28 THRHA meeting in Juneau)

Joe stated he turned in his report on his other meetings and it will be included in the next meeting packet. He presented his travel report. Both President Williams and City Administrator/Mayor Seludo held a

State of Saxman public meeting on Saturday, April 11th at 10am. The meeting lasted for two hours and was well attended. They met with Commission Ryan and Assistant Jill discussing Saxman Road concerns. They said they have access to ferries and the State may be able to bring a ferry down to assist with housing for the Canoe Journey 2027. They noted this is a busy time of year and they will see what they can do to make an extra run from Bellingham to Ketchikan to bring the lower 48 people up for the canoe landing. This will be an international event as not only will Southeast Alaska and Washington Tribes attend but folks will be coming from Canada. President Williams reported his discussion on the roundabout installation requested on the turn off to 3 Bears grocery and explained they suggested making this a part of the boat harbor project. They will need to get the plans done and in order to do this they need to see the old harbor plans. This would also include the bridge development desired and the State office can draw up the plans. Also discussed the problems we are having with drainage and plugged culverts. The Commission noted there is another pool of \$120 million funding for the harbor and as long as we get a map to them they can do the design for us. It was thought Southeast Conference is the original holder of the harbor plans. Mayor Seludo reported City Clerk Ginger McCormick suggested when the State tears up the roads for repair they should include anything built under the roads and this should be replaced. Commission Ryan was receptive to this and thought this could be included as a part of the assessment.

Amy reported Harvey Shields came to the office and wanted to know when OVS would be letting the clan leaders and the dancer groups know about the canoe journey. He thought it would be good to include them so they can help too. He thought OVS should create an invitation to our communities, so they have time to plan their travel. City Clerk Ginger McCormick will have a very informal invite drafted so when the Saxman IRA Council travels to Sitka for the Tribal Leaders meetings they can give them.

Amy reported OVS set up an email for the Canoe Journey 2027 to have one point of contact and the address is canoe2027@saxman.gov. On April 29th there will be a community meeting and a list of the committees available so people can sign up.

Amy reported OVS grant writer Ken has applied for a grant through the Rasmusson Foundation and it is for traditional foods for canoe journey, with a plan to build a smoke house to start smoking fish. Also, the Mayor and OVS President will be meeting with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (KGB) to request the use of Fawn Mountain school for possible use of area as a camp ground.

G.3. Social Worker – Jackie Johnson (Exhibit G.3) No questions.

G.4. Travel Reports

President Joe Williams presented his verbal report on the Tribal Self Governance Conference he, Chuck, Amy, Mariya and Jeanette attended. They all attended various breakout sessions, and he attended one on artificial intelligence, advancing and addressing tribal priorities to Washington D.C., 105L program, building tribal workforce, self-governance data base training and federal contracting. He said next year when they go to Washington D.C. they need to be sure they have appointments set up before the trip is made. The deadline for the 105L program submission is the end of this year. The lady that works on these lives in Eagle River and it is hoped they will be able to meet with her at the AFN or Provider's Conference. Some ideas he mentions for the 105L program funds is the bingo operations, the new tribal operations program, mortgage payment of the tribal operations building if a loan is acquired. One item he learned is not to hire federal government employees as you will have to pay their retirement and vacation benefit expenses. It is better to hire employees as new hires. They met with HHS Director of Strategic Initiatives, and the Secretary of HHS R.F.Kennedy. Secretary Kennedy's presentation was a typical

political report and was vague and hard to listen to. He sat in on the DOI listening session, but the items discussed did not pertain to Alaska. President Williams stated there were a lot of federal leadership present and one of them was Senator Cruz. There was a question and answer session with DOI Assistant Secretary Kirkland regarding the plans for the future of DOI. President Williams invited them to the Tribal Leaders Roundtable meeting in Sitka so they can hear the challenges of the Tribes in Southeast Alaska. President Williams stated he attended the self-governance data base training but most of the questions were from the lower 48 tribes. He requested a copy of the Self-Determination act for federal contracting and assistance to see if OVS would like to participate as a tribe. This will be in addition to what CFC is doing and possibly contract out of Saxman rather than the east coast. Council member M.DeWitt said he thought ADA contracting was slowing down and may now require new applicants to mentor with another ADA contractor. He said maybe CFC would be willing to mentor OVS.

H. OLD BUSINESS

H.1. Federal Subsistence Management Program Review (Exhibit H.1)

BACKGROUND: Comment period ended and a meeting was held to discuss the comments. Staff were out of town, so Tribal Administrator did not attend. Next meeting will be April 21-24th. N.DeWitt stated she attended via zoom. They discussed there were about 1,000 more comments that needed review and then counted either for or against the changes. They would know by the end of the month. The task force worked very hard on this and the deadline was March 30th and everyone was very tired. They want to continue the task force and meet twice a month to continue being on top of all the issues that are attacking Tribes.

Exhibit H.1 is an email giving a reminder of the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) meeting on April 21-24

H.2. Alliance of Sovereign Tribes of Southeast Alaska

BACKGROUND: April meeting was canceled. Will meet next month as scheduled.

H.3. Wolf Street Property

BACKGROUND: Committee to recommend contractor bid they chose.

Committee Chair K.Williams reported the Committee recommends going with the bid from 310 Builders and AJ Pattison, and not Barnacle Busters. Copies of the bids were provided to those that wanted them and it was mentioned these also were in the Council's packet last month.

- 310 Builders (Christian Bauer) bid is \$60,104.69 for everything but the kitchen.
- AJ Pattison bid is for \$27,492.70 is for the kitchen only. The appliances would be purchased separately by OVS.
- Barnacle Busters bid is \$308,047.22 and is for everything.

Committee members did not like the bid from Barnacle Busters as it did not include a breakdown nor any specifics about the bid. It was just a lump sum with brief description of work to be done. The other two broke down the costs of materials, labor and other project costs. The cost of wages was reasonable and broken down into hours and the hourly rate. The plan is to apply for a construction loan and use the rental fund to pay for the loan payments monthly.

M/S A.Gray and K.Williams to award the project to 310 Builders and AJ Pattison. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: A.Gray, N.DeWitt, C.Denny, K.Williams, M.DeWitt; NO VOTE: T.Swink; ABSTAINING VOTE: None. Motion passed.

H.4. FCC Broadband

BACKGROUND: KIC is requesting a meeting. Max from Tribal Ready needs the agreement to work with him signed.

Amy noted there are no prices listed in the contract but it calls for submitting authorizing documents before any purchases are made. She explained the contract is needed to give the contractor the ability to work with OVS. This was referred to the Broadband Committee, and they will meet on Friday, April 17th at 4:00 pm.

H.5. Forest Plan Community Meeting (Exhibit H.5)

BACKGROUND: President Williams attended this meeting and will provide a verbal recap. Comment period opens now through May 6th.

President Williams reported the Forest Service Employees nitpicked about where the park is going to be and the comment period ends May 6th.

H.6. Saxman Water Project (Exhibit H.6)

BACKGROUND: President Williams continues to work on this with the roads. Ken the grant writer also has been focused on this and is asking about the ANTHC funds and where we are with them.

President Williams reported the superintendent of the project will do the planning design and OVS needs to acquire the funds. Amy stated today she spoke with Murkowski's Legislative Correspondent, Matt Jones and they are trying to determine if we can use the State's revolving fund account. He said there is a 20% match which is \$340,000. The question is can OVS meet this match. Amy spoke with our grant writer Ken and the Denali funds can match this. She said we haven't heard from Elizabeth with ANTHC so don't know where we are at with this phase of the project.

H.7. Pentecostal Property

BACKGROUND: Sharli texted last Wednesday to have President Williams sign a waiver of sovereignty that the title agency is requesting. President Williams refused and issued a letter stating such. Sharli will take this back to the title agency.

President Williams stated he would not sign a sovereignty waiver and if they are not willing to do this we will move on to another agency.

H.8. 105L Program

BACKGROUND: The application will be submitted before the end of the month. The program needs to be applied for this fiscal year as the rules will be changing on the back date of applications. The 105L BIA staffing level is understaffed but they are making progress. OVS can utilize this program to build the offices that were planned for last year the IJT grant that wasn't funded.

Amy stated we need to get this done so we can backdate charges. She said she would like to look further into the program and acquire a construction loan, build the offices and use the 105L program to pay the loan. She stated she would like to work with the gal from Eagle River. This lady is willing to review our application and give us advice and tips.

H.9. OVS Withdrawal From CCTHITA/ Title 1 Contract with BIA (Exhibit H.9)

BACKGROUND: T&H would like a meeting in May to cover this.

There is \$155,382 Small Tribes Grant (STG) funds available. Council decided to meet with CCTHITA on May 20th or the 19th. Amy will confirm date.

Note: there is no agenda item H.10

H.11. Roads

BACKGROUND: Meeting will be held at 8 a.m. in Saxman on April 13th.

This meeting started at 9 AM and was reported on earlier in the meeting.

H.12. Census of Saxman (Exhibit H.12)

BACKGROUND: Review attached. Census needs to be done asap.

City Administrator/Mayor Frank Seludo stated the City plans to get this done. Amy advised the seniors will struggle with strangers and it would be good to have people the seniors know and she recommended Florence McGilton and Dena Mahi. These ladies work well with our elders. It was suggested to prepare a cover letter to take around with the census workers. The intent of this is to obtain a firm count of both the city and tribal citizens. It was agreed to distribute a flyer and post on facebook a notice that this census will be done in Saxman. The City plans to distribute the flyer tomorrow in the morning. It was suggested to also distribute the revised election notice.

H.13. Green Crab Detection and Management Workshop (Exhibit H.13)

BACKGROUND: April 20-23rd in Metlakatla. With Native American Fish & Wildlife Society. Please review the email in the packet

A reminder was given to send letter to Board of fisheries on green crab support shifting from Class A to Class B.

M/2 N.DeWitt and M.DeWitt to authorize the Tribal Administrator to write the letter to Board of Fisheries on classing green crab from Class A to Class B. All in favor, motion carried.

H.14. Round Tablet (Exhibit H.14)

BACKGROUND: Southeast Alaska Native Leaders Roundtable meeting in Sitka April 15-16, 2026. Those who will attend are Dena Mahai, Joe Williams and Chuck Denny. All have received their packets, agenda, hotel and transportation information.

H.15. Totem Poles

BACKGROUND: Part of Canoe Journey 2027. City of Saxman accepted the proposed Frog Wall design and will square off Totem Park with the new Frog Wall.

H.16. Traditional Foods

BACKGROUND: Mr. Bryant caught one seal on Wednesday April 2nd. 1 gallon of seal oil was obtained. OVS needs to have a committee meeting and invite Mr. Bryant to join in.

Amy suggested having a committee meeting and invite Chris to discuss how to run our own subsistence program. Look at finding a grant to handle this whole project. It was suggested to put a committee together (Traditional Foods Committee) just to handle this and organize this under the non-profit Haa Kusteeyix. The committee members are Amos, Chuck and Joe.

It was reported the city spent \$5900 to have herring eggs harvested and brought back to Saxman. It was asked OVS consider contributing \$5854.00 of the small grant we got for traditional foods. T.Swink suggested we also look at hunting deer and jarring this for the canoe landing event. The youth could be shown how to prepare and process the deer meat. It was discussed to approve 50% of cost of the herring egg harvest. Council member Nora DeWitt expressed concern in not being given the consideration to be a part of this project before it occurred, and to be fair consider paying a portion of the expenses Chris Bryant paid to do the seal hunting since these funds are available. The Council agreed to postpone this to the next meeting when accurate amounts are known.

H.17. Suicide Prevention Assembly

BACKGROUND: Events in Saxman will be held the end of April and beginning of May. In light of our recent loss, we would like to reach as many children as possible.

A group from Prince of Wales (POW) wants to bring in two professional basketball players to do a camp and get youth engaged, "Stay in the Game". The Council discussed the activities, the positive outcomes, and the support the youth would be gaining from this activity. There was concern with the need to have support after the events because when the support leaves the youth that are left still needs support and continuance of activities. This will be shared with the committee when they next meet.

H.21. OCS Community Experience

BACKGROUND: Holly would like to meet with Council in May to answer any questions and help to develop community events. Council will be contacted when this is scheduled.

H.22. AFN Trip Reports

President Williams would like all those that haven't given their reports to do so. Those reports are needed from youth representatives Xavior Dalton, Rosie Daniels, and Council members Nora DeWitt, Charles Denny and Kayla Williams.

I. NEW BUSINESS (Exhibit I.1)

I.1. NAHASDA

BACKGROUND: Seeking support of Co-sponsorship for NAHASDA modernization. M/2 N.DeWitt and M.DeWitt to authorize President J.Williams to sign the letter for co-sponsoring NAHASDA modernization. All in favor, motion carried.

I.2. Election 2026

It was reported the only person that filed was Joe Williams and that was for the office of president. It was discussed to extend the filing date and adjust the date absentee ballots would be available.

M/2 N.DeWitt and A.Gray to extend the candidacy filing date to April 17th with absentee ballots available on Monday April 20th. The revised election notice will be delivered door to door. All in favor, motion carried.

I.3. Enrollment Application

M/2 N.DeWitt and M.DeWitt to approve the Tribal Enrollment application and add the following: Are you enrolled in a federally recognized tribe other than Tlingit & Haida? If so where? Questioned called. All in favor, motion carried.

I.4. Graduating Seniors

Council agreed to give out the graduating senior applications and review and defer any further action to the next meeting. KIC tribal scholars program will be contacted to see who the graduating seniors are.

J. COUNCIL COMMITTEES

J.1. Start-up/Transition Committee Meeting- need a meeting.

This meeting involves the Constitution revisions. It is scheduled for April 20th at 4:30 pm.

J.2. Land Purchase & Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Need to check but it is believed these were placed in the last meeting packet.

J.3. Flag design and letterhead -need a meeting

This committee will meet on Monday, 4/27 at 1:00 pm. The committee members are Trudy Nora and Mike.

J.4. 2027 Canoe Planning (Exhibit J.4 a & b)

President J.Williams stated on April 29th the first community meeting dinner will be held regarding canoe journey 2027. This meeting will give an update on this project and seek committee volunteers. Amy mentioned the email that was set up for the canoe journey and asked to have all correspondence be sent to this address. She suggested those that will be actively involved with canoe journey 2027 to go down to the canoe journey 2026 to see how they do this ceremony. If checks are donated they can be made to Haa Kusteeyai and that will be where all cash is deposited.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION None

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

M. NEXT MEETING DATE(S)

M.1. April 27, 2026 will be the next OVS meeting

April 20th the Constitution Committee will meet at 4:30 pm

The Council will meet on April 27th for election certification

On April 28th at 1:00 pm the flag and letterhead committee will meet.

On May 4th the Council will hold their May regular meeting

The City of Saxman and OVS will meet in joint session on Tuesday, May 5th at 5:30 pm. at City Hall.

N. COUNCIL COMMENTS

C.Denny said this was a good meeting and good to have the agenda items taken care of.

M.DeWitt said this was a healthy meeting and it was good to see the Council working together.

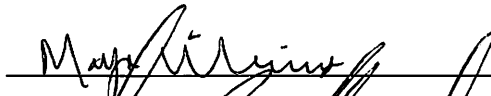
N.DeWitt said this was a good meeting. She distributed a report on the Tribal Leaders meeting held in Sitka (Handout Z) and noted it contained a lot of information that she felt would be useful for OVS in obtaining housing data.

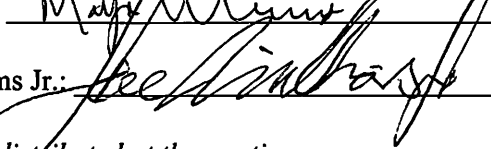
Amy stated she valued each person and their opinions as she used their opinions for guidance.

President Williams stated he appreciated the team that went to Phoenix and felt it was successful. He thought tonight seemed like a light meeting but it lasted until 9:45. He said he is looking forward to lots happening in the next couple of months. He reminded we still have to do our committee meetings. He thanked everyone for coming.

O. ADJOURNMENT

M/2 C.Denny and A.Gray to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Submitted by Mariya Williams: 

Signed by President Joe Williams Jr.:  Date: 5/04/2026

Handouts not in the packet but distributed at the meeting:

- 11 page report from Secretary N.DeWitt on the Tribal Leaders Summit March 23, 2026 in Juneau, Alaska
- 3 bids on the Wolf Street project