

**ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 10, 2024 AT 6:21 PM**

**GRADUATING SENIORS CEREMONY**

**Arianna Dowhitt, Daniel Watson and David Williams Jr.**

**OPENING PRAYER – Nora DeWitt, OVS Vice President**

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Joe Williams, OVS President

Billy Jo Thomas, COS Vice Mayor

Chuck Denny, Board Chairman of Cape Fox Corporation

**RAVEN SPEAKER:** Harvey Shields      **EAGLE SPEAKER:** William J. Williams Jr.

**PRESENTATION OF HONORARIUMS**

Chuck Denny, OVS Treasurer

**BLESSING OF THE FOOD**

**COUNCIL CONGRATULATORY LINE UP**

**CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY AND FOOD**

***Thank you for coming and honoring Saxman Graduates!***

**Recess this portion of the meeting to allow for the Council to continue the meeting.**

**ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 10, 2024**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Williams Jr. at 7:05 pm per agenda (in packet).

**B. PRAYER**

Invocation was given by Nora DeWitt.

**C. ROLL CALL**

President Joe Williams Jr.	X	Vice President Nora DeWitt	X
Secretary Caryl Williams	X	Treasurer Charles (Chuck Denny)	X
Councilmember Carrie (Wallace) Denny	Ex	Councilmember Mike DeWitt	X
Councilmember Trudi Swink-out of town	Ex		

**OTHERS PRESENT:** CCTHITA Roads Department Representatives William Ware (Will), and Royal Hill Jr. (RJ), Harvey Shields, OVS Bookkeeper Amy DeTienne and City of Saxman Mayor Frank Seludo.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**D 1. Central Council Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) ROADS**

**Contractor**

Will Ware offered his assistance He introduced himself culturally and gave his previous experience as the Tribal Transportation Manager, Chief Development Officer and has done contract negotiation with Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Affairs. As Chief Development Officer he worked with a small seafoods company and other business development. Presently he works out of his home in Petersburg and does contract work with CCTHITA.

Chief Tribal Transportation Manager Royal Hill Jr. (RJ) advised he just got hired into this position last week. He stated Saxman is not forgotten and they are here to bring information and listen to Saxman’s concerns. He said Lee Wallace was the past representative for OVS Tribal Transportation Program. He distributed a Referenced Funding Agreement (RFA) document which gives information on what tribal dollars are for, the allocation and the 2% planning fee. He stated CCTHITA switched over to new accounting system and the information goes back to 2016.

Will Ware said RJ previously was his Administrative Assistant and then switched over as the planner for the Development Corporation. He explained they acquired properties and businesses. RJ was the interim Transportation Manager and now he fills this position as the manager.

RJ stated he was here in Saxman in 2013 and worked on Frog Street, putting in guard rails and the bus station for the new senior housing complex. He estimated the cost of this project was around \$750,000 and they did paving, installed the guardrail and put up the bus shed. He explained they utilized more than the \$65,000 which is the annual award. He explained the Feds give 2 or 3 funding agreements per year and don’t award the full amount all at once. He explained part of these funds paid the salary for Lee Wallace. CCTHITA used some of their own allocation for this project. He estimated the total cost of this project was ¾ million dollars. He

stated they planned on paving before the pandemic but Secon said it would cost one million dollars. He explained to grind up and repave he felt one million was too much.

Will Ware suggested the Tribe stay in contact with RJ so the transition will be easier. He said OVS has some roads money and CCTHITA will roll over to OVS when this is determined. He explained Federal Highways, CCTHITA and OVS transportation funds are not in the compact.

He shared when he was President of Petersburg Tribe they decided to contract direct but left some programs (Education, General Assistance and ICWA) with CCTHITA. They ran out of funds with general assistance but when they turned this program back to CCTHITA they subsidized the program.

Advisement was given that Transportation funding has been frozen at \$65,000 annually for a few years now. He explained in the past funding was land based and on miles of road but now it is based differently. He stated it was important to find a good engineer that you trust and they are the guys who will do you right and do well. The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) will address what plans you want to address with your funds. He stated doing these programs yourself is self-determination and then when you actually do it that's sovereignty. He thought the only funds used were for rent and wages and he will let OVS know the total of funds left.

Mike DeWitt asked if the apartment units on Halibut Street could be used for a museum instead of housing. It was explained this was through Tlingit & Haida Regional Housing (THRHA) and the contact person is Jackie Pata.

Joe Williams asked if the TIP for Saxman included asphalt repair. RJ stated he will look into this and advise OVS. He recalled the previous plan was to repair some tears in road, fix the corner of the street where there was breakdown (called allegator) is, and paving front and back of the Schoolhouse parking areas. He shared his past experience negotiating with the State and BIA on road paving.

RJ stated they should have put in drainage and curves but this was not done. Mike DeWitt stated since it was paved the buses now go up Killer Whale and it has become a traffic bottle neck. He thought to sluff and back into the properties to allow for better traffic flow. He discussed problems with traffic flow. He thought this could be revisited so it can be better for residents and bus use. Ketchikan can apply for money from the federal government so he thought the City of Saxman should be able to. He explained the Federal Highway Transportation funding is able to use federal dollars to match federal dollars. He stated this usually isn't allow but this grant program allows it.

Will Ware suggested OVS attend the BIA Providers Conference in December and he will introduce OVS to some engineering firms that we may be able to work with.

TJ stated he would let OVS know and it was decided to send the letter to Tribal Administrator Charlie White and Copy President Joe William. Will Ware said he would send him some information and CCTHITA has full intention to transfer all of the transportation funds if OVS wants to pull these funds for transportation.

Will Ware stated he can't explain why communication ceased but Rj is here and will be helpful to OVS as CCTHITA only wants success for Saxman. He cautioned there is not enough money for Saxman to do a huge project but the TIP can address this. He stated CCTHITA would like to do another road rehab project with OVS. He cautioned OVS needs to be keep abreast on what is happening on the federal portion of the funds and CCTHITA would assist with advocating. He suggested now is the time to register for the TIP meeting and then the ITA does their meeting in December and it usually is in Vegas. He said all of the Tribes need to watch formula changes to ensure Alaska gets their fair share. He thought it was a good idea if as many of Alaska Tribes showed up for these meetings because with high numbers there will be better advocacy. He stated CCTHITA supports OVS and if you desire to pull out they again offered assistance because they want Saxman to be successful.

Will Ware stated the BIA will still manage your inventory and by March every year the inventory can be added to. By adding the additional road inventory it will provide these new roads to be worked on but they will not give us more monies until the funds are unfrozen. He cautioned that Tribes need to be careful and watch diligently to ensure Alaska gets a good deal and not be undermined by the lower 48 Tribes.

They both offered their email addresses and Amy DeTienne said when received she will give to the Council. JR will help with transition and be sure to get the completed Southeast Alaska Regional Tribal Transportation Plan to us. He reminded OVS there is a meeting in Juneau this summer and encouraged attendance.

#### **E. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

Motion/Second Nora DeWitt and Chuck Denny to accept the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

#### **F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**BACKGROUND:** Audit of the status of minutes for 2024 and 2023 has been completed and there are some minutes that have no packet or have incomplete notes. Assistance is needed from Councilmembers that may have packets to provide them to OVS Secretary Caryl Williams.

These minutes are completed and all that is needed is the packet information has to be attached and put into files so they can be filed. They are as follows:

2024-01-22	2024-02-05	2024-02-08	2024-02-22	2024-04-08	2024-04-29
2024-05-13	2024-05-15	2024-03-04	2023-12-11	2023-11-20	2023-11-11
2023-10-14	2023-09-13	2023-07-26	2023-06-27	2023-06-26	2023-06-12
2023-05-22	2023-05-01 & 09	2023-03-06	2023-02-21	2023-02-06	2023-01-23

The following minutes have incomplete notes and no packets. Councilmembers are asked to assist by providing any packets information or notes regarding what action was taken during these dates:

2024-01-08	2024-03-19	2023-04-14	2023-07-12	2023-07-06	2023-08-08
------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Mike DeWitt asked the Council to consider a contract for the work that was being done on the minutes because it is a lot of work and he would like to see them compensated.

## **G. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS/PRESIDENT REPORT**

**G 1. President Report - Joe Williams Jr.** Deferred to the next meeting

**BACKGROUND:** Distribute list of Committee appointments.

### **G 2. Daanaa Saati Board of Director's (CDC) Report**

**BACKGROUND:** The Daanaa Saati Board (Community Development Corporation) to be presented by OVS Council representatives Nora DeWitt, Trudi Swink and Charlie White)

OVS Representative Nora DeWitt reported the CDC Board is considering hiring a Director for CDC and will be setting up an interview. They are also considering a contract with Far North Strategies to write their policy and procedures. She reported supporting this as the company is familiar with all three entities and there isn't a conflict with the Tribe in them doing this specific project. She stated CDC did a cash call for the \$40k from each of the three entities and asked each representative to take this request back to there entities. President Joe Williams asked to have a written report on what CDC has accomplished with the last \$40,000 given.

## **H. OLD BUSINESS**

### **H 1. Traditional Food Grant Report**

**BACKGROUND:** Joe Williams and Chuck Denny to give updated report on the project.

Joe Williams reported all of the funding has been expended. He stated he is working with Rural Cap to make contracts and spend the money. Since his last report he has received some fresh king salmon and delivered this to houses in Saxman. He stated they intend to purchase a walk in refrigerator/freezer for the Saxman Community Hall. He felt this would benefit the community. They also purchased metal tables for food preparation and an ice machine. He reported

Schmolck Mechanical committed to doing some of the work and the installation will be done by Warren Carson of L.C. Refrigeration. He stated they got more canning jars (40 cases consisting of 20 pints jars of each size). He reported they have 2500 pounds of coho coming in July.

It was asked if there is any word on a follow up grant. Amy DeTienne stated it was not as much as before but 30k to 40k.

Mike DeWitt asked if next year's grant would consider obtaining hooligans out of Anchorage or up north. Joe Williams explained the grant writer included salmon, crab & halibut but didn't put in holligans.

## **H 2. WOODMIZER REPORT**

**BACKGROUND:** Joe Williams to give a report on status of this purchase.

He stated a concrete slab about 250 feet long 150 ft. wide is needed but the funds have not been acquired. He thought ideally a good size building to house the woodmizer would be even better. He reported he and Rick Makua visited a site where they have a woodmizer and it is housed in a building and he liked the set up.

He spoke of a community ware house facility and thought the Tribe could use the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) and the City of Saxman could use the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for this project. He stated he spoke with Jackie Pata about this and she thought this was good idea. The Council discussed THRHA writing the grant or the Tribe writing the grant through our contractors. He explained they could house the woodmizer and other needed items.

Joe Willaims stated he put the woodmizer in the tent next to the firehall to get it out of the weather. He commented the woodmmizer can do a 36 foot log.

Amy DeTienne stated they have secured both grant awards for the woodmizer. They have received the Forest Service funds but she will contact RONALDA with Far North Consultants and get the Denali Commission's portion. Once done she will repay the ARPA fund.

Joe Williams discussed training and advised Dale is willing to train and is local. If done this way we won't need to use CCTHITA funds.

## **H 3. School House Rental Agreement**

**BACKGROUND:** Status of this rental agreement.

Amy DeTienne stated she has a copy of the old rental agreement. Mayor Frank Seludo stated one of the changes is with garbage pick up. The City of Saxman will no longer be doing dump

runs to the landfill but will be using a dumpster and having garbage pick up. He stated this would increase the cost. It was noted OVS IGAP GRANT funds can be used.

#### **H 4. Heat Pump Grant Program**

**BACKGROUND:** Status of this grant program application.

Joe Williams reported he referred this to the grant writers and noted the deadline is in July. He explained THRHA wanted to do this and they charge indirect but if OVS does it all the funds could go to the project.

#### **H 5. IGAP Program Coordinator**

**BACKGROUND:** Status of applicant and hiring of the IGAP Program Coordinator.

Joe Williams reported this was given to Tribal Administrator and he did not know if this was advertised. He said the grant is over in September and the report is due in October of this year.

It was thought this position was supposed to be advertised the same time as the administrative assistant position. Council directed to make sure the Tribal Administrator gets this advertised. The question was asked who will be responsible to let Charlie White know. It was thought this was the President's responsibility. Amy DeTienne reported the first round of advertising was done with a flyer distributed throughout the community, posted on the bulletin board and put on facebook. A second advertisement was not done and this task was referred to Charlie White.

Joe Williams stated he met with the City Administrator regarding car removals and was told the City didn't have the staff to do this. He told them the City could do the work and OVS would pay for the footwork. Joe Williams stated he is looking at the City doing the work and then billing OVS.

Joe Williams explained OVS has had such a hard time finding someone to fill this position and is this something that we want to continue. He asked the Council to think about this.

### **I. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **I 1. KGBSD IEA Budget and Concerns**

**BACKGROUND:** The Indian Education Program budget has funded three programs (Pre-school Fawn Mountain, Pre-school at Pioneer Home and Cultural Program throughout the District). The Parent Committee is asking support by the Tribal Governments to keep KGBSD to their agreement of the District funding 50% of the costs.

Joe Williams reported meeting with the KGBSD superintendent regarding the JOM and IEA programs and asked who makes the decision to do this. He stated he received a phone call from

Winona Wallace and she attended the IEA meeting and wanted OVS to advocate for the IEA program. He stated in the past Councilmember CristaThomas served but we have not appointed a new representative.

### **I 2 ICDBG Grant Program**

**BACKGROUND:** President Joe Williams is asking for consideration to apply for a Warehouse Project.

Council concurred to have President Joe Williams check with Far North Strategies to see if they can write this grant.

### **I 3. Tribal Administrative Assistant Position**

**BACKGROUND:** This position was advertised and a status report is requested.

This is being advertised and the Tribal Administrator can give an update at the next meeting.

### **I 4. Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) Ordinance**

**BACKGROUND:** TERO will apply to the State of Alaska Roads project going through Saxman and this will be discussed.

President Joe Williams stated the State of Alaska Department of Transportation will be doing a project through Saxman in 2025 and OVS TERO Ordinance will apply. He stated this will be put in the packets for the Council's next meeting and asked each Councilmember to review it. He said this will not only provide funding but will also provide jobs for Tribal Citizens.

### **I 5. Espresso Machine**

**BACKGROUND:** To consider selling the espresso machine.

Council concurred to check on the fair market value and to make sure there are no grant use stipulations. A letter was directed written to CCTHITA regarding this as they provided this grant to OVS.

### **J. EXECUTIVE SESSION None**

### **K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **1 PROPERTY PURCHASE ON LOT BETWEEN EAGLE AND TOTEM ROW**

Joe Williams reported he hasn't heard about the status of this from CCTHITA and would contact Desiree Duncan regarding this.

### **L. NEXT MEETING DATES**

June 24, 2024 at 6:00 pm –2<sup>nd</sup> monthly meeting

**M. COUNCIL/PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS**

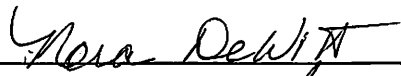
**Vice President Nora DeWitt** thanked the staff, especially Flo McGilton, for her hard work in preparing the food for the graduates party. She also thanked the speakers for coming and giving words of encouragement. She felt the party was a success and everyone enjoyed themselves. She reported Caryl Williams and herself worked at the Tribal Office on the minutes and thanked the staff for their assistance and appreciated their cooperation, willingness to help and cheerfulness. Thought this was a good meeting.

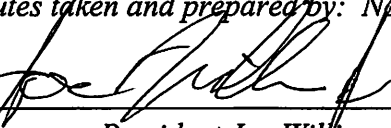
**Secretary Caryl Williams** thanked staff for working on the party and cutting the checks with minimal notice. She explained she called them this morning and they immediately got on this and got everything done. She appreciated CCTHITA Roads department coming to the meeting and would like to see OVS attend both of the roads conferences that they spoke about. She stated if Councilmembers work together OVS will get through this hard time.

No other comments were made.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion/Second Caryl Williams and with no objection the meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Submitted by:   
*Minutes taken and prepared by: Nora DeWitt, Vice President*

Signed by:  Date of Meeting: July 22, 2024  
*President Joe Williams Jr. Council Approved*

*Handouts: CCTHITA Referenced Funding Agreement with Department of Transportation  
Status of Minutes Report from Secretary Caryl Williams and Vice President Nora DeWitt*