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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 AT 6:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Williams at 6:00 PM in the Saxman Tribal Office meeting room. No zoom capability was provided.

B. PRAYER Opening prayer was given by Nora DeWitt.

C. ROLL CALL:

President Joe Williams Jr.	p	Vice President Nora DeWitt	p
Secretary Caryl Williams	p	Treasurer Charles (Chuck) Denny	p
Councilmember Carrie (Wallace) Denny	AB	Councilmember Mike DeWitt	p
Councilmember Trudi Swink	p	P-Present; EX=Excused; UE:Unexcused; Z-Zoom	

Others Present:

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

D.1. USFS Tribal Relations Engagement Specialist – Team of 3

Anthony Mallott introduced a planning document entitled, “This Is Our Land”. He explained Spruce Root HaaAni (Sealaska Rural Economic Development Entity) contracted with Tribal Relations to do research and gather information for this document. One of the document they are looking at is the Tongass Forest Plan revisions. He introduced Katie Rylie from Sitka Conservation Society. They are working on sustainable Southeast Conservation and shape what the policy will look like for the area. They wanted to talk about Saxman priorities. He introduced District Ranger Tye. They wanted to hear our priorities for the use of the forests. He noted on page 1 it has land use designations. They wanted to provide input into this process. Some information they would like is deer habitat and wolf management process on Prince of Wales Island. He noted Hoonah’s priority is for deer habitat and berry picking sites used for food preservation. Another priority is access to logs for the use of carving totem poles. It was noted the remaining trees are in forest service land. Another concern is the stability of the hillsides where landslides may occur. Another concern is cooperation with invasive species and fire risks. The Tribe can verbalize or submit in writing what are the benefits to your tribal citizens, changes you have the greatest concern for, and what needs to change to protect your resources. He explained some prioritized salmon habitat. Mr. Mallott discussed questions put to Tribes. A concern stated was it is difficult to manage Salmon with the State of Alaska. Another area of concern is the abuse of charter boats who fish salmon and take 12 or more boxes of salmon south. President Williams thought co-management would be a good thing and suggested a workshop would be a good to discuss these issues. He thought of having the Forest Service teach us how to make trails. It was agreed to send Amy DeTienne the information once it is gathered. Discussed concern over gathering into other Villages and what these protocols are. Another concern was how to get beyond the red tape to get to processing and these type of things have been loss. Mr. Mallot commented it is more difficult with other agencies laws and regulations. He stated Hoonah has a process to help their people know and be able to work through various processes. Forest Service says Tribal input can be open to each community and

looking at finalizing this document in 2028. He felt this deadline gives enough time to put thought into this process. Another concern is harvesters are finding access to red cedar trees, devils club, yellow cedar is getting harder to find and trees and streams no longer have fish. Mallot questioned how do you protect these for cultural use. It was suggested to use ways to share like when a tree is cut you get the timber and the Tribes get the bark. It was suggested a local workshop happen and they can bring maps. An Idea of a community use area and each tribe is different so this is a good topic to put into Tribal comments.

D.2. Alaska Village Initiatives (AVI) Outreach Worker Red Bradley – Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Regrant of USFS Money

Was not able to attend the meeting but will schedule another time.

D.3. Helaire Echohawk to discuss “Map Maker”

Background: Helaire is from the Pawnee nation and she came to Alaska as a teenager and has been a Tribal Advisor for Angoon Tribe.

She thanked everyone for their comments. She worked with a Tribe on different projects and helped with repatriation. She is a petrographic and her friend is a map maker. She introduced Ryan Seares who is a GIS information specialist and works for the Forest Service. She commented that he cares about this deeply and has created a master piece map and this was done in collaboration with Tribes. President J.Williams acknowledged this is a good beginning.

D.4. Cape Fox Corporation (CFC) CEO Chris

Cape Fox Corporation (CFC) CEO Chris introduced himself and noted he came to the meeting to answer questions or hear any areas of concern the Tribe may have. President Williams explained the Tribe and CFC Board President discussed the broadband grant that was to be jointly submitted but it was only written for CF. He gave brief history of how the Tribe was going to join the T&H consortium but reconsidered and agreed to partner with CFC and instead OVS was left completely out of the grant. The grant was written for one million and he asked him to check with CFC President to see how this happened. He explained OVS spent a lot of money on the retreat in Anchorage and the City of Saxman, CFC and OVS attended. President Williams discussed the Community Development Corporation (CDC) and how each contributed \$40,000 and haven't received a report on how these funds were used. He advised OVS will not provide any more funds until the CDC provides this requested report. Chris stated he doesn't know the involvement of OVS with CFC. This project and process was discussed and communication was lacking. Chris reported CFC was not able to spend all of the fund. President Williams explained OVS received a requested from CFC Grant Writer Jamie White for support in applying for a Tourism Grant for repair and improvements to the Saxman Totem Park. Specifically they wanted to have the Frog Wall repaired, the welcome sign to Saxman redone, and other items but OVS asked for the grant budget, project narrative and the grant RFP. None was provided so at the meeting they gave the online address and the grant RFP was accessed. The RFP stated the Tribe is the eligible applicant and CFC wanted OVS to sign off on the grant and they would receive the award. President Williams explained OVS supported this but felt OVS should be the

entity to apply for these funds. The Sovereignty of the Tribe needs to be respected and always be considered. President Williams explained this is why OVS needs time to review and consider these type of requests.

D.2. Alaska Village Initiatives (AVI) Outreach Worker Red Bradley – Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Regrant of USFS Money

R.Bradley was not at the meeting but wants to come to the October meeting.

E. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Motion/Second C.Williams and Chuck Denny to accept the agenda as presented. The following agenda items were added: Business Cards, I.3. Microsoft Proposal, I.4. Siemen's Proposal. All in favor, motion carried.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

F.1. August 5, 2024 Regular Meeting

F.2. August 29, 2024 ARPA Student Assistant and Food Card Committee

Meeting at noon

F.3. August 29, 2024 Schoolhouse Rental Committee at 5:00 pm

F.4. August 29, 2024 Land Purchase Committee at 6:30 pm

President Williams asked to have the minutes put into a consent agenda item and do this with the future agendas.

M/2 C.Williams and N.DeWitt to accept all minutes as consent agenda items. All in favor, motion carried.

G. STAFF AND PRESIDENT REPORTS

G.2. CCTHITA Social Worker's Report – Jackie Johnson - No report submitted.

G.3. Maintenance Supervisor's Report – Rick Makua - Deferred

G.4. G.1. Finance Report Deferred from the last meeting (8/20/2024) – Amy DeTienne

Bookkeeper A.DeTienne reported she submitted her report at the last meeting on 8/20/2024 but there was no quorum so she included this. She advised the Finance Committee needs to meet Wednesday at 1:30 pm. She reported the IGAP Grant was not spent but the wages of the Bookkeeper and Tribal Administrator can be charged to this grant. Concern was discussed regarding OVS being able to handle and administer our own programs. Administrative problems were discussed.

G.5. Tribal Administrator's Report – Charlie White

C.White reported the following:

- The auditor hasn't gotten back to him.
- The Finance Policy he has redone.
- Drew up an application and indemnifying agreement on IGAP vehicle removal.

- Completed the job description for the Tribal Administrator and will advertise this week.
- Reported that a lot of people want health insurance now and when OVS takes over the 93-638 programs this can be looked into.
- Completed the narrative on the withdrawal from CCTHITA and will send it out tomorrow.
- Carry over balance of funds has been requested from CCTHITA.
- The Sams and Cage number needs to be changed and he is dealing with this.
- Participated in conference regarding the call with the tides project being an economic development project.
- Discussed Section 17 – Running our own programs.
- Land to trust program was discussed.
- The \$40,000 payment to CDC still need to be paid. Currently this is pending a report from the Board of Directors.
- The Feds concern over the duplication of the application for Broadband with KIC & OVS.
- Need to review the Finance Policy changes with the Council.
- Question on how many junk vehicles we have the list to be removed. Type of notification provided to the community.
- Question on personal leave.
- \$50,000 awarded for the Tideland Project.
- Resent the retrocession resolution to CCTHITA

G.6. Tribal Administrative Assistant's Report – Vacant

G.7. President's Report - Joe Williams Jr.

President Williams gave an update on the following:

- The Siemen's Grant.
- The purchase of the Corpuz Property (adjacent to the Kushnick property) noting it is ready to be conveyed. He initially requested the property be cleared before we make the purchase and he got an email and CCTHITA has given \$4,100 to help clear it off. The owners are looking forward to settling this. It was thought all that needed to be done was to sign the documents and send them a check. A concern was there might be an encroachment of the Walrod house. He explained OVS is buying the property as is.
- Reported the Tidal Action Energy Project he has been working on. This is a \$50,000 grant and the group will be meeting on the 30th at noon at the Tribal Office. He explained this is 60/40 grant award with 40% going to OVS.

H. OLD BUSINESS

H.1. Food Card Adjustments

BACKGROUND: The Committee met and reviewed the list with the Council. This was referred back to Committee for further review and recommendation for action.

No meeting held.

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.

No action was taken but OVS needs to contact KIC again.

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

BACKGROUND: An email was received from Desiree Duncan regarding insufficient funds to clear off the property OVS is having CTHITA acquire for us. This was referred to Committee to advise on how to proceed. The minutes from this Committee meeting is in the packet F#4.

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and M.DeWitt to purchase the property for \$35,000 and sign the documents of purchase and have the property conveyed over to the Tribe. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: M.DeWitt, Chuck Denny, Carrie Denny, T.Swink, C.Williams, N.DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None. Motion passes. President Williams for the record noted this was by unanimous vote.

H.4. Resolution Authorizing Retrocession from CCTHITA and Associated Documents

BACKGROUND: Resolution authorizing the retrocession has been approved by the Council and other documents are to be submitted to CCTHITA and the BIA by Friday August 9th. An update of this project is needed.

This documents needs a resolution number. It was though the number maybe 2023.07.263 for retrocession. Resolution number 2024-08-274 was used for the recent resolution passed on 8/5/2024.

H.5. Schoolhouse Agreement

BACKGROUND: At the last meeting there were three changes discussed and a new Committee was appointed and this was referred to this committee. The minutes from this Committee meeting is in the packet F#3.

Motion/Second C.Williams and N.DeWitt to accept the rental agreement with the changes.

Motion/Second N.DeWitt and C.Williams to amend the main motion and make this agreement for a period of one year at a time. All in favor, motion carried.

Question on the main motion. ROLL CALL VOTE CALLED: YES VOTE: Carrie Denny, T.Swink, C.Williams, M.DeWitt, Chuck Denny, N.DeWitt; NO VOTE: none: ABSTAINING VOTE: none. Motion passed. For the record this was a unanimous vote. President Williams asked to be sure to put this document on the letterhead.

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

BACKGROUND: Report on the status of these two open positions.

No update

H.7. ARPA Budget Modifications

BACKGROUND: The Finance Committee met on the ARPA budget revisions and it was decided to have Rick Makua prepare a list of what the building maintenance and equipment needs are.

Council concurred to meet monthly on these funds. It was noted the Council needs to ensure the funds are spent. It was decided to meet on Wednesday of this week.

H.8. Contribution to E.Trout's Family and Crista Thomas' Family

BACKGROUND: As per Council's previous decision to provide funeral assistance to Tribal Citizens that once served on the Saxman IRA Council and a \$250 award was authorized for Eric Trout's and Crista Thomas' funeral expenses. An update is requested.

Bookkeeper Amy DeTienne advised both families received their checks.

H.9. Student ARPA Assistance for School Clothing and Needs

BACKGROUND: Request to grant \$500 to each student, approve using Tongass Trading and Walmart as vendors and review changes to application. An update on this is requested. Minutes from this Committee meeting is in the packet F#2.

It was explained there are 54 applicants and an added \$2,000 more is needed.

Motion/Second N.DeWitt and C.Williams to add \$2,000 to this expense. ROLL CALL VOTE

CALLED: YES VOTE: T.Swink, Caryl Williams, M.DeWitt, Chuck Denny, N.DeWitt; NO VOTE: none; ABSTAINING VOTE: none; Motion passes. For the record this is a unanimous vote.

H.10. Website/Network Proposal – Jason and Russel Karney

BACKGROUND: A workshop was held regarding the website and networking possibilities for OVS was discussed. The Council approved their proposal. An update is requested.

Motion/Second C.Williams and M.DeWitt to pay Dell for 5 G status for a total \$32,148 and \$10,700.18 to dell of the 32,100.48 of the proposed contract. Discussion is OVS going to have to pay this amount for the next three years. President Williams thought this would be paid by the Small Tribes Grant next year. ARPA has to be spent by 12/31/2024. Council concurred to pay the full contract with ARPA funds. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: C.Williams, M.DeWitt, Chuck Denny, Carrie Denny, Trudy Swink, Nora DeWitt; NO VOTE: none. Motion passes. For the record this is a unanimous vote.

H.11. Request For Proposal (RFP) for FY2023 Audit

BACKGROUND: The audit proposal from Tailored Tax and Accounting was approved. An update is requested. Was previously given to Council.

H.12. Far North Strategies Consultant Services

BACKGROUND: An update is requested.

Payment was made. Concern was expressed by staff on the value of the information and material received. Brad has been calling regarding the Broadband Consortium as he is the project Coordinator for Alaska Village Initiatives (AVI). They are handling the Grant for heating systems in homes and they got 2/3 of the grant. It was noted Ronald is working on two more components for this grant. This project is to start in March of 2025. No award letter has been received yet.

H.13. IGAP Grant Update

BACKGROUND: September 30, 2024 is the ending date of this grant. A status of funds is requested and what is planned for project end activities.
No information received.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1. Grant Writing Workshop 10/17/2024 Anchorage

BACKGROUND: The Alaska Transportation at BIA is having a basic grant writing workshop in Anchorage on October 17th. Thought to see if anyone is available to go.
President Williams stated he will be in Anchorage on Oct. 17th.

I.2. Electronic Packets

BACKGROUND: Check in with Tribal Council to see if electronic packets are working and have a discussion on improvements to this process.
Everyone is getting their packet and it was thought this was a good plan.

I.3. Microsoft Proposal (added at the meeting)

Previously done

I.4. Siemen's Proposal (added at the meeting)

Discussed previous.

J. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS (Red wording for active committee's meeting)

BACKGROUND: The packet included the updated Council Committee Appointments (in packet as Exhibit J) and this agenda includes noted tasks that is referred to the Committees.

J.1. Audit Committee- (Appointed Mike D., Carrie Denny, Chair Joe W.)

- Monitor Audit RFPs
- Obtain Audit 2022 and Review
- Obtain copy of Audit Findings & Response

J.2. Community Development (Caryl W., Chuck D., Nora D.)

J.3. Constitution (Chair Chuck D., Caryl W., Carrie D., Nora D.)

- Review present Constitution

- Research other Constitutions to compare provisions
- Prepare a time line of the revision plan

J.4. Daanaa Saati (CDC) Board Representative's Report (Nora D. Caryl W., Trudi S.)

- Do letter requesting information on what has been accomplished with the last \$40,000 payment
- Address Change to not allow business to be done without the full board approval
- Monitor until Cash Call of \$40,000 is made
- Obtain copy of Bylaws
- Obtain copy of Board minutes
- Obtain copies of Resolutions passed

J.5. Economic (Chair Caryl W., Mike D., Nora D., Trudi S.)

- Address Espresso Machine
- Or develop plan to reactivate the Coffee Shop
- Obtain a copy of the Agreement with Calm Harbor Health Clinic – Dialysis Program
- Monitor and address the 5% of profit stipulation on the Dialysis Program
- Obtain grant sites and search for grant opportunities
- Tannery Center/Tour and Sewing Center Development
- Tidal Energy Grant Project

J.6. Enrollment (Chair Nora D., Caryl W., Chuck D., Carrie W.)

- DONE - Develop Household Count of Tribal Citizens residing in Saxman
- DONE - Develop Resolution declaring OVS Household Count
- DONE - After Council review make Council authorized changes to list
- Research other Tribe's enrollment ordinances to compare
- Begin development of OVS Enrollment Ordinance
- Continue working with CCTHITA on Saxman T&H Enrollment

J.7. EPA/IGAP (Chair Nora D., Mike D., Trudi S.)

- Ensure job is advertised and hiring of Coordinator is done
- Follow up with Joe and City of Saxman on vehicle disposition
- Review the project and plan and ensure spending is in line with the budget
- Monitor expenses and activity
- Ensure 2nd year of funding is applied for and monitor

Motion/Second N.DeWitt and T.Swink to disband this Committee and have this project handled by the President and Administration. It was explained the Committee was not being kept informed and action was being done outside of the Committee so eliminating the Committee would allow administration direct contact. All in favor, motion carried.

J.8. Finance (Chair Chuck D., Caryl W., Nora D., Trudi S.)

- DONE - Ensure Signatory changes are made at the bank

- ARPA Budget Review and modify to year end
- Building Supervisor to determine costs to year end & review with Council
- Monitor and ensure Denali Grant is received
- Monitor and ensure Forest Service Grant is received
- TERO - Ensure Graduated honorarium is changed from ARPA to TERO
- Develop a budget for FY 2025

J.9. Food Grant (Chair Nora D., Caryl W., Trudi S.)

- Obtain & review the financial & narrative report submitted to the granting agency
- Review the financial detail print out of expenses on the Food Grant
- Ensure grant is closed out
- Ensure receipt of grant funds
- Ensure the next grant for this project is applied for

J.10. Grants (Chair Nora D., Joe W., Trudi S.)

- Monitor and ensure ICDBG Grant/Warehouse Facility is applied for
- Monitor and ensure the Heat Pump Grant is submitted & followed
- Monitor Food Card application on a regular basis
- Monitor Student Assistance Awards as needed
- Monitor LATCF Grant & obtain necessary documents to do so
- Monitor STG Reimbursements are received regularly

J.11. Housing (newly appointed Chair Nora D., Caryl W., Mike D.)

- Monitor Rent Revenue is consistent & problem solve if needed
- Final close out of the last project
- The last call for applications were there any submitted for Saxman
- THRHA Tribal Strategic Planning Report 4/25/24

J.12. Indian Education Committee (IEA) (Representative Carrie Denny and Alternate Mike DeWitt)

- Attend IEA Board meetings & report back to the Council

J.13. KIC/OVS Advisory Health Board Report – (Representative Nora D., and Alternate Caryl W.)

- A letter to KIC needs to be sent to advise of C.Williams appointment
- Attend the Advisory Health Board Meetings & report back to the Council

J.14. Land Purchase (Chair Nora D., Mike D., Trudi S.)

Done Follow up and ensure land is purchased on Eagle/Totem Lot (By the Kushnick home)
Email from Desiree needs review and planning needs to occur
Follow up on home the Wolf Street Home that is in foreclosure
Follow up on home for sale on Raven Ave. (Natkong's)

J.15. Negotiations (Chair Joe W., Mike D., Nora D., Trudi S.)

Workshop was cancelled and needs to be rescheduled

J.16. Policy (Chair Nora D., Chuck D., Mike D., Trudi S. & Caryl W.)

- Obtain copies of all policies
- Review and updated policies
- Develop policy to address adding agenda items
- Develop policy on packets & electronic processing
- Develop policy on handling food card complaints (Charlie)
- Review Election Policy & recommend changes
- Review Financial Policy & recommend changes
- Develop policy on graduates' honorariums
- Develop a policy on the youth and elder advisory positions
- Develop list of policies & date when they were adopted
- Check on status of Zoom policy as this was to be prepared by Tribal Administrator
- Policy on pressure cookers, propane bottles equipment for processing food

J.17. Roads (Chair Chuck D., Carrie D., Mike D., Nora D.)

- Ensure OVS receives the Transportation Plan from CCTHITA
- Review the TIP to advise where we are at with the plan
- Conveyance of roads
- Seek Transportation fund balance from CCTHITA
- Retrocession of CCTHITA will include roads

J.18. Wood Mizer (Chair Chuck D., Trudi S., Mike D.)

- Monitor and ensure funds are received from Forest Service and Denali Commission
- Develop a business plan for this project
- Monitor and assist with seeking funds for the pad
- Obtain the \$1000 refund on the deposit made
- Develop & work on area for wood mizer to be placed
- Develop plan of operation, maintenance and use

J.19. Schoolhouse Rental Agreement (Chair Nora D., Caryl W. Mike D.)

- Review the revised Schoolhouse Agreement received from the City of Saxman
- If changed present these to the Tribal Council for approval
- Proceed with negotiations with the City of Saxman

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

L. NEXT MEETING DATES

Tuesday, October. 8, 2024

M. COUNCIL/PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

C.Williams reported the Enrollment Committee has determined the tasks will require more work and asked clarification on what Administration will do and what the Council Committee is supposed to do.

A.DeTienne thanked everyone.

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and C.Williams to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Submitted by Nora DeWitt: Nora DeWitt

Signed by President Joe Williams Jr.: Joe Williams Jr. Date: 12/16/24
approved