



Route 2, Box 2 – Saxman, Alaska 99901

Saxmanira@kpunet.net - Fax: (907) 247 -2504 - Phone: (907) 247- 2502

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

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

This meeting was called to order by President Joe Williams Jr. at 6:00 pm in the Saxman Tribal Office meeting room. Zoom was not available at this meeting.

**B. PRAYER**

Opening prayer given by Secretary Nora DeWitt.

**C. ROLL CALL:**

CODE: Ex=Excused; UE=Unexcused; P=Present; Z=Zoom

President Joe Williams Jr.	P	Secretary Nora DeWitt	P
Vice President Caryl Williams	Ex	Treasurer Charles (Chuck Denny)	P
Councilmember Amos Gray	P	Councilmember Mike DeWitt	P
Councilmember Trudi Swink	P		

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lisa Yakdushi Milne-DeWitt, Delina Mahi, Tribal Administrator Amy DeTienne, CCTHITA Community Navigator Brita Alander.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) Community Navigator Brita Alander stated she has been sick and has not been able to come to Saxman for about two months. She will be coming to Saxman tomorrow at 1:30 pm to meet with Tribal Members. She reported CCTHITA is coming up on Scholarship season and she has been thinking of this. Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications are still available. She reported at the last election there were 98 residents and now there is 130 Saxman residents enrolled in CCTHITA. She noted some residency address have not been updated but she is still working on this. She will be in Saxman tomorrow at 1:30 pm at the Tribal Office.

Lisa Yakdushi Milne-DeWitt introduced herself and wanted the Council to know she is on the planning committee for the Sharing Our Knowledge Conference. She stated they are in the process of selecting a site for the conference in 2026. She explained this conference was previously known as the Clan Conference. They now include all three tribes. Lisa read a letter regarding the conference (Exhibit D#1) and noted they expect 200 to 300 people attending.

President J. Williams thanked Lisa for her continued studies in the Tlingit Language and expressed concern over the languages needing to be carried forward. He said he is very proud of her.

**E. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

Motion/Second N.DeWitt and A.Gray to accept the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

## **F. CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **F.1 December 16, 2024 Minutes**

Motion/Second A.Gray and C.Denny to accept the minutes (Exhibit F.1) as corrected. Under agenda item H.11 the requested amount is \$100,000 and agenda item I.6. Sam Demmert was able to apply for the sub-award and submit it for funding but the award hasn't been made yet. Question called. All in favor, motion carried.

## **G. STAFF REPORTS**

### **G.1. Consultant Will Ware's Report**

A written report (Exhibit G.1) was submitted.

### **G.2. CCTHITA Social Worker's Report – Jackie Johnson**

A written report (Exhibit G.2) was submitted.

### **G.3. Maintenance Supervisor's Report – Rick Makua**

No report submitted.

### **G.4. Tribal Administrator/Finance Report – Amy DeTienne**

A.DeTienne presented her written report (Exhibit G.4). The Council had no questions. She distributed the Report on the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual ARPA 2021 for period Jan. – Dec. 2024 (Exhibit G.4 #2). She advised the budget was the one approved by the Council at the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. She is working on the final ARPA expenses and will further review this with the Finance Committee. She stated she has reconciled the bank statement through 12/31/24. Other handouts provided are:

- A worksheet on the staff positions needed for FY2025 (Exhibit G.4 #3)
- A document entitled OVS Self-Governance CY2022 Budget (Exhibit G.4. #4) received from CCTHITA
- A document entitled OVS Self-Governance CY2025 Budget (Exhibit G.4. #5) received from CCTHITA
- A Document entitled Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Detailed Budget Worksheets (Exhibit G.4 #6) Budget year 2025 submitted/revised 5/23/24
- A Document entitled Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Standardized Work Plan Administrative Component (Exhibit G.4 #7); Work Plan Period Begin 10/1/2024 to 9/20/2025

Motion/Second N.DeWitt and M.DeWitt to refer the financial reports to the Finance Committee for their meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

### **G.5. President's Report - Joe Williams Jr.**

President J.Williams reported the later part of December he was contacted by Richard Shields who advised him the water was running low in the water tank and there was concern about the community having water for drinking. He was asked if the Tribe could help by purchasing water and it was decided to purchase two cases of water per household. This is on the agenda for Council approval. ATIPP, which has to do with Tidal Action Project he received information

today that the water movement in the area is not sufficient to make this work. They would like to continue to get some renewable energy for Saxman and would like to do a site visit. One thing they would like OVS to consider is a home energy audit on Saxman's homes. Also discussed was energy grids, workforce assessment, and energy planning workshops which they would like to discuss with OVS on their site visit. President Williams thought this could be further discussed at the Strategic Planning meeting.

## **H. OLD BUSINESS**

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

**BACKGROUND:** These two advisory positions are open and an update will be provided. It was decided to advertise further these two positions and then make the selections.

### **H.2. Broadband Negotiation Planning Session**

**BACKGROUND:** There was a negotiation workshop held July 26<sup>th</sup> and had to be rescheduled as not all of the parties could attend. At the last meeting it was suggested that an attorney be consulted.

President Williams stated he has not received a return call from Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) President Norman Skan and will try to make every effort to contact CCTHITA President Richard Peterson to seek his advice on this situation.

Tribal administrator Amy DeTienne reported documents were found regarding the health services that KIC provides to Saxman (Exhibit H.2) and as other documents are found she will create a file for these so they can be easily referenced.

### **H.3. Corpuz Land Purchase (adjacent to Kushnick's property)**

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

The packet contained a letter from Irene Lampe, Realty Specialist for CCTHITA (Exhibit H.3).

### **H.4. Retrocession from CCTHITA**

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

A.DeTienne stated she previously distributed this financial information and will work with the Finance Committee on developing a budget for FY2025.

A.DeTienne discussed the 105L program and noted OVS needs to decide if we ourselves want to go after this or have CCTHITA proceed in obtaining this. The timeline is about one year out. She stated there is a gentleman coming to prepare an estimate on the repair to the Schoolhouse Building stairs, porch and bell tower.

### **H.5. Schoolhouse 2025 Lease Agreement**

**BACKGROUND:** The current lease agreement is for 2024 and ends December 31, 2024. The Finance Committee needs to review the income for 2025 and determine if there is sufficient funds to cover this lease for 2025.

This will be further discussed at the Finance Committee meeting.

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

**BACKGROUND:** Report will be provided on the status and plan for these positions. Tribal Administrator A.DeTienne referred to a handout (Exhibit G.4 #3) referring to the positions she would like to have in FY2025. She noted the amount of revenue we have available will first have to be looked at. She stated she would like to offer the IGAP Coordinator Positions to a current staff person and felt she would do a good job. She noted Jonathan Law of IGAP would be willing to train and help her.

#### **H.7. Resolution ARPA Budget Modifications 2024**

**BACKGROUND:** The Finance Committee met and approved the ARPA budget revisions on December 3, 2024 #1. The final budget modification needs approval once the budget modification and expenses have been recorded and then future contract and/or costs have been encumbered the final budget can be modified for Council's approval. This will be further reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting.

#### **H.8. Website/Network Project – Jason and Russel Karney**

**BACKGROUND:** An update is requested.

A.DeTienne reported the website is moving forward and is at the stage to start adding artwork. She stated they are building training videos on how the domain works, how to navigate to the places desired and other items.

#### **H.9. Schoolhouse Building Repair Request for the City of Saxman**

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

It was asked if CCTHTA has any funds for building repairs as this is a significant safety issue.

#### **H.10. OVS Policy Project**

**BACKGROUND:** OVS Council will discuss this project and what is needed.

A.DeTienne advised the Council a number of the policies are outdated and needs to be reviewed and updated. It was noted there was a policy needed to loan out the pressure cookers, food preparation items, propane tanks and other items. A.DeTienne explained she would like to manage this activity under the IGAP Program

#### **H.11. Visitation and Tour of Various Agencies in Juneau (CCTHITA, THRHA, BIA) – President, Tribal Administrator, and Consultant Will Ware**

**BACKGROUND:** The above named persons will travel to Juneau to meet and tour these agencies to see how they run their programs and discuss the needs of OVS.

A.DeTienne stated she will ensure everyone has the zoom invite to this meeting.

### **I. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **I.1. Constitution and Bylaws**

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

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### **I. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **I.1. Constitution and Bylaws**

**BACKGROUND:** This document needs to be reviewed and updated. A plan to address this needs to be addressed.

A.DeTienne stated in the packet was a draft Constitution (Exhibit I.1 #1) and the current constitution (Exhibit .1 #2) for the Committee to work on. It was noted the Committee needs to meet.

## **I.2. Enrollment**

**BACKGROUND:** With CCTHITA Retrocession OVS must have an Enrollment Ordinance and procedures. Council needs to address this project. The following was discussed:

- Dual Enrollment with CCTHITA
- Can you be a Tlingit & Haida Member and a KIC member
- Enrollment processes
- Blood Quantum eligibility
- Descendancy

It was thought this would be discussed during the strategic planning session.

## **I.3. OVS and City of Saxman's Purchase of Water Due to Emergency (\$1505.28)**

**BACKGROUND:** During the later part of December the City of Saxman had water problems Motion/Second N.DeWitt and M.DeWitt to authorize the water purchase of \$1505.28. Expenses to be taken from ARPA Funds. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE; A.Gray, T.Swink, C.Denny, M.DeWitt and N.DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passes.

A meeting will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup> regarding the status of the two water filters and information on the water system and plant.

## **I.4. Continuing Budget Resolution for 2025**

**BACKGROUND:** OVS has not established a budget for FY2025 and a continuing resolution to spend Tribal Funds in 2025 must be approved before funds can be spent. Usually expenditures are limited to only necessary funds needed for administrative expenses, contracts & wages. Motion/Second N.DeWitt and M.DeWitt to approve Continuing Resolution #2025-01-276. All in favor, motion carried.

## **J. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **J.1. OVS/KIC Health Advisory Board Report – Nora DeWitt**

N.DeWitt gave a brief verbal report.

Motion/Second N.DeWitt and A.Gray to recess this meeting to allow for an Executive Session. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting recessed at 8:14 pm.

## **K. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

K.1. Proprietary Matter

## **L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Motion/Second to exit the Executive Session. All in favor, motion carried.

With no objection Councilmembers wanting the authenticator on their phones can contact the Tribal Administrator A.DeTienne to get this done.

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

The next OVS Council meeting will be January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6PM.

The Finance Committee meeting will be January 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM.

**N. PRESIDENT AND COUNCILS' COMMENTS**

Councilmember Amos Gray thanked the Council for his appointment to the Council and he stated he is going to do a deep dive on the acronyms used and gathering information from the past meeting minutes.

Treasurer Chuck Denny stated it was a good quick meeting.

Delina Mahi thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend and participate in the meeting. She was happy about learning more.

President Joe Williams Jr. stated his appreciation for the Council's input and attendance. He gave an invitation to everyone to attend the Celebration of Life for his daughter Stephanie. It will be at 11 am at the South Tongass Alliance Church. He thanked everyone for their support.

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

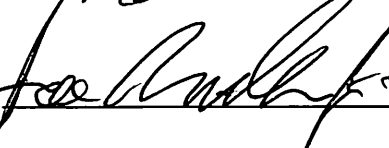
Motion/Second C.Denny and A.Gray to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Nora DeWitt:



Signed by President Joe Williams Jr.:



Date: 1/22/2025

*Handouts not in the packet but distributed at the meeting:*

*G.4.#2 OVS Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual ARPA 2021 For 2024 Year*

*G.4.#3 Spreadsheet on wages for FY2025*

*G.4.#4 OVS Self-Governance CY2022 Budget*

*G.4.#5 OVS Self-Governance CY2025 Budget*

*G.4#6 IGAP Detailed Budget Worksheet*

*G.4#7 IGAP Standardized Work Plan Administrative Component*

*I.1.#1 Draft Revision to OVS Constitution and Bylaws done by President Joe Williams Jr.*