



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 - OCTOBER 8, 2024**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Saxman IRA Council was called to order by President Joe Williams Jr. at 6:00 pm per agenda. For the record zoom availability wasn't available.

B. PRAYER

Invocation was given by Councilmember Nora DeWitt.

C. ROLL CALL:

Code: P=Present; Ex=Excused; Z=Zoom; UE=Unexcused.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Bookkeeper Amy DeTienne and Frank Seludo.

Amos Gray was present and was given the Oath of Office as he was filling the new position of Youth Advisor. His name was added to the roll call listing.

President J.Williams thanked Amos for stepping up to the plate by filing the youth advisory position. He explained being advisor meant he would be a part of discussion and debates but to participate with respect.

A.Grey stated he understood and has experience to offer and that he wants to help his family and community.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank Seludo as Mayor of the City of Saxman explained in talking with Joe Williams, and Caryl Williams, over a month ago, they are trying to move the City of Saxman and the Tribe (Organized Village of Saxman) forward and saw their meeting as a positive movement forward. He explained they discussed having both the City and Tribal offices located in one building and he felt at some point this would be a good, once the Tribe has a building. Mayor Seludo reported the City Ordinance Committee had a meeting and Rick Makua asked for funding to do repairs to the Saxman Schoolhouse Building (where the Tribal Office is now located) and the Committee wanted to put this on hold and have the two parties meet about this. He felt this was a step forward in the two entities working together potentially.

E. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

M/2 Chuck Denny and M.DeWitt to approve the agenda (Exhibit A). Chuck Denny asked to have the correct officer titles be made on the roll call listing and this was directed to be done. All in favor, motion carried.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

F.1. September 16, 2024 Regular Meeting Deferred

G. STAFF REPORTS

G1. CCTHITA Social Worker's Report – Jackie Johnson

A written report (Exhibit G-1) was received from J.Johnson, Social Worker.

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

A written report (Exhibit G-2) was received from Rick Makua, Maintenance Supervisor. It was mentioned that a list of needs was needed for the budget.

G.3. Tribal Administrator's Report – Charlie White

A written report (Exhibit G-3) was received from Tribal Administrator Charlie White.

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

Written reports included:

- Exhibit President's Report, Exhibit President's Trip Report October 10-22, 2024,
- Exhibit First Alaskan Institute Youth and Elder's Conference "Our Land Our Food",
- Exhibit Alaska Pacific University Indigenous Celebration,
- Exhibit Alaska Federation of Natives Convention October 17-19, 2024.

President Williams reported the Tidal Energy Group agreed to meet biweekly on Mondays. He stated the next meeting is Tuesday the 14th. It will be telephonic and will start at noon at the Tribal Office.

He reported he and Tribal Administrator C.White delivered the retrocession documents to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and they are looking forward to working with us.

G.5. Finance Report – Amy DeTienne

Bookkeeper A.DeTienne provided a print out of the ARPA Budget (Exhibit G-5) entitled, Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual ARPA 2021 for 2024 year.

H. OLD BUSINESS

H.1. Food Card Adjustments

BACKGROUND: The Committee needs to schedule a meeting. President Williams requested each participant to sign a form stating they understand the program will terminate on 12/31/2024.

A.DeTienne asked to have the Finance Committee schedule a meeting. She reported there have been a few comments on receiving the food cards timely and persons receiving food cards are being asked to sign a document advising the program will terminate 12/31.

H.2. Land Purchase (Corpuz Property Adjacent to Kushnick's)

BACKGROUND: An email was received from Desiree Duncan (Exhibit H-2)

It was reported that Desiree met with the Kushnick family and let them know of the encroachment and that they needed to remove the vehicles, the container and the smoke house. This was a positive meeting.

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

BACKGROUND: C.White and J.Williams traveled in person and turned our request in on 10/4/2024 to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

H.5. Schoolhouse Agreement

BACKGROUND: Nora has completed the new agreement.

Once the Tribal Council approved the lease agreement it will be up to Tribal Administrator C.White to negotiate with the City on any changes the Tribe approves. The status of the rent on year 2022, 2023 and 2024 was discussed.

Motion/Second M.DeWitt and C.Williams to make two different checks; One for the year 2022 and not pay 2023 and 2024 until the agreement is signed. This is the clarified motion that both the motion maker and seconder agreed to do. ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: YES VOTE: C.Williams, M.DeWitt, Chuck Denny, T.Swink, and N.DeWitt; NO VOTE: None; ABSTAINING VOTE: None; Motion passes.

H.6. Job Openings Tribal Administrator, Tribal Administrative Assistant, and IEGAP Coordinator

BACKGROUND: Advertisement were placed in paper and online.

H.7. ARPA Budget Modifications

BACKGROUND: The Finance Committee needs to schedule a meeting to review.

Chuck Denny reported the Finance Committee met regarding the modification and he verbally reported what these changes were. This was discussed and the Council desired this be prepared in the required format and officially presented to the Council for approval. It was clarified the Finance Committee composed of the Executive Council (the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and the previous Treasurer.

H.8. Student ARPA Assistance for School Clothing and Needs

BACKGROUND: A Wal-Mart account has been established along with a Tongass Account. Caryl will go to the bank to initiate a wire transfer to obtain the Wal-Mart gift cards. A purchase order will be sent to Tongass to get the gift cards created. Once both sets of cards are received, OVS will distribute to the applicants.

A.DeTienne reported she put the order in on Friday and she went to the bank to initiate the transfer to Wal-Mart to pay for the gift cards. She stated once this is done she will issue a purchase order to Tongass to purchase the gift cards and once both gift cards are received they can be issued at the same time. \$27,500 is the total purchase amount. This will be placed on the agenda for next scheduled meeting.

H.9. Website/Network Update

Major progress has been made on this project. The domains have been purchased and the work and setup are being organized and completed with Dell and Microsoft. They are 85% complete.

It was reported the tablet from Claudia was found

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1. Tidal Energy Update

BACKGROUND: Siemen's agreement has been signed. Zoom meetings are being held every other week to line out goals and milestones. He will contact Mr. Bynum to be at next meeting.

I.2. New Grant Update

BACKGROUND: A new USFS grant was forwarded to Council by President Joe Williams. He received an email from US Forest Service for an award to OVS for \$100,000. He stated we have unspent \$13,000 of the previous funds so OVS now has \$113,000 to bring in the logs from the outlying areas where they are cut. He stated he received a positive nod from the Forest Service.

It was noted information was requested on the Food Security Grant and the Tourism Grant. It was thought October 23rd was the closing date of the Food Security Grant.

I.3. Far North Strategies AVI Broadband Project

No information available.

J. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee meetings.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEXT MEETING DATES

November 4th is the next scheduled meeting at 6 PM. A reminder was given for the Committees to meet.

N. COUNCIL/PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Secretary Caryl Williams commented it would be good to get information before the meeting.

Amos Gray stated he is excited about some of the items on new business. President J. Williams encouraged him to offer up agenda items.

Treasurer Chuck Denny commented we met only for 1 hour and 10 minutes and it was a good meeting. He hoped the schoolhouse agreement gets signed and we can move on.

A copy of the Schoolhouse Agreement was provided for Charlie. The draft agreement and the changes desired by OVS was given to Mayor Frank Seludo.

Amos Gray asked to have President Williams elaborate on renewable energy resources. President Williams explained this project and noted there is not enough data to determine the balance of energy needed.

President Williams thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He thought cutting back to one meeting a month may be feasible.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Seconded Chuck Denny and C. Williams to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by Nora DeWitt: 

Signed by President Joe Williams Jr.:  Date: 12/16/2024