

**ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN
REGULAR MEETING - JANUARY 23, 2023**

1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Williams Jr. at 6:05 pm per agenda.

PRAYER

Invocation was given by Councilmember Richard Shields.

ROLL CALL TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Joe Williams Jr., Vice President Charles (Chuck) Denny, Secretary Carrie (Wallace) Denny, Treasurer Trudi Swink, Councilmember Nora DeWitt, Richard Shields Sr. and Crista Thomas (via zoom).

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Tribal Administrator Charlie White, Interim Tribal Clerk Lori Richmond, Tribal Administrative Assistant Valena Johnson and Accountants Natalia Dyakanoff and Jay Johnson.

PUBLIC COMMENTS None

CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA (in packets)

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and Richard Shields to accept the agenda. Trudi Swink asked to add the topic "Food Assistance Cards Extension" to the agenda and to move the Executive Session to the end of the meeting so staff could be excused. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2 OCTOBER 9, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Council concurred to defer this to the next meeting as the wrong minutes were in the packet.

STAFF REPORTS

3 TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Motion/Second Richard Shields Sr. and Chuck Denny to accept this report. All in favor, motion carried.

4 TRIBAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and Carrie Denny to accept the verbal report given by Valena Johnson the Tribal Administrative Assistant. All in favor, motion carried.

5 FINANCE REPORT

Jay Johnson and Natalie Dyakanoff presented the Financial Report. The following was discussed:

- Accountants proposed the Council create a budget for this upcoming year;
- Suggested to close out last year and then we know what can be rolled over;

- Concern over reissued checks being signed without any back up;
- Accountants explained that a check over 90 days should be turned into the unclaimed property account, but in order to “do right” by the recipient they reissued instead;
- Council asked about the depreciation write off for the coffee machine and coffee shop materials? Jay Johnson stated the depreciation is accounted for;
- Council asked what happens after 7 years, does the depreciation still count? Jay Johnson replied that it becomes zero. In his opinion if without grant restrictions it can be sold;
- Tribal Administrator Charlie White added if you have to sell after 3 years.

Motion/Second Chuck Denny and Carrie Denny to accept the Financial Report. All in favor, motion carried.

6 MAINTENANCE REPORT

Maintenance Supervisor Rick Makua’s written report was provided to the Council.

7 PRESIDENT’S TRAVEL REPORT

BACKGROUND: President Williams provided a written travel report on the events he attended. Valena also provided a written report on the IGAP workshop her and Crista Thomas attended. President Williams advised he prepared a written report but the back sides did not get loaded and he is giving a verbal report to cover the missing pages. The Council asked for a copy of the full report and this was provided before the end of the meeting.

Motion/Second Richard Shields Sr. and Chuck Denny to accept the President’s report. All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

8 WOOD INNOVATION GRANT

President Joe Williams presented the grant opportunity of applying for the Wood Innovation Grant for the Woodmizer. The Council concurred with applying for this grant.

9 RESOLUTION #2023.01.260 IN SUPPORT OF ESKAY CREEK (in packets)

BACKGROUND: President Joe Williams presented a resolution affirming that the Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission has permission to engage the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office on behalf of OVS.

Motion/Second Nora DeWitt and Chuck Denny to approve Resolution #2023.01.260, a resolution affirming that the Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission has permission to engage the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office on behalf of OVS. All in favor, motion carried.

**10 14TH ANNUAL ANC & ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS
TRAINING COURSE**

BACKGROUND: The President would like to present this training opportunity for OVS on March 20-21, 2023 in Anchorage. President is recommending the OVS retreat follow this training.

Chuck Denny stated he has a conflict. Others were concerned with this being a lot of travel back and forth in a short period of time. Accountant Jay Johnson stated he can cover a couple of the topics like Understanding and Interpreting Financial Statement and Understanding Budgets. It was felt the Broadband training was more important for future revenue considerations. It was suggested the younger members of the Council go and that would be Carrie Denny and Crista Thomas. President Williams asked Councilmember Nora DeWitt if she could attend the Broadband Training and she said she would try.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OLD BUSINESS

11 HOME REPAIR LIST UPDATE (in packets)

BACKGROUND: An updated list of next homes to be repaired and when it will be provided from THRHA. The following was discussed:

- President Williams presented a report on the home repair applications and progress on the repairs.
- President Williams explained the Tribal Court Grant funds have been remaining idle and felt it has to be used or lose it. He suggested these funds be put towards the home repair account.
- Concern was brought forward regarding one Tribal Member being told that there wasn't enough funds to pay for the entire price of a whole roof. President Williams concluded that there is a need to have a conversation with THRHA Housing Director Jackie Pata regarding this.
- The problem of not having a MOU regarding the repair projects would make it easier to reference when questions arise.
- THRHA Navigator position was discussed and it was noted there has been no communication from CCTHITA regarding this position. It was explained that a Tribal Member has applied for home repair and the application was given to the Navigator but his name has not been added to the list. President Williams stated he will ask Jackie Pata about this.
- President Williams stated this is HUD money and its by their rules.

12 2779 BEAR CLAN UPDATE (in packets)

BACKGROUND: The Tribal Administrator is presenting a draft lease agreement for the Council to consider for approval. Rental Committee meeting is needed to create finalized policies and lease agreement.

Chuck Denny reported he has repeatedly tried to schedule a meeting with the Committee so he asked the Tribal Administrator to prepare a lease agreement but the policies still need to be done. Nora DeWitt stated the lease was very well done. She asks to add water & sewer into the lease, make it smoke free with no smoking and vaping, no tobacco or marijuana indoors, and if used they should be responsible for replacement of all carpets and draperies. President Williams stated they should move use of illegal drugs be the number one reason for eviction. Tribal Administrator Charlie White stated he can have some policies done by Friday as policies are pretty simple for what OVS is doing. President Williams discussed the removal of #15 off of the lease about fire damage. Council asked line 8 be removed so there is no subletting. Make renter responsible for their own renter's insurance.

13 SCHOOL HOUSE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SAXMAN (in packets)

BACKGROUND: The Tribal Administrator will present negotiations on property and repairs are still being discussed. The City of Saxman has submitted a draft lease based on previous leases.

President Williams reported that Mayor Frank Seludo was approached by Cape Fox Corporation (CFC) with an offer to buy this property. Nora DeWitt stated that whatever is done BLM says the property has to be used for community use and the Tribe meets that requirement but CFC doesn't. President Williams commented that OVS can build a Tribal office on the property they own and can get the BIA to fund it. But it won't happen tomorrow as it takes time, he added.

President Williams stated he would also like the City of Saxman to convey all of the roads to the OVS so the Tribe can help with maintenance.

14 OVS SUPPORT OF ROADLESS RULE UPDATE (in packets)

BACKGROUND: OVS is listed on a letter of support for the Roadless Rule as part of a previous support Resolution sent to KIC.

15 OVS EMPLOYEE POLICIES

BACKGROUND: The Tribal Administrator has submitted to Council drafts of both finance and personnel policies in previous meetings. These policies are waiting on Council's approval or suggested edits. The Tribal Administrator would like to suggest that if there are edits it needs to be discussed during a Finance Committee meeting and this should take place immediately. As well as a Personnel Committee meeting should be scheduled for edits to the draft Personnel

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Policies. President Williams asked for volunteers for the Personnel Committee. A workshop meeting on February 1st at 4:30 pm to review the Financial Policies.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

This topic was added during Consideration of the Agenda and was discussed.

Council Member Trudi Swink presents an issue concerning Alaska being behind on their food stamps (in packets). A lot of residents have thanked her because their food stamps are so late. They are using their \$750 for all their food and not as an addition to their food stamps. When Council Member Trudi Swink asked on January 9th, the social services office said the earliest they can issue food stamps will be in four months. In July 2022 the Federal Government did away with the emergency approvals. Everyone got cut off until a re-evaluation is done and social services has no staff to complete these re-evaluations. She stated there are 23 residents at least that are not getting their food stamps. She asked the Council if they can to extend the \$750 grants for the months of April and May. She explained if OVS pays water and sewer for everyone they then aren't spending food money on this. It would mean \$150,000 would go out into the Community. She witnessed people in tears because their applications were new and won't even get looked at for 4 months. Social services said there is nothing they can do. A motion was made and before it was seconded the Council decided to have a budget meeting on the ARPA funds. President Williams tabled this until after the budget meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Staff was excused at 9:15 pm for Tribal Executive Session

NEXT MEETING DATES

Calendar attached for Council to schedule regular meetings, committee meetings and Tribal Council events.

COUNCIL/PRESIDENTS COMMENTS None

ADJOURNMENT

Council concurred to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm.

Submitted by Nora DeWitt: Nora DeWitt
Notes provided by: Chuck Denny, Nora DeWitt and Valena Johnson

Signed by President Joe Williams Jr.: Joe Williams Jr.
Date of Approval by Council: July 22, 2024