

Monday, August 1, 2011
Delaware Community Center
Respectfully submitted by Verna Crawford, Council Secretary

Chief Pechonick called the meeting to order at 6 pm.
Chet Brooks gave the invocation.

Roll Call: Chief Pechonick, Assistant Chief Brooks, Janifer Brown, Verna Crawford, Wayne Stull, Jenifer Pechonick. Absent: Bill Hatch.

Janifer Brown made a motion for Bill Hatch to receive an unexcused absence.

Jenifer Pechonick seconded.

Discussion: The question is whether or not the previous meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting. The answer was yes.

Motion carries: 4 yes (Chet Brooks, no).

The Chief welcomed the guests: Nate Young, Charles and Mary Randall, Don and Priscilla Mason, James and Marilyn Coffey, Jack Tatum, Titus Frenchman, Jade Johnson, Cy Hughes.

Verna Crawford moved to approve the agenda, to amend as necessary.

Wayne Stull seconded.

Motion passed all in favor.

Jenifer Pechonick made a motion to approve the June 6 minutes with corrections if necessary.

Wayne Stull seconded.

Motion passed, all in favor.

Discussion: no corrections.

Jenifer Pechonick made a motion to approve the June 27 minutes with corrections if necessary.

Janifer Brown seconded.

Discussion: Don Mason said that he will be meeting with Lindal Fields from Tri-County Tech.

Motion passed. Abstain: C. Brooks, V. Crawford.

Janifer Brown presented the treasurer's report. She said that the format has been changed to make the financials easier to read.

Janifer Brown made a motion to approve the financials pending audit.

Wayne Stull seconded.

Motion passed all in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Note on the DIN: the printer made the mistake with the address labels on the DIN. He will be sending out a corrected newspaper. Verna said the newspaper was late because the articles did not get to her in time.

Idaho Delaware : in the July issue of the DIN, there was an article about the Idaho Delaware.

Jenifer Pechonick said the Idaho Delawares put on their web site, "August 1st we become the Idaho band of the Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma as fully federal recognized members."

Charles Randall said the first paragraph of the Constitution states what is required to be a member of the tribe, the 2nd paragraph states how to become a member of the tribe. He said that the only way to change the membership is to amend the Constitution. He said if we allow this to occur, we open the door to anyone who wants to be a tribal member and we become a social club, not a tribe.

Verna Crawford said that from the emails she received, she understands that the Idahos have adopted members. She read from the bylaws of the Idaho Delawares regarding their honorary member status.

Chet said that he also had questions about the honorary status, but there is a big difference between honorary status and a Tribal member. He cited the historical precedent of adopting four tribal members of Kansas Delaware descent in 1951.

Titus Frenchman took an informal poll at the Elder's meeting and none people voted no; however, this was not official.

Chet Brooks said that he had heard people say that the only reason we were interested in adopting the Idaho was to "get a casino." He said he doesn't think the BIA would ever approve this.

Jack Tatum said that we have Delawares from the east coast to the west coast that are not registered members of this Tribe. He said the culture is what makes us Delawares. He said the Delawares that are somewhere else have been practicing culture that is different than ours. He also said he doesn't have a lot of respect for the Delawares that have not stayed with the Tribe. He wanted to point out what role the culture plays into us being Delaware. He said that he feels that the Idaho Delawares got separated from us and they are not the same as us. They might be related but they have not practiced the culture.

Chief Pechonick said that she believes we will hear more comments in the coming weeks. Chet Brooks said he is not looking for comments.

Nate Young said if we wanted to change the Constitution we would have to submit the requested change to the BIA and if approved, have an election to approve the requested change.

Chet Brooks said in all due respect to everyone's opinion, he is willing to back away from this issue. He said 75% of tribal members live outside the five-county area. He filed an initiative petition with the secretary Verna Crawford, to address whether we should take them in or whether we should forget it. He said that he will forgo obtaining signatures until he talked to Nate Young.

Don Mason said that he doesn't want the Tribe to end up in a lawsuit. Nate Young said the Idaho Delawares cannot sue us due to sovereign immunity and the BIA has indicated if we do not proceed appropriately, we will have problems in the future.

Verna Crawford said before we move forward we need to know where we are going and what is expected from us for them.

Jenifer Pechonick made a motion to table the Idaho Delaware issue.

Wayne Stull seconded. Motion passed (1 no, Chet Brooks).

Nate Young said that if we want an official opinion from Mr. Echo Hawk, the Chief will have to send an official letter asking for assistance.

Nate Young said, when asked by Wayne Stull, the BIA asked why we would want to do this and jeopardize our OIWA recognition.

Personnel policies: still a work in progress.

National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) has been coming to Bartlesville for training. The next training will be September 12.

The September Tribal Council will be September 12.

Poll Vote: July 26, 2011 a poll vote was conducted to accept 1% of the Papua New Guinea Project with no cost to the Tribe.

Verna Crawford made a motion to ratify the poll vote.

Jenifer Pechonick seconded.

Motion passed, with 1 no (Wayne Stull).

Discussion: It is doubtful any of us are going to New Guinea, as the people who made the proposal have run into a credit validation problem. The investors are reconsidering.

Wayne Stull made a motion to accept Resolution 2011-19 regarding new members.

Janifer Brown seconded.

Discussion: There are 10 members.

Motion passed, all in favor.

Titus Frenchman brought 3 issues from the Elders.

1) Can wifi be set up at the Community Center? The current password is not working.

2) A request was brought to the Tribe to bury a non-Delaware distant relative. One suggestion was cremation. Another was to bury an urn, but there was concern about disturbing an existing grave. The person making the burial request would bear the costs of the burial. Also, the Elders want the Tribe to take back the cemetery; Wayne Stull said he is currently working on this.

3) A request was made by the Elders for a line item budget from the Council. Titus asked for status letter explaining where the Tribal Council is on this.

Janifer Brown discussed the wifi at the Center. She said that she and Jack Tatum were working on this today. Titus Frenchman said that the Community Center signal is pretty much contained to the Community Center.

Don Mason said that he and Nate Young went to the consult with the US Attorney's office. He said that Trent Shores offered to come to give a workshop on grants.

Verna Crawford made a motion to send representatives to NCAI in Portland, Oregon.

Wayne Stull seconded.

Motion passed all in favor.

The 2010 Audit is complete. Jade Johnson presented the findings; she said this was segregation of duties in accounting, based on previous employees. This ensures checks and

balances. The Tribe passed the audit. Jade said that we've had the same audit firm for 10 years. She sent out approximately 90 RFPs.

When Jade started, the indirect cost proposal was due. We contracted the proposal for 2012. She said that there is a basic class in Oklahoma City.

Wayne Stull made a motion for Jade to attend any training she needs.

Chet Brooks seconded.

Motion passed all in favor.

Other Business:

Nate Young said that we have two judicial appointees present. The Constitution does not state who should administer the Oath of Office. Nate Young suggested the Chief conduct this tonight.

The Chief swore in the new judges Charles Randall and Don Mason.

Janifer Brown said there are a few months missing from the tapes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.