

Tribal Council Meeting
February 6, 2012
Minutes

Chief Pechonick called the February 6th meeting to order at 6pm. Chet Brooks gave the invocation in Lenape and English. Roll call: Chief Pechonick, Assistant Chief Chet Brooks, Janifer Brown, Wayne Stull, Verna Crawford, Nathan Young and Jenifer Pechonick.

The Chief recognized the guests present. Charles and Mary Randall, Curtis Zunigha, Rick Barnes, Priscilla and Don Mason, Titus Frenchman, James Hammon, Greg Brown, Earnest Tiger, Vicki Sousa, CeCe Biggoose, Marilyn and James Coffey.

Verna Crawford made a motion to approve the agenda. 2nd Wayne Stull. Motion passed all in favor.

Jenifer Pechonick made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections from January 9, 2012. 2nd Janifer Brown. Motion passed all in favor.

Treasurer's report: Janifer Brown presented the financials. She said there is a note added to the November financials regarding the NAGPRA drawdown, it has since been resolved but it is applicable to the December financials as well.

Jenifer Pechonick made a motion to approve the financials pending audit. 2nd Chet Brooks. Motion passed all in favor.

Unfinished Business

Verna Crawford made a motion to approve housing policies including: Indian Preference Policy, Housing Inspection Policy, Pet Policy, Continued Occupancy – Rental Program, Collection Policy - Low Rent and Homeownership. 2nd Janifer Brown. Discussion: Nathan Young wanted the audience to know that the Council came together to review these policies and worked together to review them. Vicki Sousa asked about the 25lb limit on the dogs. Wayne Stull asked for Curtis Zunigha and Melanie Downs to work together to shut down the former housing authority website, have a tab on the Tribe's website for housing and include the approved policies. Motion passed all in favor.

Greg Brown and Jim Hammon reported on a consultation that they attended at Delaware Water Gap, paid for by National Park Service. NPS wanted the Tribe to

consult on a large power line that is scheduled to run through Delaware Water Gap. Although none of the proposed actions would impact the area of the Tribe's fairly recent reburial of ancestral remains, the Tribe, as well as several other tribes, was asked to comment on the power line and what the impact would be to the Tribe's concerns (especially archaeological sites along the river and elsewhere in the Park). Consultation is very important and something the Historic Preservation Office does 50 or 60 times a month as part of the Section 106 process, but because this is a very large and important project (to run electricity from western Pennsylvania to New York and New Jersey), the Tribe ought to make a strong statement, hence the request for a tribal resolution. The National Park Service solicited comments not only from the Tribe, but from other affected groups, before making its recommendation about whether to approve a permit to allow the line to be run through the Delaware Water Gap. The tribes brought in for consultation all agreed that our recommendation should be to deny the permit—the so-called “No Action” alternative. There were many conservation groups who also objected. However, the project may happen regardless (at which time the Tribe will have additional opportunities to consult and participate in the decision making process). The park will make a preliminary recommendation in March and its final recommendation in October, taking tribal comments into consideration.

Chet Brooks made a motion to approve resolution 2012-03 as the Tribe's official comment on the Susquehanna to Roseland 500kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way and Special Use Permit Draft Environmental Impact Statement recommending no action. 2nd Jenifer Pechonick. Motion passed all in favor.

New Business

Resolutions:

Wayne Stull made a motion to approve resolution 2012-04 Approval of Tribal Membership. 2nd Jenifer Pechonick. Discussion: there are 5 new members. Motion passed all in favor.

Wayne Stull made a motion to approve resolution 2012-05 to approve Requesting the US Congress to declare the Claremore Indian Hospital and Surrounding Parcel of land as Indian Country under 18 U.S.C. 1151(B) 2nd Chet Brooks. Motion passed all in favor.

Other Business

Nathan Young said Tribal Judges Don Mason, Charles Randall and Rick Barnes will start meeting on a regular schedule.

Titus Frenchman said Kerry Holton, President of the Delaware Nation and Cara Cowan Watts, Councilwoman from Cherokee Nation, spoke at the Elder's lunch last week and asked for a resolution to help clarify our position on the issue of fake tribes. Jenifer Pechonick asked that we be mindful to not exclude our Canadian brothers and sisters. Five years ago, the resolutions would have been against the Delaware Tribe of Indians. Wayne Stull asked Titus Frenchmen to supply Curtis Zunigha with the sample resolutions. Curtis Zunigha asked if the Council wanted to have community meetings to obtain additional input.

Janifer Brown asked Titus Frenchmen for an updated Elder's Budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.