The regularly scheduled meeting of the tribal council convened at 5:30 p.m. with Chief Chet Brooks asking Curtis Zunigha to offer prayer and Secretary Nicky Michael to call roll. All members of the tribal council were in attendance. Chief welcomed guests and asked for the agenda to be approved. Motion made by Bonnie Griffith, seconded by Benita Shea, affirmed, all in favor.

Minutes of the November 17, 2015, were reviewed, motion made by Bonnie Griffith and seconded by Annette Ketchum, and passed 6 yes, 1 no (Benita Shea). Motion made to approve minutes of the December 1, 2015, meeting was made by Annette Ketchum, seconded by Michelle Holley, and passed 6 yes, 1 no (Nicky Michael). Motion to accept the Financial Report was made by Benita Shea, seconded by Nate Young, and filed for audit.

Unfinished Business

Chief asked for additional reports by staff to add to those in the packet and Tribal Manager, Allan Barnes, reported that the regularly scheduled directors’ meeting tomorrow (12/16) is cancelled and the next meeting will be the January meeting. He announced that on January 6, 2016, the police department in Bartlesville will conduct a shooter class in Forsythe Hall.

Child Enforcement Director, Curtis Zunigha, explained the status of the Kansas Department for Children and Families MOU. He said although it has been represented to the tribal council for review, he got a call and the attorney who worked on the MOU is gone and the new attorney wants some time to put her approval on the document, which Zunigha hopes will be ready by January, 2016. He also reported that the MOUs with State of Oklahoma’s and Cherokee Nation’s departments for children and families will be completed soon for review by the Council. He explained that each entity and the Tribe must have the proper documents in place so as to transfer child enforcement cases to the Delaware Tribal Court.

The Code of Ethics which was tabled November 17, so it could be reviewed by the Trust Board and the Tribal Justices, was left on the table due to its not yet having been received by either group for review.

Michelle Holley reported that she has enlisted the Delaware Tribe into the Indigenous Native Leaders Youth Challenge and asked that she be appointed as the contact person for the organization, as the liaison between it and the Tribe. Motion made by Bonnie Griffith, seconded by Nicky Michael, passed 6 yes, 1 abs. (Holley). The Delaware Boys & Girls Club of Chelsea will be included in the Challenge.
Chief Brooks made a motion, seconded by Nate Young, to relieve Nicky Michael of the Office of Secretary of the tribal council while continuing to serve as a member of the Council. Lengthy discussion prevailed with several citizens from the audience questioning the change in officers. Councilwoman Michael had no desire to be replaced and a vote of 4 yes, 3 no passed; followed by a motion by Bonnie Griffith, seconded by Nate Young to seat Annette Ketchum as secretary. Motion carried 4 yes, 2 no, 1 abs (Chief Brooks)

New Business

Resolution 2015-64 to approve nine new Delaware for membership was read and motion made by Nate Young, seconded by Benita Shea and passed 7 yes.

Resolution 2015-65 to change the designation of four homes from mutual help housing to rental units was read, motion made by Bonnie Griffith, seconded by Nathan Young, followed by discussion. Walter Dye, staff, and Ron Scott, director, of the Housing Program explained that mutual help housing are homes that are available for purchase by qualified Delaware and because four units have been empty for a prolonged time period the housing director is asking that those units be re-designated as rental units, as there is a demand for rentals. At any time and as needs change, rentals may be re-designated back to mutual help housing. The vote was 7 yes and carried.

Resolution 2015-66 asking for the 106/Historic Preservation (THPO) income from fees collected to be distributed to Language and Culture, 40%; Archives and Documentation, 20%; Museum and Library, 10%; THPO Salaries, 20%; and In-direct Cost, 10% was read. Motion to accept made by Nicky Michael, seconded by Michelle Holley, with discussion following. Brice Obermeyer, NAGPRA Director, explained the funds uses. It was stated that had there been a quorum at the November General Council, this would have been brought to the floor. It was stated that the funds are now discretionary in use. It was stated percentages is a good idea and that at some time percentages should be designated for use. Vote was 2 yes, 5 no, and denied.

Resolution 2015-67 to establish an unbiased and objective editorial board for The Delaware Indian News (DIN) and other electronic/social media under the secretary was read. It was discussed that a social electronic media resolution was already voted December 1. It was stated that the duties of an Editorial Board for the DIN must be defined before it goes to a vote. Motion was made by Nicky Michael and died for lack of a second.

Resolution 2015-68 to return to one regularly scheduled tribal council meeting per month on the third Tuesday was read. Motion made by Michelle Holley, seconded by Annette Ketchum, with discussion following sighting many reasons for and against at the table and in the citizenry. Vote was 3 yes, 4 no and denied.
Under Other New Business the following was presented:

a. Joe Brooks, a veteran, requested that the flags be flown properly on the flag poles in front of the headquarters building. He also believes the Tribe should learn to adhere to its current constitution and questioned the need for a revision.

b. Judge Randall requested his hope that the Tribe will complete its work on Constitution Reform, and stated the Tribal Court needs remote access to the Codes on the shared drive.

c. Bonnie Griffith announced that the Tribe received the Bartlesville Enterprise Newspaper’s Wellness Award, which will be in place for a year, with a plaque she asked be mounted on the wall in the Wellness Center.

d. Nicky Michael announced that in a conference call with the Nation Institute Sister Organization at Harvard University she received an affirmation that the Center will review our Constitution at no charge to the Tribe. In the past Harvard was charging for this service. Nicky also wants to have a CD listing of all the Smithsonian Collection. Brice said he will contact the Smithsonian and thanked her for the information.

e. Michelle Holley said the Sand Hill Indians are using our seal and wants to get a process started whereby the Tribe will trademark the seals—both old and new. Michelle made a motion to engage David McCullough to send a letter to Sand Hill Indians to cease and desist in the use of both the DTI old and new seals, seconded by Bonnie Griffith, passed 7 yes.

Annette passed out two histories of two Kansas Delaware councilwomen, Linda Graff and Carolyn Rowe, to the Council to review. Ms. Rowe provided these to help acquaint the DTI Council with the KD Council.

Chief called for a short break at 7:55 pm. Meeting resumed at 8:06, with Tim Houseberg reporting on his activity in Economic Development for the Tribe. He provided a written report and elaborated on it, highlighting progress on Carceiri judgment, FTT in Caney, and 8a. Tim also advised the Council that Legal-Zoom will provide a trademark in 30 days for $1,000 and suggested that Attorney McCullough would be approachable and he would be paid $1,000, not Legal-Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30. Merry Christmas to all!