

DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING, July 5, 2016
TAKEN BY SECRETARY ANNETTE KETCHUM

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Chief Chester Brooks at 5:34 p.m. Bonnie Thaxton was asked to pray and Chief led the Pledge of Allegiance, Secretary Ketchum called the roll with Asst. Chief Bonnie Griffith, Treasurer Benita Shea, Members, Michelle Holley, Dr. Nicky Michael, and Nathan Young III present in addition to Chief and secretary. Motion to accept the Minutes by Ms. Griffith, seconded by Ms. Shea, passed with no changes, 5 Yes and 2 Abstention (Holley and Michael).

Chief Brooks welcomed guests and asked if anyone wished to speak. Guests and employees present were Cece Biggoose, Dana Murrell, Johnny Ramsey, Paula Pechonick, Beau Watt, Jim Creed, Susan Cade, Leslie Jerden, Nathan Scullawl, Anna Pechonick, Charles Randall, Mary Randall, Nathan Buck Young, Teresa Clark, Leslie Fall-Leaf, Allan Barnes, Curtis Zunigha and Jean Lewis. Nancy Ann Sumpter expressed that speaking before motions come up does not give the citizens a chance to address their thoughts on specific business during the meeting. Chief Pechonick, Susan Cade, and Chief Ketchum agreed with Ms. Sumpter. They went on to add: Chief Pechonick asked about the Fee-to-Trust status on the Caney and Leavenworth properties and Chief Brooks said the Miami Agency will send both applications to Washington, D. C., as early as next couple of weeks. Ms. Cade asked if the Leavenworth property was being used for a Casino and who purchased the land. Chief Brooks said Yes to Casino use, but that the property was not purchased by anyone. The developer, River Trails, pays for the Option-to-Buy on the property. Chief Ketchum suggested that Delaware voters, 18 years and old, be the only persons to address the Tribal Council to express views. He quoted Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution, Rights of Members.

Chief Brooks asked the audience if they would want to speak on motions and a response of raised hands was given. He said he would allow no more than 3 minutes with the understanding that if any accusations or attacks toward the Council were made, he would immediately call for executive session for that person to vent in private.

Next Anna Pechonick spoke, pointing out on three occasions the Tribal Council passed resolutions which did not have a majority vote, thus were illegal. Ms. Pechonick also introduced her guest, Audrey Gay, who is Operation Eagle Princess and will be Delaware Pow Wow Princess in 2017. Then, Titus Frenchman discussed the matter of those who believe they are Indian but can't prove it, citing a political figure, Elizabeth Warren. Chief Brooks related his knowledge of Ms. Warren and Ms. Holley asked Leslie Fall-Leaf, Enrollment Director, to speak to this and Ms. Fall-Leaf said she will only discuss it privately.

Ms. Ketchum announced that the three initiative petitions to recall Chief Brooks, Ms. Griffith and Mr. Young each have 100 signatures of Delaware citizens, has been verified, and asked Chief to call for a referendum election in 45 days. A lengthy discussion followed. Leslie Jerden, Editorial Committee Chairman for the DIN, quoted Article VIII of the Constitution and was trying to get a handle on the discussion. Ms. Holley pointed out the somewhat ambiguous nature of the Constitution and Bylaws; however, the people had spoken with the Petitions. Before the Petition matter was settled, Curtis Zunigha was recognized by the Chief in spite of the discussion. Mr. Zunigha thanked everyone who had participated in the dinner given by the Lenape Foundation to honor Jim Rementer, Language Director, in June and raise funds for the Language Program. \$2,500 was raised.

Ms. Griffith asked for a recess at 6:30 p.m. to acknowledge Ms. Thaxton's 93rd birthday. Meeting was resumed at 6:48 by Chief Brooks.

Unfinished Business

Chief said that Election Board Chairman, Darrell Glenn, had selected Janan Alderman as a new member of the Election Board. Ms. Griffith made a motion for her to be seated, seconded by Benita Shea. Passed 7 yes.

Reports

Allan Barnes, Tribal Manger, was asked by Ms. Holley to report on the status of hiring for tribal jobs. He said the interviews are completed for IT and Receptionist and offers are to be made tomorrow. When the receptionist is hired, the present receptionist, Angela Krebs, will move to the Accounting Department in the Housing Program financial position under the supervision of CFO Jean Lewis. Mr. Barnes continued, saying the EPA Director, Museum Director, and Child Enforcement Financial Specialist are still pending.

Dr. Michael reported the language grant from National Science Foundation had been funded (\$29,000) for continued work on the Talking Dictionary. She also said she is still working for the Language Department offering an in-kind contribution.

Ms. Ketchum again brought the Initiative Petition mandates from Delaware citizens back to the floor and asked what Chief was going to do about the three petitions. More discussion and the final reply from Chief was take it to Tribal Court.

New Business

Mr. Barnes related that an offer from the Pine family to rent the house on the 92 acres (mol) had been received in the form of a residential lease. His recommendation was that instead of an annual lease that it be an 18-month rolling lease that would coincide with the 18-month rolling lease on the farm property that is in place. Ms. Griffith made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, to accept Mr. Barnes recommendation and lease the house. Discussion followed. Ms. Cade asked why the Tribe didn't lease the house and make more than the \$1200/mo. the Pines' offered since Pines are going to sublet the house. Mr. Barnes explained he talked to the real estate agent today who has been trying to rent the house for the Tribe. She advised to take the residential lease offer. The house has been sitting for over two years and vacancy breeds deterioration; the Pines love the home, as they were the builders; and they are discerning regarding the house, was offered as reasons by Mr. Barnes. Motion passed 6 Yes, 1 No (Michael).

Dee Ketchum asked about the Letter of Intent the Pines offered for \$1.3M for purchase of the acreage. Chief said he showed the LOI to Attorney David McCullough and his opinion was the offer did not include a non-refundable down payment. To make a good offer money must be included and Mr. McCullough advised to not accept it as is.

Adjournment motion by Ms. Griffith, seconded by Ms. Shea, carried at 7:40 p.m.