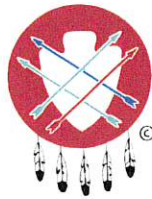


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PEORIA TRIBE
OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
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CHIEF
Craig Harper

SECOND CHIEF
Logan Pappenfort

**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
SPECIAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 21, 2021**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION:

Chief Harper called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. Carolyn Ritchey gave the invocation.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Secretary Tonya Mathews declared a quorum with all members present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made by Logan Pappenfort and seconded by Isabella Burrell to approve the Agenda. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution R-06-21-21-A “Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Application to the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) for Emergency Language Preservation”: Motion was made by Logan Pappenfort and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-06-21-21-A as presented. Motion passed.

ARP Act Funding:

Chief Harper addressed the group by introducing FSA Investment Group (FSA), participating via the Zoom meeting platform. Present on the Zoom meeting was Matt Balka, Director of Finance, and Jennifer Parisien, Relation Manager. Chief Harper explained that FSA is contracted by the Tribe to provide guidance and assistance in navigating the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding provided by the U.S. Treasury (Treasury).

Ms. Parisien began a PowerPoint presentation by providing an overview of the ARPA defining the purpose, allowable use, restrictions, revenue replacement and recommendations for use of funds. She then transitioned the presentation of the ARP Act and the \$19 trillion that was allocated by Congress.

Chief Harper advised the group that questions would be taken at segments during the presentation provided by FSA not at each slide, so if citizens would please write their questions down and have them ready that would be the format for the presentation and questions.

Ms. Parisien stated that under the Interim Final Guidance provided by the Treasury there are five defined areas that funds can be spent:

- 1) Public health
- 2) Economic hardship
- 3) Essential worker -- hazard pay
- 4) Revenue replacement
- 5) Infrastructure: water, sewer, and broadband

Ms. Parisien stated there are many resources available to Tribes, citizens, and the general public as all segments of government had received ARPA funding: city, county, and state. There are resources available to help individuals at all levels not just the tribal level.

Peoria citizens inquired if there was funding to assist small business owners. In addition to small businesses is there funding available for unemployed individuals, as state funding is ending and that will be a large change in assistance, can ARPA funding be used to assist the unemployed. Ms. Parisien stated that ARPA funding did provide for that option, but citizens should not rely solely on Tribes to provide financial assistance as there are many funding opportunities available to business owners and the unemployed. She further stated that it is best to look at the funding, not just what the Tribe has received.

Ms. Parisien emphasized that the guidance provided by the Treasury are the INTERIM RULES and are NOT the final rules. She also stated that the funds cover the period of March 3, 2021, thru December 31, 2024. However, if you obligate funds, they will not have to be spent until 2026.

Ms. Parisien stated that the Interim rule are very broad but do have restrictions on how the funding can be spent. Some restrictions include:

- 1) Payment to citizens is in relation to their taxes, like the funding dispersed by the U.S. Government. There may be individuals that do not qualify for any funds.
- 2) Can not apply funds to reserve funds.
- 3) Non-federal match for other federal programs.
- 4) Deposit into Pension Funds.

Peoria citizens inquired about the ability to provide a stimulus check to all tribal citizens. Ms. Parisien stated that under the Interim Final Guidance issued by the Treasury the same rules and format must be used by the Tribes that the US Government used to provide stimulus checks to US citizens. She further stated that the US Government had used a financial cap to determine if US citizens would receive a stimulus check and that the Tribes are required to do the same. For example, the income guidelines provided for income \$75,000 or higher, no stimulus check was received. Using that format, the Tribe would have to determine income of citizens and some citizens would not be eligible for a stimulus check. Peoria citizens stated that they felt the funding should be provided to all citizens, not just certain individuals, or age groups. Conversation continued the desire to provide funding to individuals under eighteen years of age, as well as, those over eighteen years of age. There was discussion related to if the funding would be directed to the parent who had custody, if the funding would be used for the child or if the parents would use it and how the money would be divided among elders and others. The citizens present discussed their opinions on if minors should receive a payment or not. It was pointed out that under the current Guidance issued by the Treasury funding was not to be provided to all individuals, due to being income based-leaving the question for how the Tribe would enact this.

Ms. Parisien continued her presentation stating that Tribes were able to utilize funds to replace lost revenue from their enterprises.

Ms. Parisien stated that the comment period for Tribes to submit input to the U.S. Treasury will be July 16th and she strongly recommends Tribes submit their comments and concerns regarding the Guidance provided. In addition, she stated that the first report would be due August 31, 2021. Ms. Parisien stated it was very important to utilize the funds correctly and within the Guidelines as she is aware of one tribe who is currently having to repay CARES Act funding that was not used correctly. In determining how to spend the funds, she recommended that the Tribe use best practices such as: creating a diverse team to research and provide input and follow the correct practices. She stated it is imperative to follow the Guidelines for Allowable costs.

Peoria citizens inquired what the Tribe had received. Chief Harper stated that the Tribe had received \$17.2 million. Citizen inquired where the money was at. Chief Harper stated it is in the account it was deposited to by the U.S. Treasury and the Tribe had not done anything with it. Discussion continued about Peoria citizens that had lost jobs, lost income, and were suffering hardships and further stating a stimulus payment would be a great benefit to them.

Mr. Balka stated he would advise the Peoria Tribe to wait until the Final Guidance was received by the Treasury. He stated the Final Guidance would be more specific and would identify what could be done. He was very concerned that if a tribe overdistributed the funds, they would have to be paid back to the Treasury. Mr. Balka stated he has been advising all clients to wait for the Final Guidance to be provided.

Chief Harper addressed each Business Committee Member and inquired on their current thoughts on the ARPA Funding and how to move forward:

- Kara North: No comment
- Hank Downum -- This is a lot of information, and it will take some time to process it
- Tonya Mathews-- Needs time to process the information
- Logan Pappenfort -- Revenue Replacement needs to be looked at
- Carolyn Ritchey-- Same as Hank
- Isabella Burrell -- She is concerned with the wording the Guidance and stating it is income based. She stated she is not comfortable providing funding to only some tribal citizens. She questioned if there are other ways to assist all tribal members and those options be explored. She encouraged the Tribe to issue comments to the Treasury.

Chief Harper asked each citizen in the room to provide their thoughts:

- Stacy Lindly: She stated that she was not in favor of providing funding to minors, but are there other ways to set aside money for the minors, a trust?
- Tabitha Sixkiller: Likes the idea of a trust for the minors
- Grace Garcia: The Final Rules are needed
- Nancy Pittman: No comment
- Barry Pittman: No comment
- Nick Hargrove: The trust options need to be explored. He stated that the Tribe should wait until the Final Guidance is issued. Inform citizens of the need to wait so everyone is aware of what is happening
- Jeane Burgess: People need assistance, but we should wait for the Final Rules

- Burgundy Fletcher: The CARES Act money – did we spend it all? Who will be submitting the comments on the ARPA funding? The way the Guidance is now the money would not go to all tribal citizens.
- Shannon Buckingham: What does our community need? We need community engagement. She would volunteer to help with community engagement. The priority will be the next 90 days and what the Rules are.
- Axle Farless: No comment
- Wes Farless: He agreed with other tribal citizens and the need to wait for the final rules. He stated he supports the elected Business Committee as they have made good decisions and he is sure they will continue to make good decisions. We stated, we are strong this is nothing, we are Peoria our children are strong our elders are strong they made us strong. We will be stronger coming out of this. We need to help each other, be there for one another.
- Isabella Burrell stated in closing, please remember all tribes are not equal. Do not compare us to other tribes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.


Authorized Signature

9/7/2021
Date Approved