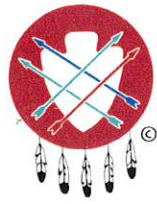


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PEORIA TRIBE
OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
118 S. Eight Tribes Trail • P.O. Box 1527
Miami, Oklahoma 74355

CHIEF
Craig Harper

SECOND CHIEF
Vacant

**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
SPECIAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION:

Chief Harper called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Isabella Burrell to approve the Agenda. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. ARP Act Funding:

Chief Harper addressed the group by reintroducing FSA Investment Group (FSA) and what their involvement is with the Peoria Tribe. 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). The FSA representative assisting in the dialogue is Justin Lepscier and he will be participating via the Zoom platform.

Mr. Lepscier stated that the Final Guidelines have not been received from the U.S. Treasury at this time, it was anticipated that they would be received within a certain timeframe, but that is not the case. There has been some movement on Guidelines, but they relate to funding available on Capital projects.

Chief Harper addressed the assembly stating that the Business Committee has continued to wait for the issuance of the Final Guidelines and asked that the citizens continue to be patient, as the decision to move forward without Final Guidelines is concerning. He has reached out to Congressional delegates and continued to express that the Tribes know best how to care for their citizens and would ask these elected officials to assist in moving this item forward. Chief Harper transitioned to public comments, stating that he would like to go around the room and allow for every citizen in attendance to have an opportunity to speak and provide their input.

Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Kara North to provide \$1,400 in financial assistance to every eligible citizen, that is enrolled as of September 22, 2021, to meet the American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) Guidelines. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.


Authorized Signature

11-02-21
Date Approved

Discussion amongst citizens was the disdain and disappointment that the Final Guidelines have not been issued, as this is a lot of money and could help a lot of people that are struggling financially. Chief Harper stated he agreed, but the concern of the Business Committee is that the current Interim Guidelines do allow for a disbursement to Tribal Citizens, but it is income based. Isabella Burrell stated that she is not comfortable providing a disbursement that is only available to a select group of income-based citizens.

A citizen from the Kansas City area addressed the group and expressed his frustration regarding the tribal website and how it is very difficult to navigate and find the forms that are needed. Chief Harper inquired what forms exactly is he referring to, as we need to know what an issue is so we can work to fix the issue.

The topic of discussion from the floor transitioned to the amount of interest that the funding is accumulating and how the funds can be used. Chief Harper stated that the funds received on behalf of ARPA are sitting in the same account that they were automatically deposited to. To date, the Tribe has not moved or done a thing with them, they are sitting there waiting. He further stated that the interest rate is lower than 2%. Justin Lepscier stated that the revenue gained from interest can be used by the Tribe in any way that they choose. Discussion on the floor related to being able to use those interest funds to: 1) make payment to citizens that are outside the income guidelines; or 2) use for any repayment that may need to be made in the future. There was discussion as to how other tribes are doing disbursements. Chief Harper stated that he can not speak for what other tribes are doing and can only speak on behalf of the Peoria Tribe. He stated that their Guidelines allow for certain things such as infrastructure, but they are limited in what type of infrastructure can be done. In addition, there can be assistance for items such as broadband (internet), but it is specific to citizens in the tribal jurisdiction.

Isabella Burrell asked Mr. Lepscier about misuse of funds and what the procedure is in that instance. Mr. Lepscier stated that if there is misspending found then a tribe will have to pay back those funds. Discussion transitioned to the income guidelines and how could this be determined. Chief Harper stated that income guidelines would have to be determined by the citizen and only applies to the citizen and not other non-citizen/individuals in the household. The Tribe would not be able to determine income eligibility this would be the responsibility of the citizen.

Chief Harper asked Mr. Lepscier to speak to the topic of Food Sovereignty. Mr. Lepscier stated that providing food assistance is an option, within the Guidelines, but once again this is income related. Carolyn Ritchey stated that she is very concerned about the availability of food to children.

Discussion from the floor transitioned to the availability of funding to citizens that are business owners and have struggled financially during this time. Mr. Lepscier stated that there is funding available to citizens with businesses thru loans and grants. There are guidelines for what a small business is and how much is available.

Isabella Burrell asked Mr. Lepscier how much can be provided to each citizen, under the current Guidelines. Mr. Lepscier stated that amount available to be provided to each citizen is based off the model of the U.S. Government and that is \$1,400 per citizen. He further stated that the Guidelines provide for the following requirements:

- 1) Individual live in a qualified census tract
- 2) Low to Moderate income level
- 3) Subject to negative impact in previous tax year.