

Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
Regular Council Meeting
Saturday, January 16, 2016
Primary Administrative Office, Sparks, Nevada

CALL TO ORDER: Council Chairwoman Randi DeSoto called the meeting of Saturday, January 16, 2016 to order at 8:21 am.

ROLL CALL: Secretary/Treasurer Celina Gonzalez called the roll: Chairwoman Randi DeSoto, present; Vice-Chairwoman Page Linton, present; Secretary/Treasurer Celina Gonzalez, present; Council Member Jerry Barr, present; and Council Member Delgadina Gonzalez, present.

STAFF: Department of Natural Resources Director, William Cowan and Finance Director, Frances Winn (present in the building)

REPORTS

Council Reports

Council Chairwoman Randi DeSoto reported that she signed a contract with a former employee to type only the Council's meeting minutes. If time allows she will catch up on minutes not done already, in particular the 2013 meeting minutes were discussed. It appears as if those minutes are missing and the recordings are not on file. She has been provided with the mini-computer to work on. The contract is for one year to complete minutes for 2016.

Chairwoman DeSoto also reported that she came into the office Tuesday to sign financial documents for the BIA and sign checks. She has been periodically checking her emails. After the agenda was posted the BLM requested to attend via phone, but had little to report. They may not attend as they did not confirm.

The Chairwoman has been stopping in the office on weekends and after hours when she could. She has requested keys for the Secretary/Treasurer and Council Member and to arrange laptops especially for Secretary/Treasurer Celina Gonzalez so that she does need to come into the office to complete her tasks.

Chairwoman DeSoto will check her mail box for incoming mail. As of now, she has been receiving all council mail and routing it appropriately, or would the council prefer to have everyone copied. An Executive Session was requested by the Finance Director regarding taxes. The Finance report will follow the Natural Resources report.

Council Chairwoman DeSoto has received requests of some of the approved members of the Enrollment Committee as to when they can get started. The Council will need to decide when the first meeting will be. As of this date, she does not know of any new membership applicants. It was suggested by Tribal members to close enrollment. Council agreed at first, then reconsidered and decided to keep enrollment open. This needs a brief discussion.

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Council Vice-Chairman Page Linton reported she wrote the Narratives for ICWA, Enrollment, Higher Education, and K-12 for the fourth quarter (Sept-Dec.) of 2015 for the BIA. She contacted a Louisiana Indian Health Service regarding dependency, but there has been no return contact. The Vice-Chairwoman inquired about a check for a person awarded Higher Education funds. It was already sent and receipt confirmed by the school. She worked on the Enrollment files printing reports on Enrolled, Deceased, Relinquished and Terminated members. She will set-up a worksheet of this information for the BIA. She had one inquiry regarding membership and she sent an application. There was an adoption involved. She also typed Enrollment Committee Guidelines.

Vice-Chairman Linton trained with Finance Director, Frances Winn on Accounts Payable and Timesheets. Frances Winn will send the Vice-Chairwoman step-by-step instructions. Vice-Chairwoman Linton remarked that the procedure is tedious because assigning times and money to the different funds.

Chairwoman DeSoto explained that the Narrative reports were to show what the Council members have fulfilled the responsibilities of the Council to the BIA.

Secretary/Treasurer Celina Gonzalez reported that she is trying to learn her position as a Secretary/Treasurer.

Council Member Jerry Barr reported that came into the office to sign checks and had a session with Finance Director, Frances Winn to learn the procedures and process of Higher Education and K-12.

Council Member Delgadina Gonzalez reported that because problems getting into the office, she was unable to fulfill requests for 4 dependency cards and 1 enrollment card. She said she would get back to them.

Council Chairwoman Randi DeSoto asked if any one needed anything. She has requested keys to the office for the Secretary/Treasurer and Council Member Gonzalez. Secretary/Treasurer Celina Gonzalez asked for equipment to do her job (laptop computer).

The Chairwoman also noted that three previously approved resolutions for BIA 638 contracts were sent to Natural Resources Department Director William Cowan and were finally signed. Vice-Chairwoman Page Linton sent two approved resolutions amending Enrollment Guidelines and Assurance of Dependency for final signatures. Chairwoman DeSoto also noted the Council needs to submit Narratives on time.

Staff Reports

William Cowan, Natural Resources Department Director asked if everyone got a

copy

of the Natural Resources report and if anyone had any questions. There were no questions.

Discussion Topics

Range proposal submitted to the BIA: This took a lot of time. It was submitted January 8, on time. It was sent back to be streamlined. The budget was cut back. The original budget was \$86,000. After everyone was back after the holidays, they worked hard and quick to write at least eight proposals. They are not easy and take a lot of time. Although more have been sent out, seven were submitted just yesterday.

The Range proposal is a new contract, not a grant. The Natural Resources staff had questions and after discussions with regional and agency staff people. They submitted a letter as recommended. This was sent back with questions. The Bureau said no indirect costs were allowed and they wanted a timeline as to submit with a revised budget of \$44,000 which took out the indirect costs for the Finance Department and Mr. Cowan's administrative costs. He has also asked them to consider indirect costs for the smaller tribes to submit in the future.

Jerry Barr asked several question about the revised budget particularly regarding indirect costs that the Tribe would need to pay.

William Cowan comment is a proposal with no guarantee of funding. There is a National Committee of range managers and agricultural people in the Bureau who will meet at the end of January to decide which grants and at what rate will be funded. We have regional support in Patty.

Chairwoman DeSoto asked for the thoughts of the Council.

Vice-Chairwoman Page Linton said to submit the proposal. Secretary/Treasurer Celina Gonzalez, Council Members Jerry Barr and Delgadina Gonzalez agreed. **Chairwoman DeSoto stated that the Council decision was to send the proposal for the BIA Rangeland Inventory Grant.**

William Cowan mentioned he also submitted a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation December 30, 2015 for water quality which is \$200,000 for two years. This is to replaces closed grant to pay for services.

William Cowan stated he was seeking Council approval for equipment procurement and highlighted the process as in the Procurement procedures, especially approvals and dollar amounts for each type. A handout was passed out to the Council. Mr. Cowan

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prepared a Certification of Votes to have in writing so the Natural Resources Department can move forward before the minutes are available. He passed out details and budgets

for each item as they were considered.

Item 1: Purchase of Seven All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

All seven ATVs have budgets and have approved funding with the following:

One ATV—2014 BIA Endangered Species

Two ATVs—2015 BIA Endangered Species Sage Grouse

Two ATVs—2015 BIA Endangered Species LCT

Two ATVs—2015 BIA Invasive Species

Online pricing ranges from \$8000 to \$10,000. Documentation and deliveries need to be considered. The Department already has a quote for Honda ATVs (the preferred brand due to experience and quality) from Big Valley Honda at \$7700. There is a possible \$250 rebate. William Cowan wants to buy all seven at once for the rebate at the available price.

The Council asked Mr. Cowan where the ATVs would be housed. The submitted Invasive Species proposal asks for Tuff Sheds with a cement base to house new ATVs. Also the department is enclosing the boat sheds where the ATVs can be housed.

VOTE TO APPROVE: Vice-Chairwoman Page Linton called the vote to approve the purchase of seven all-terrain vehicles with the funding of the 2014 BIA Endangered Species Sage Grouse, the 2015 BIA Endangered Species Sage Grouse, and the 2015 BIA Endangered Species LCT, 2015 Invasive Wildlife for spending on the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe reservation for various Natural Resources management activities. Council Member Jerry Barr seconded the vote. Chairwoman Randi DeSoto called the vote. Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained. Chairwoman DeSoto stated that the purchase of seven all-terrain vehicles was approved.

Item 2: The Purchase of one ATV Trailer

The purchase of one ATV trailer has been budgeted at \$2000 with funding with 2015 BIA Endangered Species Horses. The quotes obtained ranges from \$1800 to \$8000. Most of these are over-budget. The trailer will hold two ATVs. The preferred aluminum ones are more expensive than the wooden trailers which weather and have the screws loosen. It would be more cost effective to get a metal trailer especially for use at the lake. Mr. Cowan believes the savings on the ATVs will offset the cost of the trailer.

VOTE TO APPROVE: Council Member Jerry Barr called the vote to approve the purchase of one all-terrain vehicles trailer with the funding of the 2015 BIA

Endangered Species Horses to haul ATVs to and from the reservation for use on the reservation for services and to access remote locations. Council Member Delgadina Gonzalez seconded the vote. Chairwoman DeSoto called the vote. Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained. Chairwoman DeSoto stated that the purchase of one all-terrain vehicle trailer was approved.

Item 3: Purchase of a Boat and Associated Trailer

There was a quote from last year at \$18,500 plus which was confirmed and honored at the 2015 price from Michael's Marine. The budget is \$20,500. After the hassle of buying from out of state (California) it is preferred to buy local.

VOTE TO APPROVE: Council Member Jerry Barr called the vote to approve the purchase of one boat and associated trailer with the funding of the 2015 BIA Endangered Species LCT to haul the boat to the Summit Lake Reservation to carry out Fisheries operations. Council Member Delgadina Gonzalez seconded the vote. Chairwoman DeSoto called the vote. Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained. Chairwoman DeSoto stated that the purchase of one boat and trailer was approved.

Item 4: The Purchase of a Water Quality Profiling System

This was proposed as a buoy system. It is a single source purchase with only one vendor. The Budget is \$108,000. The revised quote is \$80,886 with potential retrofits. This system is a programmable system which lowers a water quality sensor into a water column at prescribed times so it can be monitor water quality for various chemicals. This is high tech and designed to communicate with Goes satellite or radio platform. Frances Winn stated an extension has been requested to be able to spend the money in 2016.

VOTE TO APPROVE: Council Member Jerry Barr called the vote to approve the purchase of one Sun Buoy System with the funding of the 2015 BIA Endangered Species LCT to take continuous water quality readings in the water column at Summit Lake. Council Member Delgadina Gonzalez seconded the vote. Chairwoman DeSoto called the vote. Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained. Chairwoman DeSoto stated that the purchase of Sun Buoy System was approved.

Item 5: Purchase of a Drone and Associated Accessories

The purchase of a drone is funded with 2015 BIA Endangered Species Sage Grouse. The budget is \$5000. Drones are currently quoted at \$1000 and up. A top-line drone could cost \$3000, but would still be within budget. The Natural Resources Department believes a heavier drone would be more cost effective with the winds at the lake.

VOTE TO APPROVE: Vice-Chairwoman Page Linton called the vote to approve the purchase of a drone and associated accessories with the funding of the 2015 BIA Endangered Species Sage to use for Sage grouse monitoring. Council Member

Jerry Barr seconded the vote. Chairwoman Randi DeSoto called the vote. Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained. Chairwoman DeSoto stated that the purchase of a drone and associated accessories was approved.

Item 6: Purchase of Hydro-acoustic System

This is funded by 2015 BIA Endangered Species LCT. The budget is \$67,000. This is a single source vender. The quote is \$57,973. The Hydro-acoustic system monitors the movement of water and fish to construct contour maps of the lake. Also included in the budget is training for two staff members. William Cowan will join them with the government paying for his training.

VOTE TO APPROVE: Vice-Chairwoman Page Linton called the vote to approve the purchase of a portable Hydro-acoustic system with the funding of the 2015 BIA Endangered LCT to use to detect fish and increase Fisheries Operations. Council Member Jerry Barr seconded the vote. Chairwoman Randi DeSoto called the vote. Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained. Chairwoman DeSoto stated that the purchase of a portable hydro-acoustic system was approved.

Item 7: Purchase of Additional Trap Nets

These trap nets will be purchased with NFWF monies. \$2,750 per trap net was budgeted. The ones purchased last year cost \$800. Mr. Cowan explained they would like stronger trap nets with smaller mesh, larger floats and other changes. The quote for the revised specifications is \$1000.64 per trap net. It will take a minimum of two months to get NFWF approval of the budget modifications. Trap nets are effective tools to catch fish live without injury.

VOTE TO APPROVE: Council Member Jerry Barr called the vote to approve the purchase of additional trap nets with NFWF PVA funds to enhance the existing Fisheries operations. Council Member Delgadina Gonzalez seconded the vote. Chairwoman DeSoto called the vote. Vote: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained. (Secretary/Treasurer Celina Gonzalez was not present in the room for the vote.) Chairwoman DeSoto stated that the purchase of trap nets was approved.

Item 8: Purchase of a Trimble GPS Unit

Mr. Cowan presented a request to approve the purchase of a Trimble GPS Unit with 2015 BIA Endangered Species Sage Grouse funds. The budget is \$19,500. Quotes obtained were \$8000 and \$10,000. There will be no taxes but license fees are unknown. This is intended for use for noxious weed and sage grouse tracking. This unit can create data reports that can be printed. This will save time on reporting. Natural Resources only has one license which can only be on one computer at any given time.

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The Department wants to include more licenses at approximately \$200 each.

VOTE TO APPROVE: Council Member Jerry Barr called the vote to approve the purchase of one Trimble GPS unit with 2015 BIA Endangered Species Sage Grouse funds to use for sage grouse tracking activities. Council Member Delgadina Gonzalez seconded the vote. Chairwoman DeSoto called the vote. Vote: 4 For, 0

Against, 0 Abstained. Chairwoman DeSoto stated that the purchase of one Trimble GPS unit was approved.

Item 9: Purchase of Vehicles

There is a budget of \$33,000 from 2015 BIA Endangered Species LCT funding for a vehicle (truck) for Reservation Maintenance replacing the GSA lease. Mr. Cowan stated that in addition, he would like to replace the Tahoe which is acting as a field vehicle. He would also like an SUV ASAP which is needed to transport noxious weed and other workers. He has checked the auto Blue book and the Sequoia has a \$10,000 value and an approximate value of \$12,000 for the Santa Fe. He would hope to use them to obtain another-probably used-vehicle. Hopefully three vehicles; truck, SUV and field vehicle; can be purchased.

VOTE TO APPROVE: Council Member Jerry Barr called the vote to approve the purchase of vehicles, as many as deemed necessary, either singly or combined, for below the amount budgeted in the 2015 BIA Endangered Species LCT funds to transport employees and move equipment to, from, and around the reservation. Council Member Delgadina Gonzalez seconded the vote. Chairwoman DeSoto called the vote. Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained. Chairwoman DeSoto stated that the purchase of vehicles was approved.

Item 10: Hiring Procedures of Natural Resources Department Positions

The Council approved job announcements at the last meeting. William Cowan is mailing out a letter to the membership. The Personnel policies site a Tribal Member preference.

Announcements have already been sent to other neighboring Native American tribes for posting. He is looking for approval of the Council to allow the Natural Resource Department do the hiring. They can tell if a person would be compatible with the staff and would be easier to schedule interviews with the same people for consistency. There were problems in the past with interviewers cancelling or not showing up for the interviews.

Council Member Gonzalez noted that Christine Harjo had offered to help the tribe. Ms. Harjo may be interested in being an interviewer. Council Member Jerry Barr confirmed he was available most afternoons. William Cowan feels the hiring process should be revised and updated. Vice-Chairwoman Linton offered to help if she is notified a few

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days in advance of the interview day so she can arrange to come into Sparks to attend in person. The Council felt that a least one Council member should be present, but also think someone from Natural Resources should be present. Frances Winn offered that if someone cancels or does not show up, she could make herself available as a last resort. William will talk to Ms. Harjo, Vice-Chairman Linton and Council Member Barr.

Finance Department Report

Finance Director, Frances Winn reported that the only thing she wanted to bring up was that Summit Lake Piaute Tribe expended almost one million dollars in 2015. The tribe had One millions minus \$40,000 or \$160,000 in expenditures. That is a lot of money. She emailed the financial reports to the BIA and mailed the originals yesterday. She talked to the Chairwoman about the Narratives. Frances passed out the Higher Ed and CTGP schedules of requirements to the Council for their information.

MOTION: Member Jerry Barr moved or an agenda change for an Executive Session for the Finance Department for 20 minutes to discuss taxes. Council Member Delgadina Gonzalez seconded the vote. Chairwoman DeSoto called the vote. Vote: 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained. (Secretary/Treasurer Celina Gonzalez was not present in the room for the vote.) The Council entered into Executive Session at 10:52 am.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 11:12 am.

Enrollment

The Council decided on the following dates and time for February meetings:

Friday, February 19, 2016	6 pm	Indirect (IDC) Training by F. Winn
Saturday, February 20, 2016	8 am	Regular Council Meeting
Sunday, February 21, 2016	9 am	Enrollment Committee

The Enrollment Committee meeting is the initial meeting of the committee to meet the Council and to go over the guidelines, to which they were to report, to choose who would take which role, etc. Chairwoman DeSoto said there are people who are already asking about it. The Council will send out a letter notifying the Committee members of the meeting. The members are William Cowan, Nedra Crane, Lorita Cowan and Christine Harjo. The Council wished to start with everything clearly stated from the beginning and things under control.

Chairwoman Randi DeSoto passed out the guidelines and read them as Vice-President Linton typed them. This is for greater clarification of the procedures.

Chairman DeSoto called for a Lunch Break at 12:19 pm.

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CALL TO ORDER: Chairwoman Randi DeSoto called the Council meeting back to order at 2:04 pm.

ROLL CALL: Secretary/Treasurer Celina Gonzalez called the roll: Chairwoman Randi DeSoto, present; Vice-Chairwoman Page Linton, present; Secretary/Treasurer Celina Gonzalez, present; Council Member Jerry Barr, present; and Council Member Delgadina Gonzalez, absent.

The Chairwoman asked if William Cowan was now in attendance as a Tribal Member. He replied yes.

Chairwoman DeSoto summarized that the Council was in discussion regarding Enrollment. Vice-Chairman Linton has drafted a letter to go out to the members of the Enrollment Committee to attend a meeting to go over the guidelines, to which they report on the Council; which is Vice-Chairman Linton with assistance of Council Member Delgadina; as liaisons, to clarify the process of enrollment from the start of any applicant. As of now, January 16, 2016, there have been no new applications received. The Vice-Chairwoman and Council Member Gonzalez have taken care of the ID cards requested. There will be an Enrollment Committee meeting Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 9 am.

Vice-Chairwoman Linton will create spreadsheet of all the members and their status; active, deceased etc. which will also be sent to the BIA.

The Committee will select their own roles on the Committee which is William Cowan, Nedra Crane, Lorita Cowan, and Christine Harjo.

William Cowan commented that he stayed hoping that the item "Enrollment" was on the agenda as a response regarding his written questions of last month as per procedures.

1. Process and that he feels the Council is not following the procedures or policies.
2. He feels that the Council is doing business in the dark.
3. He feels that items are not being posted properly on the agenda.
4. At the November meeting he witnessed the Council pass two important votes. He wants to know what happened with the suspending of Celina Gonzalez from serving on the Council until her enrollment was cleared up and suspending Delgadina Gonzalez from serving on Council until a hearing was held.
5. The Council was to make a decision the next day about closing enrollment.

William said he wrote a letter, but does not see due process being done. He first brought it up in August.

Chairwoman Randi DeSoto explained that in November the Council of the Chairwoman,

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Vice-Chairwoman and Council Member Jerry Barr met with representatives of the BIA about the current suspension of the Gonzalez women. The BIA looked over all the information. At that meeting they said that there is no suspension in the Constitution or By-laws so the women were never suspended.

Mr. Cowan called on the Freedom of Information Act and requested all recordings so that a Tribal Community investigation can be started. He asked if the meetings were public record. The Chairwoman told him the recordings will need to be downloaded. She would get them the following week. She might need Frances Winn to assist.

Mr. Cowan stated he wanted copies of the digital recordings. The Chairwoman asked him which ones he wanted. What date range did he want? She said she did not know when, but hopefully in a week or so. He stated he wanted all of digital records from when they started recording meetings especially May 2015 to the present to start. He feels the Council is lying to them. Randi said she would get them, but she did not know how long it would take. He questioned that she did not know how long it would take. He asked again if he could get copies. Council Member Jerry Barr commented that Chairwoman DeSoto told him yes three times already. Mr. Cowan asked why the Chairwoman keeps telling him she does not know how long it will take to get the recordings to him. Chairwoman DeSoto explained that she has never downloaded a recording so she has no idea how long it would take. Other people have always downloaded them.

William Cowan stated that he thought seeing Enrollment on the agenda was listed to go over his letters of testimony. He does not feel the letter he received answered or addressed any of his concerns. He will keep asking because he does not feel the Council acts in due process. He feels he is witnessing the Council's self-interest. He is tired of it; tired of the excuses, tired of the deceit. He does not feel the Council has the best interest of the Tribe; that they are just after the \$350 stipend. They are wasting time, incapable of making decisions. He feels the Council is obligated to share with

Secretary/Treasurer Celina Gonzalez said she was talking as a Tribal member now. She feels Mr. Cowan has been wasting time by keep bringing this up this issue.

Mr. Cowan said that he did not recognize her as a member.

Secretary/Treasurer Gonzalez stated that they made the decision to enroll her, that they cannot disenroll her. If you read the procedures, disenrollment is under "applicant" and she was enrolled and is not an applicant.

Mr. Cowan left the meeting stating that he does not wish to discuss it anymore and looks forward to receiving the recordings.

Secretary/Treasurer Gonzalez suggested that the Chairwoman send Mr. Cowan a letter

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stating this is what it is and sorry if you do not like it.

Council Member Jerry Barr commented that with the Freedom of Information Act, he would need to put the request in writing and have it notarized and give specific dates.

Chairwoman DeSoto that regarding the BIA meeting, it was decided enrollment was a separate issue from the suspension and they would have a meeting in the New Year. There will be enrollment issues.

It was noted that Mr. Cowan allowed all of five of the present Council members to vote on all of his purchasing items without saying anything, but when they are all passed, he complains about two of the members not being valid. This is self-interest.

Chairwoman Randi DeSoto will send him a letter to him again with today's date since it does answer his questions.

MOTION: Council Member Jerry Barr moved to adjourn. Council Member Delgadina Gonzalez seconded the motion. Chairwoman DeSoto called the vote: 4 For 0 Against 0 Abstained. The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 pm.