



MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBAL COUNCIL
483 Great Neck Rd. South
Mashpee, MA 02469
Tribal Council Chambers
Emergency Tribal Council Meeting
March 30, 2020
Minutes Approved on 4/22/20

CALL TO ORDER- Chairman Cromwell OPEN PRAYER- Cedric Cromwell
Chairman Cedric Cromwell called to order the Emergency Tribal Council Meeting of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council at 5:42pm
Emergency Session began 5:42 pm
Adjourned at: 7:48 pm

I. HOUSEKEEPING

Attendance: Winnie Johnson Graham, Cedric Cromwell, Jessie Baird, Brian Weeden, Gordon Harris, Rita Gonsalves, Carlton Hendricks Jr., Dave Weeden, Aaron Tobey Jr., Yvonne Avant, and Ann Marie Askew (Quorum 11)

Guests: Attorney Rebekah Salguero, Denton Law: Heather Sibberson, Suzanne Schaeffer, Rose Petosky, and Kent Ragan. Mark Forest

Motion made by Vice Chair Baird and 2nd by Councilwoman Avant to commence today's Emergency Tribal Council meeting on Monday March 30, 2020 at 5:42 pm Via Teleconference Call. All those in favor were Councilwoman Johnson Graham, Vice Chair Baird, Treasurer Harris, Councilwoman Gonsalves, Councilman D. Weeden, Councilman Tobey, Councilwoman Avant, and Secretary Askew. All those opposed were Councilman B. Weeden, and, Councilman Hendricks. Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilwoman Baird and 2nd by Councilwoman Johnson Graham to accept and approve today's Emergency Tribal Council meeting agenda on Monday March 30, 2020. All those in favor were Councilwoman Johnson Graham, Vice Chair Baird, Treasurer Harris, Councilwoman Gonsalves, Councilman D. Weeden, Councilman Tobey, Councilwoman Avant, and Secretary Askew. All those opposed were Councilman B. Weeden, and Councilman Hendricks. Motion passed.

Public Comment- None

II. New Business

- a. Communication Strategy Discussion – Written letters and phone calls to the Department of Interior/ White House, Communication to the Media regarding the 1 page order sent by the Secretary of Interior directing the BIA to take the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's land out of trust based on the reservation proclamation. The 1st circuit reached a decision to agree with Judge Young decision. The tribe did not ask for an appeal. The procedural thing would not to take the Tribe's land out of trust. The Secretary of Interior was asked for policy and protocol for the reasons of taking the land out of trust.

Discussion:

Councilman Hendricks asked for the time frame for the restraining order because of everything being done electronically due to the Coronavirus. Also asked about the misusing of the word mandate, and what is going to be the tribe's punch back.

Heather Sibson responded that Denton's has filed a temporary restraining order on behalf of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in the District of Columbia. There also needs to be an outreach to Indian country to make aware that this is not a Mashpee problem, but a problem for all of Indian country.

During the teleconference Denton's office received a call from Judge Freedman's office asking for a 3:00 pm conference between the legal team to address the emergency restraining order. Also to grant an immediate preliminary Injunction.

Councilman D. Weeden ask if it would be effective. Also there was a question to whether it would be effective to inundate the Department of Interior with calls. There needs to be a push for HR 312.

Secretary of Interior (Bernhardt), and Senator Hoeven offices need to be contacted by Tribal members, and supporters via phone calls, letters and emails.

The Senior Vice president of Moveon.org would like to get involved and help.

Attorney Ben Wish made the Tribal Council aware of a wealthy client from Merrill Lynch that has expressed an interest to provide a monetary donation of

\$100,000 to the tribe and there will be a call set up between the Tribe's legal Rebekah Salguero and Treasurer Harris to work out the details.

Mark Forester provided an update regarding the Federal and State representatives. They were all alerted on Friday. Members of congress have been briefed. State Reps. Kennedy and Keating will be providing statements of support. There was a question asked regarding the legality of what the Department of interior is trying to do.

The president of the Mayflower Society wants to go on record condemning what is being done to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

Governor Baker's office is not engaged in Indian Country. Mark Forester will get in touch with the Secretary of state's office.

There was a discussion of developing an app for 18+ year olds

Motion made by Councilman D. Weeden and 2nd by Councilwoman Jonson Graham to accept and approve 2020-RES-027 Approval of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Declaration of a state of an Emergency in response to failure of Trustee Responsibility and Threat of Reservation Disestablishment. Unanimous by all present. Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Tobey and 2nd by Councilwoman Gonsalves to amend to strike language that gives chairman or authorized designee to take such other actions as are responsible or necessary further. All those in favor were Councilman Tobey. All those opposed were Councilwoman Johnson Graham, Vice Chair Baird, Councilman B. Weeden, Councilwoman Gonsalves, Councilman Hendricks, Councilman D. Weeden, Councilwoman Avant, and Secretary Askew. Motion failed.

There was lots of discussion regarding keeping all Tribal Councilors informed of all current information, and the importance of everyone being on the same page.

Chairman made everyone aware that he was invited by Cheryl to be on NBC 10 Monday and Tuesday via Skype.

Motion made by Councilman B. Weeden and 3rd by Secretary Askew to adjourn tonight's tribal Council meeting at 7:48 pm

