



MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBAL COUNCIL
483 Great Neck Rd. South
Mashpee, MA 02469
Teleconference Call
Regular Tribal Council Meeting
May 27, 2020
Meeting Minutes Approved on 6/24/20

CALL TO ORDER- Chairman Cromwell **OPEN PRAYER-** David Weeden
Chairman Cedric Cromwell called to order the Regular Tribal Council Meeting of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council at 5:56 pm
Regular Session began 5:56pm
Adjourned at: 8:09pm

I. HOUSEKEEPING

Attendance: Yvonne Tobey, Jessie Baird; Cedric Cromwell, , Brian Weeden, Gordon Harris, Rita Gonsalves, Carlton Hendricks Jr., Dave Weeden, and Aaron Tobey Jr. (Quorum 9)
Excused absences: Winnie Johnson Graham and Ann Marie Askew
Guests: Rebekah Salguero

Motion made by Vice Chair Baird and 2nd by Councilman D. Weeden to commence today's Regular Tribal Council meeting on May 27, 2020 at 5:56 pm via Teleconference. All those in favor were Councilwoman Avant, Vice Chair Baird, Treasurer Harris, Councilwoman Gonsalves, Councilman Hendricks, Councilman D. Weeden, and Councilman Tobey. All those opposed were Councilman B. Weeden.

Motion made by Councilman D. Weeden and 2nd by Councilwoman Gonsalves to accept and approve tonight's regular Tribal Council meeting agenda on Wednesday May 27, 2020 with edits. All those approved were Councilwoman Avant, Vice Chair Baird, Treasurer Harris, Councilwoman Gonsalves, Councilman D. Weeden, and Councilman Tobey. All those opposed were Councilman B. Weeden, and Councilman Hendricks. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Committees, Commissions & Appointments- None

II. New Business (schedule upcoming TC Meetings)

Motion made by Councilwoman Gonsalves and 22nd by Councilwoman Avant to accept and approve a regular Tribal council meeting on Wednesday 6/3/20 taking place by conference call from 5:30- 8:00 pm. All those in favor were Councilwoman Avant, Councilman B. Weeden, Treasurer Harris, Councilwoman Gonsalves, Councilman D. Weeden, and Councilman Tobey. All those opposed were Vice Chair Baird, and Councilman Hendricks. Motion passed.

Motion made by Vice Chair Baird and 2nd by Councilwoman Gonsalves to accept and approve a regular Tribal Council meeting on Wednesday 6/17/20 by conference call from 5:30- 8:00 pm. Unanimous by all those present. Motion passed.

Councilman B. Weeden asked what the next steps to opening the Government center are. It should be at Tribal Councils discretion regarding reopening.

Chairman Cromwell stated that discussions are in the works with the Emergency preparedness director Nelson Andrews.

III. Cares Act Funding ("Little over 7 million")

The chairman requested that Tribal Councilors send in their thoughts of how they would like to see the money spent with compliance.

We need to establish an agreement with REDW for guidance on spending.

Vice Chair Baird stated that the guidelines that we have received are too ambiguous and there has to be a budget created by each department. We as councilors don't know the needs of their clients. We need to establish a menu of services. "I can't responsibly recommend anything".

The Chairman stated he will get information from each department and share with Tribal Council.

Councilwoman Avant stated "we need to look at the overall Tribal members because not all Tribal members are clients- needs to be broader".

Example: kids can't go to camp this year and daycare is falling on grandparents that need supplies to keep them active.

Chairman Cromwell stated that maybe we could distribute a stimulus payment to Tribal members and it would be those 18 years and older for \$1200.

Vice Chair Baird stated that she received a Pub 99 gift card from Donald Peters and it came with a letter that was not at all crafted appropriately.

Vice Chairwoman asked attorney Salguero if Tribal Council receives COVID 19 money are we supposed to disclose to tribal council ?

There was a discussion regarding the difference between a waiver and a benefit. How do we treat Tribal Council –vs- Tribal member?

Example: Housing Department sent out an email that every Tribal member receive \$500 for mortgage or rent assistance. Is this coming from BIA or Treasury?

Purchase Transitional Housing. Correlation between COVID/expense.

Should we develop a General Welfare Ordinance?

Councilwoman Gonsalves- stated I.T. -all virtual now- computers, cellphones, platforms (Technology support), Chromebook, and Zoom account- all can be purchased with BIA Cares Act funding. Families need technology.

Chairman stated Education has \$70,000 currently for Mashpee students inline tutoring- \$12,000 technology= Education.

Councilman Tobey stated families are trying to come up with money to take care of children and grandchildren. The message to the Treasury, is how money can be used for families, and track money. Most families are living together right now.

Chairman stated that the BIA money for daycare has not been released.

Councilwoman Gonsalves stated self-determination of health. Bringing the tribe in wellness (social wellness from social determinants from COVID 19, faith based evidence, 80% support services, 20% doctors.

Councilman D. Weeden stated guide tribal governments as a goal (Strategic Plan).

Councilwoman Gonsalves suggested using action plan from TAP (Tribal Action Plan), and the money is only good until 12/2020.

Chairman asked if additional Grant Writer should be hired.

Vice Chair Baird stated that the Tribal Action plan needs to be revamped. Develop a plan in what you have as deliverable resources. Is a Grant writer allowable with the money?

Chairman stated this was a good robust conversation, and Tribal members are looking for support.

Priority MWT operations budget, and cares act money needs to be factored into the budget. IDC, Grants, comprehensive budget, REDW proposal. Input from the team, and we have to update the system with cares act money.

Vice Chair Bair asked how long to put things into action.

Treasurer Harris stated that it would take 3 weeks to get the initial draft together, all-inclusive with cares act money, and individual grants.

Vice Chair Baird stated she was confused 1 Million. 7 Million- Treasury. Individual (example: HHS). When are we going to start the 2020 budget?

Councilwoman Gonsalves asked whether we will incorporate items discussed in budget. Proposed balance and acquisition plan. What will we have available. REDW/Legal to make sure we can spend money on items.

Treasurer Harris stated that some money needs to be spent by the end of September 2020 and hoping there's not a cutoff on interest collected.

Vice Chair Baird asked can you put on discretionary list? Example: Can we pay a retainer prior to 12/2020 (prepay)?

Treasurer Harris stated that there are rules regarding prefunding expenses- we need to get clarity.

IV. Donations

Question: was report going to be on other donations we have received (Breakdown). Who donated what?

Councilman Tobey stated that he had a conversation with Paula Peters regarding a donation of \$2000 to the tribe.

Councilman B. Weeden stated that a clan mother stated the school made a donation to the tribe, and also Hartman sent in a request regarding the website is not being user friendly.

We need to come up with a platform regarding people using the tribe as a platform.

Treasurer Harris stated there was never a written partnership- should money be accepted?

Chairman stated that he reached out and shutdown the website.

Councilman B. Weeden asked about the money raised from the basketball tournament, and was under the impression that during the joint meeting between Tribal Council and the school committee that a scholarship would be created for native students? And if not did the money do into the general funds?

Vice Chair Baird stated that a recommendation was taken to use funds from basketball tournament to go to Youth Council (Youth Program).

Vice Chair Baird stated "I'm not done with Stand with Mashpee and the people who created the domain, Name Stand with Mashpee?" "Give it up and give it back to us".

Councilman Hendricks stated a letter be written from legal that our domain name "Stand with Mashpee" be give up to the tribe as a donation.

V. Tribal Council Salaries (Officers)

At last meeting, Councilman Hendricks amendment made by Councilman Tobey that Tribal Officers be laid off and Tribal Council not receive stipends until further notice. Motion was made to move it back to the table to amend all TC salaries including stipends be suspended until the budget is passed by the general membership.

Vice Chair Baird stated that you cannot vote on this all together because it would not allow for officers to vote individually.

Chairman Crowell stated we will take up TC Officers pay a next meeting.

Councilman B. Weeden requested a legal opinion regarding Tribal Council Officers

Vice Chair Baird asked Attorney Salguero: Can a vote be taken to resend all employees pay based on a budget not being passed?

Motion made by Councilman B. Weeden and 2nd by Vice Chair Baird to provide Native Times Coffee a waiver until the end of 2020?

Motion tabled until the next meeting due to time and quorum being lost.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:09 pm.

