



Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government
(Formerly known as the Native Village of Fort Yukon, IRA)
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Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Council

Regular Council Meeting – January 14, 2014

Tribal Conference Room

Opening prayer was given by: Janet Cadzow

Call to Order: 1st Chief Nancy James called meeting to order @ 5:37 PM

Roll Call/Quorum Established:

Present: Nancy James, 1st Chief, Edward Alexander, 2nd Chief, Tony Peter, Seat C, Ginessa Peter, Seat D, Gerald Alexander, Seat E, Michelle Vandyke, Seat F, Michael Hardy, Seat G

Approval of minutes: Tony Peter motioned to approve minutes, 2nd by Gerald Alexander

GZGTG Staff Present: Liana Harriman, Diana Peter, Janet Cadzow

Tribal Members Present: Arlene Peter, Margaret Roberts, Jacob Savage, Marilyn Savage, Audrey Fields, Daphne Fields, Debbie Vandyke

Non Tribal Members: Alida Trainor, Larry Brederman, Dave Messier

Tribal Member Comments:

Marilyn Savage – GZGTG should support our native language and keep it alive. The council needs to make more of an effort encouraging our youth in learning their language. We need to have the elders work with our kids to teach them.

GZGTG is a business member of KZPA; maybe we could do a language program on the air.

Nancy – Coordinate efforts with the School District and Dinji Zhuh Kaii to create a program. Work with Vera Erick to start a show, she's on the air Mon. 3-5, Thur. 3-5, and Sat. 1-3.

Marilyn Savage – There will be an audio conference on January 23, 2014 with TCC. Doyon wrote a bill for Alaska National Language. Nancy will listen in on conference.

Nancy – There is a language cultural grant through TCC that needs to be used by September 30, 2014

Marilyn Savage & Arlene Peter – Are concerned about young people drinking at the dances sponsored by GZGTG. Arlene stated that the tribal hall should be used for activities that are alcohol free.

Margaret Roberts – Commented on all the drinking and how our young people can't seem to stay away from it. She suggested a limited sale of alcohol or limiting the days the liquor store is open.

Nancy – What about Leroy's license, what does he need to get it? Diana there is a new cop in town and he was going to find out about it and was going to get back to us, we never heard from him yet.

Council Member Travel Reports:

None at this time

Staff Reports: Accepted all reports

Janet Cadzow, Financial Report

Janet – We need to upgrade our accounting software, CATG uses M.I.P. this would be a good program. A new program costs about \$15,000.00 - \$20,000.00. There is a consultant in Anchorage or Kim can do it too.

Nancy – There is no AFA money for 2014 yet, and the GA money was almost cut in half. Kim and Janet are going to meet with them.

We do not have any budget overages in any department!

Larry Bredeman –

The Rabbit line has the ARRA money and the shop money would come from the BIA Contract. Janet do you know what the deliverables are on the contract would maintenance work on that?

Janet – yes maintenance would be under the BIA contract.

Larry - As long as you're replacing something that already exists it falls under maintenance. We need to get with the utility company to add the poles to Rabbit Line. I also let the council members know we were closing out the BIA contracts, and that's for the shop. The rest of the accounts in the Transportation Budget come to about 300 and something thousand

The Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) gives us what we can spend our money on and it's approved by the Federal Highway Program. I have a draft TIP, but would like Andrea and a couple council members work on that with me I need local knowledge that I don't have.

Nancy – Maybe the council members can have a class at the university. Larry – that sounds good. We need a transportation committee.

There were only 2 accounts that we need to act on this year and that's the BIA contract and the ARRA money.

Larry – Current Status on Ivar's Bridge

Last year Western Federal Lands sent out a feasibility report for Ivar's Bridge replacement.

He recommends alternative 3, it is the most expensive alternative its about \$2.4 million dollars to construct and \$300,000.00 to design. It's a metal bridge with an overhead it should last 30 – 50 years.

We are going to have to put up a match for the design money which is 9.03% it comes out to be just under \$30,000.00. That will come out of some of our carry over.

Nancy – Is that actual dollars or in kind

Larry – It could be in kind, but we have to identify what is in kind. That could be material from Doyon, if we could get them to donate some material, and that would count as a match.

Gerald – So it's going to be arced? Larry – Yes it's going to be a super structure. The tribal members should be able to build the structure themselves as tribal members, and I think this is the way we should go about this, local hire. We are looking at 2015 as the earliest construction. When I leave tomorrow I want to submit a service request with Federal Highway and Western Federal Lands, and I would like to see Western Federal Lands do the design for the tribe. They should be able to do the design much cheaper than other consultants; we have \$300,000.00 in the budget to do that.

This just came out last week that there is an access to Federal Lands. Ivar's Bridge from what I see on the map, goes to what's called Yukon Flats Wildlife Refuge, which is federal land. The bridge project is qualified to these dollars, as well as the Tribal Transportation Bridge Program. I talked to the FED's and they suggest that we go for the bridge program money. They don't think we'll get the federal access money.

Nancy – The Native Village has a Transportation Committee, we should meet tomorrow on Option 3. As soon as I find out what the committee decides, I'm going to call Tom Monergan from Western Federal Lands to let him know, he's anxious to hear. I'll get a one page service request form and send it to them so that they can start it right away. Then we can get it finalized by this coming fall. If it is finalized by this fall we can get into the rotation for grants in 2015, my goal is to get construction money, that's less than 2 years away.

Nancy – What is the latest on the wood yard? Are we ever going to have one? Larry – do you mean a road to the wood yard? Nancy – yes Larry – is there a trail that exists? The plan was done in 2012, a little over a year ago, it's an awesome plan

There is one sub-chapter in the inventory that raised my eyebrows, there is a chapter that says existing inventory, and it is a long list in the inventory of all roads that generate the funds we get. Then there is list of inventory that needs to be submitted, and it is as long as what we already have. I need advice from the council and possibly Gary, to get answers about the plan. We are running out of time on that.

If it's ok with the council I would like to contact Gary

Nancy – A lot of tribal members want to know if we are going to have a wood yard road, we need to do something to provide a shorter road to get wood. Larry - As long as we can see the trail we can use maintenance funds to improve it, but we can't change the surface of it. We can plow it but not add gravel without the FED's getting involved.

Tony – I think were more in the lines of making an ice road and follow the river. Larry – So use the river? Do we have access to a water truck?

Nancy – We will have a meeting tomorrow at noon on Transportation.

Capital Improvement Listing:

Janet – TCC wants to know if we want to submit another proposal.

Nancy – I talked to Paul Shewfelt, Acting City Manager, any money we ask for needs to be coordinated with the City, School, GZ Corporation, and we all need to be involved in the decision. .

Janet – They want to know where you want to go with your current Capitol Project Money. Do you want Jeff Wilson to do another proposal or re-appropriate the money for rehab?

Janet – it's the \$300,000.00 to rehab the Tribal Hall.

Larry – I see there is a proposal to buy a school bus from the school. Whatever we buy has to be ADA approved with a lift. Even in a backup situation a regular school bus would not be appropriate.

Donation Request:

Dacho Alexander – Travel Club taking a school trip to Washington DC. They are requesting \$5000.00, the club has been very active fund-raising, but cannot make enough money on their own.

Motion by: Ed Alexander to donate \$5000.00 to Travel Club, we can take the money from JOM.

2nd by: Michelle Vandyke

No objection – Motion approved

Native American Rights Fund – We have supported it in the past, it's a legal form for Native American Rights

Motion by: Edward Alexander to support Native American Rights for \$1000.00

2nd by: Gerald Alexander

No objection – Motion approved

Nancy – We are moving items E & F back to Transportation for the meeting tomorrow.

Item G is AFN: calling for a meeting state wide, starting February 3rd in Anchorage, I would like to see the council members go if they would like to.

Item H: Greenhouse

Dave Messier, TCC Energy Dept. Manager – Along with Rocky James and Walter Peter we applied for a grant with the Department of Energy in June of 2013 for a Tribal Energy Grant. We got awarded the grant with a 50/50 cost share between the Tribe and the Dept. of Energy. TCC is not a part of the grant money. The grant consists of \$105,000.00 for solar panels on the roof in the Tribal Office, and the tribe wants to put solar panels on the greenhouse. We will put LED lighting here in the office bldg. We want to add insulation to the attic of this building and bring it up to par 100. It is up to the tribe, but I think it would be good to combine it with the renovation money for the Tribal Hall.

I will work with Janet on the budget and get it to the D.O. Energy by Friday. There is a conference in Denver on March 24 & 25, part of the grant agreement is that the Council select someone from the Tribe needs to attend the conference. Dave can go along with elected person and his way will be paid out of his Dept. at TCC.

Ed – can we use the CIP money from the legislator as part of the cost share?

Dave – definitely

Ed (talking to both Larry and Dave) – since we're putting in a final offer on the Transportation bldg. at about \$47,000.00, which is \$25,000.00 less than what we have, can we use the other \$25,000.00 to supplement this and bring that bldg into the equation. Can it be used for solar panels and renovation of the bldg.?

Larry - You can use it for solar panels or whatever to equip the shop.

Dave – talking to Franny Carroll, GZ Corporation, the solar panels will be used by the Tribe, and there won't be any selling of energy unless there is an agreement made.

Franny – because were regulated the excess power that comes off the solar at the hight of the summer cannot be sold. If you had an overage that you could produce then, we can't sell that because we are regulated. It would be free energy.

Ed – It could be negotiated in the future with the GZ board to sell the electricity at a lower cost than GZ sells their electricity. Then we could use those funds to expand solar energy in the community. This should be a positive for GZ to be able to sell electricity at a lower rate and hopefully benefit the community also. We need to get the financing and the agreement correct.

Dave – This can cut our energy use to about 48%, this is not completely accurate, maybe about 40%.

No more discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

YR DFA – They originally had their annual meeting scheduled in Eagle, but changed their mind and want to have it in Fort Yukon.

Nancy - Andrew Firmin is taking care of this, they will need lodging & transportation and maybe help from staff. The date is set so it would be nice if the council could attend the meetings.

Ed – do we need to buy membership in YR DFA to be able to speak at the meetings? If they need to we should purchase membership for all council members.

Freshwater Chinook Research – Alida Trainor works for Subsistence division @ Fish & Game in Fairbanks. She has a research proposal funded by the Governor's Chinook initiative to understand what is happening to king salmon all over the state.

This project is put together from locals of 5 communities, studying changes in fish along the entire drainage. Something is wrong with the king salmon there are fewer coming back, not just on the Yukon it's all over Alaska. The big question is why is this happening? And what is wrong with the system? We're not going to allocate more fish, but could identify problems Fish & Game are not aware of.

Ed - Log jams on Christian river how the jams are affecting the salmon, maybe clear away the blockages.

Alida – There is money for these types of things. Fort Yukon has been identified as the only community in this region to represent the Yukon Flats. We will start in the spring after we get the community and council approval.

Ed – Will the final report be available for the council? Alida – Yes

Audry Fields – I attended other research down in Kenai, this has been going on for awhile, the information is available to you. She mentioned the spots in salmon and Alida said that she was aware of this and that there are other villages with the same concerns. The conclusion to this is that it is a water temperature issue. We would like to have the research part done by November of this year. After we collect all the info, we will write our report.

No more discussion

Motion by: Gerald Alexander to approve the research

2nd by: Tony Peter

Discussion

Ed – maybe Andrew Firmin can compile a list of local fishermen. He will be the contact person here in Fort Yukon

Budget workshop – Janet can I get back to you, she has to close out her December budget first it would be good to have that before we meet. She did set the budget for this year, but needs to make changes since she saw the new AFA spreadsheet.

Nancy – We will do it sometime in February

Obama Health Care – This is a concern for our tribal members, they need to sign a 1 sheet waiver through ANTHC so that they don't get penalized on their taxes.

Nancy – we need to go house to house to make sure everyone is enrolled. The elderly coordinator was given the forms to pass out. There will be a workshop at CATG at the end of the month.

Payment Agreement from YFSD – **We got a letter of agreement from Lance Bowie to pay us back for the gravel we provided for the foundation at YFSD teacher housing. The letter shows a payment plan that the YFSD will pay.**

Motion by: Ed Alexander to approve the payment agreement

2nd by: GiNESSA Peter

No discussion

Motion approved

RESOLUTIONS:

State of Alaska approved the request to change the name of the Black River to the Dron'jik River. They encouraged us to submit more name changes and Ed put some of them together to be approved. There are 4 Resolutions to be approved on this issue:

14-01 Change the official name of the Chandelar River to its historical Gwich'in name Teedriinjik River

14-02 Change the official name of Birch Creek to its historical Gwich'in name K'iidootinjik

14-03 Change the official name of Colleen River to its historical Gwich'in name Diizheenjik

14-04 Change the official name of the Christian River to its historical Gwich'in name Teetlaiinjik

Motion by: Ed Alexander to adopt these 4 resolutions

This was discussed at the last CATG meeting to move forward with the name changes, it was also discussed with Birch Creek tribal council and they support it, but they want a copy of our resolution. Arctic Village tribal council was really enthusiastic about it also. He talked to some elders who know the Gwich'in names and a lot of people pronounce these names different, but we came up with one pronunciation.

2nd by: Mike Hardy

No discussion and no objection

Motion approved

Closing Comments:

Debbie Vandyke – Like to thank the council on behalf of the School for the Dancing with the Spirit Program that is going on this week, and invite you all to stop by and watch or participate from 1:30 – 3:30pm.

Ed – About the letter of support for Din'ji Zhuu Kaii, we are submitting a couple of grant request from Doyon Foundation at the end of this month for their language revitalization proposals. One proposal is to establish a small micro station at the Armory to play all stories on the loop. So people can listen on the Radio Station.

Also we want to do a language program. He wrote the grants, but encourage support from the tribe.

Motion by: Tony Peter

2nd by: Gerald Alexander

No discussion or objection

Motion approved

Diana Peter – Applied for the Da'gaa award for \$3000.00 and she needs a letter of support from the council. She put in for a class to teach how to make a traditional dog sled, and traditional moose hide toboggan the deadline for the award is February 10, 2014.

Motion by: Gerald to support the activity

2nd by: GiNESSA Sams

Executive session @ 7:55pm

Out of executive session @ 8:30pm

No actions were made