



## *Executive Council*

Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska  
March 17, 2021 – 10:00 AM (Alaska Standard Time)  
VIRTUAL SPECIAL EC MEETING  
MINUTES

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Peterson assumed chair without objection and called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

### **ROLL CALL**

Richard J. Peterson, President	Present
Catherine Edwards, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Present
Will Micklin, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Present
Rob Sanderson, Jr., 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Present
Tasha Hotch, 4 <sup>th</sup> Vice President	Present
Delbert Kadake, 5 <sup>th</sup> Vice President	Present
Ralph Wolfe, 6 <sup>th</sup> Vice President	Present
Simon Friday, Emerging Leader	Present

Also present: Chief Operating Officer Roald Helgesen, Chief Financial Officer Theresa Belton, General Counsel Madeline Soboleff Levy, Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation Chief Executive Officer Richard Rinehart, Tribal Emergency Operation Center Incident Commander Jason Wilson, Secretary to the President Carley Jackson, and Paralegal / Recording Secretary Martina Ruhle.

### **INVOCATION**

M/S 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Rob Sanderson, Jr. provided the invocation.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

M/S 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Rob Sanderson moved to adopt the agenda. C/U

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None given.

### **REPORTS**

#### President's Report

President Peterson thanked Helene Bennett, who will be unable to work as Tribal Assembly Coordinator this year. Raeanne Holmes was also thanked because she has stepped up to make sure everything has been taken care of in timely fashion. President Peterson expressed excitement on the confirmation of Deb Haaland as new Secretary of the Interior, but also recognizes the need for parity between Alaska and lower 48 tribes, expressing the need to strike

the Department of Interior's Sansonetti Opinion, which has crippled Alaska tribes. Tlingit & Haida is battling with the State of Alaska over the idea of bifurcation of DHSS and the move of the VPSO out of Public Safety and into the Department of Commerce. President Peterson expressed concern about how the Alaska Ferry system is failing. President Peterson again expressed his concern about Alaska Native hire and retention failures at the University of Alaska system. The sale of the Seattle Archives has been stopped for now and General Counsel will give more detail about the litigation in her report. President Peterson offered testimony in support of a State House Bill that would formally recognize tribes in Alaska through the good work of the House Tribal Affairs Committee. Sitting on the executive advisory committee for UAS, President Peterson was encouraged about the headway that has been made to gather data on Alaska Native suicides to go towards solutions. President Peterson gave news of two new delegates who have been sworn in: Annette Ulmer, who replaced Gloria Sarabia and Walter Hobbs Hill in Anchorage who replaced Ron Mallott, who was lost to COVID-19. The new Rescue bill will bring tremendous funding to the Tribe and President Peterson has heard the Community Councils loud and clear: they will be empowered on how the funds should be spent to make a difference for our communities. President Peterson introduced Raeanne Holmes, Communications Coordinator, in order that she report on preparations for the upcoming Tribal Assembly. Raeanne Holmes reported that delegates would like Tribal Assembly to take place over three days: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (April 21-23) from 10:00 am-2:00 PM each day. Delegates would also like to take time to recognize those that have passed on from COVID or otherwise. Questions were offered. President Peterson introduced COO Roald Helgesen to present a proposed plan for the Rescue Bill funding. Questions were offered.

#### Chief Operating Officer's Report

Chief Operation Officer Roald Helgesen gave a verbal summary of his written report. COO Roald Helgesen also presented a Proposal Plan for the Rescue Bill Funding in the President's Report.

M/S 5<sup>th</sup> VP Delbert Kadake moved to approve the Proposal for the Rescue Bill Funding as provided. C/U

#### **BREAK**

The Chair called for a 15-minute break at 12:11 PM.

#### **RESUME REGULAR SESSION**

The Chair called to resume regular session at 12:27 PM.

#### Chief Finance Officer's Report

CFO Theresa Belton gave a verbal summary of her written report.

#### Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Center/KIRA Chief Executive Officer

THTBC CEO Richard Rinehart provided preview of his Tribal Assembly report.

#### Tribal Emergency Operations Center Report

TEOC Incident Commander Jason Wilson gave a verbal report of the Tribal Emergency Operations Committee.

- The VPSOs may be moved out of the Department of Public Safety into the Department of Commerce, which is not good news for the VPSOs. Commander Wilson is working on a legislative fix.
- Commander Wilson gave an update on vaccinations in Alaska, Washington and California.
- Commander Wilson reported about the meeting with Sealaska and the need for financial coordination and partnership with Tlingit & Haida on responding to emergencies in Southeast Alaska.

Questions were offered.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### Climate Change

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Will Micklin provided an update on the most recent Climate Change Committee Meeting.

### Compensation Clarification for Assigned Committees

4<sup>th</sup> VP Tasha Hotch opened this discussion requesting more information on whether the tribe provides a meeting stipend for additional attendance at outside organization meetings and committees. It was clarified that the tribe can and does pay for travel related expenses (i.e.: Airfare, Hotel, Transportation and Per Diem) but does not provide a meeting stipend for outside organization meeting attendance.

### Tribal Consultation with Federal Agencies

1<sup>st</sup> VP Catherine Edwards opened this discussion by requesting guidance on invitations for consultation from federal agencies as the new U.S. administration has sent many requests. The Chair advised that any requests be forwarded to the Office of the President and the Executive Council to divide the workload accordingly.

## **BUSINESS (ACTION) ITEMS**

### Resolutions

EC 21-10 Authorization to Apply for the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Discretionary Grant

EC 21-11 Authorization to Engage as a Sub-Awardee for a Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grant

EC 21-12 Authorization to Apply for the Alaska Mental Health Trust FY2021 Funding

EC 21-13 Authorization to Carry Over Head Start Fiscal Year 2020 Funds

M/S 1<sup>st</sup> VP Catherine Edwards moved to pass resolutions EC 21-10, 21-11, 21-12, and 21-14. C/U

### Donation Requests

Canoe Carving Project in Angoon.

M/S 6<sup>th</sup> VP Ralph Wolfe moved to donate \$1000.00 in line with historical donation amounts for similar events. C/U

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### Alaska State Defense Force

The Chair recommended a denial of this request, and a referral to the TEOC team for introduction and collaboration. No objection, so moved.

### Tribal Assembly Theme Selection

Theme selection from the Executive Council is, “Together We Prosper”.

Tribal Host and Hostess Nominated are as follows:

M/S 4<sup>th</sup> VP Tasha Hotch nominated James Jack, Sr. of Juneau as Tribal Host. C/U

M/S 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Rob Sanderson nominated Bertha Hamilton of Ketchikan as Tribal Hostess. C/U

Newly appointed Tribal Assembly Interim Coordinator Raeanne Holmes provided a report on the recent decisions made by the Tribal Assembly Coordination team:

- Agenda-at-a-Glance / Agenda – no additional changes.
- Executive Council Meeting date – Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>
- Tribal Assembly meeting schedule:
  - April 21-23, 2021, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM as a guideline.

No objections, so ordered.

## **BREAK**

The Chair called for a 5-minute break at 2:06 PM

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Chair called to enter executive session at 2:14 PM.

M/S 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Rob Sanderson, Jr. moved to present Scenario #2 for the Tribal Assembly to include \$250/day for Tribal Assembly and \$250/day for Committees and a stipend of \$1250/month for Executive Council members and that this compensation is within budget and does not depend on funding from any other source. C/U.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Good of the Order comments were offered by the Executive Council, staff, and the Chair.

## **ADJOURN**

The chair called for adjournment at 3:35 PM. No objection, so ordered.