

# Minutes

## Quapaw Nation Business Committee

Saturday, January 15, 2022

Zoom Meeting

9:00 AM

### **I. Call to Order**

Chairman Joseph T. Byrd called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM CT. The meeting was held via Zoom due to weather concerns.

### **II. Invocation**

Jeremy Olsen gave the invocation.

### **III. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum**

Secretary-Treasurer Guy Barker conducted the roll call. Jeremy Olsen, Zackary Turley, Lloyd Buffalo, Guy Barker, Callie Bowden, Joseph Byrd, and Michelle Newton were present. A quorum was declared.

### **IV. Reading, Correction, and Approval of Minutes and Phone Polls**

A correction to the phone polls on lease permitting was requested to record the Chairman as an abstention. Lloyd moved to approve the December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes and December phone polls with the requested changes. A second was offered by Guy. There was no discussion. The minutes and phone polls with amendments were approved unanimously.

### **V. Approval/Disapproval of Treasurer's Report**

Callie moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Michelle offered a second. There was no discussion. Lloyd called for the question. The report was unanimously approved.

### **VI. Approval/Disapproval of Directors' and Subcommittees' Reports submitted**

Grace Goodeagle, Elders' Committee: Haway, haway. Carrie V. Wilson won the blanket in the drawing for the submitted Quapaw stories. People can continue to submit stories for our project. Thank you for the Elders' Dinner at the Pavilion. It was lovely. We had dinner and entertainment. There were 260 in attendance. It was wonderful, and people appreciated what Callie, the BC, and Downstream did. The Elders have received a flyer from the youth group. There will be a meeting on January 19 regarding Camp Quapaw for 2022. Kaniké.

Chair: Thank you for the update. In regards to the Christmas Party, Vice-Chair Bowden was instrumental in facilitating that.

Callie: It was a great success, and Grace, thank you for ensuring we got it all done. There were indeed 260 people, and the Downstream staff did amazingly, and I cannot thank them enough. I cannot wait to see what we can do differently next year.

Chair: Grace, I know there are more plans with the Cultural Committee, and as you mentioned, the Youth Group wanted to make the connection with the Elders' Committee and Camp Quapaw. I know that in light of COVID, we have been taking precautions, but as we move forward, I am sure they will reach out again and we will come together to bridge those generations for Camp Quapaw.

Grace: We are looking forward to a trip at some point.

Chair: Thank you for the update. Stay warm and be well.

Gracie: You too – all of you.

Chair: Next up we have Roman for the Constitution Committee.

Roman Kihega: The Constitution Committee has had two meetings since the last Business Committee meeting. We met in person at O-Gah-Pah Coffee and used their conference room. It was nice to see that establishment, so thanks to them. The next three scheduled meetings will be January 22nd, February 5th, and our regularly scheduled meeting will be February 12th. We will propose a resolution for BC on the 12th. We have reached to the Election Committee Chair and the Grievance Committee to see what needs to be codified and solidified in our governing document. We are still filtering through Business Committee feedback and surveys that they have returned. The committee is at full capacity now, so thank you for the additional members, and they are already paying dividends for us as we continue to move forward.

Chair: Just to clarify, January 22nd, February 5th, and February 12th?

Roman: Correct.

Chair: We will put those on our calendars. Thank you.

Roman: You are welcome.

Chair: Are there any other Director or Subcommittee reports on the line? I do not believe there are, but if you are here, feel free to stop me. I need a motion to approve the reports.

Guy moved to approve the Directors' and Subcommittees' Reports, Michelle offered a second, there was no discussion, and the reports were unanimously approved.

## **VII. Accounting Report**

Eric Bohn, CFO: December marked the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year. We received \$1.7M in December, bringing our total for the quarter to \$4.7M. Actual expenses were \$2M, bringing the first quarter total to \$5.4M. Health Benefit expenditures were \$418k for December and \$971k for the quarter. Social Services expenses were \$193k and \$493k for the quarter. Higher Education expenses were \$45k in December and \$76k for the quarter. There were no distributions from Quapaw Nation enterprises as of yet. I expect those to start up in Q2 of the fiscal year.

Chair: As of last week, Treasury handed out the final rules for ARPA funding. With those final rules being set, did they impact our goal and strategy for our funds?

Eric: The final rule does not negatively impact our strategies or goals; if anything, it helps us. Overall, there will be more flexibility in certain sections. I started reviewing what they have laid out for us

this week. I see it being more flexible, especially for the tribes, and through the consultation process the tribal voice was really heard, and Treasury has really tried to help us.

Chair: That is the message I am hearing from other tribal leaders across the board in regards to the final rule and the increased flexibility as we expense those through more reasonable lanes or guide rails.

Eric: It will definitely help us in our technology infrastructure and organizational infrastructure as we move forward to streamline processes and give members access to benefits.

Chair: Good news. Any other questions for Mr. Bohn? Thank you for the update.

#### VIII. Donations

Zack: Andy Harrison requested a donation for the Army of the Kind for their mission trip to the Dominican Republic. He has requested anything from \$100 to \$1,500. They are planning nutrition centers for poverty-stricken areas. The trip will be from March 14-20. They will be building a nutrition center, helping a single mom, and working in a boys' orphanage. The deadline is February 15th.

Chair: They will be wearing shirts with our names on them.

Zack: It will also be on their social media. They are a 501(c)3.

Callie: I would like to hand this over to one of our casinos.

Lloyd: I agree because this is a non-Tribal member.

Callie: We typically transfer these requests to our business entities.

Chair: So, do we move to table this? Or move to transfer?

Guy: I move to deny.

Callie: Second.

The motion carried and the donation request was unanimously denied.

#### IX. Open Forum

Chair: I wanted to express my condolences to families that have lost loved ones in the past month. Every month we do our best to acknowledge and recognize those who are no longer with us. For this meeting, the names I would like to recognize are Judy Bodo, Mark Gilbert Brown, Cheryl Williams, Deborah Harvey. If anyone has any other names they would like to include at this time, please feel free. Jeremy: I would like to recognize Seneca-Cayuga member Steve Perry, who always assisted our gravediggers. Chair: Hearing no other names, I would like to ask for a moment of silence and reverence.

Chair: Thank you for your time. I had a couple of announcements that needed to be mentioned. One is that the O-Gah-Pah Learning Center will be closed Jan 17-18 due to the rise in COVID numbers. I wanted to be sure everyone was aware, and it will be communicated through all of our social media channels. I also want to acknowledge Pattie and Karen for their work with the Community for

Immunity Program scheduling and running the program smoothly. Regarding COVID in our community: the Clinic and First Responders have responded well. It has affected our Business Committee also. Precautions; wear mask, wash hands, be respectful of those around us. I am not trying to lecture or argue philosophies, but this Omicron variant spreads quicker and faster than the other variants. Although it may not be as severe on others' health, it is still bad enough that you can spread it to other people. Be aware of your surroundings and others and practice safe protocols. We will get through it, as we always have, and will continue the best way we can, taking one day at a time, one step at a time. The floor is open at this point.

Roman: Right now, I am not the only member experiencing this, but to get tests and test results can take up to a week to process and sometimes longer, here in the Denver metro area. Is there assistance through the Tribe to get at-home tests? There is a lot of peace of mind with having the at-home tests. I travel and interface with customers a lot. Is there anything available that the Tribe can do in that regard right now?

Chair: That question has been posed to the Northeastern Tribal Health System, and they are inundated right now with people needing tests, and it is impacting their front-line workers, who are also backed up waiting for testing. When we ask about that status, they are in the same predicament as the rest of the nation. It is a waiting game.

Zack: Randy Jackson, our Emergency Services Manager, has looked into home test kits. They are about \$9 apiece, or \$2700 for case of 300. He has ordered a case for tribal members to order and we can send them out, if Tribal members request them. We can also do employee testing through our community paramedics. So the option is out there and we will find out from Randy how many are available through his resources.

Chair: I am definitely open to exploring that option. If we are lucky enough to receive those, we need a roll-out plan.

Guy: I agree.

Michelle: We need to get as many as we can, because they are not easy to find.

Chair: Especially at that price.

Zack: I will check with Randy and do a little research to see what is out there.

Chair: For those of you who have tried to buy tests, I have seen them as high as \$26 per test.

Roman: That's what they are here.

Chair: Thank you for the question and we will follow up on that. Zack, thank you for the info.

Dixie Ramm: Haway. I was wondering where we are on our language programs. I knew we talked about getting funding. I wondered if next month we could get a report on our standing there. We were getting quite a bit of funding to proceed with working on these things.

Chair: There was a large amount set aside in our budget specifically for language and culture revitalization. We will be happy to put a report together for next month.

Dixie: Thank you very much.

Grace: I have a follow-up question. I saw in the paper that the Quapaw Nation is consolidating some of our financial accounts - \$300M - through the Bank of Oklahoma. Did we do that?

Guy: We talked about this a bit last month. We have consolidated our debt on Downstream as well as Saracen. We were able to refinance both of those facilities out of high-yield junk bonds into traditional term loans. That has been my project for the past year. We were able to raise \$725M in capital. With the transfer, we are saving \$53.4M a year in interest expenses that would have otherwise gone to Wall Street, but will instead remain on our books and be dedicated to pay down the debt on the facilities. If it is managed and cared for correctly, Downstream will be debt-free in mid-2026. It was a big project, but it will completely transform the financial trajectory of the tribal administrative budget a couple of years down the road. This is fantastic news.

Chair: Thank you for the question, Grace. Does anyone have anything else?

Wena Supernaw: Haway. Does the BC still plan to pass a resolution for the Bear settlement, HR 4715? Last month the intent was to pass it by end of January.

Guy: It is still in the works.

Wena: Thank you.

Chair: Thank you. As the Secretary-Treasurer said, it is in the works. Anybody else? I want to give everybody an opportunity, but I think we may be going to the benediction.

X. **Benediction**

Michelle offered the benediction.

XI. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned. Guy moved, Lloyd offered the second, and the motion was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 a.m.