

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council

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PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBAL COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES Tribal Chambers ~ Nixon, NV June 24, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anthony Sampson, Sr., Chairman Sherry Ely-Mendes, Vice Chairman
Cassandra Darrough William Miller
Janet Davis Irwin Mix
Judith Davis Michelle Smith
Carolyn Harry Georgina Wadsworth

Brenda Henry, Tribal Secretary, will not be in attendance due to a death in her family and Councilmember Gina Wadsworth agreed to take the minutes on her behalf.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Ely-Mendes called the June 24, 2020 Special meeting of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council to order at 5:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Councilmember Gina Wadsworth. Councilmember Irwin Mix arrived at 5:08 p.m.; Councilmember Cassandra Darrough arrived later in the meeting; and, Chairman Anthony Sampson, Sr. was on a conference call and arrived at 5:36 p.m. All other Councilmembers were present at roll call and a quorum was established for this meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Approval to Rescind and Amend Resolution for Lake Curfew, Shelter in Place/Stay at Home and Fine for Violation of Curfew. Leave Threat of COVID Intact and State of Emergency in Place – Doug Williams, Executive Officer**

Councilmember Harry asked if there was information on the projections of what programs may possibly be eliminated or what can be prioritized based on the amount of revenue. The balance sheet shows a number of line items that are in the red. Mr. Williams said the departments that will be affected are those that are Tribally-funded. The amount of revenue needed is approximately \$1.4 million till the end of the year. The first priority is bringing back the Tribally-funded departments once we start receiving revenue. Councilmember Wadsworth clarified that the decision to eliminate any program will be done by the Tribal Council with a recommendation from the Executive Team and Mr. Williams replied yes. Councilmember Janet Davis asked what is the exact amount of funding that will be needed to make-up - where are we now in bringing back the employees. Again, what amount will we be short and where is the revenue going to come from. How will this affect the

Indirect Cost Rate. Mr. Williams responded the grant funded programs can return to work but they are looking at the Tribally-funded programs.

Vice Chairman Ely-Mendes asked if the Tribal Council is discussing bringing back the employees to work. It was stated the budget is being discussed to help make the decision on opening up the Lake or keeping it closed. Mr. Williams said \$1.4 million will be needed for the Tribally-funded programs for six months. Councilmember Judith Davis said at the last meeting Ms. Mix said we would have to discuss the budgets to see who can be brought back if we can't bring back all of the employees. The employees will have to be informed. Councilmember Janet Davis said this can be discussed later when we get to that point but she asked about the budgets so we can figure out when to open up and if the budgets can survive.

Councilmember Mix said we need to get back to the agenda because it seems we are going in different directions. The entire budget will have to be reviewed.

Vice Chairman Ely-Mendes said the Tribal Council needs the data in order to make a decision. A plan is needed that includes a start date; a timeline is needed; we have furlough until July 31 which will have to be discussed. To open the Lake we need to see how many stations will be out and how many beaches can be opened and we will need to know the number of employees that will be needed before a decision can be made. The Tribal Council can't make a random decision and she said July 3rd is not a good date. She would like to receive more information before being asked to make a decision. As stated before, we have to be mindful of the communities.

(Chairman Sampson arrives to the meeting)

Chairman Sampson said there may be a Legislative session to discuss allowing COVID funds to be used in the budgets. If they move in that direction, the Tribe may be able to do the same. He recommends holding off for a while because the Tribe has done a lot with providing information to our residents but we don't know what the "outside" people are doing.

The Tribal Council continued to discuss options for opening up the Lake. Councilmember Harry would like to allow camping and possibly opening the Lake for residents and to lift the curfew. Vice Chairman Ely-Mendes said she looked through the items such as opening up the Lake and the curfew. She said in general, if we lift the curfew then the general public can go camping. Councilmember Harry said that is something to discuss. Councilmember Mix suggested residents have the curfew but the Lake could be open for camping. Councilmember Judith Davis said she would like the people to stay at their campsite and not wander. Vice Chairman Ely-Mendes said this could be used as a trial run.

Councilmember Janet Davis said it was her opinion it is still not safe and it doesn't make sense to lift the curfew. As a Health Board member, they have to continue to remind people to be safe and lifting the curfew is not safe. Councilmember Harry said she thinks it should be open to residents of Pyramid Lake. You have to look at family units. Councilmember Darrough said she spoke with other EMS agencies and her remarks are based on the information she received. One thing they are looking at is that masks be worn in public and to make it mandatory in other areas. The curfew is being ignored and is something that is being viewed as why it is needed. She would like to see public

outreach be done and include plans the Tribe is considering. She suggested dropping the curfew but keep the option open to reenact the curfew if COVID numbers rise.

Vice Chairman Ely-Mendes made a motion to *lift the curfew for Pyramid Lake residents and Pyramid Lake Tribal members effective July 1, 2020*. Councilmember Mix seconded the motion. Votes were six (6) **FOR** and three (3) **OPPOSED** (Janet Davis, Harry, Wadsworth) with (0) **ABSTENTIONS**. **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Harry clarified that Lake use is currently for Tribal members only. Councilmember Darrrough said the curfew was lifted as it was put into place.

Councilmember Harry said currently we have Lake use for Tribal members only. She said she would like clarification on use of the Lake during the day time. Continued discussion on Lake use for only Tribal members and/or residents of the Reservation.

Councilmember Harry made a motion to *authorize recreational Lake use for Pyramid Lake Tribal members and residents of the Pyramid Lake Reservation*. Motion seconded by Councilmember Mix. Votes were nine (9) **FOR** and zero (0) **OPPOSED** with (0) **ABSTENTIONS**. **Motion carried.**
RESOLUTION PL 0XX-20 Authorization for Recreational Use for Pyramid Lake Tribal Members and Residents of the Pyramid Lake Reservation

It was reported that the Pyramid Lake Housing Authority was provided an offer for a 100-person unit and the PLHA Director had turned down the offer. Ben John, Business Officer, said since the PLHA said no, the offer came to the Tribe. Mr. Williams said each unit has a restroom along with heating and cooling. He will find out more information on the unit.

Mr. John said the first payout of COVID funds was about \$3.9 million and total for the General Welfare Program payment is approximately \$8 million. Two payments would be coming out of the COVID funds with the third payment from OST. Chairman Sampson said guidelines for use of the CARES Act funds are changing and they will be looking at what the funds are being used for. He said the application may change to include how individual Tribal members used the funding. The third payment may not be reasonable. His understanding for the second part of the funding is that it is to be used for government services. Everything will have to be documented. He said NCAI is not recommending the funds be used for individual members. Councilmember Mix said the payments are considered to be one payment, it's just that the funds were distributed at different times. Mr. John said the application justifies the need and it is certified that the money was needed based on the COVID pandemic. Chairman Sampson said the documentation has to be there and the data has to be compiled for the application that people completed. He thinks there needs to more justification for the second payment. He said the NCAI is concerned about what the Tribe is doing. Councilmember Judith Davis said as part of the planning process and after tonight's meeting we have another meeting on how we are going to open the Lake. In the meantime we need to have a budget meeting and on the second payment we need to make sure every Tribal member is contacted to make sure they get what is needed. Mr. John said if there is a question, the documentation is there. Vice Chairman Ely-Mendes said follow-up should be done with a questionnaire because we need to know if Tribal members were helped and if it was appropriate.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Tribal Council, Councilmember Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Miller. Votes taken were all in favor, **motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Tribal Council meeting minutes taken by Councilmember Gina Wadsworth.

Transcribed and submitted by,



Gina Wadsworth

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing minutes were adopted by the Pyramid Lake Tribal Council, governing body of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, at a meeting duly held on the 17th day of **July 2020**, having **nine (9)** members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of **eight (8) FOR** and **zero (0) OPPOSED**, with **zero (0) ABSTENTIONS**.

Minutes attested and concurred by:



Anthony Sampson, Sr., Tribal Chairman
Pyramid Lake Tribal Council

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