

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council

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SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES Tribal Chambers ~ Nixon, NV October 28, 2020

Members Present:

Anthony Sampson Sr., Tribal Chairman
Judith Davis, Councilmember
Janet Davis, Councilmember
Carolyn Harry, Councilmember
William Miller, Councilmember

Sherry Ely-Mendes, Vice Chairwoman
Irwin Mix, Councilmember
Michele Smith, Councilmember
Georgina Wadsworth, Councilmember

Members Absent: Cassandra Darrough, Councilmember

Note: Due to COVID-19 Tribal Council meetings are closed to the public to ensure the health and safety of attendees. Councilmembers attended via zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Anthony Sampson Sr., called the October 28, 2020, Special Tribal Council meeting of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council to order at 5:59 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Brenda A. Henry, Tribal Secretary. Councilmembers Mix connected to the meeting at 6:02 p.m. Councilmember Darrough was absent. All other Councilmembers were present at roll call and a quorum was established for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Sampson Sr., requested one addition to the agenda:

1. Add Executive Session to be added to the end of the agenda, requested by Councilmember Harry.

Councilmember Janet Davis made a motion to *approve the agenda with addition of an Executive Session*. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion. Votes were seven (7) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilmember Mix connected to the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

1. Discussion/Approval Request for Funds from Economic Development Committee (EDC). Della John, Sheri Hunter, Mervin Wright Jr.

Chairman Sampson Sr. said they met with the Economic Development Committee (EDC) concerning the proposal they drafted for accessing the economic development funds. They received insight from Della John, Chairman of the Committee on how they should move forward. Ms. John informed them they needed to submit a proposal.

Jill Mix, Comptroller, said they completed the application and submitted a cover letter. Then EDC then asked them to submit a proposal. They did a quick proposal because they didn't really fit in the elements category because they are not a business that is starting up or hiring new employees. We are a tribal government and the reason why they're asking for \$ 3.7 million is to keep the tribally funded programs employed through 2021.

Mervin Wright, EDC, said they met with the Executive Team (ET) in October. At the meeting, they told them they needed to utilize the application that the Tribal Council approved and complete that application. Ms. Mix just had Volume Two of the Economic Development Plan (EDP). He sent her Volume One that evening after she said she didn't have it. In Volume One, it outlines each of the seven elements and contains criteria for each of those elements describing how a proposal would meet eligibility under those elements. They were provided the application to complete, and they met again on Monday. As Jill indicated, the tribal government as an organization, not necessarily a business, doesn't quite fit that category for good governance. However, when you look down the list of those tribal programs, some of those programs are revenue generating programs, which it was suggested those programs would be eligible. We also discussed the implication of using the tax funds, as well as the application of the indirect portion of the budget and how it applies to this request. Della John prepared a statement, which he read, "Dated October 28. For the EDP, the EDC views one of its main responsibilities to review Economic Development proposals to sustain Economic Development Fund and to make sure the proposed requests ties back to the specific identified elements identified in the approved EDP. The committee is completing the process for applications and review. The proposal requests received from the Pyramid Lake ET appears to be an appropriations request, which includes 24 individual programs presented under one large funding request. The proposal does not address performance expectations or accountability of the funding. The total proposal amount changed several times since submitted to the EDC. This proposal lacks business-based information showing this recursively viable economic venture. Therefore, the issues cited above, the Economic Development Committee determined the proposal is incomplete as business-based items are not addressed, and the EDC hereby elects to make no formal recommendation to the Tribal Council regarding the Pyramid Lake ET's proposal at this time."

Ms. Mix responded she did not change the budget information that was originally presented. She let the EDC know the tax fund total budget was for \$5 million for tribally funded programs only. Taking out the estimated tax funding they received in 2020, where the balance to keep these programs going was \$3.7 million. She did not include indirect or grant programs, because they are not looking for funds for those programs, they are only looking for tribally funded programs. On Monday when the EDC asked their

questions, she let them know this affects government services, which is a part of good governance under Volume One.

Councilmember Harry asked of Mr. Wright, one of the key terms that keep popping up is revenue generating, is this the biggest concern here? Because there are programs that don't create revenue? Are there certain programs that would fall under the good governance program?

Benjamin John, Interim Executive Officer, said what Councilmember Harry is asking is the point of the whole thing. The request they're making doesn't fit with the tasks the EDC has been tasked with doing, but the process was they have to go through them first. So, the idea was to get the EDC to tell them they don't fit in the program, and then bring it to Council and let council make the decision. Realistically, they don't meet their guidelines for what they're trying to do. They're trying to get funds to run the government. And that's not what the EDC is tasked with determining.

Mr. Wright said it's not necessarily a task it's really the plan and the terms and conditions that are written into the plan is the criteria in Volume One that they are bound by. There is a perception they are tasked with reviewing things in some certain manner, clearly the criteria in Volume One sets out how a request or proposal would be eligible under the EDP.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes said she was wondering what the EDC's role is and believes they see it differently than the EDC. In the EDP, there's always a reference to the principal amount, they are not working with, nor are we touching the principal amount and hopefully, won't ever have to do that. They're talking about an interest bearing or the interest from that fund, which in recent years, they've decided Tribal Council had governance over. With not touching the principle, she thinks it would be appropriate, and she also discussed this with Mr. John, this would be appropriate to treat the EDC as an entity, such as Numu, Inc. They gave them a pot of money, they appropriate or set aside, within the fund say \$2 million and they oversee it and write policies of how they're going to distribute \$2 million and make sure every dollar they distribute, has relevance to the EDP. That would be all of the small businesses that might be out there waiting, knocking at the door to get a small business up and running on the reservation and/or tribal member wanting to do business on and off the reservation but needs funding. In that amount they would set aside for them, they can put together a budget of how they're going to have governance over those funds and how they're going to distribute those funds to the membership. In this case, what they're asking doesn't fit the elements and the funds are needed this year so they can move into the new year not strapped for cash, because they made the decision to protect people's health and welfare, over making the funds on the lake. She thinks this clearly defines where they see the EDC fitting into the plan and into the process. They want them to be viable and to be working with small businesses, tribal members, and those kinds of operations that need the startup, not the tribal government. With that being said, Tribal Council can decide on whether or not they're going to use a portion of those funds to move forward into their next year. Because them trying to make the application fit doesn't serve anybody's purpose on the Economic Development team.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes explained to Mr. Wright Jr. that Volume's One and Two always talks about a principal amount and never really addressed the interest funds. And the interest funds were a gift after so

many years of struggle. They did disperse to tribal membership, a certain portion of that, and they decided that was going to be it. They did however recently and I think it was out of out of desperation because they have so many people not working and the economy was flattening out and people were getting charged more for food and goods and they wanted to help them out. So, they did do that extra disbursement. She would agree, if you say that was probably against what they should have done, but they did it anyway. If they had the discussion, they probably would have come up with a better plan. But they felt, under pressure and they went for it. Could they have done it better? Yes, absolutely. She thought they had a clear understanding of what the EDC would be doing prior to them ever touching any of the principle, which they hope they never do. They don't have time to vet all of the proposals and this would be a good task for the EDC. She understands they want to safeguard the \$40 million. They don't want the interest funds spent inappropriately. These are her thoughts on the specific questions about whose role is whose and questions on what direction they're going with the funds.

Mr. Wright said it's pretty clear the mindset is set, it's not going to change. With the Economic Development Fund, clearly there's a difference of understanding on what they did. In 2015-2016 they amended Volume Two to allow the distribution, the one-time distribution. And during that time, they established the EDC for that purpose of amending the plan, it was clear then that the role of the committee was to make recommendations on all funding requests to the Economic Development Fund. The way Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes described it, is backwards. They would be making a recommendation to the Council, the way she explained it, they would be requesting money for themselves so that they would then request funds to be given to people who submit a proposal. That just sounds very complicated.

Councilmember Mix said there has to be checks and balances

Mr. Wright said when there's a request, like Numu Inc., for example, they were informed a couple months ago that Numu Inc. wants to come back to the committee and request funding. They would entertain their proposal, work with them to get it to fit the needs of the plan and then they would make a recommendation to the Tribal Council. Now, because they reviewed the request from the ET as being incomplete, there's time they can work with them to make it fit. And it's his hope they're going to be able to work together and make it so that they can come back with a recommendation to the Tribal Council. Now, if the Tribal Council is, as Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes described it, looking to basically set them aside and say, "this is what you guys can do", he's not sure that fits with the plan and the way the plan describes the role of the committee. The checks and balances are there and he thinks when they start looking at the investment reports, and based on what was withdrawn so far this year, along with what was withdrawn when Numu Inc., got their allocation, there is going to be a shortfall, in the rate of return for the annual amount that would have been expected. Those are losses that that are going to be incurred based on withdrawing money from the Economic Development Fund. Now, as far as the seven elements in the plan, when the committee was established, and Numu Inc., transferred all their information to the committee, what they had done, was taken the interest that was reported out from Office of Special Trust (OST), and with the percentages for each of the elements they had, basically a place those percentage amounts in what they were calling their plan of how this allocation was going to work. When you look at recreation and tourism, they're supposed to receive, I believe it's 25% of the interest amount. Any proposal that would come in would be would be eligible under that element and whatever amount that equates to 25% of whatever the

interest is available. That's basically what we would have for that element to allocate. And so, when, when a proposal would come in, let's say somebody wants to do some development at the lake and their proposal comes in for a million dollars or \$2 million. They would make a recommendation to the Tribal Council to withdraw the \$2 million to allocate it for this purpose. The process of receiving proposals, from individuals or from different companies or whoever would be eligible to receive funding under the EDP, they would submit those proposals to the EDC. Actually, they would go to the tribal planner, which is in the plan, but we don't have a tribal planner, so it would be through the Business Office, who would then forward the proposal to the EDC, they would review it, evaluate it and get it to a point where the recommendation for the funding amount would then be made to Tribal Council. Once that's approved, then the resolution and paperwork is submitted to OSD for withdrawal from the Economic Development Fund for that purpose.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes said that is the description of what Numu Inc. does.

Mr. Wright said Numu, Inc., is a corporation. Numu Inc., was initially appointed as the Economic Development Committee, which is a conflict, but they were appointed as the committee.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes said she can reread Volumes One and Two, but she's pretty sure the EDC is clearly tied to the spending of the principal amount.

Mr. Wright said he didn't read it that way. He's read that plan, most recently, because of the earlier withdrawal that was made this year, and he didn't read it that way. Even though it was stated during a council meeting, that would leave the committee with nothing to do because, as it was stated, the principle is left alone.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes said they would set aside a certain amount of funds for them to oversee to help small businesses.

Mr. Wright said that is not the tribal council's role in the plan.

Vice Chairman Ely-Mendes disagreed with his synopsis or his vision of how the Economic Development Committee fits the plan, either.

Councilmember Mix said they both interpret the plan differently.

Councilmember Harry said that's the understanding Council needs to come to with for the EDC, she understands where Mr. Wright is coming from and she understands his role and feels the need for it. She is asking Council now that they received the recommendation from the committee, they do not fit under the guidelines for the good governance, so they're going to overrule them. The constitution says the Council has the role to administer any funds or property within control of the Tribe. This is the tribal EDP to make expenditures from available funds for public purposes, including salaries or other remuneration of tribal officials, employees, and can be paid only for services actually authorized. All expenditures shall be by resolution, with language to give them policy to take such an action.

Councilmember Janet Davis said she recalls, when the EDC was formed, it was for checks and balances so they could not, as a tribe, just dig into the funds anytime they wanted to. There's a plan and that's how the funds would be used. The fund is there for to economic development, that is to make money back for the Tribe. Because they didn't want the tribal government doing what they wanted with the funds, that's the reason why the EDC was set up.

Mr. Wright said just because they don't have a recommendation, it does not mean, they will not have a recommendation. They just don't have one that tonight but the opportunity is there to work with the Executive Team. The way the tribal organization is structured, knowing the permit revenues, it is a revenue generating purpose, but when you apply it to the general fund, this is where he thinks they need to build upon the purpose of those permit revenues, because it is a big portion of the revenue source. If they can focus the attention on the permit revenues and how those permit revenues are applied to the general fund of the organization, the Tribe is not a company or a corporation, the Tribe is a government entity. They did see numbers from Ms. Mix, in the PowerPoint presentation about how much revenues are generated, an estimated revenue that is generated monthly when the lake was open. When they start looking at 2021 and start seeing what the COVID plan for the Tribe is which was reported at 25 employees who were furloughed and are carried forward into 2021, that's a plan that would be helpful to know on how the permit revenues can be applied through the tribal governance element. He's trying to find a solution that is amendable to the interests of the Tribal Council, as well as to the interest of the Tribal budget. It is an idea that may be a stretched, but the purpose of those permit revenues has a bearing on the revenue generating component of the economic development plan.

Chairman Sampson Sr. said what he's hearing from them is the funding that was generated through the businesses of selling permits is the possibility of where we should go to develop this.

Della John said under good governance, you're trying to improve or make something more profitable or sustainable. Then you have the different measures that go with it. If it's a best practice, then you have something that you can go forward with that's improved that program, and it's making it sustain itself. It's something under good governance where the Tribe wouldn't have to subsidize the program anymore. The program can be on its own under the business office or somewhere and you have a chance to reorganize and consolidate, to look at it as an opportunity to try to make things work with what you have.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes said she understands Ms. Johns concept but what they wanted to do because of the pandemic is to keep the Tribe running smoothly as a business is to have that funds for next year. And to generate funds while we use that fund and next year, instead of using projected budgets we're using real dollars that gets saved up in the bank to create budgets year after year. This fits into good governance, because they always rob Peter to pay Paul kind of budgeting and it's always projected because they think they are going to make this amount of money on revenues. As they go through the year, they are going to spend it as it comes in and they are going to do it from year to year, which is what got them into the fix now.

Councilmember Janet Davis said she doesn't believe they as a council or as a government have yet to find money they don't have; she believes they need to make the hard cuts and figure out how the Tribe could go forward. Currently, the Tribe has to make cuts to bring the budgets down which they've done in the past.

She doesn't believe they've gone through the process yet to cut budgets and get themselves out of the red yet and to figure out the amount of funds they'll need. She knows it's not a projection but the reality is they don't have the funds. They need to make cuts and then decide how much funds they'll need to manage.

Councilmember Mix said they've never been in a situation like this before with the pandemic.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes said there were some pretty bad years. Yes, they need to create a better business model, if they have that upfront funds because they need it now. When the Tribe makes money on taxes, and the lake, they will only allocate to programs necessary based on the funds in the bank.

Chairman Sampson Sr., said they have looked at cutting budgets as well. They have been having discussion on good governance and how they'll be able to move forward as a startup. They have been having discussions due to the shutdown of the lake and the lack of revenue for this next coming year. That is the reason why they were doing the proposal as requested, in seeing how they could continue to move forward. They've had talks on how to jumpstart the economy for the reservation, as far as acquiring funding for next year. Then saving what they earn for the for year after. He even had a discussion with Mr. Wright at one time looking at the possibilities of how they could possibly move forward, but that was just a conversation between the two of them bouncing ideas between them.

Sheri Hunter, EDC member, said the EDC has been in motion for a little over a year and she felt they were doing what they were charged to do in accordance with their policies, which was to develop the policies and the forms. Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes brought up a new theory tonight, she mentioned they would function like Numu Inc., they'd be given a budget and would only deal with individuals with business ideas. Now she's doubtful of their role. They've been operating for a year; their governmental application was approved by Council. The application talks about strategic planning and how it relates to one of the elements in the EDP and they build around it from there. And now if the Council doesn't feel that's their role on the government side, she gets mixed messages. She doesn't take lightly a recommendation to give \$3.7 million without accountability and a plan. They do have oversight of the fund. If Council doesn't want the oversight at the governmental level, then she thinks they should discuss it amongst themselves and make that determination. She takes oversight of this fund seriously because it belongs to the shareholders. She does believe Council is the ultimate authority, they can take the funds and spend it the way they want, but there's accountability, it belongs to the shareholders. If Council takes the funds out, how does it fit under the plan? It's not spelled-out, this plan is general and anybody can interpret it in terms of what they want but it's a general plan and you have to work within it. They're just getting started on developing the process. She respects the fact that Council is the ultimate authority. They can do what they decide to do. But she feels like they're being disregarded. If that's not the role Council wants them to fulfill, then make that decision and they won't be going in a direction they're not allowed to.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes said she doesn't disregard the EDC, she said they were actually on the same page until they got the interest fund and they decided they were going to do business, at which point they created Numu Inc. who was vetting high-level business ventures. She's not sure if they see their role as doing that also. If they do, then they have two players doing the same thing. They are duplicating the service. She is only suggesting it makes more sense, if they were to focus on some of the smaller business

ventures that tribal members want to start up, like maybe the meat processing plant, those kinds of things where people can generate funds, and build upon their future with their business ideas. She would certainly not want Council to say they are going to spend the money however they want. And if they do need to push it back through the EDC, then they have to have a clear concept of what it looks like and sending them a good governance document doesn't tell them what they didn't have or what they didn't do. They need a strategic plan that goes out for at least five years, so they know what they're doing with programming and where they need to put funds. She thinks they can fit into any of the categories based on the explanation she provided but this isn't something they would want to be doing every year. Do they do this one-time and then set a precedence? Which is something they also need to consider.

Councilmember Wadsworth said she agrees with Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes up to a point. The Tribe is lucky they have these funds sitting there. And it's through no fault of our own that the pandemic happened. We probably wouldn't even be requesting these funds if we had our permit sales to fund this for next year. If we do not receive any other funding, there's more people that are going to be out of work. Do we want to do that to our tribal members? There is funding available and they're not going to request this every year. The plan was to see them through next year and hopefully they'll have enough revenue where they won't have to request the funding again. She doesn't want to hurt any more tribal members because of this pandemic, which wasn't even their fault.

Councilmember Harry asked what is the difference between EDF and using the CDs that are put aside for the tax department? Or is that also being planned as part of the general revenue plan?

Councilmember Wadsworth said she told Chairman Sampson Sr. to forward to Ms. Mix to get in contact with Vernelda Frazier, Tax Department Director regarding the CDs. They could be used for next year since the budgets were already approved for this year. The Executive Team and Tax Commission could work that out.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes reiterated its tribal funds, and it's not a subsidy. What she's saying is because the Tribe in a shortfall, they are asking for this assistance. They are a running the Tribe/business on projected income. The is to start the year with a grant of funding that that we can use to carry the Tribe through the year while the lake makes money.

Mr. John said when we gave that proposal to the EDC, they told them that it was a rough draft that was drafted a few hours before the meeting. It did include Realty and those programs that make money, they're not included in the in the number that Jill put out there. She took out of those programs that fund themselves. That \$3.7 million is strictly for programs like Parks and Rec, the library, the museum, programs that don't generate their own revenue. Nothing happened at the meeting so, they didn't go back to the proposal. The numbers Jill provided is for those programs that don't generate revenue.

Ms. Mix said they gave them the whole budget that is funded by tribal funds. The reason is because in the policies and the tribal budget policies, any money that's made, and in excess of expenditures, goes back to the general fund. In reality is self-supporting but they also support other departments that don't make any revenue.

Ms. Mix said when they first approached EDC they were they didn't complete an application. They completed the application that was forwarded to them. They submitted the application along with a cover letter then was told by Ms. John they needed a proposal. Ms. John then gave her the State of Montana, good governance as an example. She asked for their guidelines and evaluation criteria but didn't get any response. She is not sure what their guidelines are. They are asking as a tribal government not as a business, that the EDC was developed for. She provided them with the FY20 budget, as an example. She did a 10% cut because the Tribe never grows. She said their plan B, which is up to Council, was do they want to fund only essential employees which is law enforcement, EMS, Rangers, Lake Maintenance, PUD, etc., then they would still be short \$2.4 million.

Ms. Hunter said she gave that information to them verbally. If there is a proposal to indicate those numbers, and options, one thing they didn't know was where those options that she mentioned to the committee options explored and approved by the Council? They tried not to make any assumptions, but they were lacking information, they felt they needed to decide and they decided they couldn't make a recommendation, because of assumptions. They didn't have a complete proposal. And correct, they don't have all the mechanism in place as a new committee they developed what they have from the ground up. it.

Mr. John said a factor everybody should consider is the time it takes to request the funds and then get the funds back. The longer this is taking, the less likely they are going to get the funds by the beginning of the year.

Councilmember Judith Davis said its miscommunication. Because the EDC is doing their oversight responsibilities for the EDF, they need to get what they need in writing with the numbers and stick to the plan.

Councilmember Janet Davis said it's not up to the governing body to spend that money. They need to do what is needed and work together collaboratively to make things work.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes said she is getting mixed messages, because if they don't fit, where do they go from there?

Councilmember Judith Davis said Council needs to sit down and do a budget meeting, and make some hard decisions.

Ms. John said they don't they are still working on the check list, it still has to be formalized by Council but they can share it.

Councilmember Mix said he would like to sit down with Council to review because there is no plan or check list in place yet. He is not ready to make any decisions yet.

1:34:57

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes said it's important to set a deadline for the Executive Team and administration for the second meeting of the month, where the council can review what they have put together and it can be presented to the Economic Development Committee.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes made a motion *set a formal meeting for the 2nd meeting of the month, November 20th, for the deadline to have a plan put together.* Councilmember Harry seconded the motion but wanted clarification on what is considered a plan.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes said each of the income generating programs has to have a plan that says they're making revenue and they don't spend any of the generated funds this year, until next year, and the funds are in the bank. This is so they are going with an actual budget for 2022 instead of projected budget.

Councilmember Wadsworth said November 20th is too late. However, what they develop, as a tribal council, working with the executive team, it's not going to be enough. It's not going to be enough, Ms. John already said that they don't have their criteria in place. She would hate for them to do the work for a proposal that is acceptable to only find out it's not what they need.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes restated her motion *to have the income generating programs put together a strategic plan about what they're doing with their generated funds, I want to see that plan back to the council by the 20th of November.*

Councilmember Wadsworth said they have to remember the revenue generating programs don't allocate the funding, it's up to the executive team to make recommendations. I don't know how they would know their strategic plan on how to spend money that they're bringing in.

Votes were four (4) **for** and three (3) **opposed** (Judith Davis, Smith Wadsworth) with one (1) **abstention** (Mix). **Motion carried.**

Councilmember Judith Davis said no because the ET can look at the budget narratives the programs put together and they get the information together to bring to Council on November 20th.

Councilmember Wadsworth voted no, while she believes they need to have the deadline in place she doesn't believe the departments are responsible to submit anything other than their budgets and they already have their strategic plans, with their budgets.

Councilmember Smith said she voted not because the economic development committee should have their approved guidelines in place with the checklist.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes restated her motion *for the Executive Team to put together a good governance plan, including how the funding will be spent and the goals and objectives of the funding received.*

2. Discussion/Approval CAREs Act Funding: Proposed Budget Repurpose: Tribal Member Welfare Support

Councilmember Harry stated this is in reference to looking at the budgets and legal strategies that were given. She would like to request that they go into a closed session

Councilmember Wadsworth said they should remain in open session when discussing the budget.

Councilmember Harry responded it's under legal advisement based on the information they will be discussing that they go into executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes made a motion to *move into Executive Session*. Councilmember Mix seconded the motion. Votes were seven (7) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with one (1) **abstention** (Wadsworth). **Motion carried.** *Tribal Council went into Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.*

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes made a motion to *move out of Executive Session*. Councilmember Mix seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **Motion carried.** *Tribal Council moved out of Executive Session at 8:51 p.m.*

Councilmember Harry asked the ET if they could keep a fluid document of what's available and do all they can to save money. Is there a way that they can go through the projects list and see if there are any they can cut? Are they the most beneficial projects during COVID at this epidemic time.

Ms. Mix said the construction projects are already ongoing. It's too early for her to give them a number until at least November.

Councilmember Harry asked in how badly shape was the Sutcliffe building. This is kind of information they wanted to see. Are they remodeling the whole community building?

Ms. Mix went over everything that was being done in the building like she did the previous week. There was also a request to put a fence and lights up so it wouldn't be vandalized.

Vice Chairwoman Ely-Mendes said she did speak with Douglas Williams, Executive Officer on a project plan so they know how much the projects were going to cost. And to provide a time table on what needs to be purchase so they know what was spent from month to month.

Councilmember Harry asked the ET if they the project budget available? under your projects, a line item and your actual project budget?

Councilmember Wadsworth said these budgets have already gone through the executive team and that's what the executive team felt like they could afford. It's not constructive for them to question right now. If you want to look at every single project that that was submitted maybe they can send that to you. But at this point all these projects are halfway done.

Councilmember Harry said they are going to say all these projects are what the council determined as the best projects to mitigate COVID even though they really gave this obligation to the ET. Would Council feel safe saying these are their decisions? She is not saying anything against the ET. They worked hard, but she feels there was a lack of planning and approach in this together.

Councilmember Wadsworth said they have to take the responsibility, they are the ultimate decision makers, and they told the ET to get the word out and whoever submitted projects were reviewed and went forward. She would like to give the tribal members more monetary payment but at this point it doesn't seem like it's going to happen. She's not saying they don't give the membership anything, they have to wait on Ms. Mix to get the final numbers.

Ms. Mix said the earliest she could get numbers would be the 2nd or 3rd week in November or latest 1st meeting in December.

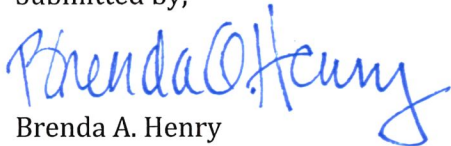
Chairman Sampson Sr. will work on the correct legal verbiage and get back to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Tribal Council, Councilmember Harry 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 9:14 p.m.

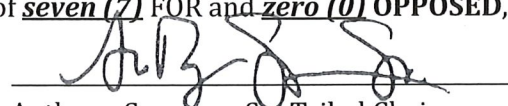
Submitted by,



Brenda A. Henry
Tribal Secretary

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 20th day of November, 2020, having members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of seven (7) FOR and zero (0) OPPOSED, with one (1) ABSTENTION.

Minutes attested and concurred by: 
Anthony Sampson Sr., Tribal Chairman
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council

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