

NARRAGANSETT INDIAN TRIBE
Tribal Body Zoom Call Meeting
January 8, 2022

Council on Call: Chief Sachem, Anthony Dean Stanton, First Councilman, Cassius Spears, Jr., Second Councilman, Michael Monroe, Sr., Yvonne Lamphere, John Mahoney, Heather Mars-Martins, John Pompey, Keith Sampson, Ray Lamphere. **Absent:** Lonny Brown

Also on Call: Tribal Secretary, Betty Johnson; Assistant Tribal Secretary, Monica Stanton

Meeting opened at 10:07 a.m.

Chief Sachem gave Traditional Words and a moment of silence for those that have passed.

Councilwoman Mars-Martins gave Spiritual Christian words.

First item on the agenda is voting on the TEC Nominees.

First Councilman Cassius Spears, Jr. laid out the rules for voting for the following nominees: Beth Thomas, Honey Collins, Pearl Brown and Dawn Spears. The top three nominees will be on the TEC.

Voting was opened up and a time allotted for each vote.

Votes were received and recorded follows:

For Beth Thomas:	22 Votes
For Honey Collins	28 Votes
For Pearl Brown	35 Votes
For Dawn Spears	36 Votes

The top three vote getters and the three new TEC members are as follows: Honey Collins, Pearl Brown and Dawn Spears.

The Chief Sachem stated the TEC Committee should start meeting right away to handle the Election process and give notice to the Tribal Body.

The Chief Sachem gave an explanation of the American Rescue Plan and the funding for it.

The Cares Act was more designed for COVID-19 related issues for assistance and with gift cards; of the \$6 million issued, only about \$200,000 is left.

The American Rescue Plan, after many discussions at the Federal level, with the Tribe's attorneys and the Tribal Government, came up with the allotted distribution. Tribal Government argued to get the money non-taxed and to reach the amount that was distributed; approximately \$6 million spent to date, and approximately \$11 million left. There may be another distribution but that will depend on the next set of rules and regulations and discussions with the attorneys. The Navajo Nation received billions but only distributed \$600 to their individual Tribal members.

Chief Sachem apologized for not getting all checks out by Christmas.

Several questions regarding how funds are distributed. The Tribal Government will work with questions and how to respond with the possibility that questions and responses can be posted on the website.

Councilwoman Heather Mars-Martins reminded everyone to keep their addresses and emails up to date with the Tribe and to also register with a Zoom account to have access to the meetings.

The Chief Sachem gave an update regarding the Construction Company and work to get it off the ground; need to get funding so to create work and get Tribal people hired; need to get our Tribal people, trained, licensed and bonded. Review data on website and we will plan to vote on it at the next meeting.

We need to look at other economic opportunities to use what funding we have now and get more done and make it a priority. Looking at minority AA certification and need to get additional funding to expand in other areas i.e., CT and MA.

Questions regarding the Construction Co. can be sent to the Chief Sachem at the following address: P.O. Box 1354, Charlestown, RI, 02813 or NITConstructionCo21@gmail.com and on the NIT website.

For questions and concerns call: (401)302-5999 and (401) 680-3928 or email NITTRIBALCOUNCIL@gmail.com or NITTRIBALSECRETARY@gmail.com.

Old Business:

Tracking new funding from the Government.

Getting the rest of the ARPA funds out.

Working on Broadband and telecommunication.

Working on how we live moving forward in the times of COVID and how can we meet in person; looking at multi-use facility and/or tent for proper distancing that is both healthy and safe.

Looking at economic development and the Carceiri Fix and the two-class system that is in place for Tribes.

The Chief Sachem thanked people that helped with getting the boxes of food to the elders and it was done professionally. Also thanked Indian Health for the timely COVID tests.

If someone is ill with COVID-19 and have a hardship, reach out to the COVID-19 Team; application is on the website.

New Business:

The COVID-19 distribution was a one-time assistance of up to \$5,000. This will be re-evaluated at a later date.

Regarding the Pow Wow, will see what is going on in April.

IHS is providing COVID vaccinations and the boosters for adults and children; also encourage our Tribal members to get the flu shot. Further information will be sent out.

Out of state members need to contact each Program to see what the qualifications are for service.

Next meeting will be on January 29, 2022.

Councilman Keith Sampson made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Raymond Lamphere.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Johnson
Tribal Secretary