

**NARRAGANSETT INDIAN TRIBE**  
**Tribal Body Zoom Call Meeting**  
**February 5, 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 10:11 a.m.

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

Councilwoman Mars-Martins gave Spiritual Christian words.

Chief Sachem said a lot of families have been touched by COVID and this is still a serious and tragic time and we need to stay isolated as best we can.

Chief Sachem stated regarding the Construction Company, we are looking to provide jobs and get people trained and this has been pursued since 2005. He is looking to get a worthwhile business started for the Tribe to generate revenue first for a Boys/Girls Club and a recreation center and then see what other businesses could be done moving forward. To use Track 6 to start the projects; maybe the State can help with some start-up funding. In time possibly extend to MA and CT.

Question and answer period.

Chief Sachem said the Tribal Government needs the Tribal Body's support/consent for this to move forward. If a Motion is done today could move forward looking for funding and possibly within 6 months bid on jobs. He doesn't want to share too much information at this time and have some other entity pursue this avenue and take it from us.

There is more information on the website.

Will hire as many skilled workers needed based on individual portfolios and what jobs are available; pay grade based on union wages.

Second Councilman Monroe, Sr. said we have qualified people in the Tribe plus others that would like to be trained and to possibly advance businesses that are already established in the field.

More questions and answer period.

Chief Sachem said this meeting is for the Tribe to agree to pursue moving forward with the construction company and then we can come back with a power-point presentation and/or a business plan.

Chief Sachem asked others on the Tribal Council to give their opinions.

Second Councilman Monroe said we need to at least have the approval to get started and then come back with presentations and updates as we move forward in the various stages.

Councilwoman Mars-Martins said maybe we can take a step back and ask if you want the Tribal Government to pursue this venture then come back with a business plan, etc.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. said he agrees with the concept of the construction company but he also agrees with the major factor of the company getting a bad reputation and we lose our credibility because we didn't vet it properly. We do need to do our homework and see where the need and benefit is.

Chief Sachem said we will need to bring in the best people we can to move this forward.

Councilman Lamphere said he thinks the construction company is a good idea but we do need to make sure we hire the right skilled people.

Councilman Mahoney agrees with the concept of the construction company and the pursuit of viable business plan so licensing and funding can be pursued. He put this in the form of a Motion.

It was stated that the Tribal Body should make and second the Motion to move the construction company forward.

Councilman Mahoney denounced his Motion.

Discussion.

**Penny Wise Michaud made a Motion to pursue and move forward with the construction company plans, seconded by Victor Lombard.**

**Vote was done as follows: Yeas - 24; Nays – 9; Abs – 5; Motion Passed.**

A power-point presentation is needed for the next meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

Chief Sachem gave an update that programs are looking good and wrapping up the 2020 audit. The monies are in from BIA and for Indian Health Services.

Chief Sachem thanked the ARPA Committee and Finance Dept., for their hard work getting the checks out.

Chief Sachem said the new 435 pages of rules and regulations for the new ARPA funding has been received. After the final ruling, he will report on what the next move is.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. also agreed about looking over and dealing with the ARPA funds and the proper use of the monies. The Tribal Government is looking it over and prioritizing money-based needs. Also looking at other opportunities, i.e., broadband, etc.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. also cautioned all Tribal members on the Omicron variant and wants everyone to be safe and take all precautions.

**New Business:**

First Councilman Spears, Jr. said the settlement was reached with Johnson & Johnson regarding the Opioid issue and how it might benefit the Tribe; any monies will go back into the individual programs.

Second Councilman Monroe, Sr. said they are looking at who will be held responsible; all Tribes will be eligible for the monies.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. said we need to start going through minutes at the next meeting.

Regarding the swearing-in of new Tribal members, the By-Laws state they have to be done before a Tribal Assembly and we are looking at when this might be possible as the weather gets warmer and if an outdoor meeting could be done. The temporary numbers will work until members can be officially sworn in.

Regarding the Tribal ID's, the Records Dept. can extend a present ID only at this time. No new ID's can be done at this time.

Next meeting will be on February 26, 2022.

**A Motion to adjourn by Esther Tuong; seconded by Kimberly Nelson; Vote as follows:  
Yeas – 20; Nays – 4; Abs – 0; Motion Passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Johnson  
Tribal Secretary