

**NARRAGANSETT INDIAN TRIBE**  
**Tribal Body Zoom Call Meeting**  
**April 30 2022**

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

**Absent:** Lonny Brown, Yvonne Lamphere

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

Meeting opened at 10:10 a.m.

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

Councilwoman Mars-Martins gave Spiritual Christian words and prayer.

Chief Sachem Stanton said first round of ARPA distribution is done with Dept. of the Interior and HHS. Tribal Council worked with the attorneys and IRS. Regarding complaints, there was fairness for all, lots of issues were dealt with and this took time. The second round of distribution should go smoother. It will be the same amount as was distributed in the first round unless there have been some household changes. Everyone needs to understand with the monies that were distributed to Tribes, other responsibilities are also involved, i.e. processing, etc.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. said compared to other Tribal nations, NIT was one of the first with distribution. The calculations used were based on enrollment numbers. There was a long list of issues that are needed for this monetary distribution with two-thirds used for Tribal members. The distribution process takes resources to get the job done. We distributed the maximum we could along with other distributions needed within the Tribe.

Hopefully the full distribution will be out by July/August.

Old Business – Question and Answer period

New Business:

Chief Sachem Stanton said the 347<sup>th</sup> August Meeting is more difficult than previously thought. We are working with the Church Board. There will be some sort of gathering which is being worked on.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. said the Tribal Council is monitoring activity at the National level and working with USET, etc. and other litigations and avenues, plus infrastructure and

broadband. Regarding local politics, we were on a call with the Town of Narragansett dealing with shoreline access, etc. and support of Tribal Sovereignty; limiting beach fees/access also being looked into.

More information on broadband to come; this is very positive for the Tribe with connectivity.

Second Councilman Monroe, Sr. said regarding the beach access issue, it is both positive and negative but now is the time to try and move forward which may need some additional Tribal involvement. Narragansett and South Kingstown have reached out to the Tribe and we need to keep staying involved.

Councilman Pompey said The Tribal Council needs to stay involved and making a stand on more than one front.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. said we've tried nationally and at the state level but areas of greatest opportunities are our local communities. Our members need to attend town council meetings, get on school boards, etc. because policy is being done which we need to be aware of and involved in.

Chief Sachem Stanton said the Swearing-in process will be the months of June, July and August. Contact the Records Clerk if there are any questions. These meetings right now will be in-person meetings. Because the State has started relaxing COVID restrictions, the Tribe will need to start to re-open and include access to School House Pond and the basketball court.

Second Councilman Monroe, Sr. said DEM is coming to the Tribe and meeting with several Council members and staff. Also, Tribal members need to get involved with Town issues and learn the landscape and bring information back to Council.

There are several Tribal members involved in the BIA in various Native departments.

The Meeting was turned over to the Tribal Election Committee at 11:05 a.m.

**A Motion was made by Second Councilman Monroe, Sr. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Sampson; Vote: Yeas – 19, Nays – 1, Abs – 0; Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Johnson  
Tribal Secretary