

**Budget and Finance Committee
Regular Meeting
October 26, 2004-3:00 p.m.
Tribal Office Board Room**

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call-**

Committee Chairperson Laurie Reiter called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. Those present: Ann Marie Johnson, Michael Chapman, Dan Maine, Kathy Kaquatosh, Harold Wilkes and Randy Chevalier. Jeremy Weso was absent. Also present for the meeting was Pat Corn, Jennifer Gauthier, Amy Waukau and Jason Gill.

2. **Moment of Silence** - A moment of silence was observed.

3. **Review Minutes Dated September 1 st, 15 th and 27 th, 2004-**

Motion made by Randy Chevalier to accept the minutes from September 1 st, 15 th and 27 th, 2004. Motion was seconded by Kathy Kaquatosh. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 1-absent, 1-abstention (Ann Marie Johnson). Motion carried.

4. **Burial Insurance-**

Jason Gill was present from First Americans Insurance Group to discuss with the committee, the possibility of the Tribe establishing a more cost effective burial benefit for tribal members.

Jason explained that the policy would cover all tribal members. A letter would have to be sent out informing the tribal members that there is life insurance on them.

The policy that the committee discussed, would pay out a total of \$10,000 when a tribal member dies and the money can be split any way the tribe would like since they are paying for the policy. Committee members discussed giving the family \$5,000 and the tribe keeps \$5,000 to go toward future premiums.

Dan Maine explained that currently all tribal members receive a \$3,000 death benefit and those that live within a 50 mile radius also receive an additional \$125 wake assistance fee. Dan stated that although the death benefit is \$3,000, if the bill from the funeral home comes in under that amount the balance is not paid to anyone.

Committee members discussed the policy and all agreed that most burials run well over the \$3,000 and since the tribe is in no position money wise this would be a good way of getting more money to the families to cover the costs.

Jason informed the committee that they pay-off time is 2 weeks as long as the family submits a certified death certificate. No money can be paid if there isn't a certified death certificate.

The total cost of premiums for one year is \$384,740. There is \$151,000 available in the Burial Judgment funds and the 2005 budget allocation of \$152,272. Committee would need to find the remainder of the money.

Committee will discuss the issue further at the next meeting.

Michael Chapman was excused at 4:00 p.m.

5. **FY 2004 Closeout-**

Kathy Kaquatosh informed Chairperson Reiter that it will take awhile yet before everything is closed out

and we know whether or not there was a savings. Committee will discuss it at the next meeting.

Jennifer Gauthier and Amy Waukau were present to discuss the Head Start and the shortfalls they are experiencing now. It was explained to the committee that when Head Start moved to Maehnowesekiyah and went into contract with them for food service, an estimate was done on how much the food would cost and apparently the actual number exceeded the estimate and Amy doesn't know how to pay for it.

Committee was informed that there is \$3,916 left in the seat belt funds but needs committee/Legislature approval to use the money. Amy informed the committee that she is also short in her Child Care Indirect Cost.

Committee discussed the issue and made the following motion;

Motion made by Ann Marie Johnson to allow Head Start to use '05 Head Start funds (\$2412.34) to cover food shortfall identified and to also allow Head Start to use remaining seat belt appropriations of (\$3,916) to cover Early Head Start and Child Care Indirect Cost shortfall and the Maehnowesekiyah food shortfall. Motion was seconded by Randy Chevalier. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 2-absent. Motion carried.

6. Indirect Cost Budget-

Committee briefly discussed indirect cost. No action taken. Item will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Budget Process-

Chairperson Reiter informed the committee that she would like the committee to come up with some process for approving the budget instead of having several meetings and waiting until last minute to try and get the budget passed.

No action taken, committee will discuss it more at the next meeting.

8. Committee Goals and Objectives-

Chairperson Reiter informed the committee that she would like the committee to come up with 3 goals and objectives. After a lengthy discussion committee came up with the following goals and objectives;

- Establish a budget process that identifies key dates for submission to Legislature and approval.
- Establish a more cost effective burial benefit for tribal members.
- Develop an effective process for the monitoring of revenue with a goal to increase the revenue base.

Motion made by Ann Marie Johnson to accept the 3 goals and objectives for the Budget and Finance Committee as follows;

- **Establish a budget process that identifies key dates for submission to Legislature and approval.**
- **Establish a more cost effective burial benefit for tribal members.**
- **Develop an effective process for the monitoring of revenue with a goal to increase the revenue base.**

Motion was seconded by Kathy Kaquatosh. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 2-absent. Motion carried.

9. **Other Business-**

No other business was discussed.

10. **Adjournment-**

Motion made by Randy Chevalier to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Ann Marie Johnson. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye, 5-for, 0-opposed, 2-absent. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Legislative Staff Services