

Tribal Council Meeting

April 15, 2023

Meeting was held at the Land of Spirits, Troup Texas.

Present

Ugu Sharon Cloud Panther Carter

Deputy Chief Jennifer Spirit Wolf Forest

Treaty District Chief Christina Sunshine Dudley

At-Large District Chief Bill Crazy Bear Hoff

Central District Chief Kassa Eagle Wolf Willingham

Judicial Council Member Brenda Nature Woman Sheridan

Present by Proxy

Eastern District Chief Ramona Yellow Buffalo Calf Woman TePaske (also present via Phone)

Northern District Chief Deanna Dancing Star Woman Wood-Priddy

Southern District Chief John Big Sky Garcia

Pacific North West Chief Chey McVay

There were also tribal members present in person

Meeting opened with prayer By Chief Bill Crazy Bear Hoff.

Financial Report:

Scholarship Fund report was brought by Chief Kassa Willingham. It currently has \$1368.61. There is enough in the account for 2 \$500.00 dollar scholarships or 3 \$400.00 dollar scholarships. All applications for these need to be received by June 1, 2023.

General account report was brought by Deputy Chief Jennifer Forest. As we still (at time of meeting) do not have access to original account, a new account was opened at Cadence Bank. It currently has \$241.00 in the account. We did receive a bank statement on the original account and it has \$11,026.98 in it. Will be making a trip to Waco to change signers on this account in coming weeks.

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Old Business:

Completion of the impeachment proceedings.

Chief Kassa Willingham read the letter sent by Chief Chet McVay. Discussion was held. In letter he said he would resign from the position. A motion was made by Deputy Chief Jennifer Forest acting as proxy for Northern District Chief Deanna Priddy to accept his resignation with certain conditions.

1. He will not hold an office or a position on any council or committee from here forward.
2. He will send the Pacific Northwest membership rolls and list of current members in good standing, as previously requested, to P.O. Box 433 New Summerfield, TX 75780
3. He will not represent the Tsalagi Nvda tribe or its citizens in any venue and in any capacity without the express written permission of the Tsalagi Nvda Tribal council, per the current Tsalagi Nvda Constitution Governing Act No. 4 .
4. He will refrain from slandering or defaming the names of the current Tsalagi Nvda Tribal Council and the Tribal Leadership.

If he does not accept these conditions then the vote will be considered a vote for his impeachment.

Motion was seconded by At-Large District Chief Bill Hoff and all voted in favor. Motion was passed. A letter will be sent to Chet McVay.

District Reports:

Southern District: An essay competition was sponsored by Southern district via Facebook. Only 1 essay was received. There will be rewards sent to the essay writer.

At-Large District: 3 persons have requested applications and were informed of pause in accepting applications. Update on NCAI and their new website.

Land and Road:

Discussion was held on a building needed on Land of Spirits. At-Large Deputy District Chief Curtis Watson said he sells portable buildings and can even put together a crew to come down and assemble it. Discussions were held on making a weekend out of it. This is tabled until the land issue is settled.

The council discussed that we need to address the holes in the road again and have fixed before gathering. This will be researched and revisited.

Discussion was held on having someone mow Land of Spirits. A quote was received by a friend of a member by the name of Caleb. He said he could do all the work cleaning up garbage and keeping land mowed. Discussion was held on this. Clean up of garbage will be addressed at a later date, when land issue is handled. A motion was made by Deputy Chief Jennifer Forest acting as proxy for Northern

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District Chief Deanna Priddy to accept his offer to mow the general area for \$150.00 a mowing, to be mowed 2 to 3 times between now and gathering. Motion was seconded by Treaty District Chief Christina Dudley. Was put to a vote, all were in favor. Chief William Hoff said he would personally donate \$50.00 per mowing.

Ugu Sharon Carter opened floor for any other old business.

Eastern District Chief Ramona TePaske asked for an update on the Land of Spirits deed issue. Ugu Sharon Carter advised that the lawyer is still doing the leg work and will contact us when they have made progress. The lawyer we have retained is Michael Dear attorney at law in Palestine, Texas. We have retained him to assist us in getting the deed of the Land of Spirits.

At-Large District Chief Bill Hoff brought the topic of the gift to the Governor back to the council:

It has been 4 years since the Governor presented us with the Proclamation and we have not been successful in getting a face to face meeting with him to present him with the plaque. Bill Hoff suggested we go ahead and mail it to him. He sent an email to Jack Sheridan for an update on him trying to get us in to see the Governor. He got no response. Justice Council member Brenda Sheridan said he has tried many avenues and has not been successful as of yet, but they are not ready to give up trying to get a meeting. Ramona TePaske said since we did just get the second copy of the Proclamation, it was a good time to get the gift to him. A motion was made by At-Large District Chief Bill Hoff to send the plaque via FedEx or the like, with a tracing number and signature required. Motion was seconded by Deputy Chief Jennifer Forest acting as proxy for Northern District Chief Deanna Priddy. All were in favor and motion was passed.

New Business:

New member application acceptance is still on hold. We will re-open and start accepting new member applications on July 15, 2023. These will be reviewed by the Tribal Council at the October meeting for acceptance.

Proclamation from Governor: We still have not received the original Proclamation, but thanks to one of our members; Elaine Meek; we have received a second copy of the proclamation. A thank you gift has been sent to her by At-Large District Chief Bill Hoff.

Next on agenda, Constitution and By-Laws:

Discussion was held on the sample constitution that was previously discussed in the last meeting. This sample constitution is us to review, go over, and use as a jumping off point, a starting point for us to

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start working on our Constitution. The current constitution has served us well, but has a lot of issues that need to be fixed, added, or updated. Was discussed that all the Tribe has a right to have access to the current Constitution and input on the changes made to it. A motion was made by At-Large District Chief Bill Hoff to make the current Constitution of the Tsalagiya Nvdagi Tribe available for all tribal citizens on the tribal website. Motion was seconded by Treaty District Chief Christina Dudley and all were in favor. Motion was passed. Current Constitution will be made available on the website.

Separation of Non-Profit board and Tribal Council:

Chief William Hoff brought it to the council that legally there should be a board for the Non-Profit which will have by-laws, and which is separate from the Tribal Council. He presented by-laws for the council to review for the non-profit. These need to be reviewed by the council and voted on as soon as possible, by July 15th at the latest. We will also need 3 to 7 board members for the Non-profit, these should be persons who are not on the Tribal Council. The tribal council will continue to hold these positions until they can be filled, but that also needs to be done as soon as possible.

Redistricting:

A discussion was held on separating the foreign countries from At-Large and creating a foreign country district. Was also discussed that we should keep number of districts at 7 so the Pacific North West District could be absorbed by At-Large District. Military personnel that are stationed in foreign countries will have the option to be considered in the foreign district. After much discussion, it was decided that we will table this issue for a decision at a later date.

Tribal Paypal:

The link to the Tribal Paypal has currently been removed from the website as there was question as to where the funds were going. Moving forward, we will be talking to our new bank and work on setting up a new paypal account for the tribe. Once this is done, a link will be placed back on the website.

Chief William Hoff, speaking for Central District Deputy Chief Jayke Swift Raven Carter, proposes that we offer a "lifetime membership" option for the nonprofit members. This would be where a member could pay one set amount and be paid up for life. This amount, decided upon by tribal council, would be reassessed annually. There was much discussion on this. A motion was made by Deputy Chief Jennifer acting as proxy for Northern District Chief Deanna Priddy to make available the option to pay \$300.00 dollars in lieu of \$12.00 every year. This could be paid in one lump sum or in 3 yearly payments of \$100.00. This would be for members 18 years of age or older. Motion was seconded by At-Large District Chief Bill Hoff and put to a vote. All were in favor. This will be presented to the tribe as an option at the October annual gathering and revisited at the April meeting in 2024. Just to clarify, annual dues are to be a member of the Non-Profit, NOT to be a tribal citizen. There are no fees to be a tribal citizen.

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Chief Ramona TePaske asked if there were any elections this year. Advised it is an off year with no elections. Chief William Hoff then addressed the placement Deputy Chief Jennifer Forest and Treaty District Chief Christina Dudley, and that since there are elections next year, he proposed that they continue to hold those positions until election time next year. A motion was made by At-Large District Chief Bill Hoff and seconded by Eastern District Chief Ramona TePaske and was put to a vote. Jennifer Forest and Christina Dudley abstained from voting. All others voted in favor. It was passed.

Annual Gathering:

The annual gathering and Culture Camp will be held October 18-21, 2023. There was much discussion on the preparation for this years gathering. It discussed taking a trip to the Bowles monument and having ceremony there in honor and respect of our ancestor on Thursday or Friday of the gathering. Meals were discussed. As Lunch is our main meal during gathering as that is when most people are there at same time we will be having sandwiches again for lunch on Wednesday and Thursday, Friday will be a community participation meal of Chili and frybread, Saturday will be the big feast of buffalo stew, brisket, jambalaya, among other things. We will need the people to participate and bring sides, desserts, breakfast food and such. The thing we will need most is gallon jugs of water. We will be continuing what we started last year as far as reducing waste, and will be asking everyone to bring there own dishes. The wash station will be updated to make a bit more user friendly. It has been requested that we have more games for the children so we will be working on that and have already gotten a few suggestions. A motion was made by Deputy Chief Jennifer Forest acting as proxy for Northern District Chief Deanna Priddy to just make it a standing order that the non-profit pay for the port-a-potties every year for gathering. This was discussed, seconded by Treaty District Chief Christina Dudley and all were in favor. Was also in the discussion that we make one of them a handicap accessible one which can also double as a family toilet for those with small children. Will go with best priced.

Ugu Sharon Carter brought to the table the request for the tribe to rent a storage unit to hold the tribal items such as chairs, awnings, tables, all non-sacred items. The council discussed various size needs as well as the cost. A motion was made by Deputy Chief Jennifer Forest acting as Proxy for Deanna Priddy to approve a storage unit rental for tribal use for the cost of around \$60.00 a month, seconded by At-Large District Chief Bill Hoff and all approved. A storage unit will be rented to hold all these items.

Went around table and opened floor to all for anything else anyone wanted to discuss. There was nothing else brought forward.

Meeting was closed in prayer by At-Large Deputy District Chief Curtis Watson.