

**Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 30, 2022
Administrative Office, 2255 Green Vista Dr. Ste. 401, Sparks, Nevada**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairwoman Randi Lone Eagle called the Special Council Meeting of Wednesday, March 30, 2022 to order at 9:04 am.

ROLL CALL: Secretary/Treasurer Eugene Mace, Sr. called the roll. Chairwoman Randi Lone Eagle, present; Vice-Chairwoman Nedra Crane, present; and Secretary/Treasurer Eugene Mace, Sr. present; Council Member Philip Frank, present; and Council Member Steven Crane, present.

STAFF: Linda Quinn, Finance Director; Austin New Moon, Housing Manager; and James Simmons, Natural Resources Department Director

GUESTS: Melissa Eller and William Cowan; Tribal Members

Mrs. Randi Lone Eagle said there were a few members who reached out requesting knowing what is going on with ARPA and what is the status of the tribe in dealing with ARPA. Some voiced that they would be attending but none confirmed or called her. She did let them know the meetings were open meetings unless it is a closed session or executive session. All members should know the Council meetings are open.

This is an overall open discussion of what Summit Lake is going to do with their ARPA funding and what we are allowed to do relating to ARPA funding during the pandemic to help members. The enrollment is around 182 members with many of the membership being minors.

Mrs. Lone Eagle will need to get into enrollment and see where things are in regards to how information/reports are being presented to the Council. She also needs to know what is in the Enrollment office. She will need to work with the Enrollment Committee Chair and possibly Ms. New Moon, if she has time available, to go through all files to ensure that they are in the database being used.

Ms. Lone Eagle attended a training where it was stated that it is better to have all the data electronically saved for safety of the files from water and fire damage. The people at the training and many others have the same software system, Progeny, which they all council is in favor of. They need to be sure they have an accurate count of all the members for Housing, Natural Resources and Finance. She also asked about duplicate numbers and was advised not to go backwards and redo it all, but use Progeny and move forward.

When talking to the members who seem interested in what is being done with ARPA funds, they said to continue to help with utilities and rent on-going or just pay the membership. Ms. Lone Eagle said that over the three years of the funding, how will that look in the long run to give the members something to utilize in the long run. A majority of members she has spoken to said to just pay them out. Direct payments to membership have limitations in the U.S. Treasury regulations.

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What they need to do today is to determine what they are going to do such as defining payouts or funding for infrastructure since everyone seems to have a different outlook or opinion on what ARPA is intended for. The other tribes are doing the same thing but have the muscles, power and staff to do the ins and outs and can push with their programs and what they want to do.

The guidelines for ARPA were passed out previously for the Council to read. These rules seem more flexible. Mr. Mace said there were things which do not apply to SLPT, but he liked the idea of helping people like Ms. New Moon has been doing with utilities and rental assistance. He also likes the training of people. He looked for, but could not find, anything to help with housing on the Reservation for employees although they could build structures for members with hardships due to COVID. Ms. Crane said that clean water was important, safe water for people. Ms. Quinn mentioned drilling a new well. The current water is no longer filtered. The water in the trailers is only for washing and toilets, not for drinking. They get drinking water from the spring well. A new water system would be helpful. Mr. Simmons will look at it.

Mr. Mace also wants to get the broadband going. It would be helpful for the members who go up to the Reservation. It is also good for safety.

There is an ITCN meeting today but broadband is not on the agenda. There was discussion of ITCN meeting procedures.

Mrs. Lone Eagle said that most funding is land and population based. There is no one living on the Reservation year-round. It would be good for SLPT to pursue TIPO certification. There is a new act coming out that has not been approved yet. It is mandatory that they do government to government tribal consultations.

There was a discussion of the BLM situation. The lawyer said that the letter that was written and sent to the BLM was very clear and detailed why SLPT was against the Thacker Pass project but the BLM put it in public record that SLPT approved it. Summit Lake Paiute Tribe is part of the lawsuit.

Mr. Cowan joined the meeting via zoom at 9:30 am. Ms. Lone Eagle brought him up-to-date with what had already been discussed. She also explained that SLPT was working with ITCN, utilizing them on the broadband. She asked if he had received the guidelines on ARPA. He said he did and had looked it over.

Ms. Lone Eagle stated that so far in discussions on ARPA Mr. Mace wanted to look at the broadband, improving the water system, and housing on the Reservation. They had also discussed improving the living quarters for the employees. They talked to the Pyramid Lakes Office Manager in regards to ARPA who learned that ARPA funding cannot be utilized for certain structures that have already been built. Randi mentioned

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that the members she has spoken to, seem to know about ARPA, and would like to continue helping with utilities, mortgages and rental assistance, things HUD would not be able help with as fully as ARPA. They also mentioned a payout.

She told him who was in attendance and that it was basically open forum.

Mr. Cowan discussed what he read about broadband. He also looked into what the Pyramid Lake plans for broadband look like. The budget is \$2.5 million. This is expensive. He also looked at fiber optics and that would also be very expensive. The proposed standard for broadband is 100 Mbps and Hughes Net via satellite can only provide 25 Mbps.

Ms. Quinn said to be eligible for broadband building funds a survey of "needs" has to be done and SLPT does not qualify because the Reservation does not have year round residents. The \$500,000 grant could pay for a survey to see what would be best option for SLPT and help improve the computer systems at the office. It does take millions to put up a tower. Mrs. Lone Eagle said they need to look outside the box because the membership is spread out and does not live on the Reservation. It is a numbers game based on population on the Reservation in order to utilize this funding.

Mr. Cowan asked about thinking out of the box about accessing emergency services. He knew of a satellite phone. Council called it phone-in-a-box and that it is still on the Reservation. He wonders if something could be set-up on the Reservation for emergency response available to the membership like a separate little shed or building where a member can go to call and report in the event of an emergency.

Ms. Crane said it was a good idea and they could try it. If it is vandalized or stolen, it was said that the equipment could be replaced for free. Mr. Simmons said that they had thought of an emergency call box similar to the ones on highways. They could put a few of them around the Reservation and come up with a way to lock them but give the members codes or combinations to access the boxes.

Mr. Simmons also stated that the internet is being upgraded from the Hughes Net system to Star Link system. It will be installed in April with a minimum band width of 100 Mbps. There should be enough bandwidth for members to also use it, although when there is a full crew at the field station there might not be enough for members too. They will have to see how it goes. It was suggested that during Field Station minimum use time, it would be open for members.

Mr. Cowan asked how much the service is and whether there is a special rate for the tribe and whether it is open for general public users. He might be interested in subscribing. There is the installation and then \$100 per month. NRD paid \$500 up front then \$100 a month. Mr. Simmons will check on the installation costs for Mr. Cowan. There was a discussion. Mr. Cowan would like information. He also stated that since it

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provides a minimum of 100 Mbps, ARPA funds could be used under Connectivity for the resident members.

Ms. Quinn said a master plan will need to be written. It could be done for those with residences on the Reservation. Mr. Cowan said it could be justified as COVID related with Tele-medical services, COVID updates and so forth.

Mr. Cowan asked if SLPT was planning to hire someone to manage the ARPA projects because it looks like a lot paperwork and organization. Ms. Quinn said it is up for discussion.

Ms. Quinn has a couple of training videos that the Council can watch.

Regarding the ARPA Coordinator position, it will need to be created. Ms. Lone Eagle said it would be similar to Housing or Finance but for ARPA only. They would deal with the ARPA projects and filing of the paperwork/reports. Ms. Lone Eagle said that it should be a full-time position. There was discussion.

Mr. Simmons informed Mr. Cowan that the up-front start-up for Star Link was \$500 and \$99 per month which is going up in May to \$110. It is a self-install start-up.

Ms. Crane feels hiring an ARPA Coordinator is a good idea and gives the other staff members more time for their own tasks. Ms. Quinn said they need to define what the position duties will be so the right skills will match the projects selected before posting a position.

Mr. Crane is concerned about getting good and lasting housing for the field station. Ms. Quinn said that they cannot use HUD since the workers do not live on the Reservation. ARPA must be used for COVID related uses. If they can justify why the expenditures are appropriate and the existing facilities are deplorable and that there is a need to upgrade them and this is infrastructure that they would not get if they did not have this money. She thinks they could be justified and it would not be over one million dollars so there would not be any extra reporting. Tribes are exempt from meeting the eligibility standards.

Mr. Cowan said that he hears conversation focusing on the employee living conditions. He feels that he lives out there, even if it is not all year, in sub-standard housing and he meets the income requirement. He was encouraged that this could provide improved drinking water that is safe and drinkable.

Ms. New Moon asked how long does he live on the Reservation and he replied that he lives there full-time nine months out of the year. He has a secondary home where he gets his mail. Ms. Quinn says that this is what is tricky. He has asked about mortgage assistance. Ms. New Moon said he should apply and then they can see if he fits the

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ARPA regulations, but she can only assist with one home either on the Reservation or in town, not both. She will send him an email after the meeting to send him information on the HAF program and then they can discuss it.

Ms. Crane the primary concern was the employee housing that the staff was forced to use. Then they also talked about putting in a new well and maybe some piping.

They had discussed senior housing in town but it was too costly.

Mr. Mace is interested in training/seminar regarding housing. Mrs. New Moon has sent them information on various seminars and training. There was interest in learning more about the domes or round houses. They can access the website. It has several bedrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen area and living area. It like Legos. Mrs. Lone Eagle likes tiny houses. Mrs. New Moon will get some pricing and other information and send it to the Council. Mr. Crane will get some information of the steel homes. Mr. Simmons has concerns about how durable they are in the weather extremes on the Reservation. There was discussion about obtaining more information on the dome houses and other options. They can be constructed in five days on a slab.

Generators were also mentioned.

Mrs. Lone Eagle mentioned moving forward, for example, creating a position description for the ARPA Coordinator, putting it out and recruiting applications. Then hiring someone and getting the programs/projects moving forward.

They could do another payout. On the other hand, they can create programs for those members that are in need. There was a discussion on considering giving the same to everyone versus programs for the needy.

Some of the ARPA funds were moved to Housing assistance to be able to help extend the program when the HUD ARPA funds run out.

Mrs. Lone Eagle believes in giving everyone across the board the same thing that can be utilized by the membership however the membership uses it. The amount of the funds given will be decided by the Council. Mrs. Lone Eagle acknowledged what Mr. Cowan said about other tribe giving out large payouts, but she also knows other tribes' members were given smaller amounts or nothing at all choosing to put the money back into the tribe, or revenues lost, or new developments of projects.

The pandemic is not over yet, even though it seems to have lessened. The mask policy is still in effect even though some people are not truly abiding by it. Maybe they need to change the policy again.

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Mrs. Eller commented that SLPT has given the members a good amount of money. That means less to spend on other considerations like assisting NRD in new housing at the lake. Something going to Housing is a huge help to those members who have utilized the programs. She would like to see funds going to Housing Assistance.

If there are definite things they want to do, they should plan and allocate the funds to see what is left for other ideas.

The discussed payouts to the membership. They should determine the amounts they want to pay out to all the members and when.

Mr. Mace said next priority should be funds for housing assistance but they should have a set amount of time to be able to utilize the programs so they can work to not become dependent on the assistance before it runs out. Mrs. New Moon said there is a limit of a total of one year, re-evaluated and re-applied for every three months. Mr. Mace says the program is important because it directly benefits members and what they need.

The people who do not meet the assistance requirement, with jobs and do pay bills, are not receiving benefits. Mrs. Lone Eagle says that they need to think outside of the box to be able to give those members some benefits.

Mrs. New Moon says there are HUD requirements which she must abide by. She explained what programs she administers.

Mrs. New Moon stated that the SLPT pantry is better than other tribal pantries. There is a good variety of items.

Mrs. Lone Eagle said they needed to start writing down an action plan.

1. **Housing**—Additional \$150,000:

Ms. Lone Eagle called for a vote to take \$150,000 for Housing. 4 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstained. Housing will be awarded an additional \$150,000.

Ms. New Moon had already received \$35,000 for Housing

2. **Paid Sick, Medical and Family Leave Program:** During the pandemic all the departments at SLPT have been affected by COVID. SLPT has no paid leave for this. Pyramid Lake designated 80 hours per employee. Quarantine period is currently five days. There was a discussion. The Council decided not to approve this idea.

3: **Payout to Membership:** Mr. Mace commented that there are organizations that the members can go to for aid. This should be additional help. There was a discussion of

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one payout of \$2,000 a year for three years for each adult member. This allocates \$600,000 in funds.

Mr. Cowan is confused about prioritizing ideas in order. It was explained that there were other meetings where ideas were discussed. Some ideas like the water system and employee housing still require research and information before determining costs. Hiring an ARPA Coordinator to research and manage the programs needs to be accomplished first. Today they are writing down the ideas that they can confirm today.

Mr. Cowan said he was unaware of what was discussed previously, what services were considered. In his understand of the guidelines there is some latitude on things. He is hoping that residents on the Reservation can get assistance for upgrading their living conditions. There was a discussion on finding the eligibility to fund this.

There was a discussion of the current wells and the access to members. It is a point of focus, but cannot be allocated until cost is determined.

Mr. Cowan said the broadband is another point of interest for him. He now realizes that getting a cell phone tower or fiber optics is probably not going to happen. He was glad to get information on Sky Link. He asked if it was a consideration of the Council to provide cost incentives for the tribal members if they want Sky Link to pay for it.

Ms. Crane asked what he meant by incentives. He replied that if it cost \$110 for the subscription, ARPA could pay for that subscription. There was discussion basically saying that it is on the list but will depend on the needs and the population. It does not need to come out of ARPA funds because there is another source of Broadband funds. It is written down. They are in the planning stage and have not said yes or no to this option.

Ms. Lone Eagle stated that the focus of this day was the membership and housing ideas. They know that there is a need for clean water, new sewers, drinking water, and broadband service. They are still discussing the amount of payout for the membership.

Mr. Simmons asked to break into the meeting to present a resolution. It is not ARPA related.

MOTION: Vice-Chairwoman Nedra Crane moved to make an agenda change to add Mr. Simmons' resolution to the agenda. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. Chairwoman Randi Lone Eagle called the vote: 4 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINED. Agenda change approved.

Mr. Simmons presented Resolution SL-14-2022 for approval for Summit Lake Paiute Tribe to enter into a Tribal Transportation Program Agreement. This program was discussed by the Council at the last Council Meeting to create this Transportation

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agreement and close the old Transportation funds and move them into the new agreement. Mr. Simmons read the main bullet points of the resolution.

MOTION: Vice-Chairwoman Nedra Crane moved to accept and approve Resolution SL-14-2022 Tribal Transportation Program with the reading of the resolution. Secretary/Treasurer Eugene Mace, Sr. seconded the motion. Chairwoman Randi Lone called the vote: 4 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINED. Resolution SL-14-2022 enacted at 11:52 am.

Mr. Simmons talked to Mr. Garcia of the BIA and asked Mrs. Lone Eagle to also attend a phone conference on May 7, 2022. Ms. Quinn said they have officially received waivers for construction to add the concrete from NRC Programs.

Mr. Simmons left the meeting.

The Council continued with the ARPA meeting.

If they do not hire someone to coordinate the ARPA programs, they need to get the decisions coordinated somehow. For example, the little dome houses everyone likes, they could reach out to the manufacturers and see if they would zoom in next Saturday Council meeting to give a full run down and a question and answer. They need something to decide what will work and what will not. The research needs to be done.

Mrs. Lone Eagle said that the Nevada Indian Commission would like to know what are SLPT's top priorities or needs. Housing is one of them. The state will be possibly giving out unspecified millions of dollars bases on the tribe's needs in ARPA funds. Ms. Quinn mentioned the roads. Ms. Quinn suggests taking a video of the road to show them how much a new road is needed to get to the Reservation. Ms. Lone Eagle commented it could be difficult because no one really lives out there, the office is in Sparks and the Reservation is in Humboldt County not Washoe County.

Mrs. Lone Eagle stated she felt the main needs are the roads, water and sewer. They are all major issues.

Mrs. Lone Eagle will connect with the dome manufacturers and put them on the agenda if possible.

Back to the table regarding tribal membership. This is the number two priority. The Chairwoman asked what dollar amount do they mention. Ms. Crane said they would payout three times, in 2022, 2023 and 2024. The four Council members all agreed on \$2,000 payouts for \$600,000 for members 18 years and older by May 31, with checks cut on June 1 of each year. Ms. Quinn will write a resolution. It is the consensus of Council to move forward with the payout.

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There does not seem to be a need for an ARPA Coordinator and with what is already allocated, there is roughly \$2.25 million left to spend. The Council members can each do some research into the costs.

Mr. Mace had some Old Business, things that have been set aside such as the Employee Handbook and Tribal Court.

Mrs. Lone Eagle stated that by resolution SLPT would become a CFI Court with the BIA in Phoenix.

The Employee Handbook is still on the table. There are some edits that need to be made.

Mr. Cowan said that he went to the website and the agenda was not posted and asked Mrs. Lone Eagle will send a copy to William.

MOTION: Vice-Chairwoman Nedra Crane moved to adjourn. Secretary/Treasurer Eugene Mace, Sr. seconded the motion. Chairwoman Randi Lone Eagle called the vote: 4 FOR. 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINED. Meeting adjourned 12:25 pm.

CERTIFICATION

I, **Eugene Mace, Sr.**, Secretary/Treasurer of the Summit Lake Paiute Tribal Council, hereby certify that the Minutes of the March 30, 2022 Special Council Meeting with corrections were approved by the Council during a duly held meeting May 21, 2022 at which there was a quorum present, and the Council voted: 4 - FOR 0 - AGAINST 0 -ABSTAINING, Chairwoman Randi Lone Eagle did not vote because there was not a tie vote.

6/15/2022
Date

Eugene Mace, Sr.
Eugene Mace, Sr.
Secretary/Treasurer
Summit Lake Tribal Council