

**Summit Lake Paiute Tribe  
Special Council Meeting  
Wednesday, February 27, 2019  
Administrative Office, Sparks, Nevada**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Council Chairwoman Randi DeSoto called the Special Council meeting of Wednesday, February 27, 2019 to order at 2:04 pm.

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

**STAFF:** Tribal Coordinator Donna Komar

**GUESTS:** Marlis Evers and Bernita Simpson of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Ms. DeSoto thanked the guests for coming. She stated that Summit Lake Paiute Tribe (SLPT) sent a letter to the BIA at the request of Superintendent Eben with the status of the Tribe due to the recent government shutdown. The Chairwoman explained that financially the Tribe was able to continue operating at that time.

Ms. DeSoto explained the prior work that had been done in order to be able to change the Articles of Association to a Constitution and lower the blood quantum. The Council worked with Brian Melendez working toward this. It is the goal of the new Council to get the process going and accomplish this. This is the focus of this meeting.

The Chairwoman said that the Council will send an updated membership roster. She also explained that the Tribe had just hired an Enrollment Coordinator and are looking for two more members for the Enrollment Committee. She explained the situation with the recent activities regarding the Enrollment Committee.

Ms. Evers stated that they wanted to follow up with SLPT as soon as possible. They provided an overview of what they understand. Ms. Simpson will do a review of the Secretarial Election process.

Ms. Evers summarized the information presented in previous meetings.

- Changing from Articles of Association to a Constitution and lowering the blood quantum can be done at the same time.
- Secretarial Election is a federal Election. The Federal government will pay for the election. The BIA will secure the funding.
- Once created, the Secretarial Election Board will conduct the election and certify the results.

Ms. Crane asked about the Secretarial Election Board and who makes up the board. Ms. Simpson stated that the Tribe can identify three or more members. They are not required to be on Council and then there are two representatives of the BIA. The chairman of the board is usually the Superintendent of the BIA or the Acting-Superintendent and then someone from Tribal Operations.

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The priorities/activities required next:

- The Tribe to email language for a resolution to the Tribal Operations for review
- Tribe to email Articles of Association to Tribal Operations for review
- Tribal Operations to redline the Articles of Association for changing into a constitution-edits
- Tribal Operations will develop two, three or more language (wording) options
- The Council will review and agree on one
- A resolution will be passed requesting a Secretarial Election to make that change.
- The resolution, the document with the amended language to be voted on, and a registered voters list will be submitted to the BIA
- Once the three documents are received at the agency the clock starts

Although there is a government form, they are showing the ninety days of the process as calendar.

Ms. Simpson passed out a handout on Tribal Operations, mission statement and technical assistance they can provide along with contact information.

Ms. Simpson found many documents on the Articles of Association and its amendments.

Ms. Simpson discussed what is different between a General Election and a Secretarial Election

- Secretarial Election is Federal requiring the voters to be 18 years or older within 120 days of the request.
- If the Tribe has a residency requirement for voting it does not stand for Federal Elections.
- Federal government will pay the costs
- The Funds will be put into the CPTG fund.
- The election will be done by mailed out ballots and returned to the Carson City, Nevada where the Election Board will count the votes and verify the results. It will be all by mail.

Ms. Simpson discussed the timeline for the process for the Secretarial Election. There is a timeline of 90 days. She explained what activities are needed and how many days are given for each activity. Communications is important and the Election Board is important as all communications, requests or challenges go to the Secretarial Board, not the Council.

It was recommended that the Council mentions that they notify the membership that a Secretarial Election it is coming and to send updated mailing addresses via website or a newsletter.

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The question was posed whether they just wanted to lower the blood quantum or do both the blood quantum and change to a constitution which will take 180 days. There was a discussion with the Council. Some want to investigate further before deciding. The Secretarial Board must be Tribal members and can be appointed to the Board.

Ms. DeSoto said it was good to know the timeline. Ms. Crane is anxious to proceed.

There was a promise to email the presentation to Ms. Komar.

Ms. DeSoto asked if she needed to be ICWA certified to send out responses to ICWA enquiries. The answer is that it is not necessary.

The biggest task the Council has to do is to use the right language for the amendments and resolutions.

In order to have an election 30% of the registered voting members must actually vote.

Ms. DeSoto explained some of the history of the Council. She feels that the Council has cleaned up the mistakes of the past and is now going in the right direction. The focus of the current Council is the blood quantum. They are discussing lineal descendancy vs. a set amount.

Most tribes are using lineal descendancy. Ms. DeSoto has heard through word of mouth from Tribal members that descendancy is the one preferred.

The Council thanked Ms. Evers and Ms. Simpsons for coming. They left the meeting at 3:28 pm.

There was a discussion about what they learned in the meeting.

Mr. Mace said he favored descendancy over an exact amount. Ms. Crane felt that they should consider doing both the blood quantum and move to a constitution at the same time. They can put out notifications on the website and by flyer. It needs to be posted.

Ms. Komar thinks that the members do not realize how dire the membership situation is and they should be told.

If they went with an exact amount, it would need to be changed again in the future.

Going with descendancy would also be the easiest write up. It would also bring in a lot of new members.

Ms. Crane said they would need to meet to start writing the changes. Ms. Komar will send out flyers mentioning that there will be a Secretarial Election coming and there is a need

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for updated addresses and any comments.

It was decided to first do the blood quantum change by amending the Articles of Association and then later they can work on the longer task of moving to a constitution.


**MOTION: Vice-Chairman Nedra Crane moved to adjourn. Secretary/Treasurer Eugene Mace seconded the motion. Chairwoman Randi DeSoto called the vote: 4 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINED. Meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm.**

**CERTIFICATION**

I, **Eugene Mace, Sr.**, Secretary/Treasurer of the Summit Lake Paiute Tribal Council, hereby certify that the Minutes of the February 27, 2019 Special Council Meeting were approved by the Council during a duly held meeting March 16, 2019 at which there was a quorum present, and the Council voted:

**4 - FOR 0 - AGAINST 0 -ABSTAINING**, Chairwoman Randi DeSoto did not vote because there was not a tie vote.

3/22/2019  
Date

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