

# Minutes

## Quapaw Nation Business Committee Quapaw Nation Museum & Zoom Saturday, January 21, 2023

- I. **Call to Order:** 9:06 AM.
- II. **Invocation:** Larry Mercer, Member.
- III. **Roll Call by Wena Supernaw, Secretary-Treasurer.**
- |                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| • Joseph Byrd, Chairman              | Present |
| • Callie Bowden, Vice-Chair          | Present |
| • Wena Supernaw, Secretary-Treasurer | Present |
| • Michelle Newton, Member            | Present |
| • Larry Mercer, Member               | Present |
| • Member                             | Vacant  |
| • Member                             | Vacant  |
- IV. **Declaration of Quorum:** Announced by Wena Supernaw, Secretary-Treasurer.
- V. **Reading, Correction & Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the December 17, 2022, BC Meeting were presented for approval.
- Motion to approve December 17, 2022, meeting minutes by Callie Bowden, Vice-Chair.
  - Seconded by Michelle Newton, Member.
  - Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 2 vacant, and 0 absent.
  - Motion passes approving the December 17, 2022, meeting minutes.
- VI. **Reading, Correction & Approval of Electronic Polls:** The following electronic polls were presented for approval.
- Poll10073\_Ag Lease Renewal
  - Poll10078\_Bird Dog Chat Sale
  - Poll10082\_NIGA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FOR 2023
  - Poll10155\_Deputy Court Clerk and Prosecutor Clerk Pay Ranges
  - Poll10180\_Prosecutor salary range
  - Poll10223\_Investment Accounts Signatories Resolution
  - Poll10237\_Public Defender Contract: Candance Brewster- Gayoso
  - Poll9580\_Second Opinion for Robert's Rules of Order from 10/22/22 Meeting
  - Poll9691\_Agriculture Lease Renewals
  - Poll9813\_annual performance reports
  - Poll9903\_Purchase Request - Courts - Ankle Monitors
  - Poll9916\_Quapaw Nation Master Lease Agreement
  - Poll9924\_2023 Social Services Guidelines
  - Poll9936\_Purchase Request - Food Sovereignty - Metal Building
  - Poll9937\_Investment Advisor Options and Investment Instruments
- Motion to approve electronic polls by Wena Supernaw, Secretary-Treasurer.
  - Seconded by Callie Bowden, Vice-Chair.
  - Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 2 vacant, and 0 absent.
  - Motion passes approving all the electronic polls.
- VII. **Approval/Disapproval of Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report for the period

ending December 31, 2022, was submitted to the Quapaw Nation Business Committee by standard accounting procedures.

- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Wena Supernaw, Secretary-Treasurer.
- Seconded by Larry Mercer, Member.
- Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 2 vacant, and 0 absent.
- Motion passes approving the Treasurer's Report.

**VIII. Approval/Disapproval of Directors' and Subcommittees' Reports submitted:** The Directors' and Subcommittees' Reports for the period ending December 31, 2022, were submitted to the Quapaw Nation Business Committee.

- Motion to approve the Directors' and Subcommittees' Reports by Callie Bowden, Vice-Chair.
- Seconded by Wena Supernaw, Secretary-Treasurer.
- Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 2 vacant, and 0 absent.
- Motion passes approving the Directors' and Subcommittees' Reports.

**IX. Chairman's Report**

- An update on the Bear Settlement is that Representative Tom Cole was named Vice-Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, Chair of the Transportation Committee, and the HUD Subcommittee. Representative Westerman of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, was named the House Natural Resource Committee Chair. This is good for the Quapaw Nation since the House Natural Resource Committee is where the bill will be reintroduced. The BC will travel to DC in late February to urge support for the settlement distribution.
- The Quapaw Casino had an EBITA of 13.8%, a slight decrease from last year due to the economy, but it holds a strong cash position.
- Bet Saracen continues to outperform its competition. EBITA has exceeded the budget by 22.6% and YTD by 23.1%. Saracen has a strong cash flow, and the Sportsbook is solid. Interest expense savings is \$29.4 million compared to the previous year due to the refinancing.
- The Secretary-Treasurer spoke on the interest rate swap executed last year that protects the casino and the debt held in a rising interest rate environment. The swap locks in the interest rate, whereas the refinanced debt was at a floating interest rate based on an index. The Nation is beginning to see the benefits of this interest rate swap. It protects the Nation from rising interest rates. It saves the Nation in interest expenses that would have to be paid if rates continue to rise. It helps the Nation mitigate the impacts of rising interest rates on the Saracen debt that will be paid off in the coming years. The Saracen executive team, the financial institutions we worked with, and the entire Business Committee worked together to make this a successful transaction.
- The Chairman stated that they are awaiting Guaranteed Maximum Pricing on the Saracen development of a hotel and event center. Once that is received and signed, the construction will begin.
- Downstream had the most successful New Year's Eve in the property's history. EBITA of 42.2% exceeded the budget by 7.5%, a slight decrease from the previous year, which was record-breaking. Debt reduction was \$117 million in the 13 months since the debt restructuring. Economic conditions have driven lower guest counts, which is the cause of the decrease. The cash balance is also strong.
- The Business Committee discussed the Powwow Committee Chair with Melany

Shawnee, and an agreement was reached in which Melany would chair the committee this summer in honor of Mike Shawnee.

- The Secretary-Treasurer reported on the ARPA Survey Results resulting from the Townhall meeting on December 6, 2022. The survey was conducted from December 19, 2022, through January 19, 2023, to obtain Tribal Members' feedback and votes on their top 3 priorities for utilizing the remaining approximate \$10 million ARPA funds. Seven hundred nine responded electronically, and 51 responded by email or U.S. Mail. The Business Committee has not met to discuss the results or make any decisions or timing for actions. The results presented are based on the 709 people who voted electronically and will not add to 100% but well over 100% because Tribal Members were able to vote for their 3 top priorities. In descending order, the results (electronically only) are:
  1. 95% Additional Tribal Member Distribution
  2. 23% \$1 million for Food Sovereignty
  3. 20% \$.25 million for Tiny Homes DV Victims
  4. 16% Youth Center
  5. 14% \$2 million Housing Renovation Backlog
  6. 11% \$2 million Housing Infrastructure (20 Homes on Ray Property)
  7. 8% Outdoor Basketball Court
  8. 5% Up to \$.8 million Ottawa County Rural Water District #5

The combined (electronic + email + mail) results will be posted on the Tribal Website next week after the numbers and graphs can be reworked. There will not be a material change in the survey results.

**X. Accounting Report by Eric Bohn – Chief Financial Officer (CFO).**

- December 2022, we received \$2.5 million in revenue in our general fund and \$5.7 million for the year. Actual expenses for December were \$3 million.
- The Tribal Member Health Benefit expenses for December were \$343,000, bringing the year's total for the fiscal year to \$710,000.
- Social Services expenses for December were \$133,000 and \$477,000 for the year.
- Education expenses were \$121,000 in December, bringing the total for the year to \$194,000.
- There have been 5,119 checks processed and mailed for a total of \$7 million.
- There have been 957 children's Christmas checks processed for a total of \$47,850.
- The enterprises distributed \$400,000 in December and \$700,000 for the year.

**XI. Subcommittees' Reports.**

- **Elders Committee – Grace Goodeagle.**
  - The committee thanked the Business Committee and Downstream Casino for the Elders' Christmas dinner and the Christmas checks.
  - The committee met and discussed three priorities during their meeting: housing for elders, improvements to existing homes like wider doors and grab bars in bathrooms, and a health fair for elders.
  - They would like more intergenerational opportunities with the youth to help them build respect for one another.
- **Election Committee – Linda Davis.**
  - The Election Committee is corresponding with an attorney on how best to hold the second Special Election due to the passing of Mike Shawnee.
  - The Annual Election will be on July 22, 2023. The first vacancy will be filled in a Special Election on April 15, 2023.

- **Constitution Committee** – John E. Rodgers.
  - The Special General Council at Downstream Pavilion will be held on January 28, 2023, and, if needed, on January 29, 2023.
  - The committee received legal feedback on the amendment tabled during the October 22, 2022, Special General Council meeting. It is posted on the Quapaw Post and the Tribal Website.
  - The committee received feedback on the Code of Ethics, but no decision yet on getting this information out to people.
  - Questions can be emailed to [constitution.committee@quapawnation.com](mailto:constitution.committee@quapawnation.com).
  - Follow-up is required on two questions already sent, but the Constitution Committee has not addressed them.

## **XII. Directors Reports.**

- **Higher Education Dept – Krista Pierce.**
  - An overview was given over education funding and application seasons, STEAM Fair with a February 23 award luncheon, annual graduation banquet on June 10 and RSVP required by May 13, graduation incentives, Quapaw Nation Workforce services, a paid internship program for students and adults (courts, fitness center, THPO, and QSA), Budgeting and Finance 101 series on March 22, 29, and April 5 in the evening, Financial Add workshops in August, Picnic for the Quapaw Nation Higher Education Alumni in August.
  - The Department has Facebook and Instagram and is listed on the Quapaw Nation Website.
- **Quapaw Nation Fitness Center – Sherrie Nida.**
  - Getting Fit and Having Fun is the center's motto.
  - Group classes are available.
  - The center has a new fitness coordinator and two assistants through the Inter-Tribal Council fitness career development.
  - They have karate classes.
  - They have 1575 members, with 53% that are Tribal.
  - Rates are very economical and are the least expensive in the area.
- **Tags – Melissa Morris.**
  - The total revenue for December was \$7,668.33 for new vehicles registered and 125 renewals. Infants now receive the 3-in-1 car seats for infants, and if pregnant, car seats can be received before birth if you show proof of pregnancy.
- **Quapaw Cattle Company/Food Services – Mitch Albright.**
  - There are limited crops due to the time of the year.
  - Erosion on the old Compton property is hopefully being addressed by planting trees along the river in early summer.
  - There are currently four white buffalo calves.
  - The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council was held at Downstream and went very well.
  - Eight buffalo bulls will be processed next month.
  - There needs to be a decision on what to do with some mounts and hides that we currently have. A Tribal Member requested putting a buffalo mount at Downstream over the fireplace.
  - The Feed Yard is going strong.

- There will be a test run of 15 buffalo to be run through the processing plant from an outside party to determine if the volume can be handled.
- A grant available to anyone who raises animals to be advertised was discussed.
- **New Business.**
  - **Resolutions.**
    - **012123-DECISIONS AND COMMENCEMENT OF 20 HOMES.**
      - Motion to approve Resolution 012123-A Decisions and Commencement of the 20 homes by Wena Supernaw, Secretary-Treasurer.
      - Seconded by Michelle Newton, Member.
      - Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 0 absent, 2 vacant.
      - Motion passes approving Resolution 012123-A Decisions and Commencement of the 20 homes.
    - **012123-B ENACTING THE QUAPAW NATION CRIMINAL CODE.**
      - Motion to approve Resolution 012123-B Enacting the Quapaw Nation Criminal Code by Wena Supernaw, Secretary-Treasurer.
      - Seconded by Larry Mercer, Member.
      - Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 0 absent, 2 vacant.
      - Motion passes approving Resolution 012123-B Enacting the Quapaw Nation Criminal Code.
- **Donations**
  - **Braden Racing** – Requesting the Quapaw Nation to assist with a donation.
    - Motion to table Braden Racing donation request by Joseph Byrd, Chairman.
    - Seconded by Wena Supernaw, Secretary-Treasurer.
    - Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 0 absent, 2 vacant.
    - Motion passes to table the Braden Racing donation request.
  - **Shawn Ellick** – Requesting the Quapaw Nation to assist with a donation for a Gourd Dance Benefit for his granddaughter.
    - Motion to approve \$600 donation request by Wena Supernaw, Secretary-Treasurer.
    - Seconded by Michelle Newton, Member.
    - Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 0 absent, 2 vacant.
    - Motion passes to approve the \$600 donation request for the Gourd Dance Benefit.
  - **Welch Public School After Prom** – Requesting the Quapaw Nation to assist with a donation for the Welch Public School After Prom.
    - Motion to approve the Welch Public School After Prom donation request by Callie Bowden, Vice-Chair.
    - Seconded by Michelle Newton, Member.
    - Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 0 absent, 2 vacant.
    - Motion passes to approve the Welch Public School After Prom donation request for \$1000.

**XIII. Open Forum:**

- Discussion from the floor and Zoom.

**XIV. Benediction:** Solomon Jones, Tribal Member.

**XV. Adjournment:** 10:57 AM.

- Motion to adjourn by Michelle Newton, Member.
- Second by Wena Supernaw, Secretary-Treasurer.
- Vote: 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 0 absent, and 2 vacant.
- Motion passes to adjourn.

/s/ Wena Supernaw  
Wena Supernaw, BC Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes Prepared in Accordance  
with Robert's Rules of Order  
By: /s/ Steva Stand Interim  
BC Executive Secretary

**CERTIFICATION**

Approved by the Quapaw Nation Business Committee on February 18, 2023, with a vote reflecting 5 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, 0 absent, and 2 vacant.