

Minutes

Quapaw Nation Business Committee

Community Building & Zoom

Monday, May 24, 2021

I. **Call to Order:** 6:10 P.M.

II. **Invocation:** Jeremy Olsen, Member.

III. **Roll Call:**

- Joseph Byrd, Chairman Present
- Callie Bowden, Vice-Chairwoman Present
- Guy Barker, Secretary-Treasurer Present
- Michelle Newton, Member Present
- Zack Turley, Member Absent
- Lloyd Buffalo, Member Present
- Jeremy Olsen, Member Present

IV. **Declaration of Quorum:** Announced by Guy Barker, Secretary-Treasurer.

V. **New Business.**

• **Public discussion over the American Rescue Plan Act funds**

• **Joseph Byrd.**

- There was a special presentation on the screen. It showed the breakdown and how the Tribe will be funded.
- The first payment that the Tribe received was \$27,725,764.99.
- The second payment will be the employment allocation. The deadline to confirm employment numbers is June 7, 2021. Soon after June 7, 2021, Treasury will notify tribes of their employment allocation amounts.
- A list of eligible uses for the American Rescue Plan Act are:
 - Support Public Health Response.
 - Address Negative Economic Impacts.
 - Provide Equity-Focused Services.
 - Replace Tribal Government Revenue Losses.
 - Premium Pay for Essential Employees.
 - Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructures.
- Things to consider are:
 - Tribes have not received official guidance or restrictions on how to use these funds yet.
 - Quapaw Nation has not yet received its second allocation payment.
 - No decisions on the funds will be made this evening.

- **Discussion.**
 - **Questions.**
 - **Debbie Wray** – Is the distribution in addition to what program funds have already been received?
 - **Guy Barker** – The funds received from HUD was in addition to, it is an entirely different sum of money.
 - **Courtney Dowell** – Asked what Native Health was and what the Community Paramedic did.
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Native Care Health is our insurance company that is funded through our general fund. The Community Paramedic does telemedicine, and Quapaw Nation also contributes to the Northeastern Tribal Health System.
 - **Callie Bowden** – The Community Paramedic can be used and save money instead of using the ambulance service.
 - **Courtney Dowell** – Asked about Tribal members that live outside the 50-mile range and why they are disqualified.
 - **Callie Bowden** - This money right here would not have a radius on it.
 - **Joseph Byrd** – There are federal program funds that we received from federal grants that do have a stipulation that has a general radius attached.
 - **Malinda McFarland** - Can this distribution help ones that have lost their jobs due to COVID?
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Part of the programming is to help rehire staff in the public health sector, but we do not have a nursing home, but we could recommend it to the Northeastern Tribal Health System. We have our own clinic at Downstream.
 - **Malinda McFarland** – Can this distribution help us out like a per capita payment?
 - **Callie Bowden** – There would be guidelines on the form like before, and you will fill it out and send it back.
 - **Guy Barker** – Everyone in this room is all in agreement that we want to provide payment assistance of some kind. There will be a form because the Treasury requires us to collect information.
 - **Malinda McFarland** – The kids around here need something like a swimming pool or playground for these kids to keep them out of trouble.
 - **Guy Barker** – Agrees and will need to check into the guidelines of a swimming pool.

- **Joseph Byrd** – Recommended a recreational center or multi-cultural center.
- **Courtney Dowell** – On the fifty-mile range, as a Tribal member, she remembers her dad fighting for the same things we are fighting for today. The Quapaw people have been patient with the money that the casinos are bringing in, and she does not feel like they are getting those funds. She believes the Quapaw people should be first.
- **Grant Schaulk** – States that it is great to be Native and today is a good day. This is great news! God Bless everyone!
- **Alisa King (Zoom)** – We have camps, but kids cannot get there if they live far away; the radius is a huge issue. There is more that needs to be done for people that live outside of the fifty-mile radius.
- **Copper** – Question regarding medical is that going to help subsidize what the medical does not cover, like hearing aids?
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Hearing aids should fall directly in line with some of the uses of the American Rescue Plan Act.
- **Micheal Mouse (Zoom)** – Lived out of the fifty-mile radius and was denied help. He does not rent; he owns his house. Is there any help from the Tribe?
 - **Joseph Byrd** – The baseline for most programs has restrictions that we must adhere to within the federal guidelines. We will definitely take a look.
- **Courtney Dowell** – How are the guidelines determined?
 - **Guy Barker** – They put guidelines on different programs like NAHASDA and HUD, which have restrictions. All federal funds come with guidelines, and we cannot violate any guidelines, or it will keep us from receiving funds.
- **Courtney Dowell** – What is the Tribe doing for us with the money the Tribe has received?
 - **Callie Bowden** – That is what this discussion is for; we want everyone’s input and want to know what the needs are. We have received the first of two payments.
 - **Guy Barker** – We have received the interim guidelines, but more specific guidelines will be coming.
 - **Callie Bowden** – The ultimate goal is to get the Tribe out of debt, and then the Tribe will be able to take care of everyone. To get the Tribe out of debt is going to take 5 to 10 years. The money we are

discussing today comes with strings attached, and we want to spend it to help our people.

- **Courtney Dowell** – Does not feel like the casinos are helping.
 - **Callie Bowden** – The casinos are what fund programs like social services. \$125,000 comes from Quapaw Casino monthly for utilities. Downstream gives \$10 million yearly that is allocated to programs.
- **Flossie Mathews** – Questions regarding buildings. She would like to see a restaurant open all night. She would like something to be done with the land. She would like to have a grocery store in Quapaw.
 - **Guy Barker** – Thinks it is a great idea, and there already is a feasibility study in the works to put a grocery store, café and hopefully moving the coffee roasters to Quapaw.
- **Michelle Newton** – Someone has sent a question regarding seeing an assisted living center built for Elders.
- **Caroline via Zoom** – Can any funds go to education.
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Education is one of the eligible pillars. Funds can be used for education-specific goals and also for language preservation.
- **Jesse via Zoom** – Can there be any relief for renting?
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Yes, there possibly is some assistance that falls under the eligible uses outside of the fifty-mile radius.
- **Connie Moore via Zoom** – Information regarding references on heritage, beading, and language. Where can resources be located?
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Those statements are appreciated. COVID restrictions caused some meetings and programs to cease due to precautions. The Cultural Committee meetings are opening back up. They are discussing using Zoom to hold classes on language and heritage, and those funds will be used for some of that.
- **Malinda Farland** – Suggested having a Family Dollar opened up in Quapaw. Also, a store to get beads, leather, and needles.
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Agreed with her suggestion and ideas.
 - **Courtney Dowell** – Asked what ideas the BC had.
 - **Joseph Byrd** – We are here to hear everyone’s ideas.
- **Courtney Dowell** – She asked about getting into cannabis; the states are making millions.

- **Guy Barker** – The US Attorney has made it very clear that we would be prosecuted since we are on trust land.
- **Unknown (Did not state name)** – Get a paralegal to assist people with legal needs who cannot afford an attorney.
 - **Guy Barker** – We have OILS to assist with wills, and we also have people coming in through his alma mater Oklahoma City University School of Law. We can make this service available through the Quapaw Nation Court.
 - **Joseph Byrd** – We are looking at a Health Care Advocate or a Tribal Elder Advocate that helps Tribal members fill out documentation.
- **Flossie Mathews** – Suggested a program where people receive a card for gas that gets replenished when it runs out that can be used anywhere.
- **Alisa King via Zoom** – Suggested a rehab center that can keep patients and house them until they can get a job.
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Rehab is one of the eligible uses for the funds.
- **Shawna Kloer via Zoom** - Suggested having scooters at Downstream to assist our Elders.
- **Michael Mathews via Zoom** – Asks if the Tribe is planning on doing anything for our Elders?
- **Brandon via Zoom** – Asked if the funds could be used to provide for a credit union or bank?
- **Bill Griffin** – Get our daycare to have stories in the Quapaw Language and translate them to preserve our cultures.
- **Karen Hildreth** – Suggested Life alert system for the Elders in Elder Housing.
 - **Michelle Newton** – Great idea and things it should be for all elders.
- **Jesse (Zoom)** – Suggested having a counselor to be able to contact through Zoom.
 - **Joseph Byrd**- That can happen now and is a service that is already being done.
- **Jeri Montgomery** – Asked if the clinic at Downstream, be open to all Tribal members at Downstream? Could funds be used to build a sports complex?
 - **Guy Barker** – There is a partnership with Freeman and will also be extending it to Tribal members. Further guidance is needed for a sports complex, but it is a great idea.
- **Flossie Mathews** – Requested to see a list of who all are on the subcommittees—suggested hiring an attorney for the

Grievance Committee.

- **Joseph Byrd** – We will get you a list, and it might be already on the website. The Constitution Committee met after the BC meeting.
- **Debbie Wray** – Asking if some of the funds would be able to assist Tribal members with internet access.
 - **Guy Barker** – There are some guidelines attached to broadband, but there will need to be further clarification as time goes on.
- **Courtney Dowell** – Asked if funds could be used to pay off off the casinos? Asked if the funding is based on the employees under the Tribe?
 - **Joseph Byrd** – No, the funds cannot be used for debt or pensions.
 - **Guy Barker** – The second round does include employment numbers. Quapaw Nation was the only Tribe that opened up a casino during the pandemic. We think it should be for the employees we had and the employees we hired on during the pandemic. We are going to seek some exception so that we can use 2020 employee data.
- **Courtney Dowell** – Asked what the purpose of the Constitution Committee was? All Tribal members should get to go to college free with funds that are not related to the government.
 - **Callie Bowden** – The constitution committee will be sending out information to get input on creating a constitution. There will be a memorial dinner so children can come and learn.
 - **Guy Barker** – Stated that work is being done on putting a tuition reimbursement plan together where they come back and work for the Tribe for a specific amount of time, and the Tribe will be paying for it, which is currently through Downstream.
- **Connie Moore via Zoom** – Wanted to know if there was travel assistance to get to doctor's appointments in the area like Joplin and Miami?
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Stated that he believes that falls in line with eligible uses of the funds. He would also like to see the Tribe have some type of transit system for the Quapaw People for the Miami, Joplin, Galena, Baxter Springs, and Quapaw area.
- **Brandon via Zoom** – He had brought up banking earlier and wondered if the Tribe could diversify even further like a Quapaw insurance company or manufacturing? He also

wants to know if the Tribe could add internet use to the utility assistance program?

- **Michael Mathew via Zoom** – Brought up the possibility of a HUD youth care program that could teach youth construction and other programs for cultural language and a summer school?
- **Alisha via Zoom** – Ask if the laptops discussed would be for anyone or just for people within fifty miles?
- **Brandon via Zoom** – Pushing for a per capita amount for all Tribal members.
- **Melany Shawnee (Zoom)** - Talked about a drug rehab but considered a three or four-phase unit. Possibly provide a detox unit for when they are ready to go. Have a doctor on hand for testing. Have the rehab incorporate culture in the process. Also, maybe a sober living opportunity for them or even partner up with other tribes.
- **Linda Davis** – There is a need at Family Services to assist them in returning back to the workforce.
- **Joseph Byrd** – Gave a round of applause to Mikel Whitecrow for his hard work at keeping things going.
- **Jerri Montgomery** – Suggested starting back up the Economic Development Committee. Suggested possibly making caskets for Native Americans and selling them to funeral homes at a reduced rate.
- **Brandon Fisher (Zoom)** – Would like to hear the BC's thoughts on what can be done to help right now?
 - **Joseph Byrd** – This evening has been an interesting exercise to hear a lot of feedback because we have known there would be some type of allocation received. Now that we have received this allocation, it is hopeful because we would like to see some type of allocation payment to each individual. He would like to see some type of long-term use for a portion of the funds too. In the next sixty days, there will be a process and will be more discussion and feedback.
- **John Shipley via Zoom** – Can the funds be used to expand the medical benefits?
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Based on the guidance that has been received, there is nothing that says that we cannot do that if it is long term because sustainability is always going to be the question.
- **Shawn Ellick** – Suggested using funds to go towards our youth, send them to some training to assist them in getting jobs. Also, to take the Quapaw Language to the schools to

help preserve the Quapaw Language.

- **Mrs. Bear via Zoom** – Suggest extending funding for iPads for higher education and internships for all.
 - **Joseph Byrd** – We can look into that, and it is definitely a consideration for one of the eligible issues that can be utilized.
- **Henry Ellick** – Suggested a tutor school program and mentorships where older kids can help younger kids. The tutors could be paid and tutor kids all the time.
- **Laura Rawlings** – Preserving our culture and heritage by having a mentorship or buddy system.
- **Jeremy Olsen** – We have buried many people this past year and are having a shortage of helpers. We want people to show up and ask to help so they can learn. Parents bring their kids to these functions to learn so they can carry on our traditions. He is available any time if anyone has questions.
- **Mikel Whitecrow** – Suggestion for the funds is possibly building an apartment complex with transportation to local colleges and trade schools.
 - **Guy Barker** – We did just get recent funding from a grant to begin building Tribal housing. It is for building homes. We do have some housing initiatives in the works. We are going to try and make it a family-friendly community.
- **Sara via Zoom** – Asking if we could start a park and recreation department.
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Could Sara be more specific on the parks and recreation; what the intent and responsibilities would be?
- **Sara via Zoom** – It would be a department that would oversee the splash pad and park.
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Stated he was not sure about that but that the Tribe is taken steps to start their own Fish and Wildlife Agency to better secure and protect all of our resources within the Tribe’s jurisdictional boundaries which the Tribe is still in the works on that.
- **Courtney Dowell** – Could not hear the question clearly, due to an issue with the mic.
 - **Guy Barker** – Just to clarify, if the funds are sitting in an account, drawing interest for a year would only accrue \$3400 in interest, and these funds will not be sitting in the account for an entire year.

- **Joseph Byrd** – One restriction of the funds is putting the funds into a high-interest account or money market accounts.
- **Melany Shawnee via Zoom** – Would like to know if we have any original heirloom seeds that can be purchased?
 - **Joseph Byrd** – We already have that program, so please apply.
- **Brandon via Zoom** – It is excellent that the Tribe is expanding education. Asking if funds for students can be expanded.
 - **Joseph Byrd** – Expanding funds for students is what the Tribe is working towards.
- **Joseph Byrd** – To wrap this up, there will be information that will be shared. Please reach out to BC members with questions or concerns. There will not be any action taken tonight, but there have been overall really great and useful discussions on how we can better serve the needs of our people.

VI. Benediction: Michelle, Member.

VII. Adjournment: 8:27 P.M.

- Motion by Lloyd Buffalo, Member.
- Seconded by Callie Bowden, Vice-Chairwoman.
- Vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, and 0 absent.
- Motion passes.

/s/ Guy Barker

Guy Barker, BC Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes Prepared in
Accordance with Robert's
Rules of Order

By: /s/ Steva Stand

Interim Executive Secretary

CERTIFICATION

Approved by the Quapaw Nation Business
Committee on June 19, 2021, with a vote reflecting
6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, and 1 absent.