

# Pawnee Business Council Quarterly Meeting Reconvened

## MINUTES

June 9, 2025, **5:30 p.m.**, Pawnee Nation Multi-Purpose Building

808 Morris Rd, Pawnee, OK 74058  
Pawnee Tribal Reserve

Misty M. Nuttle - President	Cynthia Butler- First Council Seat
Jordan Kanuho - Vice-President	Dawna Hare - Second Council Seat
George Gardipe - Secretary	Carol Nuttle- Third Council Seat
Carol Chapman - Treasurer	Jenifer Gover LittleSun - Fourth Council Seat

### I. Call to Order & Invocation

Madame President Nuttle reconvened the Quarterly Meeting at 5:32 pm. Councilwoman Hare gave the invocation.

### II. Roll Call – Declaration of Quorum

**Secretary George Gardipe called the roll:** Misty M Nuttle – here, Jordan Kanuho – excused, George Gardipe – here, Carol Chapman – here, Cynthia Butler – here, Dawna Hare – titaku (here), Carol Nuttle – here, and Jenifer Gover LittleSun – here. **Quorum established.**

### III. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by George Gardipe to approve the reconvened Pawnee Business Council Quarterly Meeting agenda for June 9, 2025, seconded by Cynthia Butler.

Vote: George Gardipe– yes, Carol Chapman– yes, Cynthia Butler- yes, Dawna Hare- ahu (yes), Carol Nuttle– yes, Jenifer Gover LittleSun – yes, and President Nuttle – not voting. Motion carries.

### IV. Pawnee Business Council Travel Request

Councilwoman Nuttle informed Council that she will be attending the ACA/IHCIA In-Person Training Session in Tulsa, OK but will not need travel assistance.

### V. Project Updates

#### 1. Tribuquent Projects

Tribuquent presented on the following:

- Tribuquent is currently managing three active projects with the Pawnee Nation:
  - Reconnect 3 and Reconnect 4 (Broadband Projects)
    - Total funding: ~\$50 million
    - Duration: 5 years each

- Status: Administrative filings completed; USDA is reviewing contracts and reimbursement requests.
  - Challenges: USDA is requesting clarification on pre- vs. post-application expenses and operational vs. construction costs.
  - Coordination with IEC (Indian Electric Cooperative) is ongoing to avoid overlap and leverage funding.
- Rural Energy Pilot Project (REPP)
  - Scheduled to close: January 2026
  - Includes:
    1. Community outreach and sensor deployment (63 sensors installed)
    2. Distributed energy systems (focus on solar and battery storage)
    3. Geothermal component dropped due to unsuitable well conditions
    4. Proposal to reallocate ~\$843,000 in unused funds to expand solar grid (requires USDA approval)
    5. Plans for Level 3 EV charging station at Stone Wolf Casino and battery storage RFP
- Sustainability & Business Planning
  - Tribuquent is seeking to work with the PBC to develop sustainable operational models for broadband and energy services.
  - Emphasis on:
    1. Construction readiness
    2. Workforce development
    3. Long-term maintenance and operations
    4. Cooperative business models for broadband and energy
- Community Power Accelerator (5 MW Solar Project)
  - Land use approved; MOU in place
  - Potential to use REPP funds and investment tax credits (50%+ of eligible costs)
  - Exploring off-takers for excess energy: AI data centers and crypto mining
  - Challenges: Cooling/water requirements and 24/7 power reliability
- Carbon Credits & Well Restoration
  - Two wells identified for carbon credit generation:
    1. PT Production Well 132: ~\$110,000 potential
    2. IR 133: ~\$330,000 potential
  - Freedom Operating Company willing to transfer wells
  - Partnership with Tallgrass Restoration for 50/50 net revenue split
  - Potential to expand to 46 additional low-producing wells on Pawnee allotments
  - Long-term opportunity: Carbon Capture, Use, and Storage (CCUS)
- Next Steps & Recommendations
  - Form a working group with PBC to:
    1. Review sustainable business models
    2. Finalize funding reallocations
    3. Plan for future cooperative development
  - Continue USDA coordination for approvals and clarifications
  - Prepare for upcoming construction and deployment phases

The following questions were asked following the presentation:

Councilwoman Gover LittleSun asked "I saw in the budget that we received the ReConnect 3 funding. Did we receive the funding for ReConnect 4?"

Lyle MacVey responded "Yes, for both ReConnect 3 and 4. We have release of funds, which gives us access to begin advancing funds for activities on the project."

Councilwoman Gover LittleSun asked "What are some of the concerns that USDA had as far as not supplying reimbursement for the costs we submitted?"

Lyle MacVey responded that "Their primary concern was whether the costs were operational or construction-related. There was confusion about whether the costs were pre- or post-application. Initially, they were approved, but later disapproved pending clarification."

Councilwoman Nuttle asked "What agencies are we looking at that might affect the dollars that may have to go back?"

Lyle MacVey responded that "We're not expecting to return funds. We're planning to shift unused geothermal funds (about \$843,319) to expand the solar grid. This requires USDA approval due to the shift exceeding 10% of a line item."

## **2. Tax Update Project**

A report was submitted to Council for review and presented on by Virgil Wade:

- Amendments Completed
  - Mary Mashunkashey finalized the amendments to the Pawnee Nation Tax Code.
  - The amendments were received the previous Wednesday before the meeting.
- Next Steps in the Approval Process
  - The amendments will be reviewed and voted on for approval.
  - Once approved, they will move up the administrative chain for implementation.
- Implementation Planning
  - The Tax Manager will be involved in forwarding the documents for payment flow setup.
  - Coordination with the Administrator and Council will follow to finalize the process.
- Public Engagement
  - Public hearings are planned to inform and involve Pawnee Nation citizens.
  - These hearings aim to ensure transparency and community input.
- Purpose and Vision
  - The goal is to expand the tribal tax base and capture more revenue.
  - This revenue will support essential services such as:
    - Home care
    - Education
    - Elder and youth programs
- Long-Term Commitment
  - The tax code project has been in development for a long time.
  - Mary Mashunkashey is committed to continuing her work on the project at no additional cost, even beyond her formal extension.

## **VI. Pawnee Nation College Report**

A report was submitted to Council for review.

## **VII. Pawnee Nation Housing Authority Report**

Cynthia Butler reported on the following:

- Facility Renovations

- Renovations were completed on several facilities in Eagle Chief during the first quarter.
  - Additional renovations are planned for the second quarter.
  - Housing is available at 219 Park Lane.
- Maintenance
  - Monthly filter changes and smoke alarm checks are completed.
  - Regular pest control measures are in place, including spraying to stay ahead of potential issues.
  - Completed tree trimming and cutting due to the storms.
- Funding
  - Have not received an allocation for IHBG 2025.
    - All programs are currently on a waiting list.
- Housing Board Meetings
  - Regular Meetings
    - January 14<sup>th</sup>
    - February 11<sup>th</sup>
    - March 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Emergency
    - January 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Special
    - March 26<sup>th</sup>
- Quarterly Goals and Objectives
  - Modernization of Privately Owned Homes
    - Received ten applications
      1. Nine on waiting list for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.
      2. Two were approved (occurred beginning of January).
      3. Seven in processing.
      4. Zero denials.
  - Modernization of Privately Owned Homes over income
    - Goal is to serve ten applicants per quarter.
      1. Received one application that was denied.
  - Emergency Assistance
    - Goal is to serve thirty applicants per quarter.
    - Received five applications
      1. Four were approved.
      2. One denied.
  - Youth Assistance
    - Goal is to serve twenty applicants per quarter.
    - Received two applications and all approved.
  - College Assistance
    - Goal is to serve twelve students per quarter.
    - Received five applications and all approved
  - Down Payment Assistance
    - Received three applicants, one was awarded in the fourth quarter of 2024.
  - Crime and Prevention
    - Replace fencing around Eagle Chief.
    - Replacing camera system.

The following questions were asked following the presentation:

Madame President Nuttle asked "have they (HUD) been in communication to say if and when they are going to release the funds? Is it because of the administration?

Councilwoman Butler responded "We have had very little communication from HUD, we get a lot of second and third hand information from other agencies. We check ELOCCS and have not received official notice."

Councilwoman Nuttle requested to have data that shows how many people applied, what they applied for, and results of their application. If not, why. The goal is to use this data to provide some insight of what the needs are.

Councilwoman Butler responded that Housing currently collects data on how many applicants, how many were approved, and how many were denied. It will show in the third quarter report as their fiscal year ends in October.

Councilwoman Nuttle would like to see the turnaround time of when people ask for help and when it can get to them to be reduced. She also recommends contacting HUD on a weekly basis concerning the funding.

Councilwoman Butler responded that the Housing Executive Director currently does follow up with HUD frequently, the challenge is knowing who to contact as the HUD staff has been reduced.

### **VIII. Pawnee Nation Tribal Development Corporation Report**

A report was submitted to Council for review.

### **IX. Pawnee Nation Behavioral Health Report**

Brian Kirk reported on the following:

- Facility Launch & Licensing
  - Temporary License Secured: Received from the State of Oklahoma on March 27, 2025, allowing operations to begin.
  - Facility Readiness: Construction reached substantial completion; furniture, equipment, and IT systems were installed.
  - Occupancy Certification: Achieved through coordination with Pawnee Nation and fire safety inspections.
- Staffing & Operations
  - Key Hires: Executive Director and Clinical Director were onboarded.
  - Staff Onboarding: Focused on preparing for service delivery and compliance with state requirements.
  - Kitchen & Food Services: Kitchen inspection completed; food vendor arrangements in place.
- Outreach & Communication
  - Website Launched: pawneebh.org provides service details and employment opportunities.
  - Social Media: Active on Facebook, LinkedIn, and other platforms to promote services and updates.
- Services Offered
  - Current Services (as of May 6, 2025):
    - Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)
    - Individual and family counseling
  - Upcoming Services (starting June 16, 2025):

- Detoxification
- Residential treatment (phased rollout)
- Tribal Collaboration & Expansion
  - MOUs/MOAs in Progress: Working with other tribes to expand service reach and support.
  - Phased Opening: Gradual increase in service capacity as licensing and partnerships develop.

The following questions were asked following the presentation:

Councilwoman Hare asked, "Are there concerns about state funding affecting operations?" Brian Kirk responded "No. Most reimbursements come through the Oklahoma Health Care Authority via Medicaid. The facility does not rely on state contracts that are currently under scrutiny."

Councilwoman Gover LittleSun asked "Are there open positions?" Brian Kirk responded "Yes. Positions are listed on the facility's website, including upcoming postings for kitchen staff."

Councilwoman Nuttle asked, "Are services currently being provided?" Brian Kirk responded "As of May 6, intensive outpatient counseling (IOP) is available. Detox and residential services are scheduled to begin June 16, pending licensing."

Councilwoman Nuttle asked, "How can people access services?" Brian Kirk responded "Through the website or by calling the intake line. Staff will guide individuals through the intake and assessment process."

#### **X. Pawnee Nation Executive Director Report**

A report was submitted to Council for review by Mr. Brian Kirk, no questions were asked.

#### **XI. Pawnee Nation Attorney General Report**

Austin Vance reports on the following:

- Litigation Updates
  - EPA Safety Matter: The Trump administration rolled back a previous safety decision. The nation is preparing a response.
  - IBIA Lease Litigation: Involved inappropriate lease approvals. The Interior Department's obligations were reviewed, and the outcomes were favorable for the Nation.
  - Fee-to-Trust Patent Issue: The longstanding issue involving the Lewallen family resurfaced and is under renewed review.
- Legal Support Activities
  - Reviewed resolutions and contracts as part of routine legal oversight.
  - Assisted with the Constitution meetings that concluded in Q1.
  - Provided trademark support for the Behavioral Health program.

#### **XII. Approval of 2025 Pawnee Nation First Quarterly Report: Divisions**

Motion made by Cynthia Butler to approve the 2025 Pawnee Nation First Quarter Reports for the Divisions, seconded by Jenifer Gover LittleSun.

Vote: George Gardipe– yes, Carol Chapman– yes, Cynthia Butler- yes, Dawna Hare- ahu (yes), Carol Nuttle– abstain, Jenifer Gover LittleSun – abstain, and President Nuttle – not voting. Motion carries.

**XIII. Approval of 2025 Pawnee Nation First Quarterly Report; Committees, Commissions and Boards**

Motion made by Cynthia Butler to approve the 2025 Pawnee Nation First Quarter Reports for the Committee, Commissions, and Boards, seconded by Dawna Hare.

Vote: George Gardipe– yes, Carol Chapman– yes, Cynthia Butler- yes, Dawna Hare- ahu (yes), Carol Nuttle– abstain, Jenifer Gover LittleSun – abstain, and President Nuttle – not voting. Motion carries.

**XIV. Approval of 2025 Pawnee Nation First Quarterly Report; Financials**

Motion made by Carol Chapman to approve the 2025 Pawnee Nation First Quarter Reports for the Financials, seconded by Dawna Hare.

Vote: George Gardipe– yes, Carol Chapman– yes, Cynthia Butler- yes, Dawna Hare- ahu (yes), Carol Nuttle– abstain, Jenifer Gover LittleSun – abstain, and President Nuttle – not voting. Motion carries.

**XV. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Approval of Pawnee Business Council Emergency Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2025**

Motion made by George Gardipe to approve the Pawnee Business Council Emergency Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2025, with changes, seconded by Cynthia Butler.

Vote: George Gardipe– yes, Carol Chapman– yes, Cynthia Butler- yes, Dawna Hare- ahu (yes), Carol Nuttle– abstain, Jenifer Gover LittleSun – abstain, and President Nuttle – not voting. Motion carries.

**2. Approval of Pawnee Business Council Special Meeting Minutes for May 6, 2025**

Madame President Nuttle notes for the record that Councilwoman Carol Nuttle is not associated with the Behavioral Health as stated in the May 6<sup>th</sup> minutes, Leaders are the consultants for the Tribal Management Grant.

Motion made by George Gardipe to approve the Pawnee Business Council Special Meeting Minutes for May 6, 2025, with changes, no second, motion fails.

**3. Approval of Pawnee Business Council Special Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2025**

Motion made by Dawna Hare to approve the Pawnee Business Council Special Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2025, with changes, seconded by Cynthia Butler.

Vote: George Gardipe– yes, Carol Chapman– abstain, Cynthia Butler- yes, Dawna Hare- ahu (yes), Carol Nuttle– ahu (yes), Jenifer Gover LittleSun – yes, and President Nuttle – not voting. Motion carries.

**XVI. New Business**

**1. Approval of Resolution #25-29 Establishment of Governmental Procedures for Inquiries and Investigations**

Motion made by Cynthia Butler to table Resolution #25-29 Establishment of Governmental Procedures for Inquiries and Investigations, seconded by Carol Chapman.

Vote: George Gardipe– no, Carol Chapman– yes, Cynthia Butler- yes, Dawna Hare- ahu (yes), Carol Nuttle– abstain, Jenifer Gover LittleSun – yes, and President Nuttle – not voting. Motion carries.

**2. Approval of Resolution #25-30 Pawnee Nation Code of Ethics**

Motion made by Jenifer Gover LittleSun to table Resolution #25-30 Pawnee Nation Code of Ethics, seconded by Carol Chapman.

Vote: George Gardipe– no, Carol Chapman– yes, Cynthia Butler- yes, Dawna Hare- ahu (yes), Carol Nuttle– ahu (yes), Jenifer Gover LittleSun – yes, and President Nuttle – not voting. Motion carries.

**XVII. Open Forum**

The following announcements were made during the open forum:

- Pawnee Community Chamber of Commerce Round Table
  - Date: June 19
  - Time: 11:30 AM
  - Location: Pawnee Health Department (old DHS building)
  - Meal: \$10 for Click's Catering (optional)
  - Speakers: Economic Development Board, local businesses, and rodeo-related updates
- PBC Orientation

- Dates: June 23-24
  - Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Community Appreciation Meal
  - Date: June 21
  - Location: The Roundhouse
  - Hosted by newly elected and re-elected Council members to thank citizens
- Food Distribution Center
  - Closed: June 11 for truck delivery
- CRD Advisory Committee Meeting
  - Date: June 11
  - Time: 5:00 PM
  - Location: Museum of the Pawnee Nation, 657 Harrison St.
- Summer Movie Night
  - Date: June 13
  - Movie: *Stuart Little*
  - Location: Stone Wolf Casino (outdoor showing at sunset)
- Nasharo Council Quarterly Meeting
  - Date: June 14
  - Time: 9:00 AM
  - Location: Enrollment Building, 700 Agency Rd.
- Upcoming Events
  - June 17: All Youth Fun Day at Otoe
  - July 2: Pawnee Nation Health Fair
  - July 3-5: Homecoming and Hawk Chief Run
- TDC Report Absence
  - TDC representative was unable to present due to technical difficulties.
  - An executive summary will be sent later.

#### **XVIII. Set the Next Meeting Date**

The next Pawnee Business Council Special Meeting has been scheduled for June 17, 2025, at 5:30 pm at the Multipurpose Building.

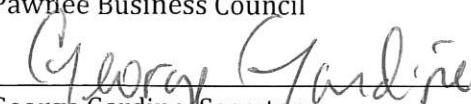
#### **XIX. Adjournment**

Motion made by Cynthia Butler to adjourn, seconded by Carol Nuttle.

Vote: George Gardipe- yes, Carol Chapman- yes, Cynthia Butler- yes, Dawna Hare- ahu (yes), Carol Nuttle – yes, Jenifer Gover-LittleSun – yes, and President Nuttle – not voting. Motion carries to adjourn at 7:46 pm.

Approved: July 1, 2025  
Date

  
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Misty M. Nuttle, President  
Pawnee Business Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George Gardipe, Secretary  
Pawnee Business Council