



# Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation

## Official Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Type:** Tribal Council / Quarterly Community Meeting

**Date:** April 9, 2026

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Location:** Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Tribal Chair W. A. (Tony) Hayes at 6:33 PM. Tribal Council present: Brice Watkins, Vice Chair and Wanda Whitmore-Penner, Tribal Council, and Beverly Payne Tribal Council which constituted a quorum.

Tribal Administrator: Vickie Jeffries

### Roll Call

**Tribal Members Present:** Lawrence Dunmore, Gianni-Lacey Howard, Keisha Enoch, Alecia Ashford Taylor, Chris McDougald, Leon Bellamy, Lucius Bellamy, Crystal Cavalier-Keck, Coda Cavalier, Robert Jeffers, Tremaine Jeffries, Rachel Clay, Terence Whitmore, Amber Hayes, Kristen Hayes-Febres, Susie Enoch, Benita Rayner, Sherea Burnett, Ramona Blackwell, Kam Rogers, Eddie Lambert, Toni Mingo, Anne Haith-Rico, Kisha Jeffries, Kendra Henderson, Shadow Martin-Roy, Sheilda Jeffries, Chandrika Brown, Sharon Bellamy, Connie Yarborough, Delores Bellamy, Sharon Bellamy-Powers, Elsie Nash Brown, Jamie Currie, Tye Banks, Wilhelmina Pierce, John Bellamy, Angela Wade, Tiara Pickard, and Gianni Lacey-Howard.

**Guest:** Donny Cook.

### Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made.

**Motion:** Wanda Whitmore-Penner, Tribal Council

**Second:** Brice Watkins, Vice Chair

### Opening Remarks

Chair Hayes provided opening remarks, including updates related to ongoing Tribal governance matters and the consent order following mediation.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Consent Order & Compliance**

- Chair Hayes reported ongoing efforts to comply with the consent order.
- Delays were noted due to pending responses from legal counsel and the need for clarification of certain provisions.
- Lawrence Dunmore III raised concerns regarding adherence to court deadlines.
- Chair Hayes confirmed that legal counsel has been contacted and that compliance remains a priority.

### **2. Election Commission**

- Discussion held regarding the formation of the Election Commission.
- Noted that the process is behind schedule.
- Concerns raised regarding:
  - Commission structure
  - Alignment with the consent order
- Chair Hayes emphasized the need for:
  - Fair and transparent elections
  - Adequate notice and participation opportunities for members

## **New Business**

### **3. Communication with Tribal Membership**

- Members expressed concerns regarding lack of communication, including:
  - Missed meeting notifications
  - Inconsistent email delivery
- Council responded:
  - Communications are distributed via MailChimp and the OBSN website
  - Members are responsible for maintaining updated contact information
- It was noted that:
  - Email delivery issues may occur due to outdated or incorrect information
  - Communication requires shared responsibility between the Tribe and its members

### **4. Transparency & Reporting**

- Members requested:

- Annual “State of the Tribe” report
- Financial transparency and reporting
- Updates on grants and programs
- Leadership acknowledged delays due to:
  - Ongoing litigation
  - State audit requirements
  - Administrative workload

## **5. OYA (Occaneechi Youth Ambassador) Program**

- Concerns raised regarding lack of youth programming and clarity on grant funding.
- Gianni Lacey-Howard provided the following update:
  - Limited participation in the program (3 applicants)
  - Challenges in communication and program execution
  - Program currently paused for restructuring
- Discussion included concerns regarding the dismissal of a youth ambassador and communication gaps.

## **6. Member Concerns & Participation**

- Members expressed concerns regarding:
  - Inclusion in decision-making
  - Access to information
  - Need for additional programs and services
- Differing viewpoints were shared regarding the Tribe’s current progress and direction.

## **7. Constitution & Governance**

- Discussion held regarding qualifications for Tribal Council.
- Concerns raised about alignment with the Tribal Constitution.
- Leadership noted additional considerations related to 501(c)(3) compliance.
- Members requested improved access to constitutional documents.

## **Open Floor**

The floor was open for questions and comments.

Discussion included concerns regarding communication, program development, governance, and transparency.

The floor was opened a second time for additional questions; no further questions were pursued.

## **Action Items**

- Follow up with legal counsel regarding consent order compliance and court notification
- Continuing formation and clarification of the Election Commission

- Review and improve communication processes (email distribution, website updates)
- Prepare and distribute pending reports (annual report, financial updates)
- Evaluate and restructure youth programming (OYA Program)

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28PM.

**Next Quarterly Meeting scheduled for July 9, 2026 @6:30 PM**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Vickie Jeffries**

Tribal Administrator

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