



THE PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH

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Immediate Release:

August 11, 2017

The first 129 Days in office have been historically significant for this tribe and this tribal council. This is because we have had a new tribal administrator, new council, and an election process that took longer than we anticipated originally. It has been a learning process for this council to determine what is needed for our tribal members and what our priorities are.

Recently, this council was caught off guard with the resignation of Cedar Band Chairman Mertin Bow. This like the rest of our 129 days was something we did not anticipate. When dealing with the resignation process, we had to reference our Tribal Constitution Article XII – Recall, Removal, and Forfeiture, Section 3, Page 15.

- (b) The procedure to fill a vacancy created by automatic forfeiture shall be as follows:
- (1). *Except* in the case of the tribal chairperson, an election shall be held within thirty (30) days of to the eligible voters of the affected band to elect a council member to fill the vacant seat.

Cedar Band was given the resignation prior to the scheduled Tribal Council meeting on August 2, 2017. Cedar Band accepted the resignation for Chairman Bow on August 1, 2017, in a special meeting. According to Cedar Band Bylaws Article III. Band Council Section 4.

In the event the Chairperson resigns, dies or is otherwise unable to serve, the Vice-Chairperson receiving the second highest votes during the chairperson election will automatically fill the position as the Band Chairperson and as a Tribal Council Member.

Although, we support our bands and their right to self-govern. This section of the Cedar Band bylaws contradicts our tribal constitution, which is the supreme law of our tribe. Please reference Article VIII –Band Councils, Section 3. Action of Band Council, Page 7.

During the transitional phase of having another election for the Cedar Band, Lora Tom was sworn in as the Interim Chairwoman for the Cedar Band and Keith Garcia as the Interim Vice-Chairman for the Cedar Band. Until the Cedar Band members have an opportunity to hold an election.

When being sworn into office, we took the oath that we would uphold the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Constitution and that means we follow every article in the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Constitution. As the governing document to this tribe, it supersedes any of the bands by laws that conflict with the constitution, and that is why we need to hold an election and afford due process to Cedar Band members.

This is in no way a personal attack on any member of the Cedar Band Council, but a provision that we need to follow per our constitution.

The new Tribal Council wants to remain transparent and follow our governing documents. We are well aware that it has not been consistent in the past, but needs to be moving forward. During the 1997 election for Cedar Band, Alex Shepard had originally won Cedar Band Chairman and resigned. As a result of Alex Shepard's resignation; there was an election; following the provisions in the Constitution, Lora Tom was elected as the New Cedar Band Chairperson in 1997.

We currently have an election scheduled for Thursday, August 31, 2017, per the Constitution, but we are well aware Cedar Band will need to hold a nomination meeting, which could delay the scheduled election until Mid-September per the Election Ordinance.

This council will continue to act in the best interest of the tribe and our membership. Without each of you individuals, we do not have a tribe. We will continue to strive towards working on our goals of changing the constitution and seeing what is feasible for our futures and working for our membership. We are evolving and changing every day. My door is always open, please come and speak to me if you have any questions good or bad.

Sincerely,



Tami Borchardt-Slayton
The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
Chairwoman

Tribal Council had a Special Meeting on August 11, 2017, to discuss the Constitution and Cedar Band Chairperson Election. Cedar Band abstained from the discussion and voting. The Kanosh and Shivwits Band voted against the language in the Constitution and Cedar Band having the election. The Koosharem Band and Indian Peaks Band voted for upholding the Constitution and having an election. With it being a tied vote, I voted in favor upholding the Constitution and having Cedar Band go into another election.