



# SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

| DATE | Monday,<br>September 29,<br>2025 | TIME<br>PLACE | 6pm CT<br>Tribal HQ +<br>Zoom | FACILITATOR | Carrie Kneeland |
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| MEMBERS         |                |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Roberta Smith   | Present        | Yvonne Perryman | Present                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Carrie Kneeland | Present - Zoom | Jo Lynn Gentry  | Present - Zoom                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Natalie Dixon   | Present        | Others Present: | <b>Curt Lawrence -<br/>Zoom</b><br><b>3 General Council<br/>Members</b><br><b>Election Committee<br/>Members - Raylene<br/>Hackler, Tommie Ray,<br/>Davey Blansett, and<br/>Leah Tarrant</b> |

| TIME     | ITEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | OWNER   |
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| 06:00 PM | <b>Called to Order</b> - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's (SCN) regular Constitution Committee (CC) meeting.                                                                                         | Carrie  |
|          | <b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b> – September 15, 2025 minutes spoken to, minor clarifications made regarding the direction of a hypothetical adoption into or outside the SCN community – <b>minutes APPROVED</b> | Natalie |

| TIME                 | ITEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | OWNER   |
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|                      | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CERTIFICATION</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>On <u>09/29/2025</u> the minutes of <u>09/15/2025</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>10/09/2025</u>.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Attest: <u>                    /s/Natalie Dixon</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Natalie Dixon, Secretary</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |         |
|                      | <p><b>Housekeeping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Roll Call</li> <li>ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – SEP 15, 2025</li> <li>iii. Confirmation of next meeting – OCT 13, 2025</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Natalie |
| --                   | <p><b>Planned Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housekeeping</li> <li>• Discussion with Election Committee</li> <li>• Notice of Grievance Committee meeting and questions</li> <li>• Open Forum</li> <li>• Next Constitution meeting 10/13/2025 @ 6pm</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |         |
| <b>Minutes Begin</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |         |
|                      | <p><b>Discussion with Election Committee (EC) - for ease of reading, some items have been combined, but all top level bullet points are in chronological order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions - What works in your Ordinance? What does not? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Election Committee member states that 2023 Ordinance received at beginning of their tenure appeared to be a large amount of copy and paste across 30 pages, was not clear and concise, later clarifies that the organization of the Ordinance is confusing due to its repetition across 30+ pages</li> </ul> </li> <li>• EC members state they believe the Election Committee should be elected by the General Council</li> <li>• Question - What would you like to see protected in the Constitution?</li> </ul> |         |

| TIME | ITEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | OWNER |
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|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EC member states that 2023 Election Ordinance has procedures for absentee ballots, but the current ordinance procedures can be confusing as multiple Committees are involved</li> <li>○ If EC gets a Voter List, it is not received until after the list goes to the Election Administrator</li> <li>○ Some prior Voter Lists have been given to candidates without redacting tribal member identifying information, some Voter Lists when first produced include tribal members who are citizens but under the age of 18 and thus not voting-age General Council members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Having names and addresses connected on a Voter List may not be safe for tribal citizens experiencing domestic violence or stalking</li> <li>▪ All tribal citizens have the right to privacy especially when addresses of all voting-age General Council members are being provided to electoral candidates</li> <li>▪ Voter Lists should be created with the following parameters - General Council members only (tribal citizens aged 18 and older) with only their addresses provided, no names to protect tribal citizen rights to privacy</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Election Committee has found online software that would be appropriate to use for both in-person voting and absentee voting in elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Election Administrators are a large part of the current EC budget, using a software to administer the election instead would save beaucoup bucks</li> <li>○ EC clarifies later on that their most recent annual election budgets range from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per election with most of this money being used to hire an Election Administrator</li> <li>○ EC later clarifies that this electronic system does not allow the software operator to see how voters voted, maintaining the requirement for secret</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

| TIME | ITEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | OWNER |
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|      | <p>ballot in the Constitution Article V - Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question - Has your committee been unable to carry out committee business due to the structure of our tribal government? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Having many decades worth of Resolutions but no central repository means procedure changes regularly and sometimes without real notice</li> <li>◦ Election Committee lacks the knowledge and access to prior electoral Resolutions</li> <li>◦ Example - <a href="#">General Council Resolution #001-060708</a> says no absentee balloting can happen, however multiple prior elections included absentee voters, same Resolution also states that Election Ordinances must be approved by the General Council but this has not been happening in the recent past. This General Council Resolution has been an agenda item for a possible Special Meeting of the General Council in November 2025, it does need to be reaffirmed or rescinded by the General Council for the Election Committee to finish up rewriting the Election Ordinance. The clarification needed is time sensitive.</li> <li>◦ Constitution Committee member requests update from present Business Committee members (3 total) on the scanning and organization of Resolutions for the codification of laws. This process started over one year ago and is not complete. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Business Committee member states that the Secretary-Treasurer will not release Resolutions to Carrie Mott for scanning/organization</li> <li>▪ A CC member asks what authority the Secretary-Treasurer cites to allow Resolutions to be withheld.</li> <li>▪ Chief clarifies that Constitution duties of Secretary-Treasurers can be interpreted as documents are to be viewed in person</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

| TIME | ITEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | OWNER |
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|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue identified by Election Committee in Article 8 - Annual Meetings, in the last sentence of the article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Regular elections of the Business Committee shall be held pursuant to a Nation election ordinance prescribed by the Business Committee."</li> <li>This only mentions regular elections and not special elections that happen in the event of a vacancy outside of a regular electoral period. It also only mentions Business Committee elections and not any other Standing Committee elections</li> <li>Regular elections happen every 2 years for Business Committee positions, special elections happen in the event of resignation, removal, and/or death</li> </ul> </li> <li>Constitution Committee member asks Election Committee how they feel about a possible Election Board or Commission that had members working 1 to 3 days a week for electoral purposes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EC member states that would just be a name change, there are rules that post-election material is to be disposed of after 60 days and there wouldn't be enough work during non-election seasons</li> </ul> </li> <li>EC member states they think Election Committee terms should be staggered so if Election Committee members are not re-elected there is no lapse in institutional knowledge, similar to the Business Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EC member clarifies that they are currently appointed and serve at the discretion of the Business Committee, there are no established terms of office for Election Committee</li> <li>Prior electoral ordinances had 4 year terms and a recall/removal petition process that required 150 signatures</li> <li>Election Committee members voice uncertainty if 4 years is an appropriate term length for Election Committee members</li> </ul> </li> <li>Question - Does the Election Ordinance have any</li> </ul> |       |

| TIME | ITEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | OWNER |
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|      | <p>provisions relating to edits made during an election year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Current Election Ordinance requires an Election Administrator be engaged by January 2</li> <li>○ A <a href="#">General Council Resolution passed on or about June 02, 2007</a> requires Election Ordinances to be approved by the General Council - Constitution Committee does not have a copy of this Resolution at this time</li> <li>○ EC member states one of the Ordinances does have a prohibition on changing an Election Ordinance 90 days prior to an election</li> <li>● Constitution Committee member states they saw in a tribal Facebook group the current Secretary-Treasurer's post stating that Chief would be calling a Special Meeting of the General Council, with an agenda to be determined <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Election Committee is asked if they have plans for drafting a Resolution to put in place regarding absentee voting at this Special Meeting</li> <li>○ Chief states he believes the last Election Ordinance had a prohibition on changes to it 90 days prior</li> <li>○ Chief states he does not have a copy of the General Council Resolution #001-060708 or the 2023 Election Ordinance</li> <li>○ Election Committee Chairperson states that the Chief handed them the 2023 Election Ordinance when they were brought on to the Election Committee and that Chief (as well as the rest of the Business Committee who was present at that meeting) has also been personally handed the aforementioned General Council Resolution by the Election Committee</li> <li>○ Chief requests another copy of the aforementioned General Council Resolution to be put in his door by those present. (Secretary of the Constitution Committee delivered the printed Resolution to</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

| TIME | ITEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | OWNER |
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|      | <p>Chief's door following the meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chief states he has not yet had the chance to talk to the Business Committee about the Special Meeting of the General Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Different Business Committee member present at meeting states that the Special Meeting of the General Council call-out was "squashed" and considered unconstitutional</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Chief states that the Constitution Committee would be able to help with settling the absentee voter question</li> <li>○ Constitution Committee member asks again if a November 8th, 2025 Special Meeting will be called <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chief states that if they can create an agenda to where everybody understands everything that is wanted, but that date may not be November 8th but it'll be close</li> <li>▪ Different Business Committee member clarifies that there were four main subjects on the previously presented, passed, and then challenged as unconstitutional and Chief did not call a special meeting pursuant to the Resolution which scheduled it for November 8th, 2025</li> <li>▪ Business Committee Resolution regarding a November 8th, 2025 Special Meeting of the General Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implementation of nepotism laws</li> <li>● Ethics Committee matter that was tabled at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the General Council</li> <li>● The General Council Resolution #001-060708 on absentee voting, whether the General Council wants to reaffirm or rescind the prohibition on absentee balloting</li> <li>● The General Council Resolution stating that</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

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|             | <p>the Election Committee is to be voted by the General Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other business as presented</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |       |
| 07:11 PM    | <b>Constitution Committee takes break from meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |       |
| 07:23:00 PM | <b>Constitution Committee returns to meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |       |
|             | <p><b>Discussion with Election Committee resumes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question - How do Election Committee members feel about possible changes to the qualifications of officers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Former Ethics Committee member did try to review the possibility of background checks for elected officials but were told that was a Constitutional matter</li> <li>◦ Separation of powers was indicated as an important issue for General Council members who took the initial 2023 Constitution Advisory Committee Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Our present-day structure does not empower Election Committee currently with any electoral duties</li> <li>▪ Election Administrators currently handle the duties that would be common to assign to an Election Committee</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Should Secretary-Treasurers have a specific relevant educational or experienced background included as a part of their qualifications for office?</li> <li>◦ A conviction of crimes of moral turpitude (sex crimes, murder, crimes against children, etc.) and/or financial crimes may be relevant as a disqualification for office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Currently there is not personnel procedure in place when it comes to certain crimes like past driving offenses that were committed by tribal members (eg. DUI) do not prohibit them from driving tribal-owned vehicles</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ A TERO Officer who is able to advocate for tribal</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

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|      | <p>member employees may be a necessary initiative to get tribal members to want to work for the tribe, whether for the first time or once again, currently tribal politics negatively influences the outcome of tribal member applications and employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ EC Member states that having specific educational or professional experience may limit potential candidates, but agrees having "general accounting experience" would be better as a qualification</li> <li>• Question for all - Would having a short list of crimes of moral turpitude that disqualify people from office be acceptable? Crimes of moral turpitude defined to include but not limited to sex crimes, murder, crimes against children, etc.</li> <li>• Question for EC - Have prior Resolutions relating to elections been requested? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ EC member states that they were told that there was no documentation after 2008 regarding elections</li> <li>◦ Prior Ordinances has been requested under previous Secretary-Treasurer and nothing was provided</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Question for Constitution Committee from EC - What is the timeline for Constitution work? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Date for completion is March 31, 2026 for the first of four amendments</li> <li>◦ After this date, proposed amendments will be brought to the Business Committee at the following monthly meeting for both the Business Committee and General Council members to provide input and feedback</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Election Committee will be proposing a Resolution to adopt new voting software, has not been presented yet but they would like to have it on the website</li> </ul> |       |
|      | <b>Confirmation of meeting with Grievance Committee on October 19, 2025 @ 2pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |       |
|      | <b>Deadline for newsletter draft is December 8th, 2026 to be completed by December 31, 2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |       |

| TIME     | ITEM                                                                                        | OWNER |
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|          | Confirmation of next meeting on October 13, 2025 @ 6pm                                      |       |
| 07:50 PM | Motion #5 (Roberta/Yvonne) - to adjourn meeting - unanimous committee vote – motion carried |       |