



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

| DATE | Monday, November 10, 2025 | TIME PLACE | 6pm CT Tribal HQ + Zoom | FACILITATOR | Carrie Kneeland |
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| MEMBERS | | | |
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| Roberta Smith | Present | Yvonne Perryman | Present |
| Carrie Kneeland | Present | Jo Lynn Gentry | Present – Zoom |
| Natalie Dixon | Present | Others Present: | Curt Lawrence - Zoom 2 General Council Members |

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| 6:01pm | Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee (CC) meeting. | Carrie |
| | Approval of Previous Minutes – October 27, 2025 minutes spoken to, minor amendments and corrections made to the record including addition of punctuation and grammatical changes for clarification, clarification on an Election Ordinance prohibiting changes within 90 days preceding an election, clarification on a hypothetical subpoena power and Grievance procedures and burdens of proof, clarification of possible sanctions in the Grievance process – minutes approved | Natalie |

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| | <p align="center"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p align="center">On <u>11/10/2025</u> the minutes of <u>10/27/2025</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>11/22/2025</u>.</p> <p align="center">Attest: _____ /s/Natalie Dixon</p> <p align="center">Natalie Dixon, Secretary</p> | |
| | <p>Housekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Roll Call ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – OCT 27, 2025 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – NOV 24, 2025 | Natalie |
| -- | <p>Planned Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Amendment Drafting • Open Forum • Next Constitution meeting 11/24/2025 @ 6pm | |
| Minutes Begin | | |
| | <p>Discussion during Approval of the Minutes on budgets happens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name for Grievance Committee member Rayma is wrong, name listed as Rayma White in minutes of 10/19/2025 should be Rayma Wright • Budgets for FY2025 and FY2026 both currently in limbo with Business Committee who are doing budget matters via Docusign with no discussion in their Committee meetings • Business Committee member clarifies the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business Committee Resolutions are requirement for certain types of funding including Tribal Operations and many of the budgets sent require shortfall funding from Tribal Operations account which requires those Resolutions to be made and so some members of the Business Committee decided not to sign without a Business Committee Resolution in | |

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| | <p>place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The head of the Finance Department has been requested to meet with the Business Committee and has confirmed that she would do so, but the Secretary-Treasurer has not put this meeting on the agenda nor the Business Committee Resolutions for funding out of Tribal Operations • Secretary-Treasurer still has not responded to a document request by a Constitution Committee member for 2025 General Council Resolutions that includes a General Council Resolution that creates this Constitution Committee • Constitution Committee funding is through General Council Welfare Fund per the original 2025 General Council Resolution creating this Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business Committee member present confirms that no General Council Welfare Fund monies have been touched • Constitution Committee member clarifies that Constitution Committee stipends are being paid without budgets in place, however the Grievance and Election Committees who have each met with us one time in their official capacities have not been paid a stipend for those meetings as Constitution Committee has requested <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Election Committee should be paid out of FY2025 budget and Grievance Committee should be paid out of FY2026 budget, both of which were submitted weeks ago • Business Committee member present clarifies that they are allowed to request an item be put on the agenda, but their request is just that, a request <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sometimes Chief will ask if there is any other business to be addressed but this is not always the case ○ Business Committee has discussed budgets every week since late August • Business Committee's next monthly meeting is on Wednesday (Veteran's Day holiday was day before and monthly meeting was moved 1 week out from Constitutional mandate) | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2nd Chair Roberta agrees to go to Business Committee meeting and request action on Constitution Committee budgets • Constitution Committee is paid for two meetings a month, Secretary of the Committee has requested HR to pay the 10/19/2025 meeting so the Grievance Committee who attended are paid too <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business Committee member present states that the Welfare Committee's documents state they may be paid three times a month ○ Resolution #079-030723 Approve the Updated Benefits Policies and Procedures was the only document covering Welfare Committee pay accessible to the Constitution Committee– the actual document is watermarked “CONFIDENTIAL” so it has not been shared but the Resolution coversheet is linked above <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Constitution Committee member states that documents directly affecting the General Council or General Council monies should not be marked confidential, members should have access ▪ Section 7 of Resolution #079-030723 states “The Welfare Committee shall receive a monthly stipend not to exceed \$400 per month to paid bi-weekly.” ▪ The most recent version of this document dated 05/21/2024 was updated to state that “The Benefits Committee shall receive a stipend of \$200 per pay period not to exceed \$600 per month.” This wording was read aloud by a Business Committee member present at the meeting. | |
| | <p>Constitution Committee discussion on amendment drafting begins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior work including reviewing the Grievance process • Possibility of electing Standing Committee officers from the Standing Committee, discussion on including | |

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| | Standing Committee officer duties in By-Laws Article | |
| 6:17pm | Jo Lynn, 2nd Chief, and additional General Council member appear within a few minutes of each other | |
| | <p>Constitution Committee discussion on amendment drafting continues. For ease of reading some items have been combined, but all top-level bullet points are in chronological order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grievance process is discussed as a mechanism for making sure that Committees are working and doing the work they are required to do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ethics violations would fall under the Grievance process ○ Suggestion made that the investigative body for Grievances may need to be separated from the Grievance Committee who makes determinations on Grievances as a check and balance on the process; different Constitution Committee member counters that the hypothetical subpoena power would allow General Council members to investigate • Judicial systems are discussed – currently we are not in a place to establish an entire judicial system via Constitution however the possibility for establishing judicial authority is possible in this current series of amendment drafts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current plans for intertribal consortium are held up until the 2 cases involving requests for the reestablishment of our reservation jurisdiction, we need to have the judicial order that reestablishes the reservation ○ ARPA monies are allocated to the development of a tribal consortium ○ Structure of Government article determined as an appropriate place for mentions of judicial authority and/or codification of laws ○ Later on Constitution Committee drafts and agrees on amendment wording that requires ratification by a General Council for the introduction or modification of judicial or | |

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| | <p>legislative or administrative policies, laws, and statutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previously discussed issue of the lack of acknowledgement and response by Secretary-Treasurer for documents requests discussed again <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constitution Committee member states that they saw the Secretary-Treasurer at the Walmart and when they questioned her about the lack of response the Secretary-Treasurer stated that her emails were going into quarantine, so they were not immediately received. Constitution Committee member then states that the Secretary for the Constitution Committee showed them the constitution@sctribe.com email and the quarantine process and that bringing emails out of quarantine is “a very simple matter” Different Constitution Committee member states that they have tried to be accommodating and most recently offered to break up their large documents request over sessions to make it easier on the Secretary-Treasurer, but it has been 2 weeks with no response to the original documents request or most recently offered accommodation Third different Constitution Committee member states that that if the email quarantine was really a serious issue to the Secretary-Treasurer’s duties then the reasonable thing would be a social media or website posting acknowledging as much, same CC member continues that they believe the Secretary-Treasurer is ignoring her and the other emailing CC member agrees Constitution Committee member asks the Nation’s Chief, present in the meeting, to request the Secretary-Treasurer to have Constitution Committee budgets be put on the agenda at next weekly meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A following response from Chief he states that with the federal government shutdown it’s affected tribal budgets, and the Nation is not | |

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| | <p>sure which programs are going being funded – Chief requests clarification on whose budgets are wanted and what changes to be made to them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution Committee Secretary clarifies that the FY2025 and FY2026 budgets were sent to the Nation’s Finance Department in September 2025 before the end of the fiscal year and there has not been movement on them in two months, the Constitution Committee is funded by General Council Welfare Fund and that is not affected by the federal government shutdown ○ Chief states he will ask the Secretary-Treasurer to check on the matter, different Constitution Committee member requests that the Chief not ask her but tell her to put it on the agenda under his duties as Chief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secretary Addendum - Relevant Robert’s Rules under Rule 47 Officers as provided for in By-Laws Article III Section 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roberts Rules 47:7(2) – to announce business that comes before an assembly or is on the agenda • Robert’s Rules 47:7(7) – to expedite business in every way compatible with the rights of members • Robert’s Rules 47:7(9) – to respond to member inquiries relating to parliamentary procedure or information requests bearing on business of the assembly • Robert’s Rules 47:19 – to have a good disposition, to be fair and just, to not take advantage of a citizen’s lack of knowledge on parliamentary law, to not be more technical or strict than is | |

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| | <p>necessary, to have good judgement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution Committee member requests clarification that we are a month and a half into FY2026 and a FY2025 budget has not been approved nor has the current FY2026 budget and asks the following questions; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How is the tribe operating without approved budgets? ▪ How's the BC have authority to spend any money without approved budgets? ▪ Shouldn't the tribe be shut down without the authority to spend? ▪ Where does the money come from to pay tribal employees who are presumably still showing up? ○ Business Committee member present states they have not passed a continuing resolution that would keep tribal government open like how other governments function during a shutdown but it has been discussed and that federal grant money that is already drawn is paying the relevant programs and the rest is self-governance money • Duties of office discussion begins again – a Chief mentions the provision in By-Laws Article I Section 3 Duties of Secretary-Treasurer stating documents are to be viewed “in the presence of” and states this is a part of what makes up the confidentiality issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution Committee member clarifies that the writing in this section would not prohibit the Secretary-Treasurer from making copies or allowing documents to be scanned in for Business Committee use ○ Chief states that that is not in the Constitution ○ Different Constitution Committee member states that the Nation is forbidden in that same section from making disbursements of tribal monies by any method other than via check, but the Business Committee and its delegates regularly use credit cards and wire transfers to | |

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| | <p>do business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is currently a picking and choosing of duties that creates a double standard for tribal government official operation, Business Committee officials are picking and choosing what duties of office will be followed and are expressly violating the Constitution and By-Laws to do so ○ Third different Constitution Committee member states that a possible solution to this disconnect between interpretations is a Special Meeting of the General Council where the General Council can determine the correct interpretation of the Secretary-Treasurer duties among other hot button topics, and the General Council's interpretation of Secretary-Treasurer duties can be put into practice via General Council Resolution and in conjunction with other Tribal Governing Documents ○ If a Special Meeting of the General Council is not called to reconcile and establish a satisfactory interpretation of the Secretary-Treasurer's duties, then the only other recourse for response from this Secretary Treasurer likely would be filing a Grievance ○ Constitution Committee Chairperson requests that Business Committee members present at this meeting encourage the Secretary-Treasurer to respond to all tribal members requesting documents and to reread the letter that was sent to her by the Constitution Committee Chairperson clarifying the Duties of her office that the Secretary-Treasurer indicated was confusing at a Business Committee meeting ○ Business Committee liaison and 2nd Chief is determined to be the best member for this encouragement – copies of all CC member document requests sent via email to Secretary-Treasurer were provided to both 2nd Chief and a physical copy placed in the Secretary-Treasurer's office door basket | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary and Treasurer duties in By-Laws Article I begin to be drafted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Important to use language allowing use of technological methods available ○ Important for these matters to be accurately tracked ○ Finance Department currently handles majority of financial transactions for operation of the Nation, Treasurer position is oversight for all financial matters and should be able to understand and provide a comprehensive picture of the Nation's finances, including possibly enterprises ○ It is important to establish rules for confidentiality and policies like the personnel policies that currently govern Finance Department designees ○ Due to the fluctuation in roles and responsibilities of Secretary-Treasurer over the past 90+ years, it is important to write new Treasurer duties in such a way where the Treasurer position is not constrained to one specific situation of funding or tribal government structure does, the duties need to be flexible to meet the needs and resources of our tribal government at any given time ○ Need for designated agent provision in the event a Treasurer is unavailable to receive tribal monies ○ Present policy is that all BC members are check signers and the paperwork for that authorization is done at the beginning of their term, the check signing process has multiple levels of approval and requires 3 signatures for large check amounts | |
| 8:13pm | Constitution Committee takes short break | |
| 8:27pm | Constitution Committee returns from short break | |
| | Constitution Committee discussion on amendment drafting continues. For ease of reading some items have been | |

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| | <p>combined, but all top-level bullet points are in chronological order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grievance process discussed, it's stated that Grievances may only be addressed by a Grievance Committee, but they have the right to refer crimes for outside prosecution • Duties of Treasurer office discussion begins again – questions asked about contingency plans for bank account logins and other financial information if the Secretary-Treasurer is incapacitated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business Committee member clarifies that the bank requires Business Committee Resolutions to alter tribal officials' access to tribal accounts in their bank or do things such as check signing or receiving a login for online banking ○ In the interim when there was a vacancy of the Secretary-Treasurer's office then the head of the Finance Department was given access to banking information via this method ○ Future Tribal Legislative Hierarchy section can outline Business Committee Resolution topics including but not limited to financial authorizations etc. ○ There have been issues where former elected officials were still on accounts despite a BC Resolution having been given to the bank to take those officials off tribal accounts, the duty of periodic audits of tribal bank accounts including tribal official access to them is a duty best suited for a Treasurer • Process for Welfare/Claims/Benefits Committee discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution Committee member brings up the lack of purpose or ability to provide checks and balances as a Benefits Committee if there is a Benefits Department who is doing all the paperwork intake and verification, and the Benefits Committee is not auditing Claims applications ○ Prior Claims Committees were the ones doing application intakes and verification when | |

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| | <p>initially established and were paid a commensurate salary but now much of the function of that Committee is to act as a sign-off for the Benefits Department who is now the one doing application work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Claims applications are also being signed and delivered electronically so there is no reason for a Claims Committee to meet ○ Suggestion made that Claims Committee could function as an appellate Committee, and hear out any appeals of denied Claims – Business Committee member present states they believe current appeals process overseen by Executive Director keeps politics out of Claims appeals ○ Constitution Committee determines they need to meet with the Claims Committee, but this must happen after budgets are approved so that more Committees do not go unpaid ○ The Grievance and Election Committees currently are waiting on payment from tribal government for their requested attendance at a Constitution Committee meeting in their official capacity | |
| | <p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter submission is December 8th • Target date for completion is March 31st • Next meeting is November 24, 2025 @ 6pm | |
| 8:49 pm | Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus | |