

CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

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TRIBAL MEMBER PER-CAPITA PAYMENTS REMAIN UNCHANGED; AND THE TRIBE MOVES FORWARD TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR NEW LODGE GRASS STORE

Pursuant to the 2001 Constitution and By-laws for the Crow Tribe, Special Sessions are authorized by the Rules of Order. In particular, rule 3, B. provides that special sessions may be called in order to address agenda items deemed to be of critical importance and requiring expeditious consideration. Further, the special session requires a minimum of two (2) working days written notice to the Legislature and the public. Since the inception of the 2001 Constitution, special sessions in addition to the quarterly sessions have accomplished much of the needed business of the Crow Tribe and has become a solid practice to address important issues.

On November 1, 2019, the Legislative Branch received two Joint Action Resolutions from the Executive Branch regarding excess funds in the Royalty Account paid by Westmoreland Resources Inc.; and, to authorize a land sale to the city of Lodge Grass for the purpose of building a new store. A letter from the Executive Branch formally introducing these two items was not attached as required by the Rules. Upon review of the two proposed items, the Legislative Branch issued public notice of the special session for November 4, 2019 in anticipation of the formal letter from the Executive Branch. The decision to hold a special session was based upon the need to issue elder payments and to evaluate the account regarding the Royalties. Further, based upon funding deadlines with USDA and the need for a new store in Lodge Grass, both items on their face appear to be of critical importance and requiring expeditious consideration. The Legislative Branch had not been made fully aware of what both of the proposals entailed other than the drafts presented.

The Executive Branch further advised that the BIA clarified that a joint action was not necessary as JAR 16-08 was the authorizing document for Westmoreland Resources Inc. allocations. Both the Executive and Legislative Branches have affirmed that at all times during this process, the lawful allocations for per capita payments remained unchanged. Crow Tribal members shall expect to receive their per capita payments accordingly.

Therefore, the branches have concluded that a special session is necessary to entertain new business regarding the Lodge Grass Store once it meets the Rules for introduction.