SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
August 10, 2017

Attendance:

Tribal Council	**Arnold Cooper**	**Chairman**
	Charlene Krise	**Vice Chairman** *(absent)*
	Vicki Kruger	**Treasurer**
	Steven Dorland	**Secretary**
	Bev Hawks	**1st Council Member** *(absent)*
	David Whitener	**2nd Council Member**
	Vince Henry, Sr.	**3rd Council Member** *(arrived at 9:15)*
Legal Counsel	**Sharon Haensly**	
Tribal Administrator	**Kris Peters**	
Recording Secretary	**Melissa Puhn**	

Vicki Kruger offered the opening prayer. Arnold Cooper called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

LCCR was removed from the agenda. Steven Dorland moved to approve the August 10th Council Agenda. Dave Whitener seconded the motion. The motion carried three (3) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vicki asked for a wastewater treatment plant update. Kris stated that Rich Wells will be in later today and can provide that.

Steven moved to approve the July 13, 2017 Council Minutes and the July 28, 2017 Phone Poll. Vicki seconded the motion. The motion carried three (3) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

August 11: Meeting with Nisqually, 11am, NWIFC
August 11: Community Block Party, Hosted by Youth Council, TLC/Ballfield area. 4pm
August 14-15: Work Session with IEI, LCCR. Collier House
August 16: Talking Circle / Potluck, Collier House. 5pm
August 17: Second Public Budget Hearing, Council Chambers, 4:30 pm
August 18: All Staff Potluck, noon
August 19: Tulalip Salmon Bake Fundraiser, 4pm. Arnold, David and Steven
August 30: 9th Circuit U & A Arguments, 9am – 12:00, Seattle
September 12-13: WIGA, Spokane, Davey
September 18-21: ATNI Annual Conference, Spokane WA, Vicki, Ray
September 27: Joint Mtg with City of Tumwater, 6pm at Tumwater

September 27: Hunting Meeting, Stillaguamish, Arnold & Vicki
October 2-3: NAFOA (Native American Financial Officers Assoc) Annual Conference, Tulsa OK. Ray, David
October 6-7: NNABA, Emerald Queen Casino. Council agreed to sponsor registration and allowance; due to the close proximity, no hotels will be provided this year.
October 10: Centennial Accord, Swinomish. Arnold, Steven, Vicki, Ray
October 15-20: NCAI Annual Conference, Milwaukee WI. Kris, Bev, Steven, Ray
October 25-26: Annual NW Enrollment Conference, LCCR

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Flag donation request: Arnold shared that he received a request from the coordinator for the Hawaii Island All Nations Powwow. They are requesting a tribal flag to display at their annual powwow, September 16th. Council approved the flag donation. Arnold and Steven will both attend to hand deliver the flag.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Cemetery Request: Rhonda Foster was in to request a burial plot for Terry Patton, who is a close friend of Dave Lopeman. Council agreed by consensus to allow Terry a plot at the Squaxin Sacred Grounds.

Vince Henry arrived.

Rhonda shared that she has been working with Patti Puhn regarding caskets. There is a company in Colville that produces a better quality casket that she would like to start using. The current caskets are losing quality with the same cost. Puyallup Tribe uses this company, so Rhonda will check out the ones that they have on hand to see the quality.

SPIPA Grant Resolution: Elizabeth Egan presented **Resolution #17-53**, which authorizes a *Community* Block Grant through SPIPA. Vince moved to approve the resolution. David seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

Community Kitchen / Pool Update: Patti Puhn shared that she has completed the draft FY18 budget for the kitchen and pool programs. She has included costs to cover repairs, upgrades and staff. There is a shortfall and now is seeking direction on where to find funds.

Council briefly discussed what funds are used for what, when and where.

Vicki suggested using some of the Elevations Funds to pay for the Community Kitchen shortfall.

Arnold suggested waiting and working with Deb to see the best route to fund the program. Vicki doesn't want to hold off the process since she wants to see the positions hired ASAP. The kitchen needs a full time person to manage it right away.

Vicki asked about making sure that the janitors help clean up after funerals. She knows that's supposed to happen but doesn't think it does. Vince will make sure they do.

Kris will work with Deb on finding funds to cover the shortfall for the Community Kitchen.

TLC Update: Gordon James was present and handed out a report showing the overall total costs from the last three years of higher education funding. Previously, the funds were from LCCR and IEI distributions; the last couple of years those funds were supplemented from Seven Inlets and Elevations Tax. The level of interest for higher education continues to grow.

Vicki asked about going through the budget process. She wants to sit down with Deb and discuss this shortfall. Kris suggested to set up a meeting with him, Vicki, Gordon, Deb and Ray to discuss this further.

Gordon is hoping to get his unmet needs from the budget commission. He is here today to show what he's requesting and what his shortfall is due to the increase in higher education costs and interest.

Church property discussion: Kris brought up the recent purchase of the Rock Church on Whitener Road, and would like to start discussion on use and management of the building. He will continue bringing up this topic and what the long term use will be. Vince added that it should at least be cleaned up.

There needs to be a maintenance plan for tribally owned buildings. Vicki thought that Kathy Block at one time was working on that.

Ideas for the church included a homeless shelter, child care, etc. Arnold would like to look at all of the offsite properties and determine who should be responsible for maintaining the care, landscaping, etc. There needs to be a Property Manager as the Tribe continues to grow. Kris suggested setting up a brainstorming meeting with Mark West, Dave Johns and Deb Stoehr.

LEGAL

Executive Session: Pending and threatened litigation discussion.

Sharon Haensly shared that Squaxin was the lead in an Amicus Brief on Washington State's Hydraulic Code, and we won. The main goal of the code is to protect fish life. An HPA Permit is required for any project that involves stream (roads, construction, etc). Dept of Fish & Wildlife, Squaxin along with a handful of other Tribes all defended the HPA permitting process. DFW and the Tribes won the Hydraulic Code case, which was opposed by counties who have to deal with the permits.

HOUSING UPDATE

Rich Wells was in to provide an update from Housing.

Vicki asked about the Homeownership Program. Rich stated that he wrote a Tribal Lending Program, and reported that at that time the Council said they don't want to be a bank. The second option is a lease with option to purchase. Rich stated that the Housing Commission worked on a program but they did not involve Housing at all.

Vicki asked about the income on the off-reservation rentals. Discussed the use and care of the off reservation houses.

The recovery house concept is still potentially going to be the Cunningham House. Oxford already said no, but there has been research on running the recovery house on our own. Rich looked at the church, and the outside doesn't look bad. Structurally it is fine.

Discussed all of the properties that are still in fee status. Council wants Rich to pursue those pieces, but it takes money. Steven asked why there isn't a budget set aside for the fee to trust process, since the tribe buys a lot of property. Ray stated that the process is as the tribe acquires properties and do applications, it is determined where the funds come from and how to do it.

Vicki would like to suggest hiring someone to handle these properties. Including doing the environmental studies. Rich added that Ester Fox works on properties, but there is such a backlog right now.

Liz Kuntz shared that the Housing List is always posted outside their office on the wall. Liz handed out the Housing Policy which Housing follows diligently. Arnold would like to set up half day work session just for Housing. For now Council will review their policy then set up a day to meet.

They are currently working with the Commission on a new housing development. They haven't had a quorum for a few months.

Rich showed a map of potential housing building lots near the campground. There is another area off T-Peeksin that doesn't have street access now, but there is space to add a street to access.

Arnold suggested to maybe look outside the reservation since there is no water to fulfill the needs of the additional houses. What about properties elsewhere?

Kris suggested to plan for future houses, so we can be ready for when the water issue is resolved. Liz asked about questions that need to be addressed, such as the additional houses should be low income or not?

Another strategy to look at is Arcadia Point. Could look at buying parcels out there, but the issue is the cost of the houses. Arnold suggested that area, not necessarily the point. Or pursue properties out towards Kamilche Point since there are a lot of vacant properties.

Vicki asked about the Cuningham well. Rich stated they have not investigated that much, but can. He added that the Tribe, as well as individuals, can apply for Section 184 Program.

Rich shared what Planning has in mind for development, but is looking for Council direction since they are somewhat guessing on the use and desires.

Rich stated they are interviewing Monday for another Utilities Apprentice for the wastewater plant. They also have a job description out for a full time operator. He's hoping to have someone on board after next week.

Rich added that the Taylor water option will take a few years, but it's in the process. Vicki asked what that will cost. Rich will email her that number.

Kris asked if he should look in to exploring a Health Center to the greater community. Arnold says do it.

HOUSING COMMISSION

Traci Coffey, Santana Krise and Tully Kruger were present, Bev Hawks was in via phone. Santana handed out a written report and shared the concerns of the commission.

They asked about a budget line item for the Commission to receive travel and training funds since that is outlined in the bylaws. Kris can work with Rich to create a budget for the next fiscal year.

Vicki shared that there are several issues that Housing deals with that can be dealt with by the Commission instead.

Discussion regarding authority and permissions were shared. There is a confusion between Housing Commission Members and staff as to what they can and cannot access. Council felt that the commission has access to any information they need, but there is a conflict between how to get that information. Discussed reviewing and perhaps updating the Housing Bylaws. Council thought that the staff should be working with the commission staff regularly and should be able to work together. The Commission has the authority to bring recommendations to Council. Arnold would like Legal to work with the Commission to go over their roles and responsibilities.

There needs to be a clearly defined Housing role, Housing Commission role and the Housing Support Team role.

Bev brought up that Legal was working on a policy change. Santana said that yes, Kevin did do that and it has been returned to the Commission for second review for their next scheduled meeting.

In the meantime, Kris will meet with Rich and talk to him about opening up lines of communication and work together.

TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray Peters shared that Squaxin was asked to host a legislative committee on child welfare. It would include a small lunch and meeting space for 25 people. Council agreed.

Election update: Ray gave an update on the two candidates who are running for Olympia City Council.

Property update: Ray shared another potential property. Council said to pursue.

NR PAC: Jeff Dickison and Jeanne Cushman were present to discuss the Natural Resources Political Action Committee. Jeanne purposed to form a joint venture with an existing PAC to defeat the Cherry Point Coal Terminal. Would Council support the development of the NR PAC. Ray stated that Jeanne has gotten confirmation that others are supportive of creating this new initiative. Support means committing $15-20k initially. Ray feels other tribes will follow suit. Council agreed by consensus to move forward with the PAC and will donate $15-20k, depending on what is available.

Ray stated that the next step is to present an amount at the next WIGA meeting. Arnold asked Kris to find $15k to donate. This PAC will need a Council Rep, which Davey volunteered to do.

Ray would like to set up another Thurston County Commissioner Dinner, they would like to discuss the Hurst Case. Ray will have them reach out and set up a dinner meeting.

Cushman Contract: Ray will send Council some information on her contract renewal.

WSDOT Visit: September 12, Roger Millar, the new Secretary of WSDOT will be here. Ray will tour him around and will have a pre meeting with Margaret Foley to discuss transportation projects.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Kristen Penn was in to share that she is starting a landscaping and housekeeping business. She handed out a flier and also stopped by IEI as well. IEI is ready for her to start landscaping for all of their businesses. She currently is seeking funds for a riding lawnmower.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.