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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

David Whitener, Jr. moved to approve the March 8, 2018 Council Agenda. Vicki Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

David moved to approve the February 8, 2018 and February 28, 2018 Phone Poll. Vicki added that she still would like to discuss further the option of looking into our own health insurance and clinic. Vicki seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

Arnold asked to have a meeting the morning of the 12th with Legal, to discuss the May General Body Meeting.

**TRAVEL REPORTS & PLANS**

- **March 14:** IEI Work Session, Collier House
- **March 15:** LCCR (am) & Legal (pm) Work Session, Collier House
- **March 16:** Government Work Session, Collier House
- **March 20:** Lunch with Mason County Commissioners, LCCR
- **March 29:** 1st Candidates Forum, Elders Dinner
- **April 1-4:** Youth Council Conference, LCCR
- **April 14:** NWIC Annual Gala & Auction, Clearwater Casino Resort, David & Vince
- **April 18:** U.S. Supreme court argument (Culverts)
- **April 22-26:** Self-Governance Conference, Albuquerque NM
SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

April 23-24:  NAFOA, New Orleans. Ray
May 2:       HHS Tribal Consultation, LCCR
May 5:       Annual General Body Meeting
May 17:      Legal Work Session

CHAIRMANS UPDATE

Schedule evaluations: Arnold would like to schedule a separate day to discuss evaluations. It was decided for Tuesday, the 13th, 8am Council Lounge.

Lunch with Mason County Commissioners: March 20, LCCR. Council, Jeff, Kris, Ray and Kevin.

Monthly Work Session: March 14-16th at the Collier House.

Council will meet with Legal on Monday at 9am with Legal and Kris.

Committee & Commission Appointments: Council made the following appointments:

Aquatics Committee: Jake Johnson and Craig Parker were reappointed.
Budget Commission: Julie Owens, Pam Hillstrom and Rhonda Foster were reappointed.
Child Care Board: Terry Capoeman and Jeanette Sigo were reappointed.
Education Commission: Daniel Kuntz and Joe Peters were reappointed and Santana Krise was appointed.
Enrollment Committee: Lisa Johns was appointed.
Fish Committee: Mike Foster Jr., Kurt Poste and Dave Johns were reappointed.
Gaming Commission: Patti Puhn was reappointed.
Housing Commission: Dorinda Thein, Bev Hawks, Santana Krise Tracy Coffey, Paula Henry, Jaime Slaughter were reappointed and Jeremie Walls was appointed.
Hunting Committee: Pete Kruger Sr., and Jeremy Meyer were reappointed.
MLRC Board: Sally Brownfield was reappointed and Mike Araiza was appointed.
Shellfish Committee: Patrick Braese and Christina Lopeman were reappointed.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

Resolution: Esther Fox presented Resolution #18-17 which authorizes the fee to trust process for the Island Timber Company property. Steven moved to approve. David seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

Ester shared a brief update on the status of other properties in the fee to trust status.

Esther is working on the application for Clam Fresh, and she is waiting for the legal description review.

Resolution: Tracy Parker, Elizabeth Egan presented Resolution #18-18 which is a grant to support a variety of law enforcement and service based programs. There is no match
requirement. Vince moved to approve. David seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

Patti Puhn shared that they recently hosted two drug & alcohol related events in February. Michelle Gellersted coordinated the Drug & Alcohol Awareness Dinner and Janita Raham coordinated The Longest Walk. Patti commended the work they did on their planning and execution of these events. She thanked the departments on the collaboration of these two events.

Janita shared that the Longest Walk went seamlessly for three days. Everything went well and worked great. The Casino was very helpful in providing vans and staff, and their staff was great to work with. KTP was very helpful as well. The event went really well and everyone was happy with the outcome. Council thanked them for a job well done.

TANF 21+ Program: Vicki shared that they had 10 graduates this year and it was an awesome event.

Tribal Flags: Council decided that they will start selling the Squaxin flag.

TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Tiana Henry was present regarding a housing issue. Ray made the recommendation that Housing not change their policy, but to make an exception for Tiana to buy her grandmother’s house (Sharon Johns) through the homeownership program. Council was supportive of her request and wanted to recognize Tiana as a dependent to Sharon.

Ray brought up another housing request from a tribal member who would like to build a “tiny house” for a family member, behind their home. Ray asked the tribal member to bring in their plans and have DCD look at it. This also will come down to a policy decision by Council, since it will need to be connected to the tribal sewer and water system. Ray will continue meeting with the tribal member, Legal and Housing in order to get more of a plan.

Billy Frank Jr Day Update: Ray sent out the agenda for the Port of Olympia renaming event. Jeremiah George will have the drum group perform, Arnold will say opening remarks as will Nisqually Chairman. About an hour long program.

Port Signage: Ray reported the port sign project will cost approximately $80k. The Port is covering $25K and the BFJ Foundation is contributing $10k. Ray asked about allocating funds from the Hotel Occupancy Tax in the amount of $45k. The park and trails will be named after Billy Frank Jr., but the rest will be Squaxin focused. Jeremiah has been working with the port on verbiage and it should be complete this summer. Council approved.

LEGAL

As requested, Kevin handed out the final and redlined Aquatics Regulations which were approved at the 2/8 Council Meeting. Julie Owens is working on the training schedule and
funding through TANF and Voc Rehab. David added that there will be other issues come up along the way. Arnold signed the regulation.

**HOUSING COMMISSION**

**Quarterly Update:** Santana Krise, Wicket McFarland, Terri Capoeman and LeeAnne Kane were presented. Santana handed out a summary of their presentation.

Santana brought up her concern that the Homeownership Program is not up and running yet. Kris interjected by saying that Housing currently is accepting applications and doesn't see what the issue is.

Santana said that Housing is delaying the process because they are creating a homeownership class that hasn't been implemented yet, and doesn't think that is necessary. Kris stated that Housing has been working with Finance on how to handle payments and he believes that everything is moving along. David added that the creation of a new program is bringing up more and more questions; now that the program is rolling, he thinks that there will be some issues to work through along the way. Arnold would like the Commission and Housing staff to meet and discuss in order for everyone to be on the same page. After much discussion it was decided that Kris will set up a meeting involving Housing staff, Housing Commission, Legal and himself.

Santana shared that the Housing Commission would like to review and have more authority over the housing list and contracts. LeeAnne will review the bylaws. Kris added that regardless, the policy always needs to be followed. Arnold wants to be careful with the commission's authority over contracts since other entities don't do that.

As previously stated, Kris will set up a meeting to discuss all the barriers and how to overcome them.

David reiterated that with any new policy; research, direction and implementation takes time and will bring up other questions and situations that possibly weren't seen previously. He asked for patience with Housing as they figure out these scenarios. If Housing is not providing information or materials, work with Kris.

Vicki asked about the meth cleanup and how other tribes perform the cleanup at a lesser cost. Kris said that the expense is not in the cleanup; it's the refurbishing of the house. There is cost associated with the cleanup, but that is nominal compared to the cost of replacing floors, cabinets, paint, etc.

The commission is working with Legal on amending their “General Purpose” to their “Mission Statement.”

The commission would like to exclude the youth per capitas as a source of income. Kris said Housing needs to be involved in this conversation. Santana asked if TANF income could be either included or excluded, for all? There needs to be a consistent policy, and not case by case.
Tiny Homes: the commission has been discussing this over the last year and researching what other tribes have been doing. They will present when they're ready.

Recovery Homes: The commission has been discussing recovery homes and reached out to Muckleshoot, who provided their policies. They want to do a walk through at Muckleshoot to look at their homes. Kris shared that the Drug Task Force has been doing research on this as well.

Santana asked about the amendment of their authority. Kevin said that the implementing ordinance will need to be redlined and proposed to Council for consideration via resolution.

GUEST

Public Defender Mary Rodriguez introduced herself. She is the primary public defender for all tribal members in the tribal court. She works with Prosecutor Tom Meyer and Shelley Rawding. They work together to come up with the best solution. Council thanked her for her time and for coming in.

LEGAL

Guardianship: Dave Babcock presented case number CW-SQI-2016-1602-0033 and the Raham guardianship petition in executive session. Coming out of executive session, Council supported both the case and the petition.

Steven left at noon.

GUEST

Sammy Mabe with the Suquamish Oxford House introduced himself. He shared his experiences with working with the Suquamish Recovery House. Suquamish started with a men’s house, and filled the nine beds within the first week. Oxford has agreed to always have two beds available for Suquamish Tribal Members; and any tribal member who has needed a bed has gotten one. There has never been any issue with availability. Suquamish wanted to offer clean and sober housing without having to be the judge on who can stay or not. They decided to go with Oxford instead of running it themselves since they wanted a more “hands off” approach. They have had a pleasant relationship with Oxford.

Their operational budget for running the house on their own (without Oxford) was about $400k. Using the Oxford Program, the cost is $2k/month. Suquamish provides a house and Oxford runs it. Arnold shared that he thinks the Oxford model is a great idea since it saves the tribes funds for other programs and does not require additional staff.

Sammy shared that with the Oxford model, the tenants and Oxford handles the normal maintenance of the house. He added that the timeline went quickly also; it was three months from first contact to opening and accepting tenants.
SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Sammy shared that the Oxford model requires allowing non tribal as well; so it doesn’t work for everyone such as the more secluded tribes. Being a more “urban” tribe, there is plenty of room for everyone. Vicki asked about the beds: Sonny reiterated that Suquamish maintains a minimum of two beds for their own tribal members, it can be more, but cannot be less. Suquamish pays for those beds if they’re empty, just to make sure the space is reserved.

Greg Twiddy was also present and shared that he got a chance to visit the Suquamish Homes and was impressed with their programs.

Kris shared that the Drug Task Force has presented to Council three or four times recently to discuss recovery homes. It is the recommendation of the Drug Task Force to move forward with the Oxford Model. Ray and Patti have been looking at houses for sale in Shelton, that would fit the Oxford Model. The Drug Task Force believes that if a house in Shelton is bought by the tribe, running it as an Oxford House, it eventually would pay for itself.

Kris suggested that eventually two houses will be needed (one male and one female). Once the first program going, then maybe the feasibility of utilizing the church could be researched as the second house. Kris added that Oxford could get the tribe started for a year or so, and if funding can be secured, perhaps that is something that Squaxin could look in to running itself. Arnold added that nobody is getting help, by not making a decision now. Sooner the better.

Glen Parker shared that he is a member of the Drug Task Force and has been working for quite some time. They have researched the pros and cons of Oxford versus self-running. They looked at Suquamish and learned from their experiences. He strongly recommends Oxford. He thinks its time to move on this. They found a house in Shelton and he strongly urges Council to move forward. Ray will work with Patti on seeking funds. Council said to pursue the house in Shelton.

LEGAL

Mason County water discussion: Sharon Haensly brought up the rural water well issue. She provided a couple of different options they presented to Mason County. Sharon recommended that negotiations start immediately. Council approved Sharon to proceed with a stay and to create an MOU.

Carbon initiative: Kevin provided a quick update. He stated that the initiative is still alive. The tribes, environmental groups and social justice groups are all supportive.

Kevin provided a brief litigation update in executive session. No action.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Margaret Foley and Dan Neelands were present.

Wastewater Update: Margaret shared that they've been operating this plant for 12 years and this expansion was planned during the original design. Many of the original partners who created the plant, have agreed to participate in the expansion. The original team includes design, software, civil and structural engineers, will result in cost and time savings. Currently in the process of purchasing equipment; replacing aging membranes on the skids, upgrading the computer system and rebuilding several holding tanks. The expansion will take place early June through the rest of the building season. In the process of contracting with a certified plant engineer who will train staff. They also plan on hiring a Utilities Manager who will oversee the day to day operations.

Dan stated that according to Jeremie Walls, the plant is running really good right now. There have been a couple of systemic problems that have been happening for some time.

Water and Wastewater Management Services will be contracted, which currently is at Legal review. They will be starting next week.

Dan went over the known issues and how they are addressing them.

Vicki shared her appreciation of all the work Dan is doing and recognizes the amount of stress that is involved. Kris commended Dan and Margaret for all their work and how much they've stepped up with this.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Margaret Henry presented the capital improvements that CRD would like to make with the cemetery. She shared what has been purchased, completed and what still needs to be done including the cost. Eventually they would like to hire a full time caretaker. They also would like to develop the well to have access to water.

She shared pictures of the cremation garden at Mills and Mills and the cremation rocks they would like to use.

GUEST

Greg Masten from the Northwest Indian College was present to share what the college has to offer students. They are the only accredited tribal college in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. They serve students from over 130 different tribes.

They offer four year degrees in Native Environmental studies, Native Leadership studies, Tribal Governance and Business Management and they just started offering Tribal Human Services. They offer a co-op learning program. Their tuition costs are significantly lower than other state colleges.
He wanted to invite Council to their Annual Arts Gala, April 14th at Suquamish. Council encouraged him to apply for funding through the tribes 1% grant.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.