

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
December 9, 2010**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Dave Lopeman	Chairman
Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
Andy Whitener	Treasurer
Pete Kruger, Sr.	Secretary
Misti Saenz-Garcia	1st Council Member (arrived at 10am)
Marcella Castro	2nd Council Member
Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member

Legal Counsel	Kevin Lyon
Council Liaison	Ray Peters (left at 4:30 p.m.)
Administrator	Don Whitener
Operations Director	Whitney Jones
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn

Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. Andy offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the December 9th Council agenda. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arnold moved to approve the November 11, 2010 Council Minutes. Charlene Krise made an addition to the minutes. Charlene seconded the minutes, as amended. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

Tomorrow: Going away party for Whitney, 1-3pm, lunch room

December 12-16: Washington DC, Ray will attend. Dave and Arnold both cannot make it. Ray shared that this trip is a follow up from a promise made by President Obama. The President stated that he will meet with tribal leaders on a regular basis, and this is the second meeting. Ray stated that this year the meetings have been set up as a general forum, and then there will be break out sessions for tribal leaders to meet with the presidents staff. Ray is hoping that with the break out sessions, the discussion can be more regional. Council would like to see Andy Whitener attend in place of Dave.

Andy mentioned that at a break out session during NCAI, he donated Ray's time to facilitate the annual meeting in Portland; Ray will be on the planning committee.

Ray updated on the tribal member requests: Russell Harper will meet with Don Whitener regarding his request. Kim Zachary had requested an extension on the geoduck test deadline. Arnold felt that

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Council made it clear that there will be no extension. Marcella stated that since there was a red tide, there is no place for people to dive. Arnold stated that the deadline was already extended.

December 22: All Staff Christmas Brunch, LCC, 10am

January 8: Winter General Body Meeting. This meeting is designed as an avenue for the community to meet with Tribal Council and share their thoughts and concerns. Arnold would like to see an update on the golf course and canoe journey shared. Charlene would like to see the elections committee look in to the possibility of electronic elections. She received information from NCAI while she attended, regarding electronic elections and different tribes who have gone this route. Arnold would like to have Legal look in to this.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Directors Christmas gifts: Council decided that they will continue with what was done last year (*Gift cards to Anthony's Restaurant, one for each director*).

Tribal Member Bingo: It was requested that Council donate a door prize to the event this weekend. Council decided to donate \$500 cash.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Don Whitener announced that he has accepted the Tribal Administrator position for at least a year. He spoke with Kathy Block regarding the vacancy in the Director of Operations (Deputy Director) position and she agreed to fill that position for the next 2-3 months. Kathy stated that she enjoys working for the tribe and was honored that she was asked to fill that position temporarily.

Don shared that Misti requested an update on the Treatment Center. June O'Brien and Stephanie Tomkins were present to provide an update. June stated that it has been a privilege to work and mentor Stephanie. Stephanie has been in Elma for a little over a year now. Stephanie shared her past and how she has become what she is now. She wants to give back to her tribe. She shared that June has been an excellent mentor and is learning a lot. She has been working with Judy on budgets and is helping with the annual report. June shared that Stephanie is part of the Recovery Support Team and shared what that team is about. Charlene asked about the financial state across the nation and is concerned about the entities that will be impacted. She hopes that Stephanie will be able to look ahead and plan for state budget cuts. June added that they are monitoring that.

Rhonda Foster was present to introduce the archeologist that was just hired: Sarah Shufelt. Sarah has worked with the tribe on the Mud Bay dig site. She is happy to be here.

Don added that he thought an elder was going to stop by with a concern regarding the bus. They were concerned about the budget that was allowed for chartering services. The budget that was added to the elders account from Council is not enough to pay for all of the trips that are planned. The elders would like to know if Council would consider increasing the amount that was allocated for the elders bus rental fees.

Arnold didn't think that there was a cap on the amount budgeted. Ray added that there was no cap, but the elders were asked to plan ahead and create a budget for what is needed for bus rentals for the year. Arnold felt that this is still a better route versus buying a bus.

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Arnold asked Glen if the charter busses were accommodating. Glen shared that he felt they are. He shared that he asked Whitney to assist the elders on budgeting. That is when they learned that \$10,000 has been allocated for bus rentals. Glen would like to see the elders plan their trips around that amount. Glen would like to see the elders be more financially responsible instead of asking for more money. He feels that the elders are treated very well as it is. Arnold thought that is was kind of a trial to see what kind of budget is needed for a bus. Charlene asked about elders who cannot travel, if there is consideration for them. Glen knows they are trying to get arts and crafts activities, but he is unsure though.

Charlene added that she would like to see each elder get their picture taken. Dave Whitener Sr. would like to come out to identify and write stories about the elders. Charlene asked if the elders could buy Dave a recorder and the Mason County transit can bring him out here. Don will look in to this.

LEGAL

Indian Shaker Church Q&A: Mark Allen handed out a summary that was prepared from the meeting with the Shakers. The handout was a Q&A on the tribe and church relationship. Arnold stated that the last time Council met with the church, the church had the assumption that the tribe would pay for a new roof and other improvements. He shared that the tribes only commitment so far is to assist the church with getting their property in to trust. Mark shared that he has been working on the land and title for two years now; the title has taken a lot of work to get it cleaned up for a transfer. Ray stated that the church requested the tribe providing gravel for their driveway; this was discussed at the last meeting but no commitment was made. The church would like to replace the roof on their building, but in order for the tribe to assist financially the land needs to be in trust status. Arnold relayed that Dan Neelands estimated that a roof replacement would be around \$100,000. Ray asked if he would reach out to the church bishop. Arnold would like to know from them what they are expecting from the tribe. Andy would like to see a gravel estimate. Arnold suggested that the tribe gravel their driveway, but take it out of funds that are for their property. Ray will keep the church bishop and Council informed.

Workers Compensation Report: Mark Allen handed out a memo regarding the workers comp plan. Last October, the administrator was changed. He shared that on a quarterly basis, HR from the three entities meet and discusses claims, costs, etc. Mark pointed out what it costs the tribe to manage the program as well as what is being paid out. The chart that Mark shared shows the savings that has occurred with the new administrator. The new administrator is informative, less expensive and very good to work with. Eventually the premium will be less as well.

Guardianship Petition: (Executive Session) Bruce Davies presented a guardianship petition for case #SQI-CI-03-08-180. Council agreed by consensus to the guardianship.

Legal Status Memo: Sharon Haensly handed out an updated work status report.

ENROLLMENT

Council went in to Executive Session.

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Coming out of executive session, Pete Kruger moved to approve the disenrollment **Resolution #10-116**. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against. Marcella Castro abstained from voting.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Bert Miller provided a brief update on the Child Development Center. He thanked Council for allowing him to bring some of the kids up for swimming. He also shared that on their recent compliance review, the center had zero findings and there were several items that they exceeded the requirements on. He handed out a copy of the compliance report.

He shared that the center is full and running smoothly. He invited Council to drop by and have lunch sometime down there. Arnold asked how the staff likes working there. Bert shared that they have very little turn-over with their staff. They feel lucky that they receive benefits, where most child care providers do not. The center is currently understaffed, but they are surviving. The student/staff ratio is within the requirements. They also ended their year within their budget. There were some sacrifices that came along with that. Misti would like to see the hiring process to be more known within the community. She would like to be sure that the mail-out system is used for their job openings

Misti asked about the language program. Bert shared that they are ready to use it when it's ready. Marcella would like to see a list of tribal and non tribal kids, those who use DSHS funding, etc. Bert will send that information up to her. Misti asked if it could be an easy to read format, including the dollar break down.

TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray reported that he will be in DC next week meeting with legislation.

Ray shared that the Revenue Allocation Plan is on track to be approved and is moving through the process. Nate Schriner is keeping up on that. The Revenue Allocation Plan affects the ability to increase per capita checks.

Ray shared that he recently spoke on a panel at the Sustainable Resources on Tribal Lands Conference at Tulalip. Kathy Block and Liz Kuntz attended. He shared that the conference was good and went well.

Ray updated on the Collier property. They did get an extension since they needed to test the septic. There are some problems with the system and are getting estimates for replacement. Ray received some letters from the neighbors, asking what the tribe plans to do with the property. Ray will contact the neighbors and share that the tribe intends to keep the property in its original state.

Ray shared that Connie Whitener is interested in selling her house, as is BJ Peters. There is a piece of property for sale on the back side of the reservation that overlooks Skookum Bay. Andy does not think that piece connects to the reservation. Ray will develop a spreadsheet of the properties and prices.

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Ray provided a brief update on the cafeteria. They had a little bit of vandalism. Charlene would like to see motion detector lights around the Museum and the cafeteria. Ray shared that the building should be functioning soon. They will have a contractor come in to look at the outdoor seating and entrance way.

Charlene asked about McNeil Island Correction Facility closing. They are in transition of moving all of their items and have so much stuff to place. Charlene thought about the cafeteria items and if they would be useful for the tribe to use. Ray will look in to this. He also plans in getting Legal involved with acquiring a stake in the Island. Andy would like to have Kevin start looking toward the shellfish on that island.

Fire suppression will be installed at a reasonable cost. Arnold is okay as long as this project stays within budget and the work is guaranteed.

Charlene thanked Glen and Kevin for being at the Department of Corrections Summit. It was a good conference with lots of good information. Sharon added that Legal is working on a handbook that will be available for families of inmates. Council discussed inmates being able to attend tribal funerals. Marcella added that there are ways to negotiate a longer timeframe for an inmate to attend a funeral. Charlene would like the Department of Corrections to know that with tribal funerals, there are ceremonies for the deceased that sometimes takes longer than a traditional funeral.

Ray shared that the Shaker church has asked when the tribe will gravel the church driveway. According to the minutes from when Council met with the church, there was no promise of gravel. They also inquired about a shortfall of funds to replace the church roof and they hope that the tribe would cover that as well. At Council direction, Ray will reach out to the bishop.

Ray commented that they interviewed for the head golf pro. Mitch Corbine is considering the applicants and is checking references. Andy feels that they have narrowed it down to two people.

Ray reported that they will solicit tribal members for commissioned art for the club house. There are a few areas that will be available for tribal artists to commission work. Ray would like Councils permission to get a request for proposal together and send it out. All proposals will be brought back to Council for consideration. Charlene would like to be sure to include the specifics and dimensions. Ray will get Council approval on the request before it goes out.

POW WOW BUDGET

Leslie Johnson presented the budget for the 2011 pow wow. The budget amount is \$75,000. Leslie is still waiting for sponsorship from the Casino and Island Enterprises. The event is scheduled for February 19-20th. Council discussed directing the Casino and Enterprises to sponsor the event. Arnold would like to see an actual budget reflecting more accurate numbers. The budget Leslie presented is estimated numbers. Council would like to have Leslie come back to the next meeting with a refined budget.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO

Mitch Corbine handed out an update from the Casino. He updated on the floor remodel which went very well. The construction company that did the remodel complimented the casino on how smooth

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everything went. Charlene thanked Mitch for commissioning tribal artist for this project. The remodel should be complete by next Friday. Andy would like to see better signs directing people to the hotel entrance. Mitch stated that he and Bobby discussed the main entry with the golf course.

Andy shared that he would like to see the cigar lounge hours increased.

Mitch briefed on the financial statements for October.

Mitch reported on upcoming events and sales.

Andy suggested that events that are not sold out, he would like to see the tickets offered to tribal members on a first come first serve basis. It would look better to have full seats on a show that doesn't sell out. Mitch stated they have a couple of shows each year where they invite the tribal elders.

Mitch discussed employee bonuses. He feels that the employee morale has improved. He would like to budget for Christmas bonuses again. Council approved the "compensation" payment for employees this year. Mitch has a small budget that he will work within.

TRIBAL GAMING UPDATE

Desi Smith provided an update on TGA. They are working on the remodel with the casino staff. Everything is going well. Charlene asked about TGAs involvement with the renovation planning. Desi stated that they were involved. He shared that once the remodel is complete he will work on cameras at the Museum.

Desi reported on the external audit. TGA will have plenty of time to review the draft list of areas of improvements; once that is ready Council will receive a copy. The auditors stated that their facility is operating better than before. Desi had them do a "test" of the finance department, the auditors were happy with the results. The financial findings from last year are taken care of.

Desi stated that TGA has requested a formal meeting with the casino to complete dialogue regarding the cooperative effort for the "compel to comply" policy. Arnold would like to meet with Desi and Mitch to get this done. Next week Council, TGA Commissioners and Mitch will get together next week on the 15th.

There is internal audit training at the casino this week. They have 25-30 attendees from all over the state; they all would like to return next year. Charlene would like to have Desi write an article for the newspaper about the training.

Desi asked about the policy on the grievance committee for the casino. There is an appointment for a tribal director; Desi would like to be appointed for that position, for casino grievances. Council will consider his request later.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Virginia Farron was present to ask Council if she could offer hair cutting services at the Elders Building. She would give half of what she makes to the elders program. She also asked for mileage for her coming out here to help Colleen.

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Mike Krise came in to share that he would like to see more clam digs before Christmas. Council discussed the beaches and possibilities. Andy shared that there are three digs coming up before Christmas that are all groups.

Charlene brought up Virginias request. She drives out here three times each week to teach classes. Arnold suggested that Virginia ask the elders for mileage.

Andy also assured that if there is a rain closure in Oakland Bay, they will be sure that there is another dig. Arnold also reminded that clam digging is not a guaranteed source of income.

Andy suggested purchasing a piece of property in Case Inlet. There is quite a bit of productive beach on the piece that is for sale.

Jeff Dickison handed out two different letters regarding Capital Lake and their process with the Deschutes restoration. In that process the legislature dropped funding on an organization who was working on the project. Jeff prepared a letter stating that the organization was an agreement between several state agencies, tribes and commissions. Jeff is proposing to get everyone back together and move forward with the restoration. The letter is to the governor suggesting to keep this organization going, since there is still more work to do. Council agreed to have the Chairman sign and mail the letter.

Jeff presented **Resolution #10-111** which explains the policy for the tribe to follow the guidelines of SalmonSafe. Charlene Krise moved to approve this resolution. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against (*Marcella, Misti and Arnold were out of the room*).

Miller Appeal: Jeff explained that tribe is proposing to set up a meeting with Miller Land Trust to propose a settlement. He presented **Resolution #10-112** that is a settlement agreement between the Tribe, Miller Land and Department of Ecology. Charlene Krise moved to approve the settlement of this case. Misti Saenz-Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against. Charlene thanked everyone who worked on this project.

Ray and Jeff updated on the status of the Collier House. There was an issue with the septic system and are negotiating with the homeowner to lower the cost of the house the same amount it will cost to replace the system. Jeff explained a type of system that would be okay for a replacement, but it will have to be done once the property is in trust status. Arnold would like to get this in to trust so the tribe can do what is necessary. Council still would like to buy the property, and Ray will negotiate the price down. Council also agrees to move forward with getting a septic design.

PLANNING, HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Esther Fox and Kathy Block reported on the Arcadia property process on the fee to trust process.

Esther updated on the Shaker Church property fee to trust process.

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Esther provided an update on the Island purchasing; she stated that the appraisals came back and she has not yet seen them. There are 27 individuals who are interested in selling their interest to the tribe. She reaffirmed that the tribe does not set the price.

Kathy provided an overview of projects: Klah Che Min road project will be inspected and closed out soon. Mabel Cooper HIP project will be started at the start of the year. Melissa Grants house fire clean up will start. All but one has moved in to the new apartments. They installed temporary blinds since the special order blinds have not come in. Landscaping will be approved Monday and as weather permits that will begin. Street lights are being looked in to. They are checking a couple of options with PUD and solar power. It will be costly for that section for solar. Council would like to see solar power.

Arcadia corp permit was filed yesterday and it will take about four months. Margaret Foley will follow up every three weeks.

Kathy shared that they have received three loan offers from banks to finance the NR/CR Building project. Council approved for planning to seek a USDA loan for this building.

Kathy shared that the contract has been awarded for the MLRC roof replacement. The contractor had insurance issues, so it went to the second contractor. They would like to start that soon.

Marcella shared that a tenant in the new apartments has requested larger garbage cans. Liz Kuntz responded and stated that they are looking in to that.

Sheena Kaas was present and shared **Resolution #10-113** that approves the tribe's membership in the Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network (TSWAN). TSWAN is an organization of tribes throughout the Pacific Northwest, exists to cooperatively work together to address environmental needs and concerns in Indian Country. Misti Saenz-Garcia moved to approve Resolution #10-113. Marcella Castro seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

Margaret Foley presented **Resolution #10-114** which supports the submittal to the 2011-2013 biennium Public Transportation Consolidated Grant Program application, requesting funds to sustain operations of the Squaxin Transit. This grant has a 50% match commitment. Misti Saenz-Garcia moved to approve resolution #10-114. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Liz Kuntz presented **Resolution #10-115** which is in regards to the rent collection policy. She explained that there is a separate policy for the new apartments that has been approved by the Housing Commission. The separate policy includes a difference in pets and vehicle allowance. There is a restriction in the new apartments on parking and boats. Arnold Cooper moved to approve the policy. Misti Saenz-Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Liz included the housing wait list and the housing enforcement report.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO LIAISON

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Bev Hawks was present to provide an update. She wanted to discuss an grievance issue. Council went in to executive session.

There being no further business the December 9, 2010 meeting adjourned.