

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
MEETING
January 25, 2007**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Jim Peters
Andy Whitener
Vince Henry, Sr.
Russell Harper
Will Penn
Pete Kruger
Charlene Krise

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary (*left at 2:00*)
Treasurer
1st Council Member
2nd Council Member
3rd Council Member (*arrived at 2:00*)

Executive Director
Recording Secretary

Ray Peters
Melissa Puhn

Jim Peters called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. Andy Whitener offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Russell Harper moved to approve the January 25th Council agenda, with additions. Vince Henry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Council agreed that the Wednesday Meetings with the Little Creek Oversight Board will be noted and cataloged, but not approved formally and distributed. Those meetings will be reserved only for Little Creek Casino and Island Enterprises and are not considered a usual meeting. Action items resulting from those meetings will be approved at the regularly scheduled Thursday Council meetings.

Pete Kruger moved to approve the January 11th Council Meeting minutes. Vince Henry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

The Winter General Body Meeting, will be held on January 27th beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Gymnasium. A tribute Honoring Dave Whitener Sr. is planned. A chronological write up of Dave's years of service to the tribe will be read and shared. A Pendleton blanket will be presented. Council will plan an honoring dinner for Dave, this will be planned with the family and a date will be announced at a later time. Lunch will be provided; the menu includes chowder, fry bread, salad and dessert. A chowder cook-off competition is planned

Vocational Rehab presentation with SPIPA, will be January 30th, at the Suquamish Clearwater Resort. Charlene Krise will attend.

Jim Peters, Ray Peters and Charlene Krise will be traveling to **Washington DC, February 5 – 9th**, to meet with other Governmental officials regarding various programs.

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ATNI Winter Conference will be held **February 12-15th, in Portland, OR.** Jim Peters, Pete Kruger and Ray Peters will be attending.

The Native American Finance Conference is **February 21-23rd**, in Las Vegas, NV. Ray Peters, Charlene Krise and Deb Stoehr will be attending.

NCAI Executive Council Session on **February 26-28**, will be held in Washington DC. Jim Peters, and Ray Peters will be attending.

The Council Work Session at the Quinault Beach Resort will be March 12 – 15th.

NIGA, will be held on **March 25-28th**, in Phoenix, AZ. Andy Whitener and Ray Peters will attend.

2nd Annual ATNI Economic Summit will be held **April 2-4th**, at the Suquamish Clearwater Resort. This information will be forwarded to Island Enterprises.

Self-Governance Conference will be held **May 6-10**, in Garden Grove, CA. Jim Peters, Vince Henry and Ray Peters plan to attend.

CHAIRMANS UPDATE

McNeil Island Corrections: Jim Peters read a letter from the Native American Spiritual Heritage Group at the McNeil Island Corrections Center. They are seeking assistance for cultural/ spiritual assistance for their annual spring Pow wow. Council agreed by consensus on a \$500 or less combined donation of clams, oysters and money.

Northwest Indian Bar Association: Council agreed by consensus to forward this request for support to the One Percent Committee.

Little Creek Casino Organizational Chart: Andy Whitener moved to approve the organizational chart as amended. Russell Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Jim thanked the Council for their involvement and time spent attending all of the recent meetings.

Jim shared he was contacted by Robert Emeras from the Island of Reunion. Robert had visited last year interviewing tribal and community members. An agreement was made in having a Council member travel to his country to see his University, at his expense, in February. Charlene Krise at that time had plans on traveling. Will Penn will attend in Charlene's place, if she is unable.

Jim reported last week he had lunch with Stan Speaks, (Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs). Jim showed Stan around the Events Center, Golf Course, Tobacco Factory, and Child Development Center. Stan was impressed with Squaxin Island's economic development. Stan feels the Tribe should produce a documentary to share with other tribes showing the growth and involvement with the natural surroundings. Stan was interested in coming back this summer at the time of the canoe journey.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

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Complaint: Ray shared a letter he received with Council from a sub-contractor. No action taken, just for information only. Don has contacted the parties involved.

NCAI: Ray shared the proposed amendment to NCAI bylaws which increases membership dues. Council expressed that the winter NCAI meeting is not the appropriate time for this discussion and that this subject should be brought to the annual meeting in that the proposed increase is too significant of a jump in membership dues.

Gas tax: Ray reported the compact with Washington State requires gas tax funds to be equally spent on public safety; security, law enforcement, fire and medical. Ray said the Tribe is exceeding the total amount required, hopefully it will continue to grow and be utilized for road improvements.

Ray provided an update on property acquisition.

LCOB: The Little Creek Oversight Board will provide a report and meeting minutes to Council on the first Council meeting of each month.

Tribal member assistance: Council agreed by consensus to donate \$500 to a tribal member for personal assistance.

PLANNING

Brian Thompson provided an update on purchasing the fractionated interest land on Squaxin Island. Esther Fox has been assisting with the paperwork and is prepared to assist all the sellers with the necessary paperwork. Council agreed by consensus that Brian will create a resolution which will pay the land owner the assessed value of their land. Brian will have a resolution at the next meeting.

Brian provided an update on Housing.

A lab technician will provide training to Housing staff and Law Enforcement for testing houses for the presence of methamphetamines. Housing will save money by not contracting a person with this technical training to test houses once vacated. Brian will meet with Council during regular meetings providing updates. Jim would like to be updated on the siding replacement.

NORTHWEST INDIAN TREATMENT CENTER

June O'Brien presented the NWITC employee handbook and went over the changes made.. The handbook is issued to all employees, along with training, each year in February. June wanted to share with Council, prior to handing out to employees next month. The changes in background checks stems from a new requirement from the Department of Health. Vince Henry moved to approve the addendum to the personnel handbook on the notification of disclosure statement, amending to include tribal courts and civil databases. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TRIBAL MEMBER CONCERN

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Janita Johnson voiced her concern regarding an incident at the Casino.

Council agreed by consensus to purchase a basket for \$200 made by Connie Napoleon.

Jim reported that he would like to gift Ray Maldonado who is retiring from the BIA with one of Jennifer Johns' prints, framed, and would like to invite him to one of the Casinos events.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Whitney Jones stated that she wanted to meet, update and answer any questions stemming from the Elders Meeting with Council. The first concern from the Elders is they would like to manage their own program. Whitney shared that the advantage of having the elders program run through the clinic is obtaining grants through the clinic. Whitney would like to educate the elders regarding tribal dollars and how they have to be properly spent through a tribal budget, run through a department.

The next concern was the clinic and the elders building not being open during outages. Whitney assured Council the clinic is always open during power outages. The elders building can be available. Ray said during inclement weather, the physicians will be transported to the clinic if necessary.

The elders would like to be part of the decision making; they would like to share their opinions. Council suggested the elders could have a standing report on the Council agenda, an opportunity for elders to come and share their concerns to Council.

The elders would like to name the elders building. Council decided it is up to the elders to name their building. Council agreed that family names are not to be used in naming buildings anymore.

The elders wanted to know if Council would sponsor their Annual Elders Dinner. Council stated each year, the elders would need to present a budget and timeframe and present to Council seeking approval.

The elders would like to work at tobacco factory as a fundraiser. Council suggested this to be between the elders and Brian Johnson.

The elders would like Council to attend the Elders Caregiver Conference; the clinic is hosting March 19-20th.

Whitney will look into furniture that would be more comfortable for the elders in the waiting room.

Kelly Neelands and June O'Brien were present and shared with Council regarding a meeting taking place at the legislature this Monday, January 29th. Craig Bill coordinated the meeting regarding ICW money, Tribal leaders were not been notified. Kelly suggested a phone call be made to Craig Bill, to see what the meeting is regarding, and if necessary Kelly and Jim can attend.

Kelly was seeking Council direction on information regarding tribal government eligibility with cost reduction in employee healthcare plans, this is optional for tribal governments, and Kelly would like to speak in favor of this plan.

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TRIBAL MEMBER CONCERNS

Nancy Rose, with the assistance of Ed Fox, Health and Human Services Assistant Director, presented her concerns. Council asked Nancy and Ed to put her request in writing to give Council a full understanding of her situation.

Council went in to Executive Session.
Following discussion, no action was taken.

Tribal member was seeking assistance on attending an International Women's Conference. Council approved a donation of \$250; she was referred to the 1% Committee as well.

Charlene Cooper, Herb Johns and Lisa Braese wanted to clarify a concern about the purchase price of trust land on Squaxin Island. Council explained the process the Tribe has gone through in purchasing the shares of the island. Jim suggested Lisa contact the BIA to view the timber value, and other information pertaining to the property.

A concern was brought up regarding KTP; Ray will talk with Bob Whitener, Jr., Island Enterprises Executive Director.

Russell will look in to a Housing concern.

There was discussion regarding the drug problem on the reservation. Council discussed different ideas of drug enforcement and prevention where the community could help.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.