

DRAFT
SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
January 28, 2009

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Dave Lopeman	Chairman (<i>arrived at 9:54 a.m.</i>)
Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
Vince Henry, Sr.	Secretary
Russell Harper	Treasurer
Misti Saenz-Garcia	1st Council Member (<i>arr. at 9:36 a.m.</i>)
Marcella Castro	2nd Council Member
Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member (<i>arr. at 9:15 a.m.</i>)

Executive Director
Legal Counsel
Recording Secretary

Ray Peters
Kevin Lyon
Melissa Puhn

Arnold Cooper called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Russell Harper offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Russell Harper moved to approve the January 28 Council agenda. Vince Henry seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Russell Harper moved to approve the January 8, 2009 Council minutes as amended. Vince Henry seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

February 16-19: ATNI Winter Conference, Tulalip. Marcella, Charlene, Arnold and Ray will attend.

February 21-22: Sa-He-Wamish Days, Little Creek Casino. Ray reported that the planning process is progressing well. Charlene would like to see a better broadcast to other tribes inviting them to participate.

February 26: 3rd All Tribes United Conference, Warm Springs OR. Marcella will attend.

March 9-12: "Res 2009", Las Vegas, NV. Ray and Arnold will attend.

Ray discussed the annual Council Work Session. He suggested that it be held after elections this year, also to be held onsite.

March 9-11: National Tribal Gaming Commissioners Conference, Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT. Misti and Marcella will attend.

March 21: Capital Land Trust Gala, St. Martins College. NR usually participates.

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Ray reported on the NCAI meeting he attended while he was in Washington DC. He discussed the stimulus package and the transition to the new president. Ray has been preparing each year by compiling topics that are specific projects for the appropriations. With this new stimulus package there will be funds for new projects. Ray has been working directly with delegates to submit project funding requests. Ray anticipates filing by February 3, 2009. Council suggested emphasis on support for court and social services, health services and digital needs.

Ray provided a brief update on the Arcadia Boat Ramp. Russell would like to see that the Arcadia Boat ramp improvements are communicated with the community that lives in the area. Ray stated that a community meeting will be important.

Charlene would like to see funding for improved technology at the clinic. Ray reported that the clinic is moving towards electronic health records. Council discussed expanding clinical services and ways to conserve contract health services funding.

Russell would like to see all the grant opportunities that come though, not just the ones that are applied for. Ray will add this as a standing report item.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Housing: Marcella had a housing concern regarding a housing transfer. Ray explained why the transfer was made and that it was a temporary transfer. Marcella also asked why the Housing Commission was not involved with this decision. Ray stated that the communication will be improved, but in this case it was an emergency situation.

Marcella also asked about conveyed homes and who's responsible for any problems with the house. Ray stated that Council can assist individuals financially with house hardships, but typically routine maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner. Charlene feels that it is the responsibility of the government to fix some of the older homes that were not constructed correctly.

Misti added that she would like to see Bob Smith utilized for housing funds; she stated that he has access to free housing funding to refurbish homes. Russell suggested that he come speak to the Housing Commission. Ray will connect with Bob Smith to learn about access to money opportunities.

Salish Seafood's: Marcella wanted to know why Salish cannot find any clam buyers. She has heard complaints about a recent dig and that some tribal members were unable to get their limit. She heard that the tribal members were forced to park in a different area and she also heard that Island Enterprises did not offer rides to diggers. She didn't appreciate that Salish was not offering rides. She also would like to see private beaches open to diggers more often. Russell would like to see a comprehensive clam purchasing plan. Charlene requested a market and business plan and procedures plan, particularly regarding the scow.

TRIBAL GAMING UPDATE

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Desi Smith reported on the external audits which have been submitted to the NIGC. The mandatory compliance requirements were met. With this report, the Tribe is no longer operating under the settlement agreement with the NIGC, that is, no longer at risk for a retroactive sanction. In general, while the property will never be perfect, there were no material adverse findings, and all matters were minor. Desi commended his staff by stating they have achieved compliance at the casino and the external audit is complete and on time.

Desi and Kevin presented other NIGC issues. Kevin presented the two letters received from the NIGC, discussed the possible responses, and obtained approval for a draft response for the Chairman's signature. Council asked that the response be revised to emphasis reliance on and confidence in the Squaxin Island Gaming Commission.

Kevin discussed the recommendation that Council and LCOB members be licensed as primary management officials. Desi will process the applications, as a matter of discretion within SIGC.

Charlene requested Tribal Gaming Agency minutes to be available to Council.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ray handed out a memo from Chief Evans to his officers outlining expectations.

PLANNING

Brian Thompson presented **Resolution #09-03** which authorizes SPIPA to prepare and submit a proposal with the Department of Health & Human Services for the 2009 Family Violence Prevention and Services Program. Charlene Krise moved to approve resolution #09-03. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into executive session to discuss a pending litigation matter regarding an exclusion entered against a tribal member. Council directed Legal to take no position with respect to the petition.

NORTHWEST INDIAN TREATMENT CENTER

June O'Brien provided an update on the Treatment Center. She discussed funding through IHS, and the potential impacts of state funding cuts on our programs. For example, ADATSA, represents a significant portion of annual revenue through the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. She provided a hand out illustrating revenue declines. At present, it looks like ADATSA might survive, but it is necessary to plan for a decrease in services. GAU reduction or loss will impact the Clinic and Treatment. ADATSA reduction would have impacts statewide. Consequences include reduction in services, could not treat trauma, quality around treatment would decline, staff cuts, reduce number of patients or staff days and likely RIF. Dave offered that if she needs a letter of support for funding from Council, they will do so.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE *(continued)*

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Ray asked Council for direction regarding the dental program. Ray stated that the Clinic now has an in-house dentist, and utilizing Kamilche Dental would have a larger fiscal impact to CHS funds. Council would like to allow the option to tribal members of using the clinic in-house dentist or to continue to go to Kamilche Dental. Ray explained the fiscal responsibility of allowing an option. Council would like to see tribal members offered an option for dental in order to encourage tribal members to see a dentist on a regular basis.

Misti asked for an explanation of the employee dental coverage change. Ray stated that all dentists in the area accept MetLife Insurance. The coverage is the same as the previous coverage. Human Resources and Deb Stoehr spoke with staff and if anyone has any questions or issues to please let them know. MetLife will also cover Kamilche Dental and the Tribal Clinic.

LEGAL *(continued)*

Kevin provided an update on the Little Creek Casino Compliance Officer job description. He described the position in detail, with an emphasis on a transparent program, the COO acting as an observer, reporting and offering recommendations to the management triad. Council affirmed the direction. Kevin is to return the description to LCCR for adoption and implementation.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Andy Whitener and Eric Sparkman provided an update on clam digs, island enhancement and the shellfish settlement. Discussed harvest on private lands.

LEGAL

Kevin Lyon handed out the draft sign ordinance and the lease agreement with Four Points regarding the proposed Highway 101 sign.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. No action taken.

Kevin asked for clarification on the enrollment resolution pertaining to the moratorium on new enrollees. He would like clarification on the definition of "born to a tribal member." Council discussed whether that provision should apply to a new born or if it should be limited to a particular age, for example, 1, 2, 5, or 18. Also discussed having a window open of 120 days for those that are born to a tribal member that are older than whatever threshold is adopted. Arnold would like to table this discussion until further information is gathered. Kevin will redraft for a one year old and a 120 day window for those older than 1.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Rhonda Foster, Margaret Henry, Mike Evans and Mike Foster were present. Mike Foster shared pictures of vandalism that occurred at the new tribal cemetery. The gate and fence have been broken.

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Security routinely checks on the area and people are encouraged to call security if they see any suspicious behavior.

Rhonda would like to see families educate their children about the values and respect of an Indian cemetery. Signs will be posted at the area and an article in the Klah-Che-Min will be published explaining the importance of respecting the cemetery. Council agreed by consensus to help fund barriers and signage for the cemetery.

As requested by Council, Ray handed out a list of all “tabled” Council items.

CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCACY NETWORK

Gary Fleming from Crime Victims Advocacy Network came to share the services that they provide. He is employed by Thurston County Prosecutors Office. They provide services to general crime victims including survivors, burglary, robbery, hate crimes and identity theft. They have an office downtown Shelton. He provided contact information which will be forwarded to the appropriate departments.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUESTS

Candace Penn came to Council and stated that she has recently been enrolled Squaxin, and she is applying for college. She is on the five year wait for treaty harvesting and the two year wait for educational benefits. She would like the two year wait for education benefits lifted because she needs the assistance now. Council will discuss this and will get back to her.

Dorinda Thein, Linda Evans, Rusty Cooper and Annie Beth Whitener shared their concern to Council of the treatment of the gym and the Mary Johns Room. They were concerned with the lack of discipline when kids are caught vandalizing. Dorinda worries that the new Education Addition will be treated with the same disrespect.

Council discussed the five year wait on treaty harvesting and the two year wait on educational benefits. Council considered removing the 2 year wait for those enrolled prior to 18 years of age and removing the 2 year entirely. Misti Saenz-Garcia moved to lift the two year wait on educational benefits for all tribal members effective immediately. Marcella Castro seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Russell asked to be released from the sanctions relative to conduct unbecoming. Kevin will report to Council.

There being no further business the January 28, 2009 Council meeting adjourned.