

**Squaxin Island Tribal Council
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2006**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Jim Peters	Chairman
Andy Whitener	Vice Chairman
Vince Henry, Sr.	Secretary
Patti Puhn	Treasurer
Will Penn	1st Council Member
Pete Kruger	2nd Council Member
Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member

Executive Director

Ray Peters

Deputy Director

Dave Whitener, Sr.

Legal

Kevin Lyon

Recording Secretary

Melissa Puhn, sitting in for J. Ruby Fuller

Jim Peters called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Agenda/Minutes approval

Andy Whitener motioned and Vince Henry seconded to approve the agenda with minor additions.

Andy Whitener motioned and Pete Kruger seconded the approval of the April 13th Council Minutes as amended.

Episcopal Church

Father Jeff Sells and Naomi Todd from the Episcopal Church presented a formal apology to the Tribe. They asked to present a reading which was written about ten years ago, regarding an apology to the Native Congregations from the past abuses. They asked for Councils permission to read this apology publicly. Council agreed to have them work with Charlene Krise and Dave Whitener Sr. to have a gathering at the Museum, inviting Tribal Elders and the media if necessary. Charlene will be their main contact. They also asked for information about the canoe journey, they showed interest in volunteering their time.

Tribal Member Concern

Tully Kruger was present to voice his concern regarding a shellfish incident. He requested this incident be looked in to seriously, and wanted to make sure that this will not affect Tribal Members treaty rights. He also inquired whether this issue will be going through the Tribal Court System. Jim Peters invited Tully to come back at a later date and he would like to discuss the process of Tribal Court, and how the Tribe's Sovereignty works with State Jurisdictions.

Travel Reports and Plans

Port Gamble S'Klallam Auction – April 29th, 5:00, Council purchase five tickets in anyone is interested in attending see Melissa.

NTEC May 1 – 5, Temecula, California, as of now, no Council Member will be attending.

General Body Meeting, May 6 – LCCR Showroom

ATNI Mid Year Conference, May 15 – 18 Spokane Valley, Ray Peters and Pete Kruger are planning on attending.

2006 Self Governance Annual Conference, May 8 -12, Acme, Michigan , Jim Peters, Ray Peters, Pete Kruger and Charlene Krise are planning on attending.

Tribal & State Child Support Summit, May 16-18, Wildhorse Resort, Pendleton, Dave Whitener Sr. would like to attend.

NCAI Mid Year Conference, June 18-21, 2006, Kewadin Casino Hotel & Convention Center, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, Ray Peters, Andy Whitener and Vince Henry plan to attend.

Chairman's Update

Norm Dicks: Jim Peters reported on the Norm Dicks breakfast reception he attended. It went really well, and said that the Tribe's were really well represented and explained how Norm Dicks spoke highly of the Tribe's. He seemed very appreciative of what the Tribe's are doing in all aspects.

“Meth Watch:” Housing is holding a “Meth Watch Workshop” in the Mary Johns Room next Wednesday. Jim encouraged Council to attend.

Natural Resources

John Konovsky presented **Resolution #06-32** which allows the Natural Resources Department to develop and submit grant proposals to advance protection and restoration of riparian areas along Skookum Creek and its tributaries. Andy Whitener motioned to approve this resolution, and Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried 6 in favor and 0 against.

Ray Peters wanted to comment John Konovsky and his staff for their work and the relationships they have built with the surrounding area homeowners.

Tribal Council directed Kevin Lyon to respond to a letter received from the Puyallup Tribe Natural Resources Department regarding a geoduck issue. Kevin followed through, and after Councils approval, the letter was sent.

Andy Whitener mentioned that Dave Lopeman inquired about the wood that is behind the tobacco factory, and if he can cut it for the Elders. Jim mentioned that it was discussed at the Island Enterprises Board Meeting, and it was decided that volunteers from Natural Resources and Island Enterprises will cut it this summer for the Elders.

Council requested a tour of the new Tobacco Factory and property of the golf course.

Executive Director Update

Council went in to Executive Session.

Tribal Member Concern

Charlene Cooper, along with Herb and Sherry Johns were present to voice their concern regarding a housing issue. Ray will request a housing report from Brian Thompson later today to discuss this issue. There was also discussion regarding their concern of transportation for their granddaughter. Jim stated that he will look in to different options.

Council went back in to Executive Session.

Cultural Resources

Rhonda Foster and Larry Ross presented an update agreement between South Puget Sound Community College and Squaxin Island Tribe for the Mud Bay Dig Site. Larry went over the changes that were made to the agreement. Charlene Krise made a motion to approve the agreement, and Patti Puhn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Health and Human Services

Whitney Jones was present. Council went in to Executive Session.

Executive Director Update *(continued)*

Ray presented the draft agenda for the General Body Meeting, and briefly read through the agenda. The first roll call will be at 9:05 a.m., and the meeting will begin once a quorum is met. Rose Algea will do the Welcome. Council asked if a posting of colors could be added to the agenda after the roll call. Will Penn will recognize the Veterans as well as the Tribal Members who have passed on.

Fireworks: There was a fireworks meeting last week, and a drawing was held. Twenty one tribal members signed up and there are only nineteen spots available. Members from the Fireworks Committee will be here this afternoon to discuss this. They also requested an extension of the fireworks season, but according to Doug Boon that would not work out. Council said no to their question regarding an extension.

Fire station update: Ray reported that they have been looking at a new plan. Otherwise everything is moving forward.

Political Donation: Ray presented a letter from Governor Christine Gregoire requesting a donation. Council decided that they will not donate at this time.

Little Creek Casino Resort

Doug Boon and Cameron Goodwin presented an update on financials, which Cameron handed out a report and discussed.

Joe Callabrese from the Casino was present and provided a timeline on the opening of the hotel addition. He explained the savings that would occur if the completion date was extended until February 2007. The hotel would be finished at the same time as the MBR Sewer upgrade. Council agreed to extend the opening date to February.

The Events Center will be open for Sgwi Gwi, and there will be a partial opening for the Community Round-Up for Thurston County.

Cameron Goodwin was appointed to the Island Enterprises Board, the Little Creek Oversight Board (LCOB), as well as the Skookum Creek Tobacco Board and was not reflected in the minutes at that time. Cameron Goodwin was therefore appointed to the Island Enterprises Board, the Little Creek Oversight Board (LCOB), and the Skookum Creek Tobacco Board. Charlene Krise motioned this appointment, and Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried. At this time, it was requested this appointment be reflected in the minutes that his appointment is effective today.

Fuel litigation update: Council went in to Executive Session.

Fireworks Committee

Misti Saenz-Garcia and Will Henderson were present for the Fireworks Committee. They voiced their concern regarding the twenty one people who signed up, and that there are only twenty spots available. The committee members wanted to check with Council to see what their decision would be regarding the last member. In the past there have always been nineteen spots available to Tribal Members, and one spot available to the Elders. After discussion and from the committee's recommendation, Council decided to stay status quo. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that all fees must be paid by the drawing date; otherwise they will be put on a waiting list. Everything else is to stay status quo.

Charlene Krise motioned and Vince Henry seconded the motion to make the Government spot the twenty first spot, and to have twenty stands available for Tribal Members. The motion passed with 4 for, 1 against, and 1 abstained. This decision may require a change in the Fireworks Code, and if it does the Code will be brought back to the next Council Meeting. The motion stands as is, unless in violation with the ordinance.

TGA Report

Mike O'Donnell provided a report on Tribal Gaming. He discussed their new fingerprint system they now have in place. Mike explained the cost and effectiveness of owning their own fingerprinting system. In the past when they would use the State's system, they would get results in three to six weeks. Now, they can get their own results in as short as twenty minutes, or up to forty eight hours. Mike discussed the process they have gone through with the State and then went over the changes they will make to accommodate

their own system. They will hope to have it up and running by the end of next week. Mike announced that he has hired two new employees, both surveillance trainees. He also had two resignations. He is still in the need for an Internal Auditor. Mike handed out a budget report, which he plans to provide monthly. Andy Whitener inquired about stipends for the Gaming Commissioners. After discussion, Andy made a motion to have the Commissioners pay increased a step in grade. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. If a Commissioner is out on travel, there will be a \$125 cap for the day. Out of town pertains to overnight trips. The motion carried.

Health and Human Services

Whitney Jones introduced her new Assistant Director; Ed Fox. Whitney also asked if Council would consider hosting a Tribal Leaders Health Summit in November. Ray will check in to seeing if the Tribe will provide \$2500, or if the Casino will absorb the costs.

Whitney presented Medicare Part B, and Part D; Part D covers prescriptions. Whitney reported that Connie Whitener came to Council awhile back to talk about enrolling every Elder with Part D. The cost is \$12.73 per month. Council agreed to have the Tribe pay this on behalf of the CHS eligible members, in order to provide substantial savings to the pharmacy. Whitney posed the question the Council if they would be willing to pick up the costs for non-eligible for CHS as well. Council agreed by consensus. Whitney will notify the individuals personally. This is just for tribal members only, and would be paid by CHS dollars. Whitney stated that she will keep Council updated on costs.

Medicare Part B is coverage of doctor visits and emergency room visits. All Elders with the exception of three are on Medicare Part B. It was explained that if someone doesn't sign up at age sixty five, there will be a penalty. Two of these three elders who are not on Part B, are still eligible without paying the penalty. Whitney is asking Council to make a resolution that requires all tribal members to sign up with Medicare Part B upon turning age sixty five. Otherwise CHS dollars pay for their doctor visits. It was suggested that Whitney counsel Elders about this and explain the effect it has on CHS dollars. Ray and Council will back HHS, knowing that there will be resistance. Andy asked Whitney to come back to Council next month with an update on the counseling.

Legal

Kevin also handed out a revised code for traffic violations; it was changed to go along with Washington State. Handed it out for Councils review and it will be brought up at the next Council Meeting, after being approved by the Law & Order Committee.

Kevin presented Resolution #06-19, which was tabled at a previous Council Meeting. Kevin went over the amendments made to the revised resolution. Kevin then presented Resolution #06-31 which Rescinds a portion of the suspended privileges and to clarifies that the suspensions are to continue to apply to those who have relinquished. This resolution amends resolution 04-49. Pete motioned to approve this resolution, and Vince seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the Korsmo and Ambia Contract which was approved at a previous meeting, but not reflected in the minutes. Kevin re-presented the contracts for Councils approval. Patti motioned to approve the contracts, and Pete seconded the motion. The motion carried 6 in favor and 0 against. These contracts are reflected in Resolution # 06-33 and Resolution # 06-34.

As requested, Brian Thompson and Liz Kuntz from Housing were present to discuss the housing issue that came up this morning. Brian handed out a draft of the updated priority waiting list for housing. He stated that this is always posted outside of the housing office. He also handed out a Home Ownership Report. Brian discussed the six vacant houses that were in question, and why it takes so long for them to be filled. Brian explained that upon vacancy, a house will be re-instated within fifteen business days. But, if a house needs contracted work done to repair it, then it will be up to sixty five business days before it can be re-instated. Any contracted work that is necessary will be done at the previous tenant's expense. Brian answered the question regarding a handicap house, and explained the concerns that the Housing Committee has had for a designated handicap house. He didn't think that there would be a problem through HUD to have a house designated as handicap.

There being no further business, the Council Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.