

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
August 13, 2009**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Dave Lopeman	Chairman
Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman (<i>arrived at 11am</i>)
Andy Whitener	Treasurer
Pete Kruger, Sr.	Secretary (<i>absent</i>)
Misti Saenz-Garcia	1st Council Member
Marcella Castro	2nd Council Member
Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member (<i>absent</i>)

Legal Counsel
Executive Director
Recording Secretary

Kevin Lyon
Ray Peters
Melissa Puhn

Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m. Misti Saenz-Garcia offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Misti would like to discuss health insurance. She also would like to discuss annual leave for directors and employees who do not accrue leave. Ray stated that all regular employees who work over 18 hours/week receive annual leave. Misti would like Council to consider all employees to accrue leave.

Marcella Castro moved to approve the August 13th Council Agenda. Misti Saenz-Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried three (3) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Misti Saenz-Garcia moved to approve the July 10th phone poll; July 23rd phone poll; and the July 31st phone poll. Marcella Castro seconded the motion. The motion carried three (3) in favor and zero (0) against. Misti moved to approve the July 9th Council Minutes. Andy Whitener seconded the motion. The motion carried three (3) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRAVEL REPORTS & PLANS

August 28: Meet & greet with Thurston County Commissioner Sandra Romero, 10-11:30 a.m.

September 2: Council/Canoe Family Planning Meeting, 4pm potluck

September 14-17: Santa Monica. Council and the IEI Board will tour GA Andron.

September 14-17: NIGA Mid-Year Membership Meeting Santa Fe, NM. Pete will attend.

September 22-24: National Tribal Gaming Commissioners/Regulators Fall Conference, Tulsa OK. Charlene will attend.

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October 2-4: Basket Weavers Conference, Great Wolf Lodge, Chehalis. Marcella and Misti will attend. This will be advertised for tribal members to attend. Travelers must help with a class and donate a piece for the 2012 journey.

October 11-16: NCAI Palm Springs, CA. Dave, Misti, Pete, Andy and Ray will attend.

October 22-25: NIEA Annual Convention, Milwaukee, WI.

November 17 – 18: 11th Annual Native American Leadership Conference Hollywood, FL. Marcella will attend.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Council received a letter from a tribal member requesting funds for tuition assistance. Marcella requested that the One Percent Commission increase the tuition assistance award amount for tribal members. This tribal member receives funds from the education commission; although it does not cover all expenses. Council agreed by consensus to donate \$500 to that individual.

Kevin Lyon, Mark Allen and June O'Brien were present to discuss the revision to the current drug policy, making it consistent across all tribal enterprises.

Misti moved to approve **Resolution #09-77** which rescinds the previous resolution (#03-18B) and replaces with this resolution that states that the Tribal Council and all employees of the Squaxin Island Tribe and its enterprises shall be subject to alcohol and drug testing according to the guidelines outlined in the resolution. Marcella Castro seconded the motion. The motion carried two (2) in favor, one (1) against and zero (0) abstained.

Kevin then provided **Resolution #09-78** which implements the contract with the Northwest Indian Treatment Center to perform all drug and alcohol testing exclusively. Misti moved to approve. Marcella seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A consistent description explaining the policy will be included in all employee handbooks; Kevin provided the insert for Council review. Misti moved to approve the policy as drafted. Marcella seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Legal will communicate the changes to all entities.

SIT Workers Compensation Plan: Mark Allen and Deb Stoehr presented the Workers Compensation Plan. Deb explained that the tribe is self insured and all claims are managed through Berkeley Risk Management. A committee was formed to review the services provided and sent out a new request for proposal to other companies to see what else is available. The committee recommends changing to Brown & Brown. Deb went over the changes and costs of the company. Mark presented **Resolution #09-79** which determines it would be in the best interest of the tribe to terminate its contract with Berkley and purse claims administration services with Tribal First Risk Management Services, as brokered through Brown & Brown Insurance Company. Misti Saenz-Garcia moved to approve Resolution #09-79. Andy Whitener seconded the motion. The motion

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carried unanimously. Mark will prepare a letter of termination for Dave's signature. The change over date will be January 1, 2010.

DENTAL UPDATE

Ed Fox and Michelle Wiley were present to provide an update on the Dental Program. Ed stated that the combination of utilizing Kamilche Dental along with the clinic having a dentist on staff; have gotten dental caught up. The clinic also recently hired a dental assistant; which assists with billing as well. The scheduling for regular treatment is about six weeks out. Staff makes regular reminder calls to patients and if there is a cancellation they are able to fill that spot.

Michelle updated they are looking in to contracting with a local orthodontist. They are just waiting for funding.

Michelle briefed on the emergency procedures; if an emergency arises the patient is seen that day. The dentist schedule is Monday-Thursdays and every other Friday; they have not yet run in to a situation where someone could not be helped.

TRIBAL GAMING AGENCY

Desi Smith provided an update from TGA. The commission has been meeting regularly and would like to share they are wrapping up the proposal for the external audit. They would like to look for another external audit company; this will provide a new relationship to ensure there is no complacency.

Misti asked about employee licensing. Desi stated that it is the employees' responsibility to renew their gaming license. As soon as the renewal application is turned in, the license is renewed. It is a very simple process where the employee can come in on the expiration date of their license and the process takes about 15 minutes. If the employee allows their license to expire there is a three day suspension period with a fine.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Ray provided an update on a house demolition. Council would like to see this taken care of as soon as possible.

Ray presented two potential property acquisitions. Council approved for Ray to discuss possible financing for these two pieces.

Ray shared a letter he received about a possible conflict of interest with an employee serving on the Aquatics Committee. Council decided it would be the best interest to replace that individual on the Aquatics Committee; Ray will speak with her and an alternate will be moved in to her position.

Basket weavers Conference, October 2-3, 2009: Tribal Council agreed to sponsor fifteen (15) tribal members and/or spouses. A lottery drawing will be done if more than fifteen people sign up. Each participant funded by Council will need to donate a piece of work to Council to be used for a give-away and will also need to either teach or assist in teaching a weaving class. An agreement will be

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signed by each participant explaining these guidelines. A notice will be mailed out in the weekly bulk mail, with a sign up deadline by August 28th.

EOC Training Update: Ray handed out the current training schedule. John would like to schedule a testing day for all of Council; Whitney will work with him and schedule a date.

Ray provided an update on housing. Housing received stimulus money for the multi family housing. Dan will take the Housing Commission out and show them the property. Construction will begin next spring.

Ray provided an update on a housing issue.

Arnold would like to see the Animal Control Officer be more visible. Brian is working on acquiring a GSA vehicle for him.

Dan Neelands and Brian Thompson were called in to discuss the multi family housing. Misti requested to increase some of the units to a three bedroom. Brian stated that the grant proposal was specific to two bedroom units; HUD probably would consider changing the plans to accommodate the request. If the change results in an increase of cost, the tribe would be responsible for any overages. The units currently are about 1000 square feet. Brian will present to the Commission the request regarding bedroom number.

Council would like to see a policy regarding the number of days a tenant is allowed to move out. They discussed a tenant who they would like to see evicted. Council recommended that Housing do what needs to be done to take care of the housing issue; Brian stated they will take aggressive action on this eviction.

CONSTRUCTION

Dan presented **Resolution #09-80** which authorizes the contract for reconstruction of a segment of State Route 108 with Rodarte Construction. Arnold Cooper moved to approve this resolution. Andy Whitener seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dan and Jeff Dickison provided an update on the golf course construction. Dan stated they are getting power to the irrigation pond. Conduit will be laid this weekend and will be ready for inspection next week.

Jeff reported they will have the Army Corp of Engineers Permit by Monday.

Jeff reported on the Salmon Safe Certification process. The cost for this certification is not included in the current budget. This certification will be promotional; showing that the course is “green built” and salmon habitat friendly. The Salmon Safe Certification can also be used for the multi family housing project. Dan estimated that it will be less than \$20,000 to certify both the golf course and the housing units. The golf course certification has never been done yet, so it will be done at cost as a pilot project. The costs cover the certification for five years. Dan will negotiate and get some fixed pricing in place and report back for a final decision. Council approved to move forward with the certification.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Little Skookum Shellfish: Council directed Ray to contact Island Enterprises and request a business analysis of Little Skookum Shellfish. Ray will prepare a letter to Bob Whitener Jr. to look in to the business and also look in to geoduck on Harstine Island.

Bay Shore: Jeff provided an update on sale of the Bay Shore golf course. The tribe was recently contacted to see if there was an interest in the property; the interest would be to protect the land and keeping it as one piece and protecting the gravel beds for shellfish.

Jeff provided an update on the Culvert case. Executive Session.

Jeff discussed geoduck and updated on the harvest status. The initial geoduck decision needs to be determined by the Aquatics Committee by January 2010; otherwise there will be no geoduck season for 2010. Kevin shared that Legal will assist the committee in writing up a proposal if necessary.

TA HA BUTS LEARNING CENTER

Sally Brownfield reported that this year instead of providing gift cards for the youth's school supplies; TLC will purchase and provide back packs full of school supplies to each tribal youth. She is estimating about 250 kids. This way TLC can be sure that the money is being used for school supplies. Sally also wanted clarification on who receives supplies and who is considered a community member. Council stated that supplies should be provided to tribal youth and descendents. Council agreed to sponsor the purchase of backpacks and school supplies for \$3,750.

Sally shared that on August 28th will be a community forum on education. This is open to the community and will showcase all of the services provided by TLC; 5-7pm in the gym.

Council discussed writing a policy regarding the use of tribal services at no cost, such as the Summer Rec Program. The Summer Rec Program is growing faster each year. Discussed verbiage in the policy stating that services and programs are to be used by tribal members and descendents; community members can participate, but there may be a cost associated. Council did not want to see anyone left out of the summer recreation program and asked Sally to see how many community members participate in the program.

Sally provided an update on the gym kitchen. They were unable to purchase a new stove; so they did a lot of barbequing. The kitchen is not up to code so they were unable to use it this summer, since it causes a liability. Ray updated that they are going through the process of remodeling the kitchen.

Sally presented **Resolution #09-81** which appoints Sally Brownfield and Marcella Castro as delegates; and Misti Saenz-Garcia as an alternate to the Tribal Leader Congress on Education. Misti moved to approve the appointments. Andy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sally provided a quick update on Sylvan; she would like to be sure that the youth are truly utilizing the program and would like to look in to it and see what difference it is making.

2012 CANOE UPDATE

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Bridgette Ray provided an update on the 2012 planning process. She handed out a review summary of what is being worked on, and what needs to be done.

She would like to plan a talking circle/planning meeting between Council and the Canoe Family. Council decided on September 2nd at 4:00 p.m., potluck.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Tully Kruger shared that during the canoe journey, his boat was vandalized and a lot of equipment was stolen. He asked Council if they would consider reimbursing for a portion of his losses. Council would like him to first see what the canoe family is willing to reimburse, and then go from there.

Melanie Hause discussed assisted living. She would like to see it offered for the elders who need it. Misti provided a contact at SPIPA for elders assistance.

LEGAL

Kevin Lyon provided an update on Nisqually v. Gregoire.

Kevin updated on US v. Washington. He, Andy and Misti attended a meet and confer last Tuesday. This will affect treaty fish buyers.

Kevin updated on an insurance claim reimbursement.

Kevin provided a renewal for the Franks Landing Community Medicaid Contract. This renewal is for one year. This discussion will be tabled until a full council is present.

Childcare Development Audit: Kevin handed out the materials regarding his findings; for the most part the CDC is doing a good job. Kevin provided a legal recommendation on what can be done in order to improve their system. Council agreed by consensus to put the seven suggestions in to place.

Kevin provided a quick update on the golf course loan documents. All documents have been received and he will send them tomorrow to Golf Works for comment.

Council discussed the Casino Liaison position. They would like to see the liaison provide a report to Council. Ray will reach out to him.

Ray provided the balances that are due to the tribe from the Casino and Island Enterprises. Council would like to get a payment plan in place.

LCOB bylaws have been redrafted. The two vacancies will be advertised.

Misti asked about the education commission awards. Whitney stated that the commission reviews tuition expenses every other year. Funding for education has not gone down, but it hasn't gone up either. The funding from the commission covers all expenses for some schools, but not all.

Council agreed by consensus to donate \$600 to the PNE Charitable Foundation.

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Council agreed by consensus to donate \$300 towards the annual pow wow at the Monroe Correction Facility.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.