

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
October 8, 2009**

**Attendance:**

**Tribal Council**

<b>Dave Lopeman</b>	<b>Chairman</b> ( <i>absent</i> )
<b>Arnold Cooper</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b>
<b>Andy Whitener</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Pete Kruger, Sr.</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Misti Saenz-Garcia</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Council Member</b>
<b>Marcella Castro</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Council Member</b>
<b>Charlene Krise</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Council Member</b> ( <i>left at 12:25</i> )

**Legal Counsel**  
**Executive Director**  
**Recording Secretary**

**Mark Allen**  
**Ray Peters**  
**Melissa Puhn**

Arnold Cooper called the meeting to order. Marcella Castro offered the opening prayer.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Pete Kruger moved to approve the October 8<sup>th</sup> Council agenda. Marcella Castro seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

**TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS**

**October 9: SPIPA TANF Meeting**, TANF 101 will be held at the Redwind Casino at 10:45 a.m. Charlene would like to attend.

**October 10: Puyallup Elders Center Grand Opening**, 11am-2pm

**October 10: Canoe Family Dinner**, 3:00 p.m. in the gym.

**October 11-15: NCAI Palm Springs, CA.** Misti, Pete, Andy and Ray

**October 16: Elders' Host Luncheon**

**October 14: USDA Award Presentation** in Council Chambers at 3:30 p.m.

**October 17-23: Native American Fish & Wildlife Regional Meeting**, Reno. Pete will attend.

**October 22-25: NIEA Annual Convention**, Milwaukee, WI. Marcella and Misti will attend.

**October 26: Dinner with the Olympia City Council**, Squaxin hosting at the Casino, 6:00 p.m.

**October 30: All Staff Meeting**, progressive lunch at noon.

**November 1-6: Washington DC**, Dave, Arnold, Ray, Bobby will attend.

**November 6: Corrections/Tribal Summit**, Dave and Charlene will attend.

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**November 17- 19: G2E Global Gaming Expo**, Las Vegas, Andy will attend.

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

**November 20: Talking Circle**, Council Chambers 5:00 p.m.

### CHAIRMANS UPDATE

**Island Purchases Status:** Ray shared that Herb Westmoreland of the BIA will be working with a tribal family who has decided to sell. Herb will be working on this transaction.

**Medical Waiver:** Council discussed a tribal member's medical waiver for geoduck. Andy explained the policy. Council would like to see this tribal member on their next agenda.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Ray shared that the new DSHS Secretary Susan Dreyfus would like to spend time with Council to discuss any issues. Council would like to schedule her during the first meeting of December (*that date is not available on her schedule and will be rescheduled*).

**Little Creek Casino:** Ray and Deb discussed the casino distributions, taxes and reimbursements due to the tribal government and the potential impact that the proposed casino bonuses will have on cash flow. There was extensive discussion regarding the debt that the casino owes the tribe.

### TRIBAL GAMING UPDATE

Desi Smith provided a monthly update from TGA. Desi updated on the conditional licenses with the class II employees. TGA has good communication with those employees and he believes that most are complete. Misti would like TGA to pressure the employees to get their paperwork submitted on time.

Desi reported that TGA will make their tribal payments once they receive invoices from the tribe.

The external audit is going well. Desi has been in close contact with the auditors.

### VETERANS UPDATE

Anne Parker shared that the Veterans would like to start doing a ceremony on Native American Veterans Day, which is November 7<sup>th</sup>. She also would like to see the Memorial completely finished; there still are two paddles that need to be removed and three paddles that need to be added. Anne has ordered five additional paddles. She shared that there are two new Veterans that need paddles added in their names. Pete Kruger moved to have Council pay for the two paddles for \$1000. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The planting is not completely done yet either. Ray will talk with Brian about maintaining the memorial. Anne shared that some rhododendrons were donated and she would like help planting them. Ray will help her coordinate with Maintenance.

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Anne shared that the Committee would like to purchase 12 rifles for the rifle salute. Paper work needs to be done and a location for storage needs to be identified. Anne shared that she spoke with Dave about obtaining 12 eagle feathers for the honor guard. The feathers would be used to decorate a staff which would be used during the honor.

Anne shared that Joe Seymour Sr. made a Veterans flag that he would like flown under the Squaxin flag in the pavilion; it has been misplaced.

Anne also stated that she would like to see the Veterans Committee adequately recognized for their time, energy and money spent on the Memorial. She would like to see them acknowledged, gifted and an article in the newspaper. Anne suggested gifting beaded eagle feathers. Pete will assist in finding feathers.

The committee would like to publish a book on the memorial. They have pictures, data and are working on a collection of stories.

### PLANNING

Brian Thompson reported that on October 14<sup>th</sup> USDA will make a small check presentation to the tribe for two grants received; one for Island Enterprises and the other for Salish Seafood's.

Brian handed out a FY09 grants report as well as a working plan for FY10.

Brian handed out the current housing wait list.

Provided copies as requested of Mason County fair market rent values.

Brian shared that the Housing Enforcement Officer declared the first dangerous dog; the owner has additional licensing requirements.

Housing has not seen any resistance to the increase in rent for the over income tenants.

Brian reminded Council that Housing feels a probate code is important. Ray will check in to.

*Charlene left at 12:25*

**Little Creek Casino:** Arnold stated that Council needs to direct the Casino to get caught up with their payments to the tribal government. Council is reluctant to approve the Casino's request for bonuses when the funds would be "borrowed" from the Tribal Government.

### LITTLE CREEK CASINO

## **SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Joe Calabrese, Cameron Goodwin and Mark West were present to discuss payments. Council stated that they have discussed the debt owed to the Tribe. This debt has been a financial strain on the government.

Initially the Casino had a payback plan to the government: \$500,000 would be paid at the beginning of each month for **distribution**, and an additional \$500,000 would be paid at the end of the month for “catch up” **back taxes and other debt owed to the government**. Last year Council authorized the Casino to lower their “catch up” payment to \$300,000 at the end of each month. After much discussion, Council would like to see the Casino get back on the initial payment plan and increase **the end of the month payment** back to \$500,000. This would ensure that the government would be paid back in a timely manner.

Council would like to have the Casino revise their budget to show how the plan to make the necessary payments to the Tribe and also cover slightly reduced bonuses/raises.

Cameron stated that he will provide the budget for the next year to reflect this and present at the next Council meeting.

Joe provided the casino credit card policy for Councils review yesterday. Misti Saenz-Garcia made the motion to approve the policy. Marcella Castro seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Cameron brought up their need for an in house attorney. They feel that this would save the Casino money as well as lightening the load for the Legal Department. Andy would like Cameron to work with Deb Stoehr to figure out the expenses for an attorney.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mike Evans and Chris Peters provided an update. Chris stated that the fishing enforcement is going well; they have had two officers assigned to water patrol. Chris regularly talks to the buyers and keeps an eye on the fish tickets. Hunting patrols will begin soon.

Council asked about the rocks at Arcadia Point. Somebody has been loading and unloading rocks with an excavator and tearing up the boat ramp. Chris will run the license plates and contact the individual regarding the damage. Mark Allen offered his assistance.

Mike reported on the drug dog. They are using the dog as much as possible and is working out well.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Jeff Dickison provided an update on the geoduck harvest on the private tidelands on Harstine Island. The landowner would like to develop an artificial bed, entitling the tribe to half of the natural production. Jeff handed out a chart of the monetary split of what was harvested. At this point, Natural Resources is holding on to the revenue until directed on what to do with the funds.

Jeff stated that the culvert remedy trial starts next Tuesday. If anybody would like to attend let him know.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**

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**Property:** Ray reported that he has been working on the Wolf Trust property. He has been working with Thurston First. Council asked Ray to hold off on the property for now.

**Child Development Board:** Council agreed by consensus to appoint Sally Brownfield to fill the vacant position.

**Aquatics Committee:** Council agreed that the alternate to this committee will fill the vacant position.

Ray handed out information regarding child care funds; which tribe/program pays for child care and how much.

**Liaison Position:** Ray provided an update on this position. It has been advertised and no response has been received yet.

**Doctor update:** Ed Fox shared that they have a lead on a doctor.

**Longhouse Update:** Ray shared that Planning is applying for grants to help fund the construction of a longhouse. When they are ready Planning will present design ideas to Council.

Misti brought up the dinner Council would like to host for committee member volunteers. Council would like to schedule this event near Thanksgiving.

Council discussed the pow wow and Salmonfest. They requested to have Tourism on the next Council agenda to discuss their involvement with these two events.

**Language Program:** Council discussed the importance of language and discussed the program. Council would like to meet with Zeke Zahir to discuss the programs potential. Council decided not to renew the current teachers' contract since they feel the current program is not working.

**Medical Insurance:** Ray reported that the tribe has been looking in to insurance options. He can provide a full report at the next Council Meeting. Misti would like to look in to ways to put all entities under one plan with the hopes that it would make it affordable to cover tribal members. Council would like to see assisted living benefits included.

Marcella asked Ray to look in to the care givers grant.

Council discussed the CHR position. Ray shared they are conducting interviews for that position. Council would like to have Ed and Lorraine on the next agenda to discuss the position.

**NWITC Signs:** On behalf of June O'Brien, Ray shared signs that June would like to post at drug testing sites. She would like approval from Council to post the signs. Arnold would like to discuss this when a full Council is present. He feels that the new policy is not serving the purpose that was intended; and council would like more information about the implementation of the program.

There being no further business the October 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

# SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING