

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
October 30, 2008**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Dave Lopeman	Chairman
Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman (<i>left at 3:00 p.m.</i>)
Vince Henry, Sr.	Secretary (<i>left at 2:41 p.m.</i>)
Russell Harper	Treasurer
Misti Saenz-Garcia	1st Council Member
Marcella Castro	2nd Council Member
Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member

Executive Director
Recording Secretary

Ray Peters
Melissa Puhn

Arnold Cooper called the October 30, 2008 Council meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.
Russell Harper offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council requested an update from Law Enforcement; Marcella had a concern regarding a recent incident. Marcella is concerned about the night duty coverage and would like to see more officers on duty. Ray will check their schedule and make sure they have appropriate coverage. Arnold Cooper moved to approve the agenda. Russell Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against (*Misti Saenz-Garcia was out of the room*).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Russell Harper moved to approve the October 9, 2008, the October 13, 2008 and the October 27, 2008 Council minutes.

Misti Saenz-Garcia requested that youth conferences be advertised to allow for a fair chance for all tribal youth to attend, rather than the select few who apply.

Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

Misti requested that the Council pictures be moved and hung in Council Chambers, including the past Council members. Arnold also would like to see the Council pictures at the Casino to be moved to a more visible location near the entrance.

Ray Peters provided a brief overview of the requests of tribal members who will be in later today. Council would like Whitney to contact Christina Lopeman and have her work with Natural Resources for a medical waiver.

Council would like to have Celeste Forcier work with Marcella Castro for energy assistance.

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Council agreed by consensus to assist a tribal member with \$500 towards an airline ticket for a family emergency.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

October 31: All Staff Progressive Lunch starts at noon in the Great Hall.

November 5: Snoqualmie Casino Gala, Snoqualmie WA. Dave, Vince, Russell, Misti and Charlene will all attend.

November 5-6: Department of Interior Consultation, Lakeland CA. Russell, Ray and Kevin will attend (*Russell did not attend and Mark Allen attended in Kevin's place*).

November 6-7: Tribal Leaders Health Summit, Little Creek Casino, Charlene will attend.

November 15: Potlatch Fund's 6th Annual Gala, Grand Hyatt Seattle. Russell, Misti and Charlene will attend.

November 15: SPIPA Art Auction, Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, WA Council agreed by consensus to purchase twenty (20) tickets.

November 18-19: Tribal Self-Governance Strategy Session, Phoenix, AZ. Marcella will attend.

November 18-21: Trip to Santa Monica with IEI. Dave, Arnold, Russell, Misti, Charlene and Ray will attend.

November 17-20: G2E in Las Vegas, Russell, Misti and Ray will attend.

December 2-3: 6th Annual NW Gaming Law Summit, Seattle WA Charlene would like to see the Gaming Commission attend. This will be forwarded to TGA.

January 17-21, 2009: Presidential Inauguration, Washington DC. Dave, Russell, Vince, Charlene, Misti, Marcella, Ray and Bobby will attend.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Ed Fox and Whitney Jones presented the Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) options for the Tribe. Ed stated that a decision will be made by November regarding if the Tribe will remain with Group Health or switch to PEBB. Ed will be attending meetings to discuss the potential savings and analyzing the health care. He briefed on the highlights of the program, provided a spreadsheet comparing the plans and options with prices as compared with Group Health. Council would like to explore insuring all tribal members.

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Council discussed the upcoming Christmas Break which is scheduled for Wednesday, December 24th through Thursday January 1st, returning on the 2nd. Council agreed by consensus to return to work Monday January 5th.

Council would like to schedule the Winter General Body Meeting for January 10th at 9:00 a.m.

HOUSING UPDATE

Brian Thompson, Liz Kuntz, Lisa Peters and Penni Giles were present to provide an update on Housing and to answer any questions that Council has.

Brian reported on the progress of purchasing fractionated interest in Squaxin Island. They have completed sixty seven separate transactions.

Arnold asked about a specific tenant, which Brian reported on.

Brian reported that the Housing Enforcement Officer will start Monday. His primary duties will be to catch dogs and to perform other enforcement duties such as eviction, junk car removal and health hazards. The officer will have civil authority.

Marcella asked about individual tribal members building on tribal land. Brian stated that Housing has not had many individuals who are interested in building their own home; but plans to hold a public hearing to discuss this option.

Marcella shared her disagreement on the housing payment late fee. She feels that if tenants cannot pay their house payment they certainly will be unable to pay the late fee. Russell stated that the late fee is in place to serve as an incentive to pay on time. Marcella also disagrees with the water bill late fee. Liz stated that the water bill late fee is actually a reconnection fee charged once the water has been shut off. Housing offers plenty of notice before water is disconnected. Marcella would like the Housing Enforcement Officer to be properly educated on when to send notices for water shut off and would like it to coincide with pay day. Marcella moved to discontinue the \$20 reconnection fee for utilities. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against. This will need to go to the Housing Commission for their consideration.

Charlene Krise asked about young adults without families; she would like to see them have the same opportunity to have a house. She has heard complaints of tribal members who have been on the housing waiting list for so long.

Brian shared that Housing needs to build more two bedroom units. Liz stated that the Housing funding is for low income families only. Misti would like to see what else is available for housing funding; and to look in to using tribal funds.

HOUSING UPDATE *(continued)*

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Marcella asked about tribal members who have seasonal income and wanted to know how their housing payments are figured. Brian stated that those tenants have their annual income averaged out over the course of the year, which determines their monthly payment.

Brian shared the HUD income concerns; he outlined the low income guidelines and the rent versus income ratio. HUD states that over income tenants are paying 3% of their income versus low income tenants are paying up to 28% of their income. This inequity needs to be fixed. Brian provided his recommendations for new home ownership model; he stated that HUD requires rent to be up to 30% of the gross adjusted income of the tenant. He stated that percentage can be lowered. Financially it would work if the maximum rent is raised, then tenants who are over income would have a higher rent. This would result in low income tenants have a lower rent and high income tenants would have a higher rent.

Misti asked if the Housing Commission can discuss this then provide a recommendation to Council.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Andy Whitener, Jeff Dickison, Joe Peters, Scott Steltzner, Will Henderson, Mike Foster, Jeremy Walls, Buck Clark and Vernon Sanchez were present.

Andy discussed Little Fish-trap Cove restoration project. Scott and Andy went though the proposed project which Natural Resources supports. Fish-trap cove is a natural small estuary which the land owner is planning on removing the rock that was originally placed in 1942, move the estuary entrance back to the original position and to place the entire estuary into conservatory. This project will restore the natural estuary function and restore sediment drift to the east to a forage fish spawning beach. The land owner is looking for a letter of support from Council to do this project. Council would like to do the best for the environment. Council agreed by consensus to have Natural Resources draft a letter for the Chairman's signature.

Recently Council directed Natural Resources to get an emergency fish committee meeting together to discuss mechanical devices for pulling nets. Joe Peters held the meeting at Arcadia Point and had a good turnout. Joe re-capped the discussions about how mechanical pull devices is not explained in the code book, but it has always been understood that they are prohibited. Arnold would like to have Natural Resources and the Fish Committee write specific definitions on the different types of fishing and how it is done.

Joe reported they discussed confiscation of boats and the fisherman and committee members present felt that this decision should be discussed by the Law & Order Committee. Ray stated that this is already written in to the code, but Law Enforcement has not been practicing and is asking for Council direction about confiscating gear including boats. Natural Resources will prepare a memo to the Law & Order Committee and to Kevin Lyon.

Joe Peters and Will Henderson did a fish survey and did not see a lot of fish. According to the stream survey on Kennedy Creek the Chum count it fairly low for this time of year, but so are the flows.

NATURAL RESOURCES *(continued)*

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Natural Resources do not want to open fishing yet because there are so few fish. The fisherman have caught over 22,000 Chum Salmon which is about half of the average year. If the rain brings adequate fish, Natural Resources will re-open the fishery.

Andy updated on the Area Nine fishery. Council supports Natural Resources to not allow fishing in area nine.

The fisherman present asked that when Natural Resources closes tribal fishing, at what point will Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) close recreational fishing. Andy stated that WDFW sets their regulations in the spring, they are unwilling to shut down recreational fishing. Recreational fishing has such a smaller impact than tribal fishing. The fisherman would like to see Natural Resources pressure WDFW to close recreational fishing when tribal fishing is closed.

Natural Resources is evaluating weekly of when to re-open the fishery.

TRIBAL GAMING

Summer Petty, Assistant TGA Director and Jeff Peters, Gaming Commission were present to update on the Class III background checks.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

TANF Distribution Formula: Whitney Jones handed out the formula and the carry-over amount. The three tribes involved with TANF would like to decide on one plan option and use that option for three years. Whitney went over the three options: 1) distributes the funds to the three tribes based on clients 2) distributes the funds equally amongst the three tribes 3) is a 50/50 split where 50% of the funds will be distributed evenly to the three tribes and the other 50% of the funds will be based on client count. Last year the TANF distribution was based on the third options and the TANF tribes would like to continue with option three and continue that option for the next three years. Council agreed by consensus to continue with option three.

ENROLLMENT

Tammy Ford, Enrollment Officer and Vicki Kruger, Enrollment Committee Chairperson was present. Tammy presented seven applicants all of which are a recommendation of the enrollment committee. **Resolution #08-98** enrolls Quinton Whitener with full benefits; **Resolution #08-99** enrolls Adarius Coley with full benefits; **Resolution #08-100** enrolls Jesse James with full benefits; **Resolution #08-101** enrolls Barbara Kennedy with full benefits; **Resolution #08-102** enrolls Anthony Armas with full benefits; **Resolution #08-103** enrolls Manual Castillo with full benefits; and **Resolution #08-104** enrolls Candace Penn on the five year wait. Misti Saenz-Garcia moved to approve these enrollments. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

ENROLLMENT *(continued)*

Tammy reported that Joanne Decicio has replaced Misti on the Enrollment Committee. There still is a vacancy to fill Marcella's spot.

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Tammy reported that the committee has requested for further documentation on an application for enrollment. The committee has requested a DNA test since the eligibility is through the father and he is not listed on the birth certificate. Council agrees with the committee's recommendation.

Tammy stated that the committee would like to have the tribe pay for the DNA test. If the tribe signs up with LabCorp for testing there would be a significant cost savings. Tammy would like to sign the tribe up with LabCorp as a vendor. Vicki stated that once the committee completes their ordinance it will request DNA testing for all new applicants at the tribe's expense. Until the ordinance is complete, testing will be case by case.

Tammy presented **Resolution #08-105** which states that new documentation shows the original enrollment of Virginia Farron under resolution #96-54 reflected an incorrect blood quantum. In addition to Virginia's enrollment the Council approved the enrollment of her children Thomas Farron and Lucy Saylor Troxler under resolution #96-54. Subsequently Council approved the enrollment of her grandchildren Nikki Farron and Robert Farron under resolution #05-82; and Randall Aldrich under resolution #07-29. **Resolution #08-105** will amend the blood quantum.

Russell Harper moved to approve Resolution #08-107. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor, zero (0) against and one (1) abstained.

The enrollment committee made the recommendation to lift the five year wait to elders age 55 and over. Vicki Kruger reported that the Enrollment Committee had presented to the elders the option of lifting the five year wait to tribal members age 55 and over. The 19 elders present unanimously agreed with this option.

Vince left at 2:41 p.m.

Vicki feels that an error was made when the youth were excluded from the five year wait; she feels that it should have been elders who are excluded from the wait. Arnold suggested that this should be presented at the general body meeting in January.

Vicki also would like to discuss other enrollment options such as direct lineal descendents. Arnold feels that a general body meeting is an appropriate venue for this discussion and would like to see tribal members educated on this subject. Council would like to send out information to tribal members explaining this topic and that it will be discussed at General Body in January.

Arnold left at 3:00 p.m.

CITY OF OLYMPIA

Steve Hall, City Manager and Doug Mah, Mayor presented the renovation of Percival Landing. Along with rebuilding, they also would like to better the habitat of that area.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Josh Mason was present to share a concern. Council went in to Executive Session.

Terry Capoeman, Vicki Kruger and Jeremiah George were present to discuss the Canoe Family dinner which will be November 8th in the Elders Building. They are requesting \$4000 which will cover the cost of the cooks, giveaway items and food. Charlene stated they have some geoduck and

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they are hoping to have venison. Russell would like to see them do more fundraising; he suggested they have the opportunity to work at the concession stand during events at the casino. He would like to see the Canoe Family put together a strategic plan for fundraising throughout the year. Vicki stated that the canoe family spends so much time representing the tribe at other tribal functions they don't have time for fundraising. Terry shared that throughout the year they don't get much participation for fundraising events.

Vicki would like to start an organized planning effort for the 2012 canoe journey. She would like to utilize the youth workers during 2010-2012; for gathering and gift making. Ray stated that a Planner will be hired to work on the 2012 journey full time. Council has been working with Thurston County in regards to getting the surrounding area prepared. Vicki would like to see a supervisor hired for the summer youth during that time as well.

Misti asked if the capital campaign for the NR/CRD Building could include funding for the canoe family. Ray stated that the budget process allocates \$18,000/year for the canoe journey. The canoe family needs to be a part of the budget process and to attend the hearings. There are a lot of competing services and everyone who wants a part needs to participate in the hearings.

Council agreed by consensus to donate \$2,500 to the canoe family.

A tribal member asked Council for a waiver on the one year wait for the Natural Resources Medical Waiver. She is the designated digger for her father. She is now unable to dig and would like her husband to be her designated digger to dig her limit as well as her fathers limit. Council directed her back to Natural Resources.

Tribal Member requested financial assistance to help with their rent payment. Council agreed by consensus to donate \$500 to Housing for their rent payment.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO

Cameron Goodwin and Mike Peters were present as requested to discuss an employee issue. Council went in to executive session.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mike Evans, Chief of Police was present as requested to answer questions of Council. Marcella asked him about the recent incident at KTP and would like to know if there is proper night coverage. Mike reported that Squaxin Law Enforcement were on scene four minutes after dispatched. He stated that upon arrival nobody was there.

LAW ENFORCEMENT *(continued)*

Council inquired about water patrols. Mike reported they have sporadic water patrol schedules so the fisherman won't expect them at the same time everyday. Their patrols have been on the water daily. Ray directed Law Enforcement to schedule overtime during the 24 hour openings. Charlene would like the officers to know who should and shouldn't be out fishing. Mike stated that his officers will ID every fisherman they encounter.

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Charlene asked about the use of tasers. She has heard that officers use them too much and she wanted to know what the policy is. Mike stated that there is a “use of force” criteria, if there is an aggressive resist of arrest. Taser is safer overall for both the officer and the other individual. The use of tasers is left at the discretion of the officer, and the use is not very often.

Mike answered a question regarding the physiological evaluation and the intensity of it. He reported that the drug dog failed its test, so they are searching for a new one.

Charlene asked about meth prevention activities, she would like to see the appropriate education showing the dangers of meth. Mike is always looking for opportunities to show the dangers and has been working comprehensively with housing, NWITC and ICW. They have been meeting specifically to discuss this topic.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE *(continued)*

Winter General Body Meeting: Saturday, January 10th at 9:00 a.m.

TGA Appointment: Council agreed by consensus to appoint BJ Whitener to the TGA Commission.

Dental update: Ray provided an update on the dental program. They have been utilizing Kamilche Dental. Dental is close to hiring another dentist.

Social Services update: Ray reported that we are assessing social services and listed all areas which the Tribe and SPIPA provide. Ray discussed for 2009 the need to build up Family Services with the possibility of separating Social Services from the Clinic. This will allow streamlining the service as well as broadening what is provided. Council would like to add suicide prevention and education to the service. Marcella would like to see Skookum Creek Tobacco provide cessation funds. Marcella would also like to see funding available for tribal members to attend conferences and classes for anti-addiction and sobriety gatherings.

Charlene asked for an update on the food bank. Whitney stated that the first Friday of each month Northwest Harvest drops off food. They are working on increasing the signage of the food bank. Marcella asked if Bonnie can also be a signer for food vouchers.

Marcella would like to see a position created to help elders with their chores.

Talking Circle: Council decided to hold their next Talking Circle on December 10th at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Whitney reported that as requested, 100 turkeys have been ordered and they will be funded from the One Percent donation for Thanksgiving baskets. The turkeys will be kept refrigerated truck at the Casino. The turkeys will offset the cost of the gift cards. The gift cards will still be distributed to those who are out of town and the turkeys will be for those who live in the area.

Misti requested that Russell step down from LCOB due to conflict of interest since he is also a casino employee. Misti will then fill the Council position on LCOB, and then a community member would be appointed for the community position. Council decided that this decision should be left to Russell and Misti, and Council will stay out of it.

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There being no further business the October 30th Council meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.