

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
January 7, 2015**

**Attendance:**

<b>Tribal Council</b>	<b>Dave Lopeman</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	<b>Arnold Cooper</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b>
	<b>Andy Whitener</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
	<b>Pete Kruger, Sr.</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
	<b>Whitney Jones</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Council Member</b>
	<b>Jim Peters</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Council Member</b>
	<b>Vince Henry, Sr.</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Council Member</b>
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	<b>Kevin Lyon</b>	
<b>Operations Director</b>	<b>Kathy Block</b>	
<b>Intergovernmental Liaison</b>	<b>Ray Peters</b>	
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Melissa Puhn</b>	

**Employee Evaluations:** Council went in to executive session to perform the employee evaluations of Kevin Lyon, Ray Peters and Don Whitener.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the January 7<sup>th</sup> Council agenda. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Arnold moved to approve the December 11, 2014 Council Minutes and the December 11<sup>th</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup> Telephone Polls. Pete seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

**LITTLE CREEK CASINO RESORT**

Michael Starr and Sean Sadeghi were present. Sean provided the financial report for the period ending December 31, 2014. New Year's Eve was excellent and December was the best they've had. The property was at maximum capacity during New Year's Eve. He shared that their payroll is under control by working smarter and scheduling staff more appropriately, resulting in less overtime. LCCR payments owed to the Tribe are now current. Council says keep it up.

**SKOOKUM CREEK TOBACCO**

Cameron Goodwin gave a SCT sales report. They are currently right on budget. They have good cost control and low waste resulting in a strong cost of goods sold. Operating expenses are doing okay. December finished with a highest count they've ever done. They will try and increase other quarters as well, he is anticipating a good January. He shared that his employees were really happy with having a Christmas Break, they were thankful for that and returned to work rested and happy. During the break they had the floors waxed and cleaned.

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Dave Elam and Doyle Foster have really done well. The makers are doing a good job and staff are performing excellent. Their main packers are out and they've noticed the absences. Warehouse, QA and Operations are doing well.

Cameron shared he had a good sales meeting with Harbor Wholesale earlier today. They reached an agreement that Harbor Wholesale will carry the full suite of SCT products. They will publish full page ads in their catalogues and attend the tradeshows. By March of this year, SCT products will be in the 1500 stores that Harbor Wholesale delivers to.

### TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray shared the land buyback meeting that was scheduled for Saturday during the General Body Meeting (cancelled) will have officials attending from Washington DC. He asked if it would be okay to continue with the meeting, even though the General Body Meeting is cancelled. Council was fine with it. Ray also mentioned that the second meeting will be held at Swinomish on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>, so he will be there on that day.

Ray stated that he has a meeting with Bank of American tomorrow regarding land purchase options. He will report on that at the next meeting. Kevin is drafting a purchase and sale agreement.

### TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

**January 10: Winter General Body Meeting**, 9am, Elders Building is cancelled.

**Jan 21-23: PGA Show**, Orlando FL. Andy and Ray will attend.

**February 2-5: ATNI Winter Session**, Lincoln City. Whitney, Pete and Ray will attend.

**February 10: Talking Circle**, Community Kitchen.

**February 22-25: NCAI**, WADC. Whitney and Ray will attend.

**March 9-12: Reservation Economic Summit**, Las Vegas. Pete will attend.

**March 30 – April 2: NIGA**, San Diego. Andy will attend.

**April 26-30: Self Governance Conference**, Reno. Ray and Pete will attend.

**May 2: General Body Meeting**, LCCR

### TRIBAL CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Jim Peters shared that the Frank Family supported the creation of Billy Frank Jr., Day on March 9<sup>th</sup> every year. Jim reiterated what was discussed at the last meeting, the importance of Billy Frank to Indian Country. Council previously approved the holiday, pending the support of his family. The family not only felt it appropriate, but was pleased that Squaxin was the first to do it. It will be formalized via Council Resolution which Legal will draft. Council discussed the idea of having a ceremony on the first holiday, and providing a framed resolution to the Frank Family. This will be an additional tribal holiday, if March 9<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday, the Tribal Offices will close the Friday before. If the date falls on a Sunday, the Tribal Offices will close the Monday after.

Jim Peters made the motion to approve **Resolution #15-01** which deems March 9<sup>th</sup> as Tribal Holiday Billy Frank Jr., Day. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Council discussed a press release. Kevin will work with Emmet O'Connell at the Fish Commission.

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Council decided to leave it up to the NR/CR Departments to decide on how to name their road, to honor Billy Frank.

Whitney asked Council about rescheduling the Winter General Body Meeting. Council decided that since the next Talking Circle is scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup>, to wait until then to combine the two.

### OPERATIONS DIRECTOR UPDATE

**Mason County Economic Development Council:** Kathy Block shared that Don was going to recommend that Council approve the appointment of Ray Peters to the EDC Committee. Council feels it fits under his position and approved the appointment.

### LEGAL

Kevin Lyon provided an update on the Mill Locks Boxing Commission. Everything went well and they are a good commission. They have agreed to train Squaxin Members to run our own commission, over the next four to five events. Kevin added that Don shadowed the commission and showed an interest in being involved. Kevin will keep Council apprised. He stated that this is a good effort and an expression of the tribe exercising its sovereignty.

Kevin stated that several years ago the tribe removed itself from the South Puget Inter Tribal Housing Authority (SPITHA). He provided **Resolution #15-02** that officially removes SPITHA from the tribal codes. Jim Peters moved to approve the resolution. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Kevin provided a report on the Gaming Compacts. The Gaming Commission will be meeting in February to determine the outcome of the compact changes. Kevin handed out a summary of the terms, which have been presented to Council previously. If approved, 100 additional machines will become available. Council briefly discussed the need and space for 100 additional machines. Council thought it would be a good idea for the Casino to review the balance of table games versus machines to determine if there could be additional space for the additional machines.

Kevin gave an update on the DNR Island acquisition. The purchase price has been agreed on and currently working on the agreement and what the deed will look like. It will be presented at the February Public Lands Meeting.

Kevin is working on the tidelands surplus title issue also.

**Cemetery Request:** Rhonda Foster and Margaret Henry were present. Rhonda asked Council, on behalf of Ray Krise, for permission to have a plot in the Tribal Cemetery next to Dave Lopeman. Ray Krise is a Puyallup Tribal Member but wants to be buried at Squaxin in Section 6, Unit 24, Plot 6. Council approved. Jim added that he would like to make sure there is a proper process in place for requests like this. Rhonda stated that the cemetery rules are in the works, but there are general guidelines that are followed. Any out of the ordinary request comes to Council for consideration.

Kathy provided an update on tomorrow's funeral service. When she met with the family on the 30<sup>th</sup>, the family requested two prisoners to be released for the service. There will require a police escort that will be the cost to the family. One prisoner will have three officers in escort and will be in cuffs and jail clothes. The second prisoner has multiple charges. The request for this prisoner was denied because of

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the flight risk. If that person was to escape the responsibility would be on SIPD. Plus, there is no staff on hand to escort that person, so it was denied. Council knows that if at all possible, they would like to accommodate the requests, but also knows that it is not always possible. Council supports the denial of the second request since it sounds like it is too high of a risk for the tribe.

Rhonda made sure that Council was aware that Kris Peters did what he could, and is aware of the work that Kris does to get these requests met. Arnold stated that he, along with Council fully supports the decision that Kris, Kathy and Rhonda made.

Rhonda shared that this Friday, she and Kathy are having a funeral planning meeting. She asked if Council pay for their breakfast. Council approved.

Kathy briefly discussed a concern about the amount of meat and food being used for funerals. She has been working with the cooks to create a guideline. The tribe receives meat donated by tribal members for funeral, as well as for elder's meals. Arnold suggested Council buy a second freezer to allow a separation between meat intended for funerals, and meat intended for elder's meals. Council agreed. Kathy will work with Vince to make it happen.

### LEGAL

Kevin gave an update on *US v. WA* in executive session.

Nate Schreiner was present to discuss marijuana. As directed by Council, Nate was asked to build infrastructure on what requirements the Department of Justice needs in order for Tribes to grow marijuana on reservation. Nate reported that tribes need to meet eight factors, in order to be treated like the state, in regards to marijuana sales.

Briefly, depending on the route, if Squaxin was to grow, process and sell on reservation, the only other stakeholder(s) is the Department of Justice and perhaps other federal agencies such as the NIGC. If Council wants to pursue a route to interact with a state retailer, than more work would need to be done with the state liquor control board. The current state board is not 100% receptive to the current ideas that were previously provided. In terms of DOJ, Nate has been working with an attorney at Suquamish and has been lobbying DC. Nate has been working on all fronts to get everything smooth on the legal side. Just no effort yet on the business side as far as cost, revenue, etc. Kevin had some recommendations for the business side on what would need to be looked at.

Nate handed out the draft changes of what the Tribal Code might look like, if these changes were made. A lot of the policy concerns would mimic tobacco. Nate walked through the potential changes.

Council asked Legal to continue researching this possibility and creating a business policy group.

Jim brought up the concern the elders shared of the tribe getting in to marijuana business while also cleaning up the drugs on the reservation. Jim would like to make sure Council is completely transparent with the elders, and make sure they're aware of what's going on. Kathy suggested a public meeting with Legal, gathering concerns and sharing facts. Not a debate, but more of a consultation and feedback forum. Kathy would like to make it clear that this is a business venture and not a government function.

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Dave would like to get moving on this, but also knows Jim is right and wants to make sure there is open discussion with the elders. Legal will continue to have ongoing conversations with Cameron, Dave and Michael.

### **LEGAL / ICW**

Dave Babcock, Adrian Emery & Deanna Warren presented guardianship #sqi-cw-2014-1410-0244 and #sqi-cw-2014-1410-0245 in closed session. Council approved the guardianship recommendation made by the ICW Team.

Dave Babcock gave an update on the ABON Program (Assistance Based on Need). Council approved the change on the statute, now he and Diane Deyette are going through everyone who signed up under the old ABON program, and are signing them up with the new program. Dave Babcock will meet with the Social Security Office to discuss this with them. If someone would like to attend with him, let him know.

There being no further business, the Council Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.