

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
February 12, 2015**

**Attendance:**

<b>Tribal Council</b>	<b>Dave Lopeman</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	<b>Arnold Cooper</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b> ( <i>absent</i> )
	<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>Nate Schreiner</b>	
<b>Operations Director</b>	<b>Kathy Block</b>	
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Melissa Puhn</b>	

Pete Kruger offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vince Henry moved to approve the February 12<sup>th</sup> Council agenda. Pete seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against (*Arnold and Jim both absent*).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vince moved to approve the January 7, 2015 Council Minutes and the February 11, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes. Whitney Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

**TRAVEL REPORTS & PLANS**

**February 21-22: Sa-Heh-Wa-Mish Days, LCCR**

**February 22: Time Capsule Event, 1pm** (*Charlene Krise attended the event and included a manila clam shell in the capsule, to signify the importance of natural resources to the Squaxin Island Tribe*).

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

**March 9: Billy Frank Jr. Day**

**March 8-13: Reservation Economic Summit, Las Vegas.** Pete & Dave will attend.

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

**April 19-22: NAFOA, Austin, TX.** Whitney will attend.

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

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

**May 27: Billy Mills Event, SIT Gym.** Don shared that Billy Mills is a gold medal winner of the Olympics. He is coming up to Olympia to speak at the Boys & Girls Club, Don got him to come up here the day before to speak to our youth as well. He's an inspirational speaker primarily for youth, but beneficial for anyone. Information will get sent out to the Community. Don will work with Gordon on planning. This will cost \$2,500, which Council approved.

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

### TRIBAL CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Nate gave an update on the compact negotiations, which look good so far.

Nate gave an update on the fuel tax litigation. Nate asked Council about contracting with Kanji & Katzen to continue this work, if that is the case he will need to ask for a small amount of money for that. Nate asked about extending their contract for up to about \$8000 for Kanji & Katzen. Council agreed by consensus. Dave noted that he disagrees with the 25% fuel tax that the tribe owes to the state.

### TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Sally Brownfield was present. She explained how her family has a large piece of property on Kamilche Point Road. This property has gravesites and she would like assistance from Cultural Resources with recording the sites with the County. Sis was told by Rhonda Foster that she (Rhonda) can only work on trust land, unless she has approval of Council. Sis is here to ask Council if Rhonda can assist her. Dave asked Sis if the property would ever come for sale, if her family would allow the tribe the first opportunity to buy it. Council approved Rhonda to work with Sis on this assuming there are no grant-related or other formal constraints that we are unaware of at this time. If it is a budget issue, Council asked Don to do whatever it takes to make it happen.

**WWIETP Appointment Resolution:** Vince moved to approve **Resolution #15-03** which appoints June Krise as the Delegate and William Marchant as the Alternate for the WWIETP Board. Whitney seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Billy Frank Day:** Don shared that he has reserved the Sa-Heh-Wamish Room at the Casino for this event and LCCR is currently planning dinner. Council likes the idea of hosting this event at the Casino due to potential space issues.

Jim shared that the NWIFC is donating \$5000 for this event and if we need anything from them, to just ask. Council suggested to ask Bobby Whitener to emcee the event since he really knows the history and knew Billy well. Jim still would like to see something done at the NR Building, at the very least have an official unveiling of the street sign. Perhaps have a small and local sign unveiling before the dinner, then go to the Casino for dinner.

Council would like to invite all Tribal Chairs as well as dignitaries. Invitations will be sent with RSVP's requested.

### SHAKER CHURCH

Rose and Mike Davis were present to talk to Council about a modular trailer that is for sale, which they would like to move to the Church grounds for a groundskeeper. The trailer is 30 years old and will cost \$6000. Don shared that he asked Dan Neelands to be involved to help with logistics. Dan explained that one of the issues with this trailer is the roof will need to be removed before moving. The move costs will be roughly \$7,000 and that doesn't include hooking it up. The maintenance on this trailer would be high as well. Rose and Mike went to Washington Homes and looked at a baseline two bedroom, which runs about \$60,000 new. The move and hook up costs would be the same, so it makes sense to move a new trailer instead of an old trailer. Jim asked about the maintenance of the house and whose responsibility it is. Don stated that the tribe's maintenance involvement is in an emergency basis, otherwise the church

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

takes care of everything. Jim asked if it would be worth having our maintenance do quarterly or annual inspections.

The request from Rose and Mike is the tribe currently makes an allocation to the church on an annual basis, could a portion of that amount be obligated to a purchase such as this. Don stated that the tribe commits \$20,000 each year to the church, so is this annual commitment long term? If so, a portion of that amount could be used towards payments. Don would really like to see them reach out to other tribes for financial assistance as well.

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON UPDATE

Bonnie Sanchez and Nora Coxwell were present regarding the Affordable Health Care Act. They shared an update on signing tribal members up for health coverage. Bonnie shared that last year was the first year for the AHC and they got four staff members at the Clinic trained to sign people up. They got over 312 people signed up for expanded Medicaid, which doesn't cost the Clinic anything. Starting in January of last year, they were able to bill for about \$230,000 more than before and saved about \$175,000 in contract health costs due to having people covered who were not before. They also didn't have to go to Priority 1 in FY14 because of the AHC also. Nora added that they had a quick timeline to accomplish this, they signed up the 312 people between October and January. Council says good job!

Bonnie shared that since the Clinic has saved so much money, they will be able to pay for the tribal members who have to pay for their Affordable Health Care Insurance. Last year it was only 10-12 tribal members. The guidelines for this coverage by the Clinic is the tribal member must be low income and enrolled Squaxin. The Clinic also will be paying for elders' Medicare part B, which is \$104.90/month which comes directly out of the elders checks. The clinic will start reimbursing the elders on a quarterly basis. Bonnie explained that Medicare part B covers office visits. She is unsure of how long the Clinic will be able to reimburse this expense, so it will be on a year by year basis. Hopefully they will always be able to provide this.

Bonnie shared that she is the Tribal Delegate for the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. Currently, the alternates are still Marcella Castro and Whitney Jones. She would like to appoint someone else to replace Marcella's position. After discussion, Council agreed to appoint Jim Peters as the second alternate (*Resolution #15-06 was generated and signed at a later date, naming Bonnie Sanchez as the NWPAIHB delegate, and Whitney Jones and Jim Peters as the tribal alternates*).

Nora shared that Squaxin currently has a contract with Chehalis for their jail, so Squaxin inmates are using the Chehalis Clinic if services are needed. The Chehalis Clinic is charging Squaxin for the office visits. Nora stated that when a native uses a native clinic for direct care, they cannot be charged. Lab work can be charged, but not direct care. She does not understand why Squaxin is being billed for office visits by the Chehalis Clinic. Jim asked if Legal can assist Bonnie in looking in to this.

**Capital Lake Meeting:** Ray shared that Squaxin has been assisting with the Deschutes Estuary restoration project. There has been some opposition from businesses and what people would perceive as cosmetic. The science has shown how the restoration will help in all areas. It will cost a lot of money to remove the dam and dredge the lake, but the state cannot continue doing nothing due to the water quality, invasive species and fish habitat being affected. Ray said that it was requested that the tribe host a luncheon with stakeholders and various government agencies, to have a chance to get the right people in the same room for discussion. One of the benefits of having the tribe host the meeting, is it would

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

not be subject to public disclosure. He doesn't believe this would be a large expense, but could go a long way in getting the opposing side to reconsider. Council agreed. Ray will keep Council updated.

**Property Update:** Ray shared there is a small piece of property in the Kamilche Valley that might come up for sale. Council asked him to pursue it and keep them posted.

Ray handed out the McDonald Land Trust parcels and provided an update.

**Land Buyback Program:** Ray shared with Council that the tribe having a Real Estate Manager on staff has been a huge benefit. Esther has been very active with reaching out and educating the fractionated land owners. As of now, Squaxin has exceeded the allocated amount in the Buyback Program and the Program has honored the overage. To date, Squaxin has over \$756,000 worth of acquisitions. 151 acres have been purchased. The program has been very successful. He will make sure the tribe is prepared for a second round of funding, if that comes up.

Congressman Denny Heck will be here for a visit on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30. Ray will tour him around and this will also be an opportunity for Council to meet with him. Typically, he will be here for an hour. Based on his time frame it's important to prioritize the discussion.

Ray shared that he will be on TGA Training March 2-5.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Nate Schreiner, Dave Johns, Richard Sweeney, Cameron Goodwin and Ray Peters were present.

### LITTLE CREEK CASINO RESORT

Michael Starr, Sean Saghedi and Mark West were present. Sean shared the financial statements for the month of January 2015 and YTD 2015.

Michael discussed the hotel rooms and upgrades that are necessary, such as replacing the carpet and tile. He would like to renovate the bathrooms as well, making them a more luxurious experience. He also would like to improve the lighting. He handed out concept drawings of the renovations. Council says good work.

Dave Lopeman commended Michael and his staff for doing a really good job and is happy to see how well they're doing.

### PLANNING

Margaret Foley and Elizabeth Egan were present. They presented **Resolution #15-04** which is a Department of Justice grant application. Andy moved to approve the resolution. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

### HOUSING

Rich Wells handed out **Resolution #15-05** which is a purchase and sale agreement for the first house using the 184 Program: 161 Tys-UI-Tad. Jim asked Rich if all the steps taken were documented, so when the next person follows through, this process would be quicker and easier. Rich stated that there is a

## SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

policy in place. Jim moved to approve the purchase sale agreement resolution. Whitney seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim brought up the discussion from the Talking Circle regarding the tribal property intended for tribal members to build homes. Jim asked Rich to look in to those options. Rich stated that there is a policy for that and will bring it to Council later.

Council discussed committee and commission meetings and confirmed that Council members are allowed to attend. The Council re-iterated that any Council member can attend any and all formal or informal tribal meetings, workshops, sessions, etc. Council stated that any special meeting is not allowed to happen without seven days' notice, or the approval by three council members.

After much discussion, Council decided to have an additional meeting tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

### **GUEST PRESENTATION**

Tori Rainbow from the TV Show Hunting on the Rez was present. He is looking for Council and Community support for his tribal hunting show, which he will be filming in the Northwest. His crew will be here in April and staying at the Little Creek Casino. He is asking that Squaxin host a cultural dinner one night, and allow him to interview tribal hunters and invite anyone to attend a hunt with him in Canada.

Jim liked the idea of hosting a dinner and doing a meet & greet with the community. Jim doesn't know if interviewing and hunting in Vancouver is the best idea. Council will commit to a dinner, on April 4<sup>th</sup> but no hunters going out hunting. *(It was later determined that the Community Kitchen is not available on April 4<sup>th</sup>, therefore Council was unable to host them on that day)*

Jim wanted Don to talk to the LCCR regarding LCCR sponsoring this event. It is up to the LCCR Marketing Department to determine if this sponsorship or a commercial is worth their time and money.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.