

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 2015**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

**Dave Lopeman
Arnold Cooper
Vicki Kruger
Charlene Krise
Whitney Jones
Jim Peters
Vince Henry, Sr.**

**Chairman
Vice Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary
1st Council Member
2nd Council Member
3rd Council Member**

**Legal Counsel
Tribal Administrator
Intergovernmental Liaison
Recording Secretary**

**Sharon Haensly
Don Whitener
Ray Peters
Diane Deyette**

Charlene Krise offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Arnold moved to approve the Council Agenda. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against. With one addition to the agenda: Jeff Dickson to discuss the Core of Engineers meeting on November 12th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arnold moved to approve the minutes from September 10, 2015 Minutes and September 11, 2015 Phone Poll. With no second, the Council tabled the approval of both sets of minutes until the next meeting.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

September 25: WSDNR Tribal Summit, Lummi. Arnold & Jim
September 30: All Staff Appreciation Dinner, 5pm LCCR
October 2-4: NW Native American Basketweavers Conference, Warm Springs, OR.
October 14: Centennial Accord at Skookum Creek Events Center
October 15: Legal/Council Monthly Meeting, 9am-12pm
October 18-23: NCAI, San Diego. Vicki, Charlene, Whitney, Jim & Ray

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Council went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken.

Tribal member request. Will Penn requested financial assistance to attend a conference in Australia for a Native male support group. Council supports his attendance. Council would like Will Penn to apply to the 1% Commission with Melissa's assistance. Charlene approves the cultural exchange with this group. Council asks that Melissa assist with the application and that the Commission expedite his funding request.

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Jeff Dickison discussed the upcoming Corp. of Engineers meeting. Council agreed to put this meeting on the November 12th Council Agenda and to set aside 2 hours to discuss the upcoming meeting.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Deb Stoehr presented the FY16 Budget with an authorizing resolution. Arnold moved to approve the FY16 Budget. Jim Peters seconded. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against. Resolution No. 15-58 was adopted.

Vicki Kruger related that she had discussed with the Budget Commission that she would like to see a program developed as requested during the Public Budget meeting. She identified Smoking Cessation funds as a potential source of funds for the program. Vicki would like to see the Smoking Cessation funds that are not being spent by the Clinic used for one of these projects. Kathy Block stated she is working on developing such a program. Kathy Block and Deb Stoehr are revising the program to ensure that it meets the cultural needs of the Community and the State gambling compact requirements. Vicki believes there is a way that this can work. Vicki would like to bring back to General Council that Council satisfied a request from the Public Budget meeting.

Vicki Kruger expressed concerns about the small amount of the unbudgeted reserve, particularly as to the unmet needs of Community water system. Whitney Jones requested that \$35-45,000 be set aside for comprehensive Community strategic planning from the unbudgeted reserves.

Deb Stoehr asked if the full Council wanted participate in the Tribe's retirement program. The money for that participation will come from limited funds in Tribe's general account. The Council agreed by consensus to direct Deb Stoehr to implement a program for the full Council to participate in the Tribe's retirement program in FY16. Council agreed to use the same program General Government employee's use effective October 1st.

Don Whitener announced that he will retire on April 30th. Council agreed by consensus to advertise the open position in January and have the new Tribal Administrator available to start working by April 25-30. Don and Patti Puhn presented a Job Description for review and approval. Council approved the Job Description.

The Education Commission has struggled recently with having a quorum. The Education Commission will revise its bylaws to be able to fill the vacant position. Council appointed Stephanie Gott and Candace Penn to fill the anticipated open seats effective immediately.

Council agreed to sponsor waste dumpsters in October. Council discussed staffing the waste deposit site with an employee from our TANF or WIETP program. Council also discussed locking the dumpsters at night. Council discussed trying to facilitate recycling steel, gently used items and having a hazardous waste deposit site.

Don Whitener recognized Vinny Henry Sr. and staff for keeping our Community clean.

Debra Meisner presented the Records Management Manual and authorizing resolution. Deb stated the program was 98% complete. Once the Directors and Employees are trained in records management it will be 100% complete. Arnold moved to approve the Manual. Jim Peters seconded. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against. Deb will retire once the Directors are trained. Charlene and Vicki thanked Deb for this project and others. Resolution No. 15-59 was adopted.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray Peters presented a political donation schedule. Ray requested that the Tribe hold a fundraiser with Taylor United as a co-sponsor on October 18th at Little Creek Casino and Resort for Senator Drew MacEwan. Ray discussed how different politicians help tribes.

Council agreed by consensus to approved the political donation schedule Ray presented. The attachment included the following:

Tim Sheldon	\$500	Drew MacEwan	\$500
Dan Griffey	\$250	Karen Frasier	\$250
Sam Hunt	\$250	Chris Reykdal	\$500
Christine Rolfes	\$100	Sherry Appleton	\$250
Drew Hanson	\$100	Chris Hurst	\$250
Steve Conway	\$250	David Sawyer	\$250
Kris Lytton	\$500	Derek Stanford	\$500
Brian Blake	\$250	Judy Warnick	\$500
Joe Fitzgibbon	\$500	Hans Dunshee	\$500
Jim Honeyford	\$500	Sharon Nelson	\$500
Mark Schoessler	\$250	Frank Chopp	\$500
Dan Christensen	\$250	JT Wilcox	\$500
Zack Hudgins	\$150		

GAMING COMMISSION

The Gaming Commission presented in Executive Session.

LEGAL

The Northwest Intertribal Court System contract was presented for approval with an authorizing resolution. Jim Peters moved to approve the NICS Contract. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried six (5) in favor and zero (0) against. Charlene was out of the room. Resolution No. 15-60 was adopted.

Mark Allen presented a proposed Labor and Employment Code and authorizing resolution for the Council to consider. Jim Peters, Vicki Kruger, Charlene Krise and Vince Henry Sr. met with Mark and Kaighn Smith on September 23rd and discussed the new personnel code. Mark Allen explained that a couple years ago the Council approved a committee to work on drafting this code. Mark Allen reassured Council that this code will not replace the Employee Handbook or its contents. Rather, this code is related to employment related disputes. The objective is to keep any employment related disputes within Squaxin Island Tribe. Arnold moved to approve the Labor and Employment Code. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against. Resolution No. 15-61 was adopted.

Employee Policy, Nathan Schreiner. Nate requested direction on the employee policy changes arising as a result of the changes in the Tribe's code regarding marijuana. He sought direction on two questions: how to approach post-accident and probable cause scenarios. Nate shared the Suquamish approach. The Council agreed by

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consensus to support and follow Suquamish's lead. Nate was asked to return with a proposal for approval at Council's next regular session.

Sharon confirmed who would attend the Wednesday deed signing at Governor's office for the Island Park's parcel acquisition. The Council expressed its desire to host a celebration with State Parks at the Collier House. [The celebration is scheduled for October 28 at Noon at Collier.]

COMMUNITY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Evan Welkin announced that the Safe Streets volunteers have volunteered thirty thousand hours. Evan would like to recognize Glenn Parker. Glenn brought the project to Squaxin and Evan thanked him for the support. Charlene thanked Evan for his services and thanks for training a Tribal member to possibly replace him next month.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO

Sean Sadeghi and Mark West presented the detailed financials report for August. Council was encouraged to ask any questions or discuss concerns by calling Mark or Sean. Mark reported operating expenses and payroll costs have decreased from last year.

GUEST SPEAKER

Northwest Indian College Foundation, Greg Mattson, NWICF and Henry Cagey, Lummi Council. The College invited Council to attend a fund raising dinner. The benefit dinner is November 21st Council. Council expressed its desire to support the NWICF.

Melissa will make hotel arrangements. Council agreed to sponsor at the \$5,000 level.

ISLAND ENTERPRISES

Travis Nabahe, Richard Sweeney, Michael Ogden and Cameron Goodwin were present.

Travis expressed pride in the signing of the agreement with Liquor & Cannabis board. Core infrastructure for retail store is complete. They have conferred with and worked with Cultural Resources regarding the adjacent culturally modified tree. Travis expects to have keys and the building complete by Friday, Oct. 9.

Dave Johns is meeting with WSDOT today to discuss access points for the Clary side of the highway.

The IEI August detailed financials report were handed out.

Westside convenience. Travis expressed that this may be a solid opportunity. IEI will be taking a hard look. At some point they may negotiate some items prior to signing a PSA. If after signing the PSA, IEI will have an opportunity to opt out if during the due diligence they decide this is not a great investment.

Acquisition of property related to beaches. This opportunity is still available, the owners would like an offer by November.

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IEI needs to develop a strategic plan. The Tribal Council agreed by consensus to schedule and have a work session within the next 30 days with IEI.

The analysis that Blue Stone did for IEI last year was discussed. Richard will provide Vicki and Charlene a copy.

Travis discussed the Elann report. He does not feel it is time to move forward.

Cameron Goodwin shared that Michael Ogden will be leaving to work for Elevations (opening October 9, 2015). Cameron has had a training/mentorship program in place at the factory. With Michael leaving, Cameron is confident that he has a tribal member in line to replace Michael.

Arnold requested a draft of the plan for the geoduck profits. Jim asked about a security plan for the geoduck.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

Jim Peters asked about community preparedness. Jim would like to see the Community educated on what to do in case of an emergency. Jim would like to know what our plan look like. Kris will have John Taylor attend the next meeting to provide information.

Kris reassured Council that there is a plan in place and will provide the Community with information.

John Taylor will be debriefing with the County on the Military incident from last week. The debriefing is always a great way to learn and an opportunity to be better prepared next time.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Melissa to assist Will Penn to apply to the 1% Commission for travel.
2. Corp. of Engineer meeting on the November 12th, set aside 2 hours.
3. Kathy Block and Deb Stoehr are revising the Smoking cessation program to allow for a Community request to be developed and implemented.
4. Whitney Jones requested that \$35-45,000 be set aside for comprehensive Community strategic planning from the unbudgeted reserves.
5. Deb Stoehr to implement full Council participation in the Tribe's retirement program in FY16.
6. Advertise the Tribal Administrator position in January and have the new Tribal Administrator available to start working by April 25-30.
7. Nate to return with a proposal for the Employee Policy changes.
8. Sharon to schedule a celebration with State Parks at the Collier House. [The celebration is scheduled for October 28 at Noon at Collier.]
9. Council expressed its desire to support the NWICF, the benefit dinner is November 21st. Melissa to make travel arrangements.
10. IEI / Council work session to be scheduled and completed within the next 30 days.
11. Richard Sweeney will provide Vicki and Charlene a copy of the Blue Stone analysis.
12. IEI to provide a draft plan for the geoduck profits and a draft security plan for the geoduck.
13. John Taylor to provide information on a community education plan and emergency plan.