

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2015**

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Dave Lopeman	Chairman (<i>absent</i>)
	Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
	Vicki Kruger	Treasurer
	Charlene Krise	Secretary
	Whitney Jones	1st Council Member
	Jim Peters	2nd Council Member
	Vince Henry, Sr.	3rd Council Member
Tribal Administrator	Don Whitener	
Legal Counsel		
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Vicki Kruger offered the opening prayer. Arnold Cooper called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vicki would like to discuss the Casino CEO position. Jim added a meeting date. Jim moved to approve the December 17th Council Agenda. Vince seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 8, 2015, October 15, 2015 phone poll, November 12, 2015 and November 19, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes were tabled in order to allow all Council Members more time to read them.

TRAVEL REPORTS & PLANS

Tonight! December 17: IEI Christmas Party, 5pm, Community Kitchen

December 23: All Staff Christmas Brunch, 10am. Sa-Heh-Wamish Room.

December 24 – January 3: Tribal Offices Closed. There was a question about the total cost of administrative leave for the tribal government. Council briefly discussed limiting the use of admin leave in the future.

January 14: Dinner with Olympia City Council, 5pm, Squi-Aitl Room. LCCR.

January 23: Winter General Body Meeting, Community Kitchen

February 1-4: ATNI Winter Conference, Suquamish. Arnold, Charlene and Vicki will attend.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Totem Pole: Arnold Cooper wanted to discuss the process of acquiring artwork and the proper process. He would like to make sure all tribal members have an equal opportunity for selling artwork to the tribe. After much discussion, Council decided to consider the \$500 already spent on transporting the pole here a donation; and will not purchase the pole. A proper procurement process needs to be followed for all Council purchases. Council would like to discuss a procurement and appraisal process at their next meeting in January.

Budget Presentation to General Body: Vicki Kruger stated that she promised the general body that she would do a budget report at the winter meeting. She would like assistance from Finance to help put together a presentation. She will get it approved by the Budget Commission first, then run it by Council. She would like

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

to share with the community what the Tribe does financially for the community. Don will work with her and staff to put together an Executive Summary.

Vicki asked if Directors need to attend the Winter Meeting. Council stated that the winter meeting is generally open to anyone and the tribal member only provision is for the elections in May. Don stated that some of the departments will have information tables set up. Recently they're not allowed into the May meeting, but they set up in the lobby.

May General Body Meeting date: Vicki would like to move the meeting date to April 30th. Whitney added that this year, the General Body Meeting falls on Mother's Day weekend. This will be further discussed in January.

IHS Settlement: Vicki wanted to discuss IHS Settlement funds. First, she mentioned the idea of moving \$100k out of the Seven Inlets Fund to cover the \$100k shortfall for education, as discussed previously. Kevin shared that the Seven Inlets Fund was created as an endowment and there has been some discussion of what the allocations would be. After a number of years, the annual growth would be available from the interest. Mid last year, the fund was large enough to start allocating. Some issues with the funding source and the state recently came up with the non-tribal non-profit portion of the funds and if they're allowable to be added to the Seven Inlets Fund. The commission takes some money from the non-tribal side to add to the fund which creates an issue since the Seven Inlets is strictly for tribal members. Kevin stated that most likely in the future the funding source will need to be looked at. As of now, Legal was able to avoid it, but knows it will come up later. Council ultimately has the authority of what to do with the funds. As long as it remains "for educational purposes."

Don stated that it's Council's choice, and if they were to do the \$100k allocation it still would be interest only and would not get into the principal. Vicki wanted to give TLC \$150k for this and this would alleviate the TLC budget to allow them to hire a coach. Jim stated though, that the budget shortfall does not include the increase in 2 year college tuition. So the higher education shortfall is more than the \$100k. Council will ask Gordon when he comes in today.

Don explained that the IHS settlement is an underpayment to the tribe. Paying back tribal funds to keep the clinic running. Charlene wondered if some of these funds should be given to the clinic. Don explained that this payment initially cost the administration and not the clinic. The indirect cost is what keeps the programs running.

Whitney asked about redirecting some of the funds that go into Seven Inlets. Jim didn't feel comfortable with that, he wants to make sure that the funds always get put in there, since there always will be a priority that needs funding. Charlene added that it's important for people to be diligent and aggressive about applying for grants. Jim stated that TLC is good at directing and helping students find grants and scholarships. There is a lot of money out there. TLC staff is there to help people apply.

Vicki asked if this can be tabled until Gordon comes in. She went on to the other budget line items such as wastewater, community garden, chairman's pond, and youth sports coach. Whitney thought that the community garden was a lower priority for funding because Kathy Block recently discussed it and she feels that is funded for what is being done for now.

Kathy came in to talk about the garden.

Vicki asked Kathy to talk about the wastewater improvements that Kevin Dragon put together. There is a huge list of things that need up-graded and there is a need. Arnold would like to see a breakdown of each budget line item. Vicki said that the wastewater upgrades are in DCDs unmet needs. This plan has been presented to

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

the budget commission. Jim asked Kathy to bring the plan back for their consideration at the next Council Meeting.

Kathy added that she likes the idea of supporting the sports program, but the IHS funding is not a recurring source.

After more discussion, Jim moved to approve the IHS Budget as presented: \$500k to the wastewater treatment upgrades, \$25k for the Chairman's pond, \$20k for the Community Garden and \$52k to fund a Sports Coach at TLC. Leaving a balance of \$202k. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Job Description: Patti Puhn was present and provided the job description for the Tribal Administrator. She shared that she and Don reviewed it and made a few edits. Council would like time to review the description and would like to have further discussion at their next meeting.

TU HA BUTS LEARNING CENTER

Gordon James was present. Council commended Gordon for the TLC Christmas Party, the food was good and the environment was good. Everybody seemed to have a good time and it was well attended. Gordon shared they had over 300 people in attendance. Vicki asked about the higher education shortfall. Gordon provided a report showing the current budget impacts on TLC Planning and Staffing, College Tuition needs and coaching needs. Vicki shared that Council has approved funding for a coach, but it's for one year only.

Gordon shared that his higher education budget shortfall is \$119k. Jim stated that TLC needs to request an increase to the budget commission so this isn't a problem every year.

Council discussed talking with Deb about the \$200k per year allocation to the clinic for the doctor salary and CHS billing. Due to the 3rd party billing there might not be that need anymore. Vicki stated that someone needs to talk to Deb about that and discussed entertaining the notion of moving those funds to TLC.

Charlene asked if there is a way to track how many scholarship and grants are brought in for school. Gordon stated that TLC does not collect that information from the students. TLC promotes applying for grants and scholarships since it lightens the load for TLC funding. Arnold would like to know if the kids actually apply, since the TLC funding is easier. Gordon stated that they can't really survey to see what people have applied for. Gordon is talking with college professors right now, about volunteering to work with students in applying for scholarships. Don added that these scholarship funds don't cover all expenses and 1% helps up to \$1,000 per year. Vicki appreciates the need for education since that shows how many kids are going to college.

Council discussed the basketball coach. TANF and WWIETP are providing funding for a coach for six months and the IHS funds will cover the remaining of the year with some balance. The funds will go towards tournament fees and equipment. The intention of the coach is to work year round and coach all sports as the season arrives.

The basketball tournaments over the holidays are taken care of. The department anticipates getting each age groups into 2-3 other tribe's tournaments. There are other groups in the community who takes their own teams and their own funding, so they seek their own donations. TLC funds their own teams. The SIT tournament starts this Saturday through Tuesday. Games start at 9am and go till 7pm. They reached out to the community for fundraising by selling food during these tournaments. The Shaker Church will be doing concessions on all days except Sunday, they will have another food truck in on Sunday.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Jim went back to the budget and the \$119k undergraduate education shortfall. Jim suggested approving \$120k and have Don and Kathy determine the best way to make it happen: Seven Inlets, IHS Funding, Clinic funding, or a combination. Jim moved to approve funding \$120k to undergraduate higher education scholarship funds and to direct staff to do what is needed to make it happen. Charlene seconded the motion. Charlene asked that if this becomes a recurring fund each year, she would like to make sure that it stays in higher education and never changes from that intention. Whatever funds are left over at the end of the year, if any, get carried over to the next year for higher education only and nothing else. Motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

Arnold asked Gordon about TLC staff and administration leave. He has heard complaints about TLC closing when the tribe closes early, and nobody is there when the kids get off the bus. Gordon stated that the TLC practice is that they coordinate with the bus drivers. He added that TLC staff are considered essential personnel and if they tribe closes early and he has staff assigned to work, they stay. So no, TLC does not close when the tribe does, they stick to their schedule. They put out a calendar each month and stick to it. Gordon did share that there has been a few times when Wa-He-Lut School closes early, and does not notify TLC. In that instance, kids are released and dropped off at TLC early and nobody was there because TLC was not aware of it. He has challenges getting Wa-He-Lut to coordinate and work with him. Jim asked if Don could draft a letter to them requesting they notify TLC of their schedule, so TLC can be prepared for their early releases. Gordon assured that TLC coordinates closely with the local school schedule, and if TLC does close, it's on their calendar that is published.

Jim asked about the new policy with the Shelton Schools regarding participant in after school programs. Gordon stated that one of the regular practices at TLC is to support academic success. For example, if a student is suspended from school, TLC reaches out to the parents to offer classroom and educational support during their suspension.

TOURISM

FY16 Budget: Leslie Johnson handed out the Tourism FY16 Budget for Councils consideration. She shared that she raised her budget by \$15,872. She provided a comparison of FY15 budget to FY16 budget and a review of what the Tourism program does. She shared that she teaches outside of the community on Squaxin culture. This year she plans on increasing the attendance at the museum. Don added that he, Travis and Mark have all reviewed the budget and approved it. The MLRC Board recommends this budget which comes from the hotel tax. Council approved by consensus the Tourism FY16 Budget as presented, which includes the increase in the marketing budget.

Washington Tourism Alliance: Leslie has been going to legislation each year for funding of the WTA. She has been asked to call legislatures to support the WTA, but needs approval from Council to pursue this. Council asked her to work with Ray and Jeanne Cushman.

PLANNING

Grant application: Elizabeth Egan presented **Resolution #15-78** which is a SPIPA Grant to the Susan B Komen Cancer Foundation. This will fund an outreach worker. Jim moved to approve this grant. Vince seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ENROLLMENT

Tammy presented three following enrollment applications for approval:

Resolution #15-79 enrolls Araceli Hernandez-Capoeman

Resolution #15-80 enrolls Elijah Blueback-Robinson

Resolution #15-81 enrolls Atawit Krise-Lyon

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tammy added that these enrollments have been approved by the Enrollment Committee. Jim moved to approve the three enrollment resolutions. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Jaime Cruz was in for a quick update on the Youth Council. She stated that for the past 18 months she has been encouraging the youth to get good grades, participate in culture and participate in Youth Council. The Youth Council has improved their communications with each other and are becoming more aware with the importance of working and communicating together. They raised \$250 at a Halloween fundraiser bake sale. They will be doing another one this coming weekend. The parents and siblings of the Youth Council have been very supportive. All of the kids have their food handler's permits. Jim suggested that if they need more baked goods or any help at upcoming bake sales, to let him and the rest of Council know. They all would be happy to help.

Jaime would like to get a photo taken of the Youth Council and hang it in their room, as well as nameplates for their table. She feels this would make them feel important. Council suggested she work with Melissa on that.

Jaime has been encouraging the Youth Council to mock Tribal Council, by taking meeting minutes, approving them and getting them published. She would like the officers to attend Council Meetings so they can see what gets done and how much time it takes.

Jaime would like to take the Youth Council to the Unity Conference, which is in Mesa, AZ this year. Council suggested she come up with a budget and apply to 1%. She also would like to set up a Western Washington Youth Council Tribal Summit.

SKOOKUM CREEK TOBACCO / LEGAL

Cameron Goodwin and Nate Schreiner were present to discuss how the State wants to consult with SCT regarding products that are not fire safe. Cameron and Nate drafted a letter to the State addressing that there is a proper way to deal with the Tribe since the State did not approach this properly. Cameron will notify the board of the change to the fire safe paper as well as a marketing plan and notification. Jim likes the government to government letter. Jim moved to approve the letter and go forward with a signature as needed and to get this resolved with a consultation process. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

LEGAL

Kevin and Nate discussed a potential purchase. Executive Session.

Council discussed the Spokane/Kalispel issue and approved a letter for the Chairman's signature supporting the Spokane Tribe.

Hunting litigation discussion: Council approved allocating \$40,000 from the IHS account to the hunting litigation fund. Kevin will email the current contribution spreadsheet to Council. Council approved the contribution of \$40,000 and payment of catch up amount of \$27,499.42. The immediate need is \$27,499.42 to catch up with the previous legislature and other tribes contributions.

Nate shared that there is a sponsored bill that is a complete statewide ban on fireworks from June – September. FYI only for now as he will continue tracking it.

Jim shared an invitation to National Fish & Oyster Company for the roll out of the WA Shellfish Initiative Second Phase. Squaxin was part of the first roll out at Taylors. Jim is going to talk to NR before attending.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Charlene reiterated the importance of Squaxin representation at these events. Arnold would like Natural Resources and Tribal Council to be there.

Vicki asked about the Seven Inlets Foundation. She noticed that there is the only signer on that account. She would like to make sure that there are no less than two signers for all accounts. Council agreed by consensus since it protects not only the tribe but also the signers. Kevin will make it so.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS & APPROVALS

1. Procurement policy for Council purchases including an appraisal process on artwork. Exec staff (pg. 1) For January.
2. Executive Financial Summary for presentation at the Winter General Body Meeting. Don. (pg. 2)
3. Wastewater Treatment improvement plan. Kathy. (pg. 3)
4. IHS Settlement Funding allocation (pg. 3)
5. Discuss with Deb the continuing financial need for the physician's salary. Not assigned. (pg. 3)
6. \$120,000 allocation to TLC for undergraduate tuition. Don & Kathy. (pg. 4)
7. Letter to Wa-He-Lut School regarding schedule coordination with TLC. Don. (pg. 4)
8. FY16 Tourism Budget (pg. 4)
9. \$40,000 allocated to the Hunting Litigation. Kevin. (pg. 6)
10. Council directed that two signatures are required for all financial accounts. Kevin directed to complete.
11. Council to discuss General Body meeting on April 30 instead of Mother's Day weekend in May.
12. Council to discuss Tribal Administrator Job description in January.