

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2020**

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Arnold Cooper	Chairman
	Charlene Krise	Vice Chair
	Vicki Kruger	Treasurer
	Jeremie Walls	Secretary
	Bev Hawks	1st Council Member <i>(absent)</i>
	David Whitener, Jr.	2nd Council Member
	Vince Henry, Sr.	3rd Council Member
Tribal Administrator	Marvin Campbell	
Liaison	Ray Peters	
CFO	Deb Stoehr	
Recorded by	Jeremie Walls	

Marvin Campbell reported that Mason Fire #4 has been folded into the Squaxin EOC Plan. This will help elevate tribal response and priority to necessary supplies. He shared what John Taylor will provide an update later today after his meeting with Mason County. Marvin added that he has spoken with directors about staff using their leave if necessary.

Marvin reported that the cost of running the tribe is \$2.7 million each month, with \$1.7 being salaries. Several staff are grant funded and the Casino revenue the government is currently operating on last year's revenue. He has asked Directors to evaluate their employees and he would like to be mindful in retaining staff while not bankrupting the tribe. Marvin and Ray discussed various strategies using the accounts available, and how long it can last.

Ray added that Mason County has declared a State of Emergency. The Commissioners are asking about tribe's intent for the tribal enterprises.

Vicki shared that SPIPA is operating with essential staff only; Vocational Rehab and Child Care are both considered essential so they can keep receiving grants.

Leave was discussed; annual leave versus sick leave versus administrative leave.

Back to paying employees, Marvin recommended to provide administrative leave for those not working, on a two-week basis. After that, the situation will be re-evaluated. This includes Casino staff.

Extensive discussion regarding the Casino closing and the impacts it will have on the community and tribal families, as well as Casino operations. After extensive discussion, Jeremie made the motion to pay all tribal employees (government and enterprises) for the next two weeks, and to prepare for and re-evaluate after that. Vince seconded the motion. This will ensure employees be paid through the end of March. Ray reiterated the importance of working from home. Motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

Marvin reported that he has reached out to Elders to see what their needs are.

Jeremie would like to make sure clam-digging opportunities continue.

Vicki wants to make sure we are using every available resource. She added that the SPIPA Board has asked if descendants could be added to the list for services. Marvin added that tribal should be priority.

Vicki shared that she needs canning jars so she can pressure can the two elk that were donated.

Charlene stated that Ray or Marvin should be the person to share the Councils message to the community. The message needs to be strong and from one person.

Arnold added that he would like to see the Executive Team meet on a weekly basis to stay updated.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO

Mike Peters and Ramon Nunez were present via phone. Ramon stated that they are moving the restaurant into the buffet area to allow for more social distancing, as well as moving the machines further apart. The spa will be closed.

Mike Peters shared that he has been tracking what other tribal casinos are doing; he felt that LCCR was in a low risk area. Jeremie wanted to ensure there were no legal risks with staying open. Arnold also wanted to ensure that Mike was 100% confident with his plan. Mike stated that as long as staff continued with making improvements and cleaning he felt the plan was a good one.

Vicki asked about freezing raises and unnecessary spending. Mike stated that they have suspended some contracts, but are continuing business as usual.

David asked about posting signs telling patrons that they are responsible for their own safety.

Ramon gave a report on payroll costs and what they can sustain. He asked what Council wanted to do given Governor Inslee's decisions. Arnold stated that the Casino needs to continue taking steps to minimize exposure to patrons. Ramon reiterated that they will be shutting down the buffet, and moving Island Grille to that location for more space.

Charlene asked for daily updates from the Casino. Arnold asked for a financial report as soon as possible.

Ray shared that the tribe needs to share their protection plan with local governments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.