

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL  
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
August 6, 2020**

**Attendance:**

<b>Tribal Council</b>	<b>Kristopher Peters</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	<b>Charlene Krise</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>
	<b>Vicki Kruger</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
	<b>Jeremie Walls</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
	<b>Bev Hawks</b>	<b>1st Council Member</b> ( <i>absent</i> )
	<b>David Whitener, Jr.</b>	<b>2nd Council Member</b>
	<b>Vince Henry, Sr.</b>	<b>3rd Council Member</b>
<b>Tribal Administrator</b>	<b>Marvin Campbell</b>	
<b>Tribal Liaison</b>	<b>Ray Peters</b>	
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Melissa Puhn</b>	

Kris Peters called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. Vicki Kruger offered the opening prayer.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vicki would like to discuss the FY21 Budget under her report. Jeremie moved to approve the agenda. Vicki seconded the motion. Motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vicki asked that the June 25th Minutes reflect that there was no vote taken regarding the enrollment issue. Jeremie changed the motion for TERO to state that David made the motion, and not Jeremie.

Vicki moved to approve the June 25, 2020 Minutes as amended. Jeremie seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

Kris would like to see Travel or “dates of interest” included on the agenda. There are a number of golf tournaments coming up.

Monday, August 10 is the Skookum Creek Youth Council Golf Tournament, Salish Cliffs. Jeremie shared that this has been a successful event so far, and has allowed the Youth Council enough sponsorships for a \$5,000 Trade School Scholarship, as well as adding \$10,000 to the Youth Council account. Any other funds brought in from the silent auction will go directly to the Youth Council Budget as well. If any Council would like to volunteer with this tournament, let him know. This has been a great event and a good fundraiser for the Youth Council.

August 21 is the Salmon Defense Golf Tournament in Sequim.

September 11th is the WIGA Golf Tournament.

September 14th is the MLRC Fundraising Tournament at Salish Cliffs.

September 28th is the Chairman's Challenge at Salish Cliffs.

## **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

Council briefly discussed the funeral service for Mark Snyder. Since Mark made such an impact with the Squaxin Youth, for many years, Council would like to contribute to the service in some way.

Kris stated that his goal with Council Meetings is transparency. He would like to see these meetings open and accessible to the Community to be able to participate or view. Once Council Minutes are approved, he would like them to be added to the Tribal Member section of the Tribe's website.

Kris explained how virtual meetings could be easy to share links with the community to allow them to view if needed. Part of being more transparent is reminding ourselves to bring a level of professionalism and decorum to the meetings, remembering that they are public. That is one thing that he would like to work on immediately. However, these big changes will wait until elections are complete.

After elections, he would like to have a work session and council training with Legal. It is always good to have proper training on ethics and leadership, communications, etc. Set a foundation for all to work together and communicate together. He would like this right after elections and to start planning for it now.

Kris would like to meet with each council individually to talk about communication style. Want to talk about expectations, ideas and concerns.

Kris shared that he is looking forward to working with everyone.

Vince asked how to blanket Arnold and honor his work for the Tribe. Kris agreed and shared that he and Arnold had a good conversation, and added that Marvin has been having discussions with Arnold. Marvin added that in time, he would like to gift Arnold in some fashion. Kris would like to blanket him and honor him with a gift.

## **LEGAL, *LeeAnne Kane***

LeeAnne Kane presented two exclusion issues with Council in Executive Session.

Coming out of the Executive Session Council stated that they did not feel comfortable weighing in on the cases since they do not know all of the details.

## **EDUCATION UPDATE, *Gordon James***

Jeremie shared that Olympic College is looking for a partnership within the community. He would like to see direction to help grow Squaxin Members into career paths within the Tribe: accounting, gaming, construction, etc. He would like to see the proper tools provided to the youth.

Charlene added her concern of parents not having the right tools to help their children with online school. She would like to ensure that families have the tools needed and the ability to navigate the new system, and having internet and computer access. She hears a lot of frustration from families in the community.

Charlene also would like to see a “wellness checkup” showing literacy, math and different skills. Her hope is that this “report” would show what the youths interests and needs are, allowing the tribe to better help them.

Gordon James shared how Sylvan Learning has been conducting assessments on the youth and have found that the tribal youth start elementary school behind the other kids, in basic skills. They have been struggling with the schools for years, and they are working to improve that.

He shared that the tribe currently supports higher education and trade schools. However, the particular language that is used for the funding is limited to masters programs, and no postgraduate degrees. However, that is a Council decision to make. The tribe has had a lot of success in providing funding for those who want it. However, Gordon stated that their statistics show there are only about 35% of tribal students obtaining post high school education.

Jeremie thanked Gordon for sharing that information. He feels the tribe needs to do a better job showing the youth what their opportunities are, after high school. So many youth struggle with their professional paths. He feels that the Education Committee can do a better job in helping the kids find their path. He would like to see an assessment done on the youth to help them decide what path they want to take.

He would like to relook at what is funded for education, such as helping pay for doctorate degrees. How can the tribe help grow professional tribal members.

Vicki also would like to see post graduate programs supported, and likes the idea of a hiring contract or agreement of sort. She would like to work with the Education Commission.

Kris added that PhD Degrees are expensive, and he is supportive of helping tribal members with education, but really need to look at the budget. Jeremie suggested helping tribal members look

into scholarships to help pay for their education, instead of using tribal funds. Exhaust all other options first.

Charlene went back to the pre-k – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. She would like to see proper support for the younger kids and their parents.

Gordon shared that they are following Shelton, Griffin and Olympia School District. All of those schools are going to be 100% virtual. Shelton School District is looking at a company called “K12” which has been in existence for 20 years. The Shelton Teachers will be teaching the classes online, following the K12 lesson plans. The district is still trying to figure out how the daily schedule will work and plan to have specialized classes for high school seniors and elective classes.

The way TLC is looking at supporting this system is planning and remodeling some elements on how the TLC staff and tutors are working with the kids. Some of the modeling and practice that went on in the Spring, was haphazard. They will have more planning for the Fall start time. They have been working with DIS and Finance to see what it will take to upgrade and replace the computers in the TLC classrooms. Working on a plan to have individual or small group in-person tutoring at TLC, as well as working with the students remotely.

Vicki shared that TANF funds might be available to help buy computers, as well as providing internet access to TANF client’s homes. She asked if there is a way to access grants to provide internet access for families who may not have it.

Gordon shared that the school district is trying to identify individual Wi-Fi hotspots for families. The district has talked about two possibilities: one is to provide paper packets for some students. Gordon shared that he is prepared to provide paper packets to tribal youth, but is trying to hold the school accountable. PUD 3 has also been setting up hotspot locations to various places in the county, which will work for some, but not all people.

Vicki asked about providing small classrooms to assist with the kids who do not have internet access. Gordon stated yes, they have the large and small classrooms that already have the setup needed and are available for small and limited capacity tutoring.

Charlene added that the MLRC is available to use as well for students.

Vicki went back to funding postgraduate degrees and would like to meet with the Education Commission for further discussion. Kris said that his plan is to have all committees and commissions meet with Council on a regular basis.

## **TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE, *Marvin Campbell***

**Tribal Gaming Agency Update:** Marvin shared that Erika Thale has been appointed to TGA Commission. Kris added that he likes the idea of having someone from the Executive Staff serving on the Commission.

**CARES Act Update:** Marvin shared that there have been amendments and new rules surrounding the CARES Act dollars. One of the proposed amendment would be to allow the funds to cover lost revenue. They are also discussing moving the deadline to spend those dollars to December 2021. Marvin shared that the delivery of the tiny homes will begin today.

Marvin shared that he has been conservative in spending this money to ensure that the tribe can maintain through the entire pandemic.

Vicki would like to see a report showing where the funds have been spent. Marvin will share a report with Council on how the funds are spent, and any expenditures are coded through Executive for approval.

There has been some vandalism going on at the tiny home site, so they are adding some fencing and blocking off the trail that leads off the reservation.

Jeremie shared his concerns about off-road vehicles. He would like to see the ordinance enforced and would like to see a place for them to be ridden. Marvin shared that he asked Barry to have his officers slow down the bikes and quads on the roads, since he has gotten complaints from the community as well.

Marvin reported that the Clinic is assembling kits and instructions on how to care for a COVID patient. These will be given to households if and when a case comes to the reservation.

Marvin shared that Natural Resources did a good job in putting together the First Salmon Ceremony. They did photograph before and after the ceremony, which will be shared on the tribes website.

Marvin briefly asked Council about looking into a tribal nursing home and whether that is something the community would like to see here. Jeremie stated that he feels this is one of the largest unmet needs the tribe has. Council said yes, please look into it. Marvin stated that he is not obligating anything, but wanted a little direction before he looked into it further.

Marvin presented three SPIPA resolutions for Council's consideration:

**Resolution #20-36:** Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations program

**Resolution #20-37:** Community Services Block Grant

**Resolution #20-38:** Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

David moved to approve the three grant resolutions. Vicki seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Marvin presented **Resolution #20-39**, which approves the Emergency Operations Center Code and **Resolution #20-40**, which approves the Emergency Center Operations bylaws. Vicki moved to approve both the EOC Code and EOC Bylaws. Jeremie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **COUNCIL TREASURER UPDATE**

**FY21 budgets:** Marvin stated that in order to save funds for FY21 he is considering a mandatory furlough schedule for all staff. This would be one day (8 hours) each pay period. Employees will be allowed to use their annual leave if they would like. He also stated that there will be no COLA for FY21. His goal is to save funds and make changes that are the least impactful, but being transparent on steps to be taken to make sure the tribe can weather this storm.

Vicki brought up the hotel occupancy code. There was extensive discussion regarding how best to spend those funds, however Kris interjected and suggested that before any changes are made, he would like all parties involved to look at the budgets closely. He suggested a separate meeting to discuss this, involving IEI Finance staff, Government Finance staff and the MLRC Board members.

Vicki then brought up the need for a final IEI Procurement Policy. She would like to see IEI have a final policy in place, similar to what the Casino and Tribal Government has, in order to protect their assets. Kris asked if this subject is a Council discussion or an IEI Board discussion.

After discussion, the IEI Board will meet and discuss the policy at their next meeting. Kris will reach out to Kristen to schedule a meeting within the next week or so. Kris will send an email to Dave and Kristen, while cc'ing Council, to allow Council the chance to add agenda items.

**SPIPA Update:** Vicki shared that at the last Board Meeting, there was discussion regarding not being able to spend grants due to COVID restrictions. She forwarded a TANF proposal to Marvin for consideration. One of the ideas they are discussing is providing care packages to all the youth.

She noted that the Early Headstart quarterly July report was emailed to Council last week. She also reminded the Council the need to attend the EHS Training.

Vicki also brought up the eligibility of Council receiving annual and sick leave. She said that Council members receive all benefits, except leave. She would like Kris to look into the possibility of Council accruing leave.

She also wants to discuss the plan for the Cunningham House, she wants to schedule the required EHS Training for Council and would like an update on the policy regarding carrying over sick leave.

Kris would like to know more about the sick leave, will talk about that later. He also agrees with further discussions on property plans and what the plans are moving forward.

### **TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE**

Ray shared an update on the Washington State Primary election results.

Ray provided a land acquisition update. He would like to have the appraisal updated on the Dorsey property down the hill. The house across the street from the Dorsey property is for sale; Ray has reached out to the realtor and has not gotten a call back. Council is supportive of Ray requesting an updated appraisal for the Dorsey property, , costing about \$200. Council would like to discuss land priorities at an upcoming work session.

Ray shared an update on the Reller Property.

Ray provided an investment report. He said the tribe's investment policy is good and because of the strict policy the tribal investments are right where they were, actually slightly higher, than before the pandemic started. He gave an update on the Seven Inlets Account.

Jeremie asked if the Youth Council continued raising money, could they add it to the Seven Inlets Account. Ray suggested they start their own endowment fund.

Ray shared that he has been tracking the HEROS Act and HEALS Act. Included is a possible extension of the COVID Fund deadline to December of next year. He shared that additional PPE Loans may become available for Casinos, and LCCR will be ready to apply for those. The golf course was able to get a PPE Loan to cover salaries.

Ray gave a quick Fee to Trust Report. The BIA is coming onsite to look at the property in discussion.

Kris stated that regular Council Meetings are scheduled the second and fourth Thursdays of each month and he would like to get back on that schedule. The next meeting will be August 13th.

There being no further business, Kris adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.