

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 2020**

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Kristopher Peters	Chairman
	Charlene Krise	Vice Chair
	Vicki Kruger	Treasurer
	Jeremie Walls	Secretary
	Andy Whitener	1st Council Member
	David Whitener, Jr.	2nd Council Member
	Vince Henry, Sr.	3rd Council Member
Tribal Administrator	Marvin Campbell	
Tribal Liaison	Ray Peters	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Kris Peters called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Marvin Campbell offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vicki Kruger asked to talk about capital projects at the Child Development Center. Jeremie moved to approve the September 24, 2020 Council Agenda. Vicki seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vicki moved to approve the September 10, 2020 Council Minutes. Jeremie Walls asked to add verbiage regarding the discussion of trail maintenance along with the ORV roads (that verbiage was already included and was pointed out later). Jeremie also added to the minutes that he wanted it noted during the discussion about Council accruing leave, he only wanted the dialogue and was not seeking a raise for Council members. Jeremie seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRAVEL REPORTS & PLANS

- September 28: Chairman's Challenge Golf Tournament, Salish
October 5-9: NAFOA Virtual Fall Conference. Vicki, Ray, Marvin, Erika and Jeremie will attend.
October 5-8: ATNI Virtual Annual Conference. Kris, Jeremie and David will attend.
November 8-13: NCAI Virtual Annual Conference. Ray, Jeremie and Vicki will attend.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

IEI Board: Kris shared that he wanted to leave this on the agenda as a placeholder to keep updated on progress toward an IEI Board. Ray shared that he, Nate and Dave Johns are reviewing the Board bylaws. They will be meeting tomorrow to further discuss and advance some ideas.

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Vicki asked about the Economic Development Funds. Ray shared that he will have a full report later in the day, but right now he shared that IEI does have funds invested. His suggestion is keeping those funds invested, and as IEI comes up with new economic ventures, to seek approval from Council to use those investments funds in accordance to the investment policy.

Kris asked, as Council, they give direction to Ray and the IEI Board to put this on their agenda for discussion. The board is directed to report to Council and to work with Ray on investments. Vicki would like to make that a directive to the IEI Board.

Council directed Ray and IEI to come up with an investment plan. Ray added that the tribe does have an investment committee. He suggested asking them to develop the plan for the IEI investments. Vicki made a motion to have the investment committee and IEI to report back to Council with a proposal, at the first October meeting. Jeremie seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Community meeting: Kris shared that this will be another standing agenda item. He wants to keep the community informed, get input and keep moving things forward.

Council had an extensive discussion regarding recording and sharing the meeting minutes. Andy questioned posting the recordings of the meetings. Charlene added her concerns about the financial, cultural and business discussions that are not public. She wants to make sure tribal members are engaged; but worries about non-tribal members having access to tribal meetings. Jeremie agreed with those concerns, but suggested the meeting videos be edited before sharing. Kris stated that he is very sensitive to the concerns on intellectual property. However, he would like to provide a medium for tribal members to comment on issues. After extensive discussion on sharing Council Meetings in any medium, it was decided to step back and not move in that direction with a good plan in place that all of Council agrees and feels comfortable with. Vicki asked if DIS could present different options at the next meeting. Kris reiterated that he would like to maintain transparency. This will be further discussed at the next Council Meeting.

Vince arrived at 9:54

Constitution Changes: Kris shared that this will be another standing item he hopes to get regular updates on. Vicki would like to create a committee to make recommendations to move forward.

Jeremie brought up committees and commissions. He knows that Marvin is working on re-vamping committees. He would like to bring back the discussion regarding Councils involvement on committees and commissions. Vicki stated that was another discussion that was not agreed on: whether Council can and should participate or not.

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Vicki asked Nate how to set up a constitution committee. Nate stated that there is a chapter in the code on committee establishment and briefly went through the process of creating a committee and making constitutional changes. Extensive Discussion.

Kris suggested creating a Constitution Committee, but then hiring someone to do the work. Have the committee discuss what they want, and use a contractor, such as James Mills. Vicki asked if Council could task Marvin to reach out to James Mills. Yes, Council agreed to have Marvin reach out to James Mills.

Public Budget Hearing: Vicki recited the budget ordinance stating that Council will review the community input and try to fund some of the ideas. Council went over the notes and ideas from the budget hearing.

Kris would like to put strategic planning on the next agenda. Tribal businesses and Government Departments need to know what Council's vision is. He did ask Marvin to put together an RFP for help with this, and to have a strategic planning session with Council first.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

FY21 Final Budget Approval & Resolution: Deb Stoehr shared the final FY21 budget as well as the approving resolution. The resolution language is slightly different this year: reflecting the revenue expenditure may change, and that there will be no COLA increases. The total is over \$109M. She also shared a worksheet showing the funding sources.

Vicki asked about the expected revenues and shortages. Deb shared that she is anticipating about a \$200k deficit that will probably come from the general fund allowance.

Vicki moved to approve the FY21 budget. Jeremie asked how to earmark funds for next year for the shellfish program. Vicki reminded that NR provides IEI funding to support shellfish enhancement. Marvin added that in January there will be a better idea of what the carryover is for all programs.

Deb brought up, as an FYI, that the debt service for the NR/CR Building is over \$400k/year, which neither NR nor CRD programs pay for. Andy stated that when NR was housed in the trailers, it was known that NR did not have funds to pay for a new building. Kris interjected and said that is a discussion for another day.

Ray brought up the tourism budget, and noted that their budget was forwarded to Council, and will need Council approval at some point.

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Vicki would like to review the Tourism Budget before approving it. She also added that the MLRC Board should review and approve it before Council sees it. Ray shared that MLRC Board met a while ago, and at that time, the board gave direction for the upcoming year. A Board meeting will be schedule to review the budget and a formal approval will take place; however the board did advance the draft budget for Council approval. Vicki wants to review the budget before it is approved. In the meantime, she doesn't mind having the placeholder, since they will receive funding, she just wants to review it first.

Vicki altered her motion to approve the FY21 budget, with a placeholder for Tourism to allow Council a chance to review their budget.

Kris would like to see the budget approved as is, and direct the MLRC Board to present their budget to Council. Charlene added that they are working on a good plan and would be happy to share it.

Vicki rescinded her motion.

After extensive discussion, David moved to approve the FY21 budget as is (**Resolution #20-47**). Vince seconded the motion. Council will still review the Tourism budget and make suggestions at a later time. The motion passed five (5) in favor, zero (0) against and one (1) abstained (*Vicki abstained from voting*).

Association of Washington Tribes (AWT) Resolution: Nate briefly described what AWT is and how they benefit Squaxin by providing a non-gaming policy platform for Washington Tribes. After discussion, Vicki moved to appoint Kris Peters as the tribal delegate and Andy Whitener and David Whitener as the tribal alternates by **Resolution #20-48**. Vince seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Child Development Center: Marvin reported that septic line issues and roof leaks that that will need to be fixed before the building can be occupied. Kris asked about a full building assessment, before they re-open: take advantage of the closure. Council extensively discussed the needs of the CDC Building and the concerns about mold. Vicki shared that the CDC Board shared with Council a list of their needs a couple of years ago. Marvin brought up again, the importance of having scheduled building maintenance on all tribal buildings. Kris would like to see a list of needs and cost estimates.

Charlene added that she would like to train and use tribal members who are skilled laborers to help with these capital projects such as roof repairs, staining, painting, etc.

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Council agreed that a full inspection of the building will be completed, a list of all the building needs will be done so a funding plan can be discussed, along with a timeline to complete said tasks. Kris will share this update with the community.

Vicki added that the Childcare Grant that is managed at Family Services will fund any tribal member needing childcare, with no income limit. She would like the families to know that help is available.

Jeremie added the protocol for cleaning up mold. Marvin will talk to them about precautions for wiping up mold.

Charlene wanted to thank Housing for sending out the PPE kits to the residence. She asked about the COVID funds and if the tribe will be able to spend all of that by the end of the year. Marvin will provide a statement of those funds and added that the additional payment to tribal members next month is intended to help people with added expenses brought on by COVID.

Jeremie asked about the low income HUD homes on the reservation. Marvin stated that the utilities benefit that was provided are for on-reservation homes only. Jeremie would like to somehow address the fairness of offering a deferred payment option to all tribal members, not just the residence. Marvin will look at the HUD grant regarding off reservation folks.

TERO committee appointees: Marvin stated it already has been discussed at the work session to appoint tribal members to the TERO Committee. Vicki moved to appoint the following to serve as the TERO Committee members: Jessica Cruz, Kristen Davis, Misti Saenz-Garcia, Amber Gomez, Whitney Jones, Kristin Penn, Aleta Poste and Tammy Ford; Susan LeClair and Beau Henry will serve as committee alternates. Vince seconded the motion. Jeremie added that he knows his roles and responsibilities as a Council Member and knows to not cross the line as a business owner. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

Arcadia parking lot: Expanding the parking lot was previously discussed at the work session and Kris asked for clarification. Kris would like to move this forward, but Andy is unsure of the funding and whether or not IEI was going to help. Kris felt that if IEI is willing to do it, let them. Vicki added that the Child Development Center is in need of renovations and she doesn't want to spend money on a parking lot with the CDC needs fixing. Jeremie suggested if this is a capital project to add to a list. Vicki agrees there is a need, but it needs to be prioritized on a list.

NORTHWEST INDIAN TREATMENT CENTER

June O'Brien and Bekki Ayres presented an update on the enhanced Medicaid rate. June explained how NWITC has a number of funding sources. One of these is supplied by State

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of Washington funds for Medicaid eligible persons in a residential facility. The amount paid in no way pays the full expenses of treatment. NWITC has been invited to participate in an opportunity to increase their revenue by substantially increasing the rate per patient day. The increase would be a permanent revenue stream increase. The opportunity is made available by the State of Washington Health Care Authority.

June wanted to share that information and to orientate Council on their program. Council would like to have further discussion on this at a future work session.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO UPDATE

Ramon Nunez and Nate Schriener presented a Small Business Interruption Grant. Ramon and Nate went over the application for the Casino and stated that it is for reimbursement of business interruption costs and other increased costs related to the COVID-19 Emergency. Vicki appreciated all the work put in, and moved to approve **Resolution #20-49** and supporting documents. Jeremie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ramon presented the I-5 Design contract for the gaming area. As per the purchasing policy, this contract amount exceeds \$250k which requires Council approval. Vicki moved to approve the contract. Vince seconded the motion. Jeremie asked why they are asking to be excluded from TERO, he would like to recommend that the contractor find tribal labor. Vicki agrees and would like to see tribal members involved as well as tribal artists. Vicki amended her motion to strike the TERO exclusion out. Ramon will strike that paragraph and talk to the contractor about that and seek clarification since the tribe currently does not have TERO fees or tribal taxes. If the contractor is not okay with that change, present back to Council. The motion carried unanimously.

Ramon presented the FY2021 LCCR Budget. Kris asked for a debt report. Ray shared that he will give a long term debt schedule at an upcoming meeting.

Council discussed defining “descendants” in the case of TANF. Descendants means biological children born to Squaxin parents. Vicki believes they have the opportunity and money to extend to them. Kris suggested that this should be discussed further with Family Services.

Charlene asked what the enrollment committee thinks, and if the descendants should also go through the DNA testing to assure their descendancy. Marvin wanted to offer the staff an opportunity for input. Kris asked if Marvin would talk with Charlene Abrahamson and have this for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Jeff Dickison, Erika Marbet and contractors Chris Petrie and Sherry Wilhelm presented a report showing the tribes wellheads and how they are affected by water flows, and how to protect them. Erika provided a draft Wellhead Protection Ordinance for consideration. Kris asked about protecting the existing areas, that are already established (e.g. parking lots, dumpsters). Erika suggested fencing around the protected area and to develop agreements with other businesses in the flow area.

Jeff would like to see better planning around well heads. The existing wells were in place before warehouses , dumpsters and parking lots were built around them. There is a need for communication between the entities.

Vicki thanked Erika for the report and acknowledged the importance of maintaining clean drinking water for the Tribe.

Chris Petrie and Sherry Wilhelm provided a report on Skookum Valley water and the biological recovery of coho in the Skookum Valley. The reviewed streamflow data and well logs of over 200 wells in the Valley.

LEGAL / ICW

David Babcock, Adirian Albillar presented a guardianship case in executive session. Coming out of the executive session, Council was supportive of the guardianship petition for case number CV-2020-07-5.

Vicki asked about allowing a Council Member to attend the Family Wellness Team Meetings and wants to make sure that unborn children are protected under ICW as well. Dave Babcock assured that protecting those children are included.

TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray reported that the RFP Process is underway for the tribal investments;, the deadline is the end of next week. They'll be taking some time to really review those RFP's and hopefully will have some finalists at the next council meeting.

Ray gave an update on the gaming consultation update. Council has given direction to move forward and review sports wagering. Ray will be looking in to it and inviting any council to participate if they wish. With Council blessing, he, Nate and Dallas will review and report back to Council. Davey will participate as well.

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Ray reported that the BIA has carry-over funds and they are soliciting requests for those funds. He shared with Marvin and Deb, to have a planner put something together, seeking funding for water and infrastructure. The deadline is Sept 30th.

Couple of other opportunities for infrastructure funding he will be sharing with Marvin as well.

Ray shared that the election information was mailed to tribal members.

Ray gave an update on investments. He is working on extending the CARES Act and allowing those funds for lost revenue.

Ray shared he has a standing meeting with the Port of Olympia and continues the open conversation.

Jeremie shared that he is passionate about networking with surrounding jurisdiction, and if they would like his involvement, just let him know.

Council briefly discussed the upcoming local elections and those who are running.

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