

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 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 9:02 a.m. Charlene Krise offered the opening prayer. Kris reminded Council that this meeting is live and he welcomed those who were listening in.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kris made a couple of small changes to the agenda; Jeremie added a community member update, in Executive Session; Marvin added a vaccine update. Jeremie moved to approve the December 10th Council Agenda. Vince seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kris went over each phone poll and minutes:

- October 22, 2020 Minutes
- November 12, 2020 Minutes
- November 17, 2020 Phone Poll
- November 19, 2020 Phone Poll
- November 20, 2020 Phone Poll
- November 27, 2020 Phone Poll
- December 1, 2020 Phone Poll
- December 2, 2020 Phone Poll
- December 3, 2020 Phone Poll

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

- December 15: Early Headstart Training, all of Council to register
- December 16: IEI Board Meeting, 9am, virtual
- December 17: Council Work Session, 9am, virtual
- December 18: Christmas basket distribution, 3:45-6pm, LCCR
- December 23-Jan 4: Tribal Government Offices closed. Kris reminded essential services never close and services will continue for tribal members.
- January 9: Winter General Body, virtual

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COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Evergreen State College: Kris shared that Squaxin and TESC has signed an MOU, acknowledging how Evergreen is located on traditional Squaxin Land. With that, they will fly the Squaxin flag at their Red Square. Kris will put together a press release.

Winter General Body Meeting / Treasurers Report: Council discussed how to accomplish this virtually on January 9th. Kris would like to get this figured out and advertised to tribal members before the offices close for the holidays (*It was later decided that a Zoom Webinar will be the best option*).

Council the purpose of the meeting and how past Councils chose a topic to focus on, during this meeting. Talking Circles are for tribal member Q&A. However, there always is opportunity for the community to ask questions. This will be on the work session agenda for next week.

Vicki would like to give her treasurers report at this meeting. It is the same report that she presented last year, but with new numbers.

Constitution Board update: Kris would like to look at the process, and make appointments at the work session next week. He would like to discuss further Councils involvement in committees. Council asked Marvin to reach out to consultant James Mills and ask for his help reviewing the tribal constitution.

Kris added that he would like Council to start thinking about the May General Body Meeting and how the 2021 Tribal Elections may be different again this year. Marvin shared that he has reached out to the Elections Committee on changing the code to allow for mail in ballots. They are already working on it.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Marvin reported that the Washington State COVID restrictions have been extended until January 4th. The numbers for Mason County jumped yesterday, and Thurston County has been increasing as well. A team has been established to deploy and set up the vaccines once they arrive. Tomorrow they will be looking at the event center layout for distribution and observation.

Marvin shared that the tribe will be receiving the Moderna vaccines through Indian Health Services. Health care workers, first responders and elders will be prioritized first, then critically ill, followed by the general community. The "general community" includes tribal members, staff and community who live on the reservation.

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Taylor Well Update: Marvin reported that the drilling went well with a lot of water available. Taylors have four wells on that particular parcel and Marvin feels it is a good idea to have all four wells connected, which would eliminate any single failure points. Golder Associates will be providing pre-engineering drawings for water lines. The process is moving along.

Marvin shared that the Center for Disease Control has made some changes regarding people who test positive for COVID; they are recommending 10 days quarantine after a positive test. Marvin knows there are some economic impacts around that change. He would like Squaxin policy to remain at 14 days quarantine just to err on the side of safety for the tribe. Nate suggested a resolution to formalize that policy. He will have something for Council to review soon.

Jeremie asked about enforcement and what happens if someone violates the 14 day rule. Council briefly asked about exclusion for endangering the community; but Marvin assured that only Council can make that call. Nate added that the exclusion code could be applicable if someone knowingly spread a disease on the reservation. Marvin doesn't feel like that will be an issue, the community has been embracing the leaderships decisions. Marvin wants to be extra safe, and Kris reiterated that Squaxin a sovereign nation and can make our own rules for Squaxin as long as it meets the needs of the community. Marvin and his team does a lot of research and makes decisions based on what is best. Charlene applauded staff for the work that has been done by staff.

Marvin gave an update on the gate entrance. There has been some discussion regarding a permanent gate, but wanted to know what the community thinks. A guard shack was added as well as lighting. New reflective stickers has been ordered as well.

Charlene asked for an update on the tiny homes. Marvin stated that six were purchased and are completely furnished and ready to be used. As of now, one person has used a house. The houses are being controlled by the Clinic and EOC to determine who is eligible to use one. Jeremie asked about including space for RV's. Marvin would like to have community input on that.

Fishing Season recap: Joe Peters shared a report of the total catch and escapement for the last fishing season. Chinook 1,579 were caught, half of that was out of Carr Inlet. Tumwater only spawned about 1,300 fish, less than projected. 52,328 Coho were caught this year, making a great season. Over 2 million were released from the net pens with good survivability. Chum was a poor season with only 1,716 caught. As of December 3rd, Joe projected they have reached escapement in Totten Inlet. Escapement has been reached on Skookum and Eld already.

Joe shared the North of Falcon meeting schedule and provided the schedule via email. Kris asked that if Joe wants extra support at any specific meeting, to reach out to them.

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General Welfare Update- Vicki asked to move this to next meeting. Kris asked for a brief update. Nate shared that the basic idea is that certain types of services provided to membership is provided tax free, in the form of reimbursement. There are categories of services that are tax exempt such as housing, medical treatment, services, etc. Different employers would have different types of accounts that is managed by a third party. Jeremie asked where the costs come from to manage these accounts. This will be discussed further on Thursday.

Capital Project Budget: Marvin brought up the discussion previously using the depreciation from buildings, for capital projects. However, those funds still need to come out of somewhere. Vicki shared that IEI gave a report earlier in the year, of their budgets and showing depreciation. Marvin shared that he is asking the new DCD Director to work on this and make a recommendation with her team. Vicki asked about a timeline and asked for a report at the second meeting of 2021.

Enrollment Moratorium Update: Vicki wanted to discuss in closed session about an opposing view she has. Kris would like Tammy to go ahead with her presentation, but keep the personal opinions out. Tammy shared the publication that she and the committee have been working on, and plan to get sent out to the general body.

Tammy shared the Enrollment Newsletter that explains the practices and enrollment issues.

Tammy went through the moratorium and its history. Vicki stated that she opposes the statement saying, “takes no action” on enrollment applications. Her first issue is that the moratorium does not mean “take no action;” it is meant to be temporary and feels this is misleading. Jeremie asked what an “pending application” means and if an application is pending, do those need to come to Council for consideration? Jeremie interjected himself and said he will hold his questions until the end.

Council and Tammy had extensive discussion regarding the moratorium. This discussion will continue at the work session next week. Kris added that he likes the publication Tammy and the committee put together.

Kris really wants to discuss what to do and how to handle the moratorium, moving forward. This will require a lot of time and in-depth conversation.

NORTHWEST INDIAN TREATMENT CENTER

June O’Brien shared the roundtable discussions they have been participating in as well as the upcoming consultations with the American Indian Health Commission and the Health Care Authority. She has really appreciated the help and collaboration with Dave Babcock and the

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AIHC. June explained how the consultations went with discussion about payments made through Medicare and contractors. Kris reiterated this is a problem that the State needs to deal with and fix, and he would like to see action taken at the consultation next week. June is collecting tribal comments from other tribes and institutions across the state who are dealing with similar issues. Kris shared his appreciation for June and what her staff have been doing for her program.

Kris asked June to email the consultation link to Council, so they can attend if they wish.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO UPDATE

Ramon Nunez provided an update on the impacts the Casino has had with the current mandates and continued increase in cases. He added that they are considering rolling back their F&B and table games series, but will go through the weekend first and re-evaluate on Monday. They are considering offering take out only, but again, will make that decision on Monday. Kris asked about mitigating and ensuring staff safety. He feels that the patrons are safe and protected, but asked to focus on staff safety as well.

Ramon reported that they have cancelled all large events, and still have a few smaller events planned, that fall within the current State guidelines.

Ramon provided an update on the unemployment claims and the CARES Act Grant they received.

Kris asked if there is anything planned for the holidays. Ramon said nothing major and shared the calendar of their events that include a VIP Slot Tournament and dinner specials.

Ramon shared that he would like to reallocate funds from unemployment to the buffet repurpose project, since they overestimated the cost of unemployment. Vicki suggested he work with Deb to ensure the funds are spent appropriately. Safety and Enforcement protocols will be enforced during the project.

Ramon shared their bonus plan that will cost about \$75k; which he would like to use the CARES Funds. Marvin shared that CARES can be used as relief funds, but not a bonus. There is an application process for each individual to access those relief funds. Vicki shared her support for a CARES relief fund for Casino employees, especially the lower level employees.

Ramon shared the tier's employees are broke in to: Tier 1 includes staff who worked full time during the shut down and did not receive any unemployment (this excludes directors, CEO and CFO) and will be paid \$500. Tier 2 will be those who returned full time when they opened May

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18th and will be paid \$250. Tier 3 are all employees who do not fit in tier 1 or 2 and are past their probationary period as of 9-30, they will get \$100.

Ramon asked for Council approval make these allocations to employees as well as covering the payroll taxes. The estimated cost will be around \$90k to include payroll taxes, for about 525 employees. Council is supportive of this, but it is Ramon's decision to make. This allocation will come out of LCCR budget; if CARES funds are to be used, a phone poll will be done asking to do so.

Ramon will present the November financials at the work session next week.

ISLAND ENTERPRISES UPDATE

Dave Johns was present with a quick enterprises update. They are managing the mask issue with patrons, but overall the employees and customers are doing their best to be safe.

Vicki asked about the IEI Christmas Party and if the money generally used for that, can be used for a bonus for employees this year. Dave stated that IEI will be providing gift cards for employees this year.

He shared that they have been busy working on their audit the last couple of weeks.

Richard Sweeney shared that cigarette sales are up, and fuel sales are down. The inside sales at the convenience store are in line with last year. He will give a more detailed financial report at the IEI Board Meeting next week.

Kris thanked them for the geoduck distribution.

TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray provided a legislative update. The legislative session will be virtual. Ray and Kris were able to meet with the new governor's chief of staff, which went well. It is always beneficial to have a good relationship with the Chief of Staff, and they rely on us as a good resource. Ray continues meeting with new legislatures, as well as the senior legislatures.

Jeremie asked about setting up a meeting with the local city councils.

Ray will keep Council updated on potential bills and if there are sessions that Council needs to participate in. Kris wanted to ensure that he stays in touch with congress, especially since there wont be much traveling to DC this coming year. Ray shared that he communicates with the

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tribal lobbyist, Sense Inc. in DC on a regular basis. He added that has been a really important relationship to maintain, especially right now.

Charlene shared her concern for the economy next year, and hopes that the tribe is preparing to operate lean. She reminded Ray that if he needs Council support on any issues, to please reach out.

Executive Session Action Items

Sharon Haensly presented **Resolution #20-64**, which authorizes the Legal Department to resume litigation over Department of Ecology's extension of the Alderbrook water rights permit and to challenge the decision to approve the Mason PUD #1 water system plan. Vicki moved to approve the resolution. Jeremie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

An exclusion matter was discussed and Council authorized the filing of an exclusion case.

Investment Update: Nate Schreiner shared the scoring on the investment advisor proposals that were received. After extensive discussion, Council supported the committees recommendation. Vicki moved to approve the recommendation of the committee. Jeremie seconded the motion. David abstained from voting. Motion five (5) in favor, one (1) abstained and zero (0) against.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.