

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
January 28, 2021**

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 (<i>absent</i>)
	Vince Henry, Sr.	3rd Council Member
Tribal Administrator	Marvin Campbell	
Operations Director	Erika Thale	
Tribal Liaison	Ray Peters	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Kris Peters called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Charlene Krise offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vicki Kruger asked to add the 477 Program as a discussion topic on the agenda. Marvin can provide that update.

Marvin would like to add an update on the Constitution Committee. Vicki also would like to add a property update. Kris was fine with these additions, but if they want in-depth conversation to provide more heads up.

Charlene asked to schedule a meeting with the new Shelton Chief of Police. Andy brought up the Arcadia Boat Ramp and who is responsible for the maintenance of it. Kris would like to make this a work session topic.

Vince moved to approve the January 28th Council Agenda with amendments. Jeremie seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MIUTES

Jeremie moved to approve the January 14, 2021 Council Minutes. Vince seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

- February 4-5: Fire system testing across the tribal campus, most buildings will be closed and staff will be working remotely.
- February 21-25: NCAI Winter Session, Virtual. Jeremie and Vicki will attend.

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COUNCIL DISCUSSION

IEI Board bylaws: Nate presented **Resolution #20-05** and briefly went over the changes to the bylaws. He shared the draft that adjusted the number of members of the board that was set up by Council, as well as other changes that were discussed.

Nate also presented **Resolution #20-06** which assigns KTP to operate under Island Enterprises.

Both these changes were extensively discussed at the January 14th Work Session.

Vicki moved to approve Resolution #20-05 which authorizes the new IEI Board Bylaws as well as Resolution #20-06 which reassigns KTP. Andy seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

Kris welcomed the new IEI Board Members.

Spring election update: Due to the uncertainty of COVID, Kris shared that Council has decided to proceed with mail in ballots again this year. He would like to encourage everyone to update their mailing address. This process will be run by the Elections Committee and not Tribal Council. One change they will implement this year is offer ballot drop boxes; two potential locations of one on the reservation and one off the reservation.

Charlene appreciates the protection of tribal members while voting. She is so appreciative of the Elections Committee and their work in making this happen. She reiterated that Council really does have the health and safety of tribal members in their best interest.

Marvin added that there is an email address set up and a section on the tribe's website just for elections. Vicki also wanted to ensure those who don't have addresses, also have the opportunity to vote.

Kris added that it might be good to have those without addresses, register with a trusted tribal member to collect their ballot.

The committee will be doing a lot of messaging and setting up forums in the coming months.

Mason County Fire District 4 levy: Charlene shared how they provide a great service to Squaxin and wanted to make sure they received the votes needed from the tribe. She would like to see Council support them politically. Council agreed that this support is important to Squaxin.

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TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Resolution: Candace Penn presented **Resolution #20-03**, which authorizes submission for the Northwest Climate Adaption Grant. Candace the process that she goes through on an annual basis for the grant she is presenting. The proposal is titled: “where the tides meet the creeks” which includes a technical layout that she can share if needed. Vicki moved to approve the grant resolution. Vince seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution: Liz Kuntz presented **Resolution #20-04**, which updates and authorizes the submission of the FY21 Indian Housing Block Grant. Liz explained how this shares what Housings annual goals are with these funds. Vicki asked if this would cover any of the HIP Houses. Liz stated no, it only addresses the homes on the reservation that the tribe manages. Vicki moved to approve the resolution. Jeremie seconded the motion. Vince asked about conveyed homes that need maintenance. Liz said no, that is not included on this grant, but they have gone after an ICBDG grant for that. Jeremie added that the tribe can only service low income homes.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Update: Marvin recently met with Jeff Dickison, Erica Marbet, Penni Restivo, Jeremie Meyer and Richard Gouin to discuss the water fight and how to handle the increased wastewater that gets generated with the increased water. Currently our system is only operating about a third of the capacity. So that system is in a good place. They have one more upgrade they are working in, which will conclude the major upgrades to the plant. Currently, the upgrades to the system are on track and there should be no issue.

Charlene asked about wastewater and if there is any risk for the workers dealing with waste and COVID contamination. Marvin will look in to that.

Charlene would like to further discuss water use at a future work session. She shared that the tribe olds other municipalities accountable for their water use, the tribe needs to do the same. She would like to discuss water, treatment and testing, in detail

Kris would like to ask Ramon what their occupancy rate at the hotel is currently during the pandemic, and how that affects the water.

Constitution Committee: Marvin shared that Council has previously appointed committee members, which he has reached out to. Marvin also reached out to a consultant to help crate bylaws for this committee. Kris added that this is a new committee and would like to see structure and guidance provided to them. He likes the idea of bringing in an outside person in to help guide, with no bias. Marvin will share the contract information with Council. The contractor will be paid out of Council budget.

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Marvin reported that the Cunningham House roof was leaking, so a new roof is being installed. The tenants who are staying in that house have done a lot of work and upgrades. This will be another future work session topic.

Marvin was asked to get an update on the hale bones that are currently being stored in the garage at the Whitener House.

477 Update: Council briefly discussed the 477 Program and would like a refresher from the representative and SPIPA at a later date.

TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray shared that he has a letter of support for Deb Haaland for the Department of Interior Secretary, for the Chairman's signature. Council approved Kris to sign the letter and for Ray to send it.

Ray shared that he will be setting up a Zoom meeting with the mayor of Olympia and Council. This will be a "lunch" meeting at noon. Council decided that February 26th is the best date. Ray will set that up.

Ray shared that he has been helping with the PPE loans for IEI and the MLRC. This program has been giving support to small businesses during the pandemic. The first round allowed for debts to be forgiven and currently the tribe has been applying for the second round. Ray added that this is a free resource that the tribe does not have to pay back.

Ray has been working with Representative Kilmer and Representative Strickland regarding a memorandum on marijuana money. This memorandum gave guidance to the State that made marijuana legal, allowing the State to grow and sell; and protected it from federal prosecution. The Trump Administration pulled that MOA back, and Ray is hoping that the Biden Administration resubmits that MOA and hopefully moves to legalizing it on a federal level.

Ray and Nate have been watching a menthol and flavored tobacco bill; as well as a boater safety bill. The boater safety bill that is proposed has a provision that requires boaters safety certification on non-motorized vessels. This would greatly affect the canoe pullers. Ray is hoping they allow for Tribal exception and he's shared that the Tribes offer extensive training for their canoe skippers. Ray is meeting with the bill sponsor tonight regarding the importance of a tribal exception.

Ray shared that he will be sending a weekly bill tracking report to Council.

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Ray will be meeting with WIGA tomorrow regarding online gaming and strategizing for the hearing the following week.

Ray shared that the SR108 culvert replacement with WSDOT will happen this year. LCCR and IEI staff have been involved with that.

Ray reported that the legislation on tribal culture and history; the time immemorial curriculum was passed previously. There is a new bill in legislation that facilitates the process of implementation. He has been tracking that as well.

Ray will provide a land acquisition report in executive session at the end of the day.

Charlene stated that she has not had a chance to read the legislation on time immemorial, and asked if it includes each tribe for each school district. Squaxin touches Mason, Pierce and Kitsap and wondered if that curriculum includes Squaxin specific since Squaxin history differs from Skokomish. Ray stated that there are areas in those counties that take in account the Medicine Creek Tribes. Ray hasn't been active in the specifics, but knows that Sally Brownfield has been.

Jeremie asked Ray if we could talk to the City of Olympia about the illegal train trestle, and how they are under the agreement that it's connected to the illegal dam that is killing the Deschutes Estuary. What is the update on that process? Ray would like to see that on the upcoming meeting agenda for the Zoom meeting with the City Council.

INVESTMENT REPORT

Monte Davis with Charles Schwab provided a detailed update on the Tribal investments to Council.

Kris shared his appreciation to Monte for his fiduciary responsibility to the tribe and its members. Jeremie asked for more information on the Learning Center that was discussed. He would like to see those who receive distributions, the minors, to be able to open their own individual accounts and allowing them access to the online learning center. Monte stated that any youth can reach out to him at any time; or they can log on to www.schqwab.com/learningcenter. People can also reach out to Ray for any questions as well

TRIBAL GAMING UPDATE

Dallas Burnett shared an update on their staffing levels. They are right on schedule for their budget and doing well overall. They have completed 440 safety inspections and conducted several contact tracings. As of now, there is no indication of a COVID spread happening at the Casino.

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They have implemented ID verification with patrons wearing masks. The impact on criminal activity has decreasing, due to the ID requirements.

He has been working with the State to try and eliminate wasted resources and applying for ID requirements. This leads to the existing proposed ordinance and the NIGC inspections that would occur. Dallas has been working on the ordinance verbiage to comply with the NIGC regarding ID. This will allow TGA to collaborate with the State on fingerprint ID, creating a more efficient process. Dallas will present the updated ordinance for Council consideration as soon as possible.

Kris proposed a pending motion to approve the above ordinance change, pending the response from the NIGC. Jeremie moved to approve the updated ordinance. Vicki seconded the motion. Charlene thanked Dallas for his hard work. The motion carried unanimously.

Dallas shared that 38% of his workforce is tribal, and 28% of that are Squaxin Members.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO UPDATE

Ramon Nunez shared a memo explaining the implementation of the increase in minimum wage. This was previously discussed in depth at the last work session. Council agreed by consensus to move forward with the wage increase.

Kris asked Ramon about the hotel capacity. They are running fairly full on the weekends.

LEGAL UPDATE

Nate shared that the retail sales tax compact is complete. They should be providing Legal with a final product by next week. Nate will be sending it to Council for consideration at the next meeting. This is a new compact opportunity that came out of the Tulalip case. He will share that at the next meeting.

Kris asked Nate to reach out to Kevin regarding getting together with him to gift him the bentwood box made by Andrea Sigo

Kris shared that the next topics are for Executive Session items. Kris explained that these are usually related to ICW, financials, tribal members, council issues, etc. Anything that comes up that requires a decision will be brought back to an open meeting for an official vote.

Council went in to Executive Session.

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After Executive Session Council asked for a plan for all tribal properties to be discussed with the Housing Commission. Council also directed Ray to move forward with the Port Blakely Property.

Council scheduled a work session with Natural Resources for Thursday, February 4th at 9am.