

Squaxin Island Tribal Council Meeting September 8th, 2005

Attendance:

Tribal Council:	Jim Peters, Chairman
	Andy Whitener, Vice Chairman
	Vince Henry, Sr. Secretary
	Patti Puhn, Treasurer
	Will Penn, 1 st Council Member (absent)
	Pete Kruger, 2 nd Council Member (absent)
	Charlene Krise, 3 rd Council Member
Executive Director	Ray Peters
Deputy Executive Director	David Whitener Sr.
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn standing in for J. Ruby Fuller
Legal	Kevin Lyon

Jim called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and also offered the opening prayer.

AGENDA

Jim had an addition to the agenda, which was a re-appointment letter for James Harp for the Southern Panel-Pacific Salmon Commission. Patti made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Vince seconded the motion to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

Andy motioned to approve the September 8th minutes with minor changes, Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ray reported that the Centennial Accord will not be held at The Casino this year as anticipated, but will be held at Chehalis instead.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

The Global Gaming Expo will be held September 12-15 in Las Vegas. Pete Kruger, Vince Henry, Ray Peters and Andy Whitener plan to attend.

Kim Cooper is rescheduling the meeting between Tribal Council and the Shelton School District Board of Directors.

The MLRC Annual Auction will be held on September 17th at the LCC Bingo Hall.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS *(Continued)*

ATNI Annual Convention is September 19-23 is at the Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort Hotel, in Worley, ID. Ray Peters, Jim Peters, Pete Kruger & Will Penn plan to attend.

A Potlatch will be hosted by Squaxin Island Tribe, September 23rd, in the Gym.

Evergreen State College Longhouse Education and Cultural Center 10 year Anniversary Potlatch is scheduled for September 24th. Jim mentioned that he would like to attend this event. Andy and Will may also attend.

There will be an honoring dinner for Squaxin Island Tribal Employees, September 29th at 6:00 p.m., in the Little Creek Bingo Hall.

There will be a Self Governance Tribes, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Interior Fall Conference held in Washington D. C. which will run from October 10 -14. Ray, Jim and Will plan to attend.

NCAI is October 30th – November 4th in Tulsa, OK. Jim, Andy and Ray plan to attend.

Potlatch Fund 2005 Annual Gala will be November 19, 2005 in Seattle. Charlene plans to attend.

NIGA will be November 14th-15th in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Andy would like to attend.

Mike Poier introduced two guests from HUD; Ken Bowring who is the Administrator of the Northwest Office of Native American Programs from Seattle, and Colleen Clay with the Office of Program Development and Research from Washington DC. They are here to tour the Slocum Ridge Housing Development.

Charlene Krise announced that she is receiving an award from the American Association of State and Local History, and will be attending a ceremony in Pittsburg on September 23-25. Patti asked for Councils permission to attend, Council approved by consensus.

Ray, Jim, Will and Pete will all be at the ATNI Annual Conference for the next scheduled meeting, therefore Council decided to move the next meeting the following week, on September 29th.

September 30th at 9:00 a.m. will be the final budget approval for Island Enterprises, Skookum Tobacco and Little Creek Casino.

Patti reported that an Open House for Lorna has been scheduled from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. on the 30th, which is her last day of work before retirement. Patti also reported that she would like to get her a retirement gift from Council.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Tribal Member Concern: Jim reported on a Tribal Member concern he had investigated from last meeting.

Patti and Jim reported on the audit presentation yesterday. Jim wanted to share how Deb and the Finance Department are receiving national attention because there have been no audit findings for the last three years. Patti had spoken with Jim and decided that Council would present Deb Stoehr with flowers, for doing such a great job with the Finance Department. Deb was called in to Council, and was presented with flowers.

Andy motioned to approve **Resolution # 05-77**, which appoints Jim Peters to be the ATNI delegate, and Will and Vince both alternates. Vince seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 for and 0 against.

Andy handed out a letter of support addressed to the Department of Interior, for re-appointment of James Harp, for the Pacific Salmon Commission. Andy explained why he is supporting his re-appointment. Council approved Jim to sign and mail the support letter.

Jim wanted to remind the Council to bring their folders back each meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

There was discussion regarding the Occupancy Tax, Jim wanted to clarify who this tax applies to. As of now, the tax is charged to all guests. Council was asked to look the Occupancy Tax over and it will be further discussed at the next meeting, and it will be decided on who it applies to, and who would be exempt.

Property Acquisition: Ray provided a property acquisition update. There is a site in consideration for the Natural Resources/Cultural Resources Building, which is being looked at. Council will be kept informed on that progress.

Resolution #05-78, which appoints Patti as the WWEITP delegate, and June Krise as the alternate was presented. Charlene motioned to approve this resolution, and Andy seconded. The motion carried all in favor.

Jim requested a discussion regarding Council representation on boards; this will be brought to a meeting in October.

Ray wanted to remind the Council that the MLRC Art Auction is September 17th, and wanted to encourage all Council Members to attend. Council designated Jim to be the bidder for Council. He will bid on art for the Administration Building.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE *(Continued)*

Ray also mentioned that Council usually sponsors a table for \$500, Council agreed by consensus.

PLANNING

Introduction of new employee: Brian Thompson introduced John Taylor, the new Safety Manager. He started on September 1st. The Safety Manager is a resources that Island Enterprises as well as Little Creek Casino may utilize and find beneficial.

Housing Issues: The Housing Department will be under Brian Thompson's direction beginning October 1st. Brian handed out the revised housing policy, and went through the policy answering any questions and explaining all of the changes. Brian will be back at the next Council Meeting with more information, and would like to have the new policy approved at that time.

ENROLLMENT

Tammy presented the following enrollment applications, all with full benefits: **Resolution # 05-79** enrolls, Brandon Campbell, **Resolution # 05-80** enrolls Machiah Nugent, **Resolution # 05-81** enrolls Marleena Bradley, **Resolution # 05-82** enrolls Nicki and Robert Farron, and **Resolution # 05-83** enrolls Kiona Krise. Patti motioned to approve these enrollments, and Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

LEGAL

Kelly Croman discussed the NIGC Letter. She also reported on the fuel litigation.

Jim reported that the NIGC is requesting new consultation at ATNI; they are allowing a half hour per tribe. Jim will ask Doug to draft a letter for his signature requesting more time for a consultation.

Jim discussed two positions that are expired on the Island Enterprises Board. One is the Council Member Representative, which is being filled by Vince, and the other is Dave John's position. Dave will not run again, but will remain on the Board until that position can be filled. Patti motioned to re-appoint Vince, and Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 for and 0 against. This is a three year term. Will showed interest in attending the meetings.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO HOTEL/UPDATE

Doug Boon reported on Casino finance, gaming revenue, gaming, marketing and project updates. Doug also reported that they have implemented a new accounting system, and they have been a little behind on the billing, they plan to catch up as soon as possible.

Hurricane Relief: There was discussion about Hurricane Katrina Relief; Doug mentioned that WIGA is making a \$5000 donation. Governor Gregoire is also heading a fundraiser. Council suggested that Squaxin Island Tribe should match WIGA's donation, and also donate the same to the Governors fundraiser. The Casino is also providing a drop off location for people to donate supplies for hurricane victims. Council agreed by consensus to donate \$5000 to the Governors fund, and \$5000 to the WIGA fund. Doug will move forward on this request.

Jim directed Doug to draft a letter for his signature, to the NIGC requesting more time for the consultation scheduled at the Annual ATNI Meeting.

Doug will also be on vacation the first two weeks in November.

EDUCATION

Kim Cooper and Walt Archer presented **Resolution # 05-84**, which approves Squaxin Island Tribe to become a member of Tribal Education Department's National Assembly (TEDNA). This resolution also appoints Kim to be the Tribal Delegate, and Walt to be the alternate. Charlene motioned to approve, and Vince seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 for and 0 against.

Kim reported that on October 10-14 there is a National Indian Education Conference that she and Walt will be attending. Kim will provide a report after the Conference.

Kim also provided an update on the Sylvan Learning. She may request more funds so that she can open up more seats and be available for more kids. She reported that all of their existing seats are filled; they have been having an extremely positive response from teachers and parents.

Charlene asked Kim to check into the "Gear Up" program that Quinault is using.

Jim mentioned that he would like a list of all 2006 seniors and would like to meet with each one. Jim suggested that Education put on a dinner with Tribal Council with an informal pizza feed to give kids the opportunity to meet with and talk with Council members. It was also suggested to extend the invitation to all High School students and College students as well. Kim will check with Ruby regarding the schedules of Council Members.

EDUCATION *(Continued)*

Kim also commended Walt and Lisa for collecting signed release forms from a lot of the parents. In lieu of the Federal Family Education Rights of Privacy Act, this enables the Education Department to track students through school.

A Tribal Member brought a request to Council, asking for Council to fund up to seven Tribal Members to attend the Basket Weavers Association Conference in Oregon. This includes, the hotel, per diem, mileage, tuition as well as classes. Charlene motioned to approve, and Patti seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 for and 0 against. Ruby will put together the requisition.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

