

# Squaxin Island Tribal Council

## Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2005

Attendance:

Jim Peters,	Chairman
Andy Whitener,	Vice Chairman
Vince Henry, Sr.,	Secretary
Patti Puhn,	Treasurer
Will Penn,	1 <sup>st</sup> Council Member
Pete Kruger,	2 <sup>nd</sup> Council Member
Charlene Krise,	3 <sup>rd</sup> Council Member
Ray Peters	
J. Ruby Fuller	
Kevin Lyon	
Executive Director	
Recording Secretary	
Legal	

Tribal Council

## MINUTES/AGENDA

Andy Whitener moved to approve the agenda. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried 6 in favor and 0 against.

Jim asked Council to review the minutes of September 30, October 20 and the October 28 phone poll.

Pete Kruger moved to approve the amended September 30 minutes, the October 20 minutes and the phone poll minutes of October 28. After discussion the motion was approved 6 in favor and 0 against.

## INDIAN SHAKER CHURCH REQUEST

Head Elders Francis Tulee and Dennis Martin, plus other representatives from the Indian Shaker Church were in attendance to present a request. As stated in their letter to Council dated November 13, 2005, they are asking the Squaxin Tribal Council to initiate the conveyance of the property on which the Shaker Church at Mud Bay is located from fee to trust status within the Squaxin Island Tribe.

Once the property is in trust, it would be leased back to the church. Charlene Krise said this property is a sacred site. There was discussion.

Charlene moved to approve accepting title to the Indian Shaker Church property for the purpose of transferring from fee to trust and entering into a long term lease to preserve

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Page 1 of 7

## INDIAN SHAKER CHURCH REQUEST (Continued)

and protect the historic, religious, and cultural values of the Indian Shaker Church and to do any and all things necessary to ensure its continuous and exclusive use as the Indian Shaker Church. Patti Puhn seconded the motion. The motion carried 6 in favor and 0 against. Jim Peters encouraged Legal and other staff to start the process. Jim went on to say that even if it takes an act of congress we will do what it takes to fulfill this request.

## TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

**November 18** at 10:00a.m., Ambia Architects will make a presentation to the Tribal Council in the LCCR Hotel Boardroom. Island Enterprises will also give an update.

**Council Meeting Dates:** Council agreed to move their meeting scheduled for December 22 to December 21. The next regular Council meeting will be held on December 8.

Will Penn plans to attend the **Potlatch Fund 2005 Annual Gala** on November 19 in Seattle.

Council lunch with the **Mason County Commissioners** is scheduled for November 22, in the LCCR Hotel's Spirit Lounge.

**November 30** is the date set for the **Legislative Reception**. Will Penn will be attending.

Patti Puhn and Charlene Krise will be attending the **Coast Salish IV Gathering** at Lummi, **December 1 – December 3**.

The all-staff **Christmas party** is scheduled to **December 22 at 10:00 a.m. in the LCCR Showroom**.

Ray Peters, Pete Kruger and Charlene Krise plan to attend the **ATNI Economic Summit, March 28-30 at the Wildhorse Casino Resort** in Pendleton, Oregon

## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Jim reported on the **Salish Sea Gathering** he attended. Jim stated that Indigenous people from Canada are having problems more so than the Washington tribes with government-to-government relationships. Regrettably he was unable to attend the entire meeting.

A **Strategic Planning meeting** is scheduled for **November 23 from 10:00 a.m. until noon**.

**Per Capita:** Per Capita checks will be distributed on **December 1**. The amount for adults is \$445 and the amount for children under the age of 18 years is \$200.

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Page 2 of 7

## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (Continued)

The request for funds for Hurricane relief for a tribal member will be checked into to see if the need is still there, since a donation for hurricane relief has already been made.

Jim reported on the dinner at the governor's mansion he attended the night before the Centennial accord. All the tribal chairmen were invited. He said it was the first time the governor had invited all tribal chairs to the governor's mansion.

He stated that he was favorably impressed by the governor who wanted to discuss issues to be brought up the next day. Among the topics discussed was their position on water rights and conservation; methamphetamine usage on reservations; recognizing our tribal courts. They are to meet again in June. Ray is to contact directors for issues to take back to the governor. Jim is asking directors to put together a talking paper on issues. He said he would like to prepare initiatives on what is most important to the tribes.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

**Law and Order Committee Appointments:** Ray asked for Council's approval to appoint the following people to the Law and Order Committee and also asked if Council would consider a stipend for the first meeting:

Tully Kruger

Misti Saenz-Garcia

Lorna Gouin

Kim Burrows

Malynn Foster

Charlene Krise agreed to be the **Council Representative**. Initially, Legal staff will be part of the committee. Alternates are needed as well as staff for technical support.

Andy made motion to approve the appointments and to add positional appointments from the following departments: Education, Health and Human Services, Legal, Law Enforcement, Northwest Indian Treatment Center. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against. Council agreed by consensus to provide a stipend for the first meeting.

Kevin and Ray will look into whether the Law and Order Committee should stay a committee or becomes a commission and make a recommendation to Council.

## YOUTH COORDINATOR

Mark Snyder requested funds for a Christmas Party for youth on December 16 and for hosting a basket ball tournament. Santa will be there.

## YOUTH COORDINATOR (Continued)

Mark stated that there are 28 teams from Squaxin and that he needs \$7,869.50. Pete made motion to approve the Christmas Party and tournament in the amount of 8,000. Will Penn seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Council will request the Casino and Island Enterprises Inc. to split the payment for this expense.

## PLANNING

**Housing and Utilities Policies:** Brian Thompson presented a resolution adopting the policies of the Housing and Utilities Commission. Charlene made a motion to approve **Resolution # 05-106** approving the policies of the Housing and Utilities Commission. Patti seconded the motion. After discussion the motion was approved 5 in favor 1 against 0 abstentions.

**Housing Code Revisions:** Brian presented a draft of the Revisions to housing code. This will be brought back for approval.

**Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan:** Brian then presented **Resolution #05-107** adopting a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Andy made motion to approve the resolution. Patti seconded the motion. After discussion, Andy amended the motion to also continue discussion with Griffin and Shoalwater Bay. The motion carried 6 in favor and 0 against.

**Squaxin Island Garbage Collection Program:** Brian reported that the anticipated subsidy to garbage program was in the amount of 4,000 per year. The subsidy is presently at \$10,000. He presented the proposed increase in rate and indicated this proposed rate increase will go to public hearing in January.

**Home ownership initiative report:** Currently there are 121 housing units. When duplexes are finished there will be 129.

**Resolution #05-108:** Brian presented **Resolution #05-108** approving the request for the Knudsen property to be placed into trust status. Andy moved to approve **Resolution #05-108**. Vince seconded the motion. The motion carried 6 in favor and 0 against.

## ENROLLMENT

Tammy Ford presented the following resolutions for Council consideration for enrollment with full benefits:

**Resolution #05-109 – Rocero, Rolayno Jay.**

**Resolution #05-110 - Whitener, Kade Benavente**

## ENROLLMENT (Continued)

Resolution #05-111 – Burrow, Cassidy M. R.  
Resolution #05-112 - Rodriguez, Eva Alexandra  
Resolution #05-113 - Gall, Tyler Joshua (five-year wait)

Charlene made a motion and Andy seconded to approve Resolutions #05-109, #05-110, #05-111 and #05-112 for enrollment with full benefits and to approve Resolution #05-113 for enrollment with five-year wait. The motion carried 6 in favor and 0 against.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Jeff Dickison reported on an application to the Department of Ecology for water rights in the Woodland Creek basin which the Tribe opposes. The application was first denied because of impacts to instream flows. The applicant is proposing to override this closure by mitigation. Ecology has agreed and has issued the right. Natural Resources has filed an administrative appeal based on the interpretation of state law. There will be a pre-hearing conference on November 29.

Natural Resources will need additional support on the part of Tribal Council and the Legal Department. By consensus the Council agreed that Natural Resources continue with the appeal

Jeff Dickison reported that several tribes are prepared to file a constitutional appeal in regard to the Bill #13-38 that was passed by the legislature.

## VETERANS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Glen Parker gave an update on the Veterans' Committee Memorial project. Their new goal is to have the memorial finished by Veteran's Day a year from now. Glen reported they have identified 73 veterans and are still looking for information in that regard. They have been working with Lynn Scroggins, Planner, in an effort to obtain the additional funding they need.

Jim said to let Council know if there is any way they can help.

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER UPDATE

Jim Kindie, Director of the Child Development Center provided an enrollment report for the Child Development Center. Currently there 121 children enrolled. Four classes are at or near capacity.

Jim asked Council to consider expansion of services and of the building sometime in the future. He was instructed to research the costs involved; investigate obtaining funding for after-school care; look at the capacity of our current building and meet with Bob

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER UPDATE (Continued)

Whitener, Island Enterprises Director. The Child Development center is licensed for 117 at any one time during the day. Thirty openings are usually available on a daily basis

## LEGAL

**Resolution # 05-114:** Patti moved to approve the appointment of Kelly Croman as alternate member on the Problem Gaming Advisory Board. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried 6 in favor and 0 against.

**Resolution #05-115:** adopts amendment number 2 to Section 17.1(e) of SIGE profit sharing plan to allow participant loans. Vince Henry made the motion to approve. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion to carried 6 in favor and 0 against.

Kevin reported on the fuel litigation case.

**NIGC:** Kevin reported on the NIGC warning notice that was received. They are working on how to comply with the regulations. Kevin reported that their relationship with NIGC is improving somewhat and he is hopeful that they have crafted a solution.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## GENERAL MATTERS

**General Body Meeting:** The next General Body meeting is scheduled for January 7 at 10 a.m. in the LCCR Showroom. *(The meeting will be held in the Gymnasium. The Showroom is not available)*

**Funeral benefits:** Charlene moved to increase the funeral benefit from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for tribal members and from 1,000 to \$1500 for non tribal member spouses. Council approved the change unanimously.

**Button Blanket:** Council approved the purchase of a case the Button Blanket made by Julie Goodwin and Carrie Smith so that it can be exhibited and protected. The cost for the glass case is approximately \$1,000.

**Enrollment audit:** This matter will be on the December 8 agenda.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Ray Peters gave a property acquisition update.

**Fire Station:** Ray met with Gary Plews and Kurt Bennett from Fire District #4. They have recommended the fire district to partnering with the Tribe and have proposed that the Tribe fund 2 fire's. Ray will bring back a spreadsheet of what this would cost. These positions would be paid by the Tribe but supervised by the fire district. Council approved by consensus that Ray proceed with this matter.

Will Penn left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

**Island Enterprises Board appointment:** Jim Peters will check on the names of those who expressed an interest in being on the Board of Directors. Council will make a decision at tomorrow's meeting with Island Enterprises and the Casino.

**Gaming Commission Vacancy:** Glen Parker reported that one gaming commissioner has resigned. Charlene stated that this is an important position. A letter will be sent to tribal members regarding this vacancy and asking for names of those interested in serving on this commission. *(The resignation was withdrawn.)*

**Human Resources Report from HR Consultants:** Pati Puhn, as Human Resources Director updated Council on the report from HR Consultants. She said the report indicated that the Tribe's pay structure is very competitive within the market. There were three recommendations. Pete moved to have the Executive director implement the three recommendations from the Human Resources report retroactive to the beginning of fiscal year 2006. Pati seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

**Political donation requests:** Council approved a political donation for Maria Cantwell's re-election campaign in the amount of \$1,000 and \$500 to the Citizens to elect Dave Somers.

**Treaty Tree Proposal:** The Thurston County Historic Commission is proposing to plant a large seedling from the Medicine Creek Treaty Tree on the Thurston County Courthouse grounds honoring the Medicine Creek Treaty and commemorating Leschi's birthday on that day. Council agreed to support this if do it in consultation with the Squaxin Island and Nisqually Tribes.

Ray will be on annual leave December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned 5:59 p.m.