

Western Washington Agency
1620 Hewitt Avenue
Everett, Washington 98201

May 20, 1964

Mr. R. D. Holtz

Area Director, Portland, Oregon

Attention: Tribal Operations

Dear Mr. Holtz:

Enclosed are six copies of a Resolution passed by the Squaxin Island Tribal Council on May 14, asking the Secretary to call an election to vote on a proposed constitution for the Tribe. Copies of the constitution are attached to the Resolution.

The constitution incorporates the changes requested in Central Office letter of February 17 and the suggestions of the Field enrollment section, with a few exceptions and changes which the Council feels are desirable and hopes will be acceptable.

Article I - Territory. The date of the Medicine Creek treaty has been changed from January 26, 1854 to December 26, 1854. We believe the latter date is correct.

Article II - Membership. The Tribal Council believes membership in the Squaxin Island Tribe should be open to Indians with 1/8 degree or more Indian blood per the provisions in the above article. The Council is confident this will be approved by the voters in the election and for this reason Section 2 does not contain any provisions restricting membership to Indians of Squaxin Island blood.

Section 2. Wording has been changed slightly but the meaning is unchanged.

Article III - Powers of the Governing body.

Sub-section (b). This section has been amended to read "To acquire, manage, lease, or use tribal real property and other tribal assets..." The Council wishes to omit "dispose of" because it feels the members will not approve giving this authority to the Council and they think approval of the constitution will be jeopardized if the wording is left in.

They state that if disposition of tribal property ever becomes important, the constitution can be amended at that time to permit the necessary action.

We believe their analysis is correct and under the circumstances recommend that the omission be approved. This was confirmed at the Suquamish general council meeting on May 17, where the tribal members objected to giving the tribal council this authority in the proposed Suquamish constitution and voted to omit it.

The word "contract" was also omitted because it was felt it is superfluous.

Article IV is now Manner of Review, and former Article IV -- Elections, has been changed to Article V. It was felt it would be more logical to have Manner of Review follow the section on Powers of the Governing Body.

Article IV -- Manner of Review.

Section 2. The phrase "which is subject to review" has been added after "If the Superintendent or Officer in Charge approves any Resolution or Ordinance. The change was made at the request of the Council and is simply for clarification.

Section 3. The same wording has been added as in Section 2 for the same reason.

Article V -- Elections. The order of the sections has been rearranged for better coherence.

Section 1. This has been changed to provide that the four officers and one councilman shall serve three year terms concurrently. After reconsidering this section, the Council felt that members would find it simpler and more satisfactory to elect all the members of the Council at one time instead of staggering their terms. They feel that some experienced councilmen will always be re-elected which will give continued stability to Tribal government.

A proposal was discussed to elect the Council on a staggered basis and to elect the officers from the councilmen annually, but this was not considered to be a satisfactory solution.

The phrase "They shall hold office until their successors are duly elected" has been placed in Section 3.

Section 2. (Section 3 in Washington Office draft). To conform with changes made in Section I, the words "every third year" have been added after "January" in the first sentence.

The sentence "The General Council shall resolve all election disputes", has been made part of Section 5.

Article VI -- Duties of Officers.

Section 1. Sentences have been rearranged but the wording remains the same.

Article VII -- Vacancies and Removals.

Section 2. After "special meeting", the following words have been added "at which he shall have an opportunity for a hearing". The Council wishes this wording added because it feels any official facing removal should have an opportunity for a hearing.

The last sentence in this section has been changed as follows;
"Provided, that 50% or more of the eligible voters vote in favor of removal at such meeting which shall be held within 30 days after the filing of the petition". The Council also feels that when removal of a councilman is involved, at least 50% of the eligible voters should vote in favor of the removal, not just a majority of the 50% present at the meeting.

Article VIII - Meetings.

Section 2. The Council decided that the requirement of 50% to petition for a special meeting is too high and has changed this to what they consider a more realistic figure of 30%. They have also established a quorum of 30%.

Article X -- Amendments.

Section 2. The Council believes a petition for amendments should be signed by 50% of the eligible voters instead of 30% as specified in earlier drafts and this change has been made.

We hope that the constitution as submitted is satisfactory and that the Secretary will be able to call the election without delay.

Sincerely yours,
(Sgd.) George M. Felshaw

Superintendent

Enclosures

cc: Mrs. Florence Sigo ✓
Chairman
Squaxin Island Tribal Council