

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
February 9, 2012**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Dave Lopeman	Chairman
Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
Andy Whitener	Treasurer
Pete Kruger, Sr.	Secretary
Ray Peters	1 st Council Member (<i>absent</i>)
Jim Peters	2 nd Council Member
Charlene Krise	3 rd Council Member

Legal Counsel

Kevin Lyon

Tribal Administrator

Don Whitener

Recording Secretary

Melissa Puhn

Charlene Krise offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the February 9th Council agenda. Andy Whitener seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the January 11, January 14 General Body and January 26 Council Minutes; January 31 phone poll and an amendment to the March 24, 2011 minutes. Andy Whitener seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

Rhonda Foster stopped by with a concern regarding geoduck. She shared her concern regarding the phase out. Arnold would like to discuss this with a full Council and Natural Resources.

Rhonda shared the Pendleton blanket design. She shared the color change that Pendleton did which she did not like. She shared the two examples, one without white and one with a lighter color (not white, since Pendleton does not have white). Council liked the one with the lighter color.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

February 13-16: ATNI Winter Conference, LCC. Glen asked if he could attend some of the meetings. Council approved.

February 27-29: RES 2012, Las Vegas. Jim and Pete will attend.

March 6-8: NCAI Winter Session, Washington DC, Ray, Jim and Arnold will attend.

April 1-4: NIGA, San Diego. Andy and Charlene will attend.

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May 6-10: Self Governance Conference, New Orleans. Ray and Pete will attend.

July 29 – August 5: 2012 Canoe Journey

CHAIRMANS UPDATE

Lametta LaClair stopped by. She is requesting \$500 to help buy food for an event she is hosting next weekend. She applied to the One Percent Commission, but their meeting will be after the fact. Council agreed that a phone poll can be done for One Percent to grant her funds (*The One Percent Commission granted her request of \$500 later in the day*).

Jim Peters shared that he will attend an EPA Meeting on February 23rd. He was appointed as the tribal leader to present at the meeting. He shared that EPA is supporting tribal culture and the 7-Generation philosophy.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Don shared that he will be hiring Richard Wells for the DCD/Planning Director position. He will start on February 27th. Currently he works for Tahola, he comes with good experience.

Don shared that he has been approached about the per capita payment dates. Since the fourth payment was added, they are not distributed equally through the year. Council discussed changing the dates to every three months.

Andy brought up the idea of having a smaller amount distributed every month; but contracting the service out.

For now, Council decided to distribute every three months. Don will work with Finance to determine the best months to do so.

Don shared that there will be a pond meeting tomorrow; they hope to have a decision and move forward. The rough estimate for completion of the pond is around \$200k. Don would like to know how serious Council is on completing this project. Andy would like to see the scope of work, since funds are an issue. Council would like it aesthetically pleasing; and felt that it would be more cost effective to maintain the existing footprint. Council would like to see if done, in a cost effective manner, yet done correctly.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Patti Puhn and Astrid Poste were present to answer any questions Council had. Arnold shared that he wanted to be sure that tribal members have opportunities for employment, even if their skills are lacking. Patti shared that all entry level jobs do not require GEDs. She provided a list of entry level jobs. Patti shared that most departments have entry level positions. Arnold asked if departments are compassionate about employees continuing their education. Patti shared that employees are allowed to do homework on work time. Charlene asked about tribal members with learning difficulties who may be a little slower in obtaining their GED. Patti shared that they do work with tribal members if that is

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the case. Jim asked if the tribe has ever hosted a career fair; bringing in departments and tribal businesses to set up tables. It could be a way to share opportunities that the tribe offers; including job requirements. Patti shared that they have done something like that with the youth program, but not adults. Astrid added that they do encourage tribal members to work as an “on-call” position, this have been an area of success. Jim asked about the Stepping Stones and Summer Youth Program. Patti shared that many of the participants graduate to the full time program, and sometimes a full time job.

BILLY FRANK

Billy and Lois were present to invite Council to the monthly NWIFC meeting, which will be hosted at the Casino on the 21-22nd. They will host dinner on the 21st and would like Council to come; 6:00 p.m.

Billy shared that he appreciates the support that Squaxin has had for Salmon Defense.

GUEST: EAGLE TWIDWELL

Eagle Twidwell introduced his mother-in-law, Betty Kitchen and his wife, Tammy Twidwell. Betty discussed Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT). MRT is a program that focuses on the physical and spiritual aspects of addiction. She explained the seven major steps of the MRT Program; with the end result being the enhanced moral reasoning, better decision making and appropriate behavior. This program has been around for 30 years, and started in the correctional centers.

Charlene suggested applying this plan to the entire community. Eagle said that they would make themselves available to the tribe. He handed out a pricelist of what their services offer.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

DCD Positions: Jeff Peters shared that he is looking for Council support for a Wastewater Trainee and Grounds Keeper Positions. He shared that his department has not added any additional positions since 2001; yet the tribe and its buildings have expanded a lot since then. He added that he also would really like another Maintenance Position and another Janitor included in the budget for next year. Kathy stated that this expansion of his department was discussed at the Work Session last year and Council seemed supportive. Council said to move forward with the two positions, Wastewater Trainee and Grounds Keeper, to be funded out of the undistributed Casino funds.

Capital Projects Update: Margaret Foley provided an update on capital projects. The Canoe Carving Center is being put together by Pacific Log Homes and the foundation will begin once the drawings are available.

Squaxin Land re-alignment will be done by Rodarte Construction and the engineering is underway. The physical work will begin in March with a completion date of June 1.

Planning is working on the paperwork to get the road improvements started on the Cemetery. Next steps is to plan and design the columbarium for cremations.

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The Natural Resources/Cultural Resources Building contractor interviews were recently held. The selection committee recommends the design/build team of Formline/Korsmo for the projects, and requests approval to move forward with negotiations. Council agreed by consensus of the contractor selection.

ISLAND ENTERPRISES

Bob Whitener was present to discuss the Clary Property. Council discussed the water rights that are associated with that property.

Council went in to Executive Session to discuss the CEO selection process for the Little Creek Casino General Manager. No action taken.

2012 CANOE JOURNEY UPDATE

Patti Puhn and Whitney Jones reported on the volunteer status. Patti shared that she is working on a database for volunteers to sign up. The website is up and running now: www.paddletosquaxin2012.org. She is planning on having staff fill a lot of the volunteer positions.

Whitney reported on the food committee/meal program. She is working on the budget for food purchasing for meal service and snacks. Discussed elk; any elk that is harvested for the tribe needs to be separated for canoe journey or funerals. Whitney said it's not going to be cheap and will really work on refining the menu. Feeling confident about what is in place now. Lucky to have a large volunteer base right now for food committee. Cisco is helping on several fronts. Charlene commended Whitney on what she has been doing. Jim asked about reaching out to vendors to donate. She said that in regards to traditional foods a lot of people have volunteered to donate their product. Margaret Foley has been working on sponsorship from companies to donate food items as well.

Jim wants to have some system in place when traditional food is donated, its tracked and noted that we actually received it. Council would like the canoe food to be completely separated from everything else.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Whitney wanted to verify that the Tribe will contract with TruBallot again for their balloting services at the May General Body Meeting. She shared that she really liked their process last year, everything went really well. Council approved.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jeff Dickison presented **Resolution #12-01** which authorizes the submission of a funding request to the BIA for implementation of a Tribal Timber Fish & Wildlife Project. Arnold Cooper moved to approve the resolution. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

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Aquatics: Jeff handed out the 2012-2013 Annual Geoduck Regulations. Arnold Cooper moved the approve the regulations. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

COMMUNITY MEMBER

Don Smith shared a story about a young Lummi boy who is receiving the highest honor by the Vatican Church. He would like to see a celebration in conjunction to the canoe journey, since this will happen at the same time. Council suggested that he connect with Deb Meisner to see how it could fit in to the canoe journey program.

TRIBAL GAMING COMMISSION

Summer Petty, Joanne Decicio and Mike Ulrich were present. Joanne shared that the full Tribal Gaming Commission just returned from a work session. They went over the recommendations from Moss Adams and created a strategic plan. They are working on strengthening how the commission operates and improves relationships. The Commission has a draft regulation now.

Joanne brought up the recommendation from Moss Adams to change the way Squaxin Island Gaming Agency (SIGA) gets paid. As of now, the Casino pays SIGA directly, monthly, 1/12 of the total approved budget for the fiscal year. Moss Adams suggested that the Casino pay the Tribe, and the Tribe then pay SIGA. Currently, because they are being paid directly by the Casino there could be the appearance that SIGA is not as strict with compliance. Kevin stated that if this change was to be made, Council would need to authorize the use of pass through funds (7500) and the Casino would then be directed to pay the Tribe in a timely manner. The process would be that the Casino pay the Tribe monthly *advances* of 1/12 of the SIGA approved budget and the Tribe pay monthly advances of 1/12 of the SIGA total approved budget less SIGA's estimated payroll costs. (Actual payroll costs will be adjusted with the subsequent month's payment.) Pete Kruger moved to adopt the recommendation made by Moss Adams, which would include a budget for SIGA within Tribal Government, who would bill the Casino on a monthly basis for 1/12 of the annual approved budget. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against (*Dave Lopeman was out of the room*).

Kevin shared that he handed out the Moss Adams report at the last Council Meeting. This was one of 14 recommendations made by them. Kevin will discuss the others later; but the Commission is working on the recommendations one by one.

LEGAL

Kevin handed out the history of per capita distributions. Council discussed different options and will discuss later how to hand future distributions.

Kevin shared that TANF eligibility is affected by per capita payments. He will bring a draft MOU to the next meeting.

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Kevin discussed the IVE funding for child welfare that Bruce Davies has been preparing an MOU for. He shared that SPIPA could not make any commitments without support from the tribe. There are no obligations at this point. There are far more regulations for IV, but may turn out to be a good thing.

Kevin shared that they have been working on revising the Youth Code. He provided the "first reading" of the revision today, and will seek approval at the next meeting.

Kevin handed out **Resolution #12-02** which authorized Dave Johns to be the signature authority for KTP LLC in order to allow the entity to complete its application for the TTB Basic Alcohol Permit. Kevin stated that this is necessary in order for KTP to remain a contract liquor store, with Initiative 1183 recently passing. Andy Whitener moved to approve the resolution. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

As requested, Kevin prepared a resolution and promissory note that would allow an additional advance from the Permanent Trust, to purchase two additional cigarette machines for Skookum Creek Tobacco. Kevin shared that Ray is proposing an advance with the term of seven years at 5%. Andy shared his concerns about drawing from the Permanent Trust; since the idea behind it is to build an account. Arnold Cooper moved to approve **Resolution #12-07** which authorizes the advance against the Permanent Trust. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) for, zero (0) against, and one (1) abstained.

Kevin handed out a resolution for the no cost development contract for the tribe to enter in to a pilot program with SAS Solutions On Demand. This pilot program will build a secure system/database for Family and Health Services Departments. Jim Peters moved to approve **Resolution #12-04**. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kevin handed out the Wokojance Property purchase/sale agreement. He handed out a resolution approving the purchase of their five acres, contingent on financing; allowing the tribe to step away if necessary. Pete Kruger moved to approve **Resolution #12-05** which authorized the purchase of the Estate of Frank Wokojance and Eloise Wokojance. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against (*Dave and Andy were out of the room*).

Kevin provided the resolution and purchase/sale agreement for the Mary Lopeman Property. Charlene Krise moved to approve **Resolution #12-06** which authorized the purchase of the Estate of William Lopeman and Dave Lopeman. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against (*Dave and Andy were out of the room*).

Jim asked about a complaint letter that Council received from a Little Creek employee. Jim asked that Legal look in to it.

Council discussed the ATNI golf comp. Don reminded that this discussion was done months ago, and it was determined that the Chairman could call the golf course to request a round of golf. Kevin stated that it would be considered a distribution to the tribe. Jim suggested that in the case of the tribe hosting a conference, maybe offer the tribal rate for other tribal chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.