



**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA  
BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**July 7, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION:**

Chief Harper called the meeting to order. Carolyn Ritchey gave the invocation.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

Secretary Tonya Mathews declared a quorum with all members present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Logan Pappenfort and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve the Agenda. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Kara North to approve the Minutes of June 2, 2020. Motion passed.

**MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:**

***Peoria Ridge Golf Course:***

Milton Hale, Peoria Ridge Golf Superintendent, introduced the Peoria Ridge Golf Shop Manager Austin Shipman. Mr. Hale began his report by providing an update of the maintenance department:

- Tees have been verified
- Course has been fertilized

Concluding his report he provided a recap of rounds played. Mr. Hale stated that the number of rounds is up considerably as compared to rounds in FY19. He also stated that the membership drive is going well and membership is up 25%. Mr. Hale provided that July 24<sup>th</sup> is Member Appreciation night and he would like to extend an invitation to the Business Committee members to attend.

***Buffalo Run Hotel:***

Kristi Riggs, Buffalo Run Hotel Manager, started her report by stating that there had been 18 rooms sold as part of a golf package from the Casino. She also advised the Business Committee that the occupancy rate had been down in the month of May, which was COVID related. Ms. Riggs stated that the hotel is getting closer to beer and wine sales. Staff have been getting trained/certified and they are real close to being able to provide alcohol sales. As an update, she stated the pool and gym are open at limited capacity, the entire hotel is non-smoking, and the breakfast area has been updated to meet COVID requirements.

### ***Buffalo Run Casino:***

Patrick Browne, Buffalo Run CEO, introduced Candy Watson, employee delegate, and she presented a gift to the Business Committee. Ms. Watson stated that the employees of Buffalo Run Casino and Hotel are very appreciative of the continued employment of all the employees. She stated the employees could not stress enough how much it meant to them that they were never laid off and how proud they are to work for the property.

Mr. Browne continued with his report stating the casino had been closed for 54 days, but during that there were many initiatives involved in the Reopening Plan and he was proud of the work that was completed during the closure. The property reopened on May 15th with lines of patrons waiting to get in and he was pleased to announce the distribution amount to the Tribe.

Steve Bashore, Buffalo Run Casino General Manager, provided the Business Committee with a document detailing the Initiatives that were completed during the closure of the casino:

- Entire property was cleaned from top to bottom
- Kiosks were removed and new ones installed
- Players Club was added to the Cage and renamed Guest Services
- The Launch Pad, an area where new games will be introduced, was added to the slot floor. This will be constantly changing and the games that are successful in this room will be added to the main floor
- New games will be added monthly
- Generator had been refurbished and is ready to go
- HVAC had been reviewed
- All the chips had been cleaned and sanitized
- IT had been added to Security/Surveillance and some new cameras had been installed

In closing out the Casino reports, Chief Harper wanted to recognize the properties' employees. He stated that the decision had been unanimous to keep all staff on the payroll and reinvest in them. Chief Harper further stated that their loyalty and hard work was what made the reopening so seamless. He thanked them and said "job well done!"

### **Financial Reports**

A motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve the financial reports for May 2020 as presented. Motion passed.

### **Administrative Program Reports**

Chief Harper provided a brief overview of his printed report stating that the "battle" with Governor Stitt is ongoing. He also stated he had recently met with all of the leaseholders of tribal properties. He also gave an update on the Peoria Longhouse and Woodland Academy stating both projects are moving along and he is very satisfied with the progress. Chief Harper further updated the Business Committee stating that the new Environmental offices are nearly finished being renovated and the department will be relocating in the near future. He stated that Korie Payton had been hired as Marketing Assistant/Graphic Designer and he would like to have the group turn their attention to the screen for a video recap of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities held at Buffalo Run Casino. Chief Harper wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the success of staff member Erin Barnes. Ms. Barnes has been the Grant Writer since 2018 and has already been extremely successful this year. So far, she has secured a grant for \$900,000 in 2019 and another grant for \$900,000 this year. In closing, he stated

that staff evaluations would be completed in August; department meetings are ongoing; and the mascot issue may become a hot topic - again, due to recent events regarding mascots.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

No unfinished business

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**New Members Recommended for Approval by the Enrollment Committee on 06/18/2020 Tentatively to be Approved by the Business Committee on 07/07/2020 or at the Next Regularly Scheduled or Special Meeting.** After noting missing information from the report and neither enrollment staff nor enrollment committee in attendance to answer questions no action was taken.

**Resolution R-07-07-20-A, “Approval for Changes to the Peoria Tribal Membership Roll”:** After noting missing information from the report and neither enrollment staff nor enrollment committee in attendance to answer questions no action was taken.

**Approval/discussion to Amend the Land Acquisition Budget and Tribal Enterprise Budget Transfer to Authorize and Complete the Purchase of the Industrial Warehouse Properties** Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to amend the land acquisition budget and tribal enterprise budget transfer to authorize and complete the purchase of the Industrial Warehouse properties in the amount of \$400,000. Motion passed.

**Resolution R-07-07-20-B “Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Application to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for a New Program Titled, Social and Economic Development Strategies for Grown Organizations (SEDS-GO) for Fiscal Year 2020”** Motion was made by Logan Pappenfort and seconded by Hank Downum to approve Resolution R-07-07-20-B as presented. Motion passed.

**Resolution R-07-07-20- C “Developing Capacity for Restoration of Culturally Significant Freshwater Mussels at the Aquatic Facility of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma”** Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-07-07-20-C as presented. Motion passed.

**Discussion/Approval of Peoria Tribe of Indians General Welfare Program Ordinance:** Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Kara North to approve Peoria Tribe of Indians General Welfare Program Ordinance. Motion passed.

**Discussion/Approval COVID-19 Relief Fund Budget:** Chief Harper stated the Tribe had received a total of \$7.7 million. He said the Business Committee had taken the view of looking at the pandemic in three categories: Past, Present, Future. Chief Harper stated that funding has been set aside as such: Past at \$3 million, Future at \$2.5 million and the Present at \$2 million. Chief Harper provided an overview of the budget, as presented, providing a brief description for each line item.

Discussion from the floor included questions from tribal citizens regarding eligibility and timeframe. Chief Harper stated it would begin Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> and end October 31<sup>st</sup> – to allow the Tribe to properly close out the books before the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Logan Pappenfort to approve the COVID-19 Relief Fund Budget. Motion passed.

**Resolution R-07-07-20-D “Resolution Approving the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Relief Fund Program Under the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma General Welfare Program Ordinance”:** Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-07-07-20-D as presented. Motion passed.

**Discussion/Approval to Waive Procurement Policy to Purchase Historical Documents:** Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to waive the procurement policy to allow Chief Harper to purchase Historical Documents. Motion passed.

**Discussion/Approval to Authorize Purchase of CMC/Food Sovereignty Property:** Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Kara North to authorize purchase of CMC/Food Sovereignty Property. Motion passed.

**Discussion/Approval to Amend the Land Acquisition Budget and Tribal Enterprise Budget Transfer to Complete the Purchase of CMC/Food Sovereignty Property:** Motion was made by Logan Pappenfort and seconded by Hank Downum to amend the land acquisition budget and tribal enterprise budget transfer to complete the purchase of the CMC/Food Sovereignty property. Motion passed.

**Resolution R-07-07-20-E “Approval of Issuance of Obligations and Authorization For Execution of Loan Documents:** Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Logan Pappenfort to approve Resolution R-07-07-20-E as presented. Motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to move into Executive Session at 6:52 pm.

Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded Kara North to come out of Executive Session at 7:38 pm.


**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comments from the floor were received during “New Business.”

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Isabella Burrell. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

  
Authorized Signature

  
Date Approved