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PEORIA TRIBE

OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

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CHIEF
Craig Harper

SECOND CHIEF
Rosanna Dobbs

PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING January 2, 2024

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION:

Chief Harper called the meeting to order, and Carolyn Ritchey gave the Invocation.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Secretary Jenny Rampey declared a quorum with all members present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Jenny Rampey made a motion and Kara North seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Rosanna Dobbs made a motion and was seconded by Scott Myers to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, held on December 5, 2023, with one minor spelling correction of a last name. Motion passed with the correction made.

MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Financial Reports

Carolyn Ritchey made a motion and was seconded by Jenny Rampey to approve the Financial Reports for November 2023 as presented. Motion passed.

Enterprise Reports

Chief Harper introduced Mary Jewett, Acting General Manager of Buffalo Run Casino & Resort. Ms. Jewett introduced herself and thanked the council for having her.

Ms. Jewett began her report, which included November Highlights:

Before reviewing the figures, Ms. Jewett informed the Council that an offer had been made and accepted for Financial Director at the Casino.

Slot Financials

- **Slot Win** showed a *decrease* of -14.46% (\$326,640) from November 2023 to November 2024.
- **YTD** showed a *decrease* of -10.21% (\$1,787,945).

Hotel Financials

- -3.85% (62) *decrease* in **Occupancy** from November 2023 to November 2024. **YTD** showed a -2.35% (361) *decrease* in occupancy.
- -6.67% (\$9,104) *decrease* in **Room Revenue** from November 2023 to November 2024. **YTD** showed a *decrease* of -3.91% (\$50,041).

Golf Financials

- **Golf Revenue** showed an *increase* of 40.07% (\$18,162) from November 2023 to November 2024. **YTD** showed an *increase* of 7.65% (\$57,655).

Food and Beverage

- **Bistro** comparing November FY2023 to FY2024 showed an *increase* of 68,511.50% (\$77,418). *The Bistro was not open this time last year, thus the large increase.*
- **Backwoods** showed a *decrease* of -56.38% (\$52,373).
- **Coal Creek** showed a *decrease* of -6.74 (\$6,709).
- **Main Bar** showed a *decrease* of -24.35% (\$22,027).
- **Backwoods Bar** showed a *decrease* of -36.52% (\$3,418).
- **Total F&B Sales** showed a *decrease* of -10.16% (\$16,855).

2024 Casino Distribution

- **Casino Distribution** showed a *decrease* of -45.56% (\$201,726) from November 2023 to November 2024 with a *decrease* of -18.67% (\$691,669) YTD.

Ms. Jewett continued her report by introducing Demaris Rector, the new Director of Marketing for the Casino. Ms. Rector introduced herself by sharing a brief bio and followed up with a few marketing highlights that included:

- New events starting this month in the Backwoods Bar include 'Talent on Tap' and a Trivia Night. The goal is to drive new business into the Casino.
- Construction on the Peoria Showplace is underway. The focus is on a new grand entryway, bleacher installs, and remaining soundboard install.

Ms. Rector thanked the Committee and asked if there were any questions.

Chief Harper then introduced Jolynn Kaiser, Director of Early Childhood for the Tribe.

Ms. Kaiser stated that this is a recap of the CCDF fiscal year (October 1-September 30). Year-end reports are due to CCDF by December 31st, this is the information being presented. The presentation included:

- ***Services Provided***
 - Provided care to 114 total children. Subsidy, 51; services through enrollment, 91.
 - Provided a total of 160 hours of care.
 - Total of \$352,699.30 in subsidy paid with the average copay paid per child per month was \$8.00.
- ***CCDF Recap***
 - Tribal three-year plan was completed, submitted, and approved by the federal office.
 - Tribal consultation – Federal staff from the Administration of Children and Families met with Tribal leaders to discuss federal policies and congressional laws. The information was taken back to Congress. Data from the meeting will be used to create relevant changes for tribal nations.
- ***Events***
 - General Council - Peoria children's number book.
 - Children's Christmas Party.
 - 4th of July celebration.
 - Week of the Young Child.
 - Trunk or Treat.
 - Backpack Giveaway – 1,000 backpacks were distributed.
- ***Learning Centers Data***
 - First full year open (all 12 months).
 - Enrollment is at full capacity – 83 children total with 143 on the waiting list.
 - High scope curriculum utilized within all preschool and infant/toddler classrooms.
 - COR Advantage platform used to track developmental progress.
 - 73% of students are Native American or Alaska Native, 30% of that total are Peoria students.
 - Practice-based coaching is the coaching model used.
 - TPOT for pre-school teachers and TPITOS for Infant/Toddler teachers.
 - Program Growth – Opened a second school-age classroom to accommodate new students as well as opening a third learning center (old Rockdale School).

Ms. Kaiser thanked the Committee for having her and asked if there were any questions. Seeing no questions, Chief Harper thanked Jolynn and continued with his Administrative Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Chief Harper began his Administrative Report for December. The report included the following highlights:

- Hired Food Distribution Manager, Jeremy Gillespie.
- Continue to hold interviews for multiple positions.
- Annual PTIO Children's Christmas Party!

- Attended the NEO President's Holiday Reception.
- Meeting with Judge Bigler.
- Staff Christmas Party and gifting of hams.
- Attended the ITC Board Meeting.
- Economic Development Meeting.

After the recap from last month, Chief Harper gave a brief statement regarding the following:

- FY 2025 budgets are near completion and will be ready for review and approval at next month's BC meeting.
- Buffalo and produce are the focus this year.
- The tribe purchased the old Marvin's grocery store in town, and it is currently being renovated.
- Future casino developments = Building back up the reserves.
- Economic Development = Funding to be accounted for.
- Planning professional development training for the directors this year.
- Cemetery – What are the budget needs and phases?
- The job description is ready to post for the Tribe's first-ever in-house attorney.
- Working on several other plans and growth expectations.
- Mission Statement for the Tribe – What is our mission statement? Chief asked the Business Committee to be thinking of this as this will be developed this year.
- There is much to be excited about in 2024!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Approval of ODOT Hwy 69A ROW Contract: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Hank Downum to approve the ODOT Hwy 69A contract as presented. Motion passed. (*This is Hwy 69A, the road in front of Buffalo Run Casino*).

Discussion/Approval of Revisions to Elder Care and Disability Reimbursement Program Policies and Procedures: Following questions from the Council and several discussions regarding the revisions made, the decision was made to revisit this at next month's meeting under 'Unfinished Business'. No motion was made.

Discussion/Approval of Employee Wage Change Recommendations (done in Executive Session): Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Kara North to approve two wage changes as recommended by H.R. in Executive Session. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chief Harper began “Public Comments” by asking if there were any questions so that each Tribal Citizen had the opportunity to address the Business Committee or ask questions. Second Chief Dobbs addressed the Chair, stating that before the meeting is moved to Public Comment, she would like for three previously discussed topics to be added to the February agenda: PTIO Donation Policy, Community Center Contract, and PTIO Handbook Policy revisions.

After much discussion, Chief Harper informed Second Chief Dobbs that the items would need to be listed under “Unfinished Business” on the February agenda.

Citizen W. Tosan Farless:

Mr. Farless raised the question to Second Chief, “Why is the employee handbook being brought up to change?” Second Chief responded that it was the Business Committee’s discretion to bring changes up if they were not working. Mr. Farless then stated that he would like for the BC minutes to be in better spirits and to include the Peoria language when spoken.

Citizen Nick Hargrove:

Mr. Hargrove stated that he noticed many stones that were still broken at the Peoria Cemetery. Cultural Preservation Director, Charla EchoHawk replied that a meeting was planned this week about funding to finalize plans for the cemetery and that updates were in the works.

Citizen Tabitha Sixkiller:

Ms. Sixkiller asked if the new Food Distribution Center would be creating new jobs for the citizens. Chief Harper responded, yes, it would be. Ms. Sixkiller then asked if there were any active plans for Food Distribution while the center was being built. Commerce Director, Crystal Wyrick responded that the tribe has received a food pilot program to start putting together food boxes for distribution to the CHR clients.

Citizen Karen Johnson:

Ms. Johnson stated that she received Eldercare and that the tribe’s checks are written on Arvest Bank. She does not have an account there but took the check to Arvest to be cashed. She was charged a \$5.00 fee to do so. Why is this? Chief Harper asked the tribe’s Accounting Director, Bill Chase to look into this matter. Ms. Johnson then stated that she has brought up an increase in Eldercare several times but that it continues to be pushed back. What needs to happen for this to take place?

Citizen Burgundy Fletcher:

Ms. Fletcher stated that with the upcoming Election and General Council meeting in March, she would like an Election Committee representative to attend next month’s meeting, to answer any questions. Chief Harper stated that he would invite the Chair of the Election Committee, Kristen Gillman, to attend February’s BC meeting.

Citizen Denise Broyles:

Ms. Broyles would like to ask for an increase in Eldercare from \$2,500 to \$3,500 due to inflation. Chief Harper stated that he would look into this, it will be challenging until the casino earnings improve.

Citizen Mark Glades:

Mr. Glades stated that although he appreciates the fact that the PTIO flag is available for purchase, he'd like to know if there is anything that can be done to reduce the cost. He also asked if a flag could be provided to the family at a burial. Mr. Glades continued by asking if a Peoria song or poem could be sung in our language at a funeral. Citizen Wess Farless replied that there is not currently a song to sing, in the Peoria language.

Citizen Charla EchoHawk:

Ms. EchoHawk stated that her department is still receiving Veteran information that they sent out asking for. She also recognized Human Resources Director, Kim Krokroskia for her achievements in that department and the benefit she has been to the tribe, she recognized Kim as the first-ever H.R. Director.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to move into Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to come out of Executive Session at 8:09 pm. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Jenny Ramsey
Authorized Signature

2/6/2024
Date Approved