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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
March 5, 2024**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION:

Chief Harper called the meeting to order, and Kara North gave the Invocation.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR FIRST COUNCILMAN

Nick Hargrove took the Oath of Office for First Councilman, given by Chief Harper.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Secretary Jenny Rampey declared a quorum with all members present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Scott Myers made a motion and Rosanna Dobbs seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Jenny Rampey made a motion and was seconded by Scott Myers to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, held on February 6, 2024. Motion passed.

MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Financial Reports

Rosanna Dobbs made a motion and was seconded by Kara North to approve the Financial Reports for January 2024 as presented. Motion passed.

Enterprise Reports

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

Ms. Jewett began by introducing Bradley Griffin, the new Director of Finance for the casino. Mr. Griffin thanked the council for having him and shared a brief bio including his previous work history. Mr. Griffin then began his report, which included January Highlights:

Slot Financials

- **Slot Win** showed a *decrease* of 23.62% (\$499,102) from January 2023 to January 2024.
- **YTD** showed a *decrease* of 9.33% (\$2,216,666).

Hotel Financials

- **Hotel Occupancy** reflected a *decrease* of 4.98% (82) from January 2023 to January 2024. YTD reflects a *decrease* of 3.13% (584) in occupancy.
- **Hotel Net Income** reflected an *increase loss* of 30.32% (\$10,957) from January 2023 to January 2024. YTD reflects an *increased loss* of 612.51% (\$143,156).

Golf Financials

- **Golf Revenue** reflected a *loss* of 5.94% (\$3,035) from January 2023 to January 2024. YTD reflected a *loss* of 29.46% (\$136,052).

Food and Beverage

- **Bistro** comparing January FY2023 to FY2024 showed an *increase* of 293.47% (\$59,158). The *large increase can be contributed to the Bristo not being open at this time last year.*
- **Backwoods** showed a *decrease* of 46.81% (\$38,060).
- **Coal Creek** showed an *increase* of 1.08% (\$895).
- **Main Bar** showed a *decrease* of 17.91% (\$13,893).
- **Backwoods Bar** showed an *increase* of 7.05% (\$519).
- **Total F&B Sales** showed an *increase* of 3.20% (\$8,619).

2024 Casino Distribution

- **Casino Distribution** showed a *decrease* of 25.30% (\$101,628) from January 2023 to January 2024 and an overall *decrease* of 18.15% (\$820,968) YTD.

Mr. Griffin ended his report by returning the presentation back over to Ms. Jewett. Ms. Jewett introduced Heath Henrich, the new Manger for Peoria Ridge Golf Course. Mr. Henrich thanked the council for having him and shared a brief bio including his previous work history. Mr. Henrich then spoke about ways to increase revenue:

- By downsizing the purchasing of new inventory.
- Looking into adding Junior Golf.
- Starting a ladies day camp.

Mr. Griffin then thanked the Committee and asked if there were any questions. He referred to Ms. Jewett to complete her report.

Ms. Jewett spoke about changes made to the casino:

- Henley installed two new beverage stations on the casino floor.

- Remodeled gift shop and it includes Peoria Ridge and Peoria Tribe Gift Shop merchandise for sale.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

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

- Budget Planning with Director's.
- Buffalo Release!
- Attended the State of the State Meeting.
- Guest speaker at Chautauqua Lecture with the Choctaws in Durant.
- Peoria Housing Authority Board Meeting.
- Observed President's Day.
- Attended the ITC Board Meeting.
- Attended Speaking Engagement for Economic Development.
- Attended NEO Presidential Partners Game Day.
- Preparing for General Council.
- MAEDS Meeting.
- Continue to meet with Director's.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion/Approval of the Employee Handbook Revisions (Second Chief Rosanna Dobbs): Second Chief Rosanna Dobbs suggested that the Business Committee take no action and table until the April Business Committee Meeting, due to two new Committee members. Business Committee agreed no action taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

R-03-05-24-A “Resolution Authorizing request of Trust Property ROW (Right-of-Way) on behalf of Rural Water District Number 5”: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-03-05-24-A as presented. Motion Passed.

Discussion/Approval to increase Elder Reimbursement Guidelines: Motion was made by Nicholas Hargrove and seconded by Kara North to approve the guidelines as presented. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval of Donations/Sponsorship requests: Members discussed and agreed on the following:

- To be considered, all donation requests must include a completed donation request form & W-9.
- Donation Policy and form must be made available on the Peoria Tribe’s website.
- Chief Harper to provide the Business Committee with an updated donation budget when new donations are being considered.
- Donation Policy will not affect the Tribe’s Enterprise, only Tribal Government.
- The Donation Policy only applies to external donation requests, not internal donations.
- Chief Harper has the authority to review and approve any donation/sponsorship request up to \$250.00 without bringing it before the Business Committee.

Members agreed to review and approve or deny each request individually. The following decisions were made:

Motion was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Scott Myers to approve a donation of \$1,000.00 to NEO 2024 Aggie Days for a Corporate Sponsorship. Vote was 5 for and 1 opposed. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Kara North to approve a donation of two flags and a onetime donation of a \$100.00 to American Legion Post 147 Flag Program. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to approve a donation of \$10,000.00 to FAM (First Americans Museum), for the Family Discovery Center Childrens Wing project. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to approve a donation of \$1,000.00 to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for a Gold Level Sponsorship. Vote was 5 for 1 opposed. Motion passed.

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

Discussion/Approval of VGT Contract: Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Kara North to approve VGT Contract pending Gaming Commission review and approval. Vote was 5 for and 1 abstention.

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.

Citizen Tonya Mathews:

Ms. Mathews requested that a update with current information to be sent out to citizens regarding litigation. This will keep all citizens informed and clear up any miss information.

Citizen John Froman:

Mr. Froman stated they used to give \$25.00 donations to each request, and they donated to the Friends of Coleman in the past. He then cautioned the Business Committee from getting involved with the Gaming Commission since they are the regulating group for the tribes.

Citizen Leanna Reeves:

Ms. Reeves gave a big shout out to all staff who stayed and worked all day long at the General Council Meeting and as well as the Stomp dance, and for doing the “real work” and interacting with the people.

Citizen Charla EchoHawk:

Ms. EchoHawk thanked us for the coffee being served at the Business Committee meetings.

Citizen Tosan Wesley Farless:

Mr. Farless thanked everyone that worked at Peoria Council and thanked the ones that stayed and worked the Stomp dance. He handed out the 2024 Lunar calendar to the Business Committee members and mailed out one to all households. Mr. Farless spoke about the Peoria Language gathering in the Community Center which handed out flyers and will be put out publicly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to move into Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Scott Myers to come out of Executive Session at 7:40 pm. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Kara North. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.


Jenny Ranney
Authorized Signature

4.2.2024
Date Approved