

**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA  
BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 4, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION:**

Chief Craig 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 Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Kara North to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, held on December 7, 2021. Motion passed.

**MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:**

**Financial Reports**

Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve the Financial Reports for November 2021 as presented. Motion passed.

**Enterprise Reports**

Patrick Browne, CEO of Buffalo Run Casino & Resort, began his report by introducing Milton Hale and Austin Shipman, both with Peoria Ridge Golf Course.

Milton Hale, Superintendent of Peoria Ridge Golf Course, began his report by providing an overview of his maintenance report for Peoria Ridge Golf Course. He stated that winterization had begun, which included the following projects:

- Maintaining roped off areas in Fairways to keep out cart traffic
- Trimming and clearing areas of golf course
- Received early order of chemicals for 2022
- Setting up a schedule for stump removal
- Began work on cutting units for both fairway mowers by replacing parts
- Beginning irrigation audit
- Weather permitting, will begin pre-emergent weed control program on the entire course at the end of the month

Following his report, Mr. Hale introduced Austin Shipman, Manager of Peoria Ridge Golf Course.

Austin Shipman, Manager of Peoria Ridge Golf Course, began his report by informing the Business Committee that the Clubhouse successfully hosted ten events/banquets during the month of December. He also stated that the recent Member Social was a success! They were able to fit 180 guests in for that event – which is a record number. He then stated that there are already at least 25 dates reserved for events in 2022. He further stated that the plan is to expand entertainment beyond golf on a weekly and monthly basis, to be more community-driven and to appeal to those who do not play golf. Mr. Shipman ended his report by stating that golf revenue was up 6% and merchandise was up 7% for the month of November, but that golf rounds were down 7% YTD.

Brian Estep, Director of Facilities, began his report by listing many of the updates that have been completed at the casino, including:

- New carpet was installed in the Showroom
- New flooring in the dressing rooms, as well as other updates still in progress
- Added VIP & Handicap parking in front
- New railing around new VIP/Handicap Parking area – made by the Tribe’s “Henley” crew
- Buffalo Run Hotel pool & walls of pool room are being painted
- Installing auto motion shut-off switches in offices throughout the properties. This will aid in energy savings.
- Updating windows of the Hotel entrance to be more energy efficient and appealing.
- New equipment (2 commercial washers, 2 commercial dryers, 1 commercial ironer) installed in the laundry room and can now operate 24/7 which helps staff stay on track with laundry. The new ironer will allow staff to iron linens internally, in lieu of paying an outside source to perform this task.

In closing, Mr. Estep introduced Brian Favreau, Director of Casino Operations for Buffalo Run Casino & Resort.

Brian Favreau, Director of Casino Operations for Buffalo Run Casino & Resort, began his report by sharing updates that include:

- Completed the Pit consolidation - which created more gaming space
- Moving electronic Table Games closer to the Pit - generating more revenue
- “Future Proofed” the Pit with power and data so expansions can happen easier in the future
- Updated games in the Backwoods area
- Moved old games to the back and currently making the hallway gaming area specific to the top customer favorites
- Installing shufflers on novelty games
- Beginning to assemble “themed” areas – where customers can easily find the same type of games in one place

In closing, Mr. Favreau introduced Angela Dahl, Director of Finance for Buffalo Run Casino & Resort.

Angela Dahl, Director of Finance for Buffalo Run Casino & Resort, began her report by providing an overview of the financials - stating that the trend was still increasing. In the report given, she mentioned that there was a 42% increase year over year for the hotel and that the sales for ‘grab-n-go’ items have doubled. Following this statement, a question was posed from Councilwoman Isabella

Burrell asking how well the Trucker's Lounge was doing. The initial response came from Ms. Dahl who stated that it has been "hit or miss" before referring the question to Patrick Browne, CEO. Mr. Browne responded by stating that there are usually between 15-20 trucks at the Lounge from Sunday-Thursday, with that number increasing to 40-50 trucks on the weekends. He also stated that truck drivers at the Lounge generate revenue for the casino, not only with play in the Casino, but also with hotel room purchases and purchases from "Grab 'N Go". Ms. Dahl concluded her report stating that there was an overall increase of \$257,000 in total distributions for all three properties and that December was a good month.

Patrick Browne, CEO of Buffalo Run Casino & Resort introduced himself and started his report by updating the Business Committee on achievements for the last month at the Casino, including the following:

- New Year's Eve was a success – guests enjoyed a live DJ and a balloon drop at midnight
- The staff stayed busy with two successful VIP parties just before the NYE event
- NYE was an all-time highest record for win
- Presented a video of the new smoker in use at the Casino
- Currently working with NEO A&M college for a Contender eSports tournament in late January. There will be 64 teams from across the USA competing, all for a \$25,000.00 jackpot!

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

Chief Harper provided a summary of his written report, highlighting the following:

- Mentioned the special Christmas cards that the Tribe has received
- Highlighted the Children's Christmas party and its success, seating for 484 guests
- Held a Christmas luncheon for the staff
- Met with Bolt to install new phones
- Attended a Tribal Leaders meeting in Shawnee, Ok.
- Held a retirement party for Larry Tippit
- Noted that former Second Chief Logan Pappenfort has been named the 'Interim Director' of the museum in Illinois
- Reviewed letter from Miami Rotary requesting donations to sponsor students for RYLA. Chief asked for the Business Committee members to discuss and decide. After discussion, it was decided to sponsor five High School Juniors

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**New Members Recommended for Approval by the Enrollment Committee on 12/13/2021 Tentatively to be Approved by the Business Committee on 01/04/2022 or at the Next Regularly Scheduled or Special Meeting:** Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Kara North to approve new members recommended for approval by the Enrollment Committee on 12/13/2021. Motion passed.

**Resolution R-01-04-22-A, "Approval for Changes to the Peoria Tribal Membership Roll":** Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Hank Downum to approve Resolution R-01-04-22-A as presented. Motion passed.

**Resolution R-01-04-22-B, “Approval for the Peoria Tag Program to be Administered by the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma”:** Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-01-04-22-B as presented. Motion passed.

Austin Kinsey, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, spoke to Resolution R-01-04-22-B stating that Miami Nation has been notified that the Peoria Tribe will be gaining control over the program. The data will is set to arrive the day following the meeting and staff will begin working on taking ownership.

**Discussion/Approval for Early Childhood Enrollment Decisions: (Discussion held in Executive Session.)** Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Hank Downum to approve the recommendation to hold 20% of seating for Peoria Citizens for the first 6 months that the facility is open and then to continue to hold 2 seats per age group after the first 6 months of operation. Motion passed.

Jolynn Kaiser, Director of Early Childhood, presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Business Committee to assist with decision-making regarding enrollment at the Early Childhood Facilities. Mrs. Kaiser mentioned that Woodland Academy has already started a waiting list – even though the facility has not yet opened.

**Discussion/Approval for Budget Modification:** Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve the budget modifications as presented. Motion passed.

**Discussion/Approval for Employee Wage Change Recommendations: (Discussion held in Executive Session.)** Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Hank Downum to approve the employee wage changes as presented. Motion passed.

**Discussion/Approval of Upcoming Mediation: (Discussion held in Executive Session.)** Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve the amount discussed. Motion passed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chief Harper began “Public Comments” by stating that he would like to go around the room so that each Tribal Citizen has the opportunity to address the Business Committee or ask questions:

- Tribal Citizen, Tanisa Brashear, inquired about the cost of the Tribe’s legal fees and the budget modification addressed. It was stated that the budget for legal fees was \$750,000.00 and an additional \$410,000.00 was added. Ms. Brashear also inquired about the net worth of the Tribe itself. Mr. Kinsey, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, replied with an estimate.
- Tribal Citizen, Nick Hargrove, asked for an update on Zoom! for the Business Committee meetings. Crystal Wyrick, Director of Commerce, spoke up and stated that the third and final bid had just come in that afternoon and that a discussion can now take place to begin the purchase of equipment necessary for the platform to be implemented.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to move into Executive Session at 7:04 pm.

Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Kara North to come out of Executive Session at 9:13 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Hank Downum. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.

  
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Authorized Signature

  
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Date Approved