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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
September 3, 2024**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION:

Chief Harper called the meeting to order, and Jenny Rampey gave the Invocation.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Secretary Jenny Rampey declared a quorum with all members present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Rosanna Dobbs requested two additional line items to be added to the agenda. First line item: Discussion/Approval on recording of future Business Committee meetings. Second line item: Discussion/Approval on edits to the Employee Policies and Handbook. Jason Dollarhide made a motion and was seconded by Kara North to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Financial Reports

Jason Dollarhide made a motion and was seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve the Financial Reports for July 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 her report, which included July Highlights. Ms. Jewett provided a demographic map that included all the surrounding casinos in a thirty-mile radius. This map included the year the casinos were established, number of slot machines, whether hotel rooms and number, and if they provide table games. Ms. Jewett's presentation included a slide of the current economy:

- Inflation rose at a 3.3% annual rate in the first five months of 2024, from 2.2% over the final five months of 2023.

- The median sale price for an existing home in the U.S. hit a record-high \$419,300 in May 2024.
- As of early July 2024, the average 30-year mortgage rate was 7.09%.
- Beginning Thursday, August 29th, the state's 4.5% tax on groceries will be eliminated.

Ms. Jewett stated that a new Facilities Manager, Richard Johnson, had been hired. Mr. Johnson has over 25 years of experience in electrical and maintenance management. Mr. Johnson has a master electrical license, he served four years in the Marine Corps and graduated from Pittsburg State University. Mr. Johnson is from Carthage, Missouri. He has three children and four grandchildren.

Ms. Jewett provided slides of the updated billboards. Ms. Jewett spoke about the upcoming promotions being offered and the entertainment.

Ms. Jewett stated that the transition process for the golf course consisted of:

- Mandatory Meetings for:
 - Team Members
 - Finances
 - Marketing/Advertising

Ms. Jewett stated that the transfer of the Peoria Golf Course to the Peoria Tribal Government is still scheduled for October first.

Ms. Jewett stated that one of the hardest things is keeping people on staff. What the casino is currently working on is:

- Orientation Process
- Updating Onboarding Process

Ms. Jewett explained that the casino was not able to track the number of tribal citizens employed with the casino until recently. Buffalo Run currently employes forty-five tribal members:

- Three Peoria Citizens
- Forty-two:
 - Cherokee, Wyandotte, Creek, Seneca Cayuga, Shawnee, Osage, Ottawa, Quapaw, Potawatomi, Navajo, and Miami

Ms. Jewett shared miscellaneous updates:

- Currently Hiring for External Director
- Installed sidewalk and will be installing automated buttons to open doors
- Installed fence by the executive door

Ms. Jewett provided a copy of Buffalo Run Casino's Donation policy. Ms. Jewett stated that the policy is on Buffalo Run website and the casino's policy is different than the Tribe's. The casino's policies must follow gaming regulations which do not allow sponsorships to sports, children, religion, and individuals. The casino is receiving donations that have been denied by the Tribe and are having to deny them as well due to the regulations.

Ms. Jewett introduced Robin Gertonson, Executive Finance Director. Ms. Gertonson stated that she is very honored to be at the Business Committee meeting and that she has over twenty-five years of experience in accounting and finance. Ms. Gertonson stated that she is very blessed with a head for numbers and is excited to share that knowledge with the casino.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

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

- Attended Painted Hides Workshop
- Hosted CEO of Eastern Region Food Bank
- Enjoyed Pizza at Woodland
- Attended Sweet Bar Ribbon Cutting
- Hosted Peoria Backpack Give Away
- Attend OIGA Conference
- Hosted Congressman Josh Brecheen
- Attend Five Moons Festival
- Attended Dedication at Peoria Riverfront Museum
- Hosted Leadership Training Cohort for Directors

Chief Harper stated that Peoria Ridge trees took a lot of storm damage to them. Chief Harper stated that multiple laws went into effect, one of them being no sales tax on groceries and the other law was Mason Treat Act. Chief Harper introduced Jamie Williams, Tribal Tag Program Specialist. Mr. Williams explained that the Mason Treat Act was effective September 1, 2024, and it changes how temporary paper plates and metal license plates are issued. Under the Mason Treat Act dealers must submit pre-registration information to the state within two business days of a sale, issue a temporary paper tag, and provide a temporary metal tag within ten days.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution R-09-03-24-A, “Stipends for Constitutional Subordinate Committees”: Motion was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Jenny Rampey to approve Resolution R-08-06-24-A. Motion passed with Nicholas Hargrove abstaining.

Discussion/Approval of Casino Signatures to add Executive Finance Director Robin Gertonson: Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Kara North to approve R-09-03-24-B, R-09-03-24-C, R-09-03-24-D, and R-09-03-24-E as presented. Motion Passed.

R-09-03-24-F “Approval of Legal Counsel Contract with Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton Attorneys at Law will Provide General Counsel Legal Services”: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-09-03-24-F as presented. Motion Passed.

R-09-03-24-G “Certifying Officer to Sign CDIB 8x 10”: Motion was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to approve Resolution R-09-03-24-G as presented. Motion Passed.

R-09-03-24-H “Certifying Official for the Title VI USDA Commodities Distribution”: Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-09-03-24-H as presented. Motion Passed.

Discussion/Approval to Waive Procurement Policy to Sole Source for Leadership Training: Motion was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Jenny Rampey to approve Sole Source as presented. Motion failed by a vote of 2 for and 4 opposed.

Discussion/Approval of Land Acquisition (was held in Executive Session): Motion was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve Land Acquisition as presented. Motion Passed.

Discussion/Approval of Donations: Donation to the Quapaw Community Boosters in the amount of \$1,000. Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to approve donation. Motion Passed by a vote of 5 for and 1 opposed.

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

Discussion/Approval on Recordings of Future Business Committee Meetings: Following discussion, motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to approve recordings of Business Committee Meetings. Motion failed by a vote of 2 for and 4 opposed.

Discussion/Approval of Edits to the Employee Policies and Handbook: Following discussion, motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to table until next scheduled Business Committee meeting. Motion Passed by a vote of 5 for and 1 opposed.

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 Larry Lawrence:

Mr. Lawrence would like website for recording of Business Committee meetings be for members only and whether we do a whole Business Committee meeting or just parts of it would be more information provided to citizens that can not make it to the meetings now. Mr. Lawrence stated that he goes to a lot of the tech websites and uses their forums to discuss different topics, this could be used for just citizens to discuss and not everyone who logs into YouTube. Mr. Lawrence stated that there will always be problems with hackers and disgruntled citizens who would give out information to someone else. If we use a portal and have citizens sign an agreement not to share information with anyone outside of the Tribe.

Citizen Patrick Morris:

Mr. Morris asked if the Powwow grounds infrastructure was started on yet?

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to move into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Nicholas Hargrove and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to come out of Executive Session at 8:53 pm. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.


Authorized Signature

24 JK
10/1/25
Date Approved