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PEORIA TRIBE

OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

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P.O. Box 1527 Miami, OK 74355

CHIEF
Craig Harper

SECOND CHIEF
Rosanna Dobbs

**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING
October 1, 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 5 members present. Second Councilman Kara North was unable to attend.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Rosanna Dobbs requested to amend the agenda. Discussion/Approval of current Lawsuit on Holden and Qualls in Executive Session. Scott Myers made a motion and was seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Jason Dollarhide made a motion and was seconded by Scott Myers to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, held on September 3, 2024. Motion passed.

MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Financial Reports

Nicholas Hargrove made a motion and was seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve the Financial Reports for August 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 August Highlights. Ms. Jewett provided a presentation that included slots, food and beverages, hotel, golf, and casino financials. Buffalo Run will be celebrating its twenty-year anniversary, and the casino has lots of things happening for this celebration. Ms. Jewett provided the Business Committee with property updates:

- Dehumidifier for the pool has been installed.

- All four A/C units and generator have been installed.
- Tesla Charging Stations are installed.

Ms. Jewett explained that Buffalo Run currently employes forty-five tribal members:

- Four Peoria Citizens
- Forty-one:
 - Cherokee, Wyandotte, Creek, Seneca Cayuga, Shawnee, Osage, Ottawa, Quapaw, Potawatomi, Navajo, Delaware, and Miami

On September 10th, the casino hosted Employee Extravaganza for Buffalo Run and Hotel staff. There were escape rooms, food and desert trucks, and a dunk tank that all the Executive Team participated in. Every team member was able to spend fifteen to twenty minutes at a time. This was a good moral boost for the staff. Ms. Jewett thanked the Business Committee and asked if there were any questions.

Chief Harper introduced Jason Dollarhide, Director of Peoria Housing Authority. Mr. Dollarhide began his presentation with

- Where we were:
 - TARPA – Tribal American Rescue Plan Act Grant Program
 - 15 Rehab homes: 15 complete
 - Up to \$10,000; within 75-mile radius; non-income based; Peoria Only
 - DEP/ROSS
 - Back to school supply drive August 6th
 - Disney on Ice September 28th
 - Current Units:
 - Low Rent Program
 - Fair Market Rental Program
 - Mutual Help Homeownership Program
 - Down Payment Assistance Housing Program
- Current Housing Programs:
 - Low Rent Program
 - Miami: 83 units
 - Fairland: 25 units
 - Quapaw: 26 units
 - Wyandotte: 25 units
 - Fair Market Rental Program:
 - Miami: 26 units
 - Quapaw: 1 unit
 - Homeownership Program:
 - Commerce: 2 units
 - Grove: 4 units
 - Fairland: 4 units
 - Miami: 47 units
 - North Miami: 2 units
 - Quapaw: 8 units

- Welch: 1 unit
 - Wyandotte: 8 units
 - DEP- Drug Elimination Program:
 - Back to School Supplies
 - New Years Eve Stomp Dance
 - Spring Fling (Silver Dollar City)
 - Water Park
 - Halloween/Christmas Parties
 - Disney on Ice
- Current Grant Programs:
 - Housing Improvement Grant Program
 - 10 per fiscal year
 - Rehab up to \$25,000.
 - Income based program.
 - Within 75-mile radius
 - Peoria/Ottawa Preference
 - Down Payment Assistance Grant Program
 - 10 per fiscal year
 - 20% up to \$18,000
 - Income based program.
 - Within 75-mile radius
 - Peoria/Ottawa Preference
 - Homeownership Assistance Fund Program
 - 92 total households assisted (\$983,695)
 - 92 Peoria Tribal members assisted locally and nationwide.
 - 28 Peoria Tribal members still active
 - Funds end September 2026
 - ROSS - Resident Opportunities & Self-Sufficiency Grant Program
 - Links current PHA residents to supportive services and activities, enabling them to make progress towards economic independence & housing self-sufficiency; our main goals are through Health & Wellness, Employment, and financial literacy.
 - Works hand in hand with DEP events
 - Community Garden
 - Community Room – classes for tenants: Cultural, sewing, beading, and fitness.
- Where we are going:
 - DEP/ROSS
 - Halloween Party October 28; Elder’s Thanksgiving; Children’s Christmas Party; Elder’s Christmas Party; New Year’s Eve Stomp Dance
 - Competitive NAHASDA Block Grant
 - Building low rent units (Q Street, Miami)
 - \$2.9 million to build 15 new low rent units: 8 – 1 bedroom; 7 – 2 bedrooms.
 - Whitewing Construction is our contractor.

- June of 2025 Projected completion date

Mr. Dollarhide stated that a rent increase was finalized at the last Peoria Housing Board meeting. This would be the first rent increase since 1996, and the increase will not take effect until September 2026. Mr. Dollarhide thanked the Business Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

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

- RV Groundbreaking
- Attended PHA Board Meeting
- Attended ITC Board Meeting
- Attended MAEDS Board Meeting
- Attend OIGA Conference
- Hosted Cohort Leadership Training
- Preparing for Golf Course Transfer
- Continuing to participate in interviews for open positions
- Director Annual Reviews
- Hosted monthly Director's meetings.
- Closed on Main Street Property- 988 Grant/HHS
- Hosted Greenhouse Groundbreaking
- Mason Treat Act was passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion/Approval of Employee Handbook Revisions (Second Chief Rosanna Dobbs):

Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to approve Employee Handbook Revision. Motion passed by a vote of 4 for and 1 abstaining, Jason Dollarhide.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Members Recommended for Approval by the Enrollment Committee on 09/19/24. Tentatively to be Approved by the Business Committee on 10/01/24 or at the Next Regularly Scheduled or Special Meeting: Motion was made by Nicholas Hargrove and seconded by Scott Myers. Motion passed.

R-10-01-24-A “Approval for Changes to the Peoria Tribal Membership Roll”: Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve Resolution R-10-01-24-A as presented. Motion Passed.

R-10-01-24-B, “Tribal Membership in National Congress of American Indians”: Motion was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to approve Resolution R-10-01-24-B. Motion passed.

R-10-01-24-C, “Authorization for Signatures on Accounts at Arvest Bank”: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Scott Myers to approve Resolution R-10-01-24-C. Motion passed.

R-10-01-24-D, “Authorization for Signatures on Accounts at First National Bank & Trust”: Motion was made by Nicholas Hargrove and seconded by Scott Myers to approve Resolution R-10-01-24-D. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval of Peoria Ridge Golf Course FY2025 Budget: Motion was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to approve Peoria Ridge Golf Course FY2025 Budget. Motion Passed.

Discussion/Approval to Donation Policy Revisions: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to approve Donation Policy Revisions. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval of Donations: Donation to the Fairland Public School in the amount of \$500, Oklahoma City Indian Clinic in the amount of \$1,500, and Oklahoma State University NASA in the amount of \$500. Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Scott Myers to approve donations. Motion Passed.

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

R-10-01-24-E, “Authorization of Tribal Officials to Conduct Business with Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians”: Motion was made by Nicholas Hargrove and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve Resolution R-10-01-24-E. Motion passed.

Nicholas Hargrove made a motion to end all pending litigation on Qualls, Holden, Stuart, and Campbell. Jenny Rampey seconded the motion. Motion passed by a 4 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 Charla EchoHawk:

Ms. EchoHawk would like to make a request to Mindy to have the custodians fix the arrangement of the layout. A couple of months ago they did a great job, however now it is hard to hear again. Ms. EchoHawk stated that last week on September 25th the Peoria Tribe entered into an agreement with the Federal Government National Park Services to become the Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Burgundy Fletcher will be the Tribe’s THPO. Ms. Fletcher helped close out a half million dollar grant for cemetery restoration. Ms. EchoHawk would like to request an audience in Executive Session.

Citizen LeAnn Reeves:

Ms. Reeves would like a follow-up on the process change for burial assistance. On the progress report it stated that seven applications were processed. Ms. Reeves asked if the process change has been documented.

Citizen Alan Goforth:

Mr. Goforth stated that he hadn’t been to a meeting in a while and was a little surprised about the action that just took place. Mr. Goforth stated that if you were displeased with the job the Chief is doing that in the past a new Chief would have been elected. Mr. Goforth stated that he was on the Business Committee for years and could not imagine doing what was just done. Mr. Goforth stated that his interpretation of the constitution is different than Rosanna Dobbs. Mr. Goforth remembers why the Tribal Administrator position was given to the Chief. Mr. Goforth disagrees with hiring a Tribal Administrator since they would not have an invested interest in the Tribe. Mr. Goforth stated that a mistake is being made just like it was made six years ago when the management at Buffalo Run was changed. Mr. Goforth stated now that it has been explained he understands that there was an ulterior motive and that the Business Committee is displeased with something the Chief has done and now you are taking the Chief’s power away.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Jason Dollarhide to move into Executive Session at 7:24 p.m. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to come out of Executive Session at 9:14 pm. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Jenny Ramsey
Authorized Signature

11/5/24
Date Approved

