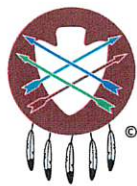


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# PEORIA TRIBE

OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

118 S. Eight Tribes Trail Miami, OK 74354  
P.O. Box 1527 Miami, OK 74355

CHIEF  
Craig Harper

SECOND CHIEF  
Rosanna Dobbs

**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA  
BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 5, 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:**

Jason Dollarhide requested to amend the agenda. Discussion/Approval of Annual Christmas Bonus for PTIO Staff. Scott Myers 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 October 1, 2024, with one amendment and to approve the Special Meeting held on October 21, 2024. Motion passed.

**MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:**

**Financial Reports**

Scott Myers made a motion and was seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to approve the Financial Reports for September 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 September Highlights. Ms. Jewett provided a presentation that included slots, food and beverages, hotel, golf, and casino financials. Ms. Jewett explained that Buffalo Run Casino is two months into EATEC which allows:

- Agilysys Integration
- Inventory Management

- Bar Codes
- Requisition

Ms. Jewett provided parking lot updates which include:

- 8 Tesla Charging Station are installed.
- Charging Stations will have Vinyl Wraps
- Curbs have been installed and will be adding bushes.

Ms. Jewett stated that the casino has a total of two hundred and eighteen employees, one hundred fifty-six are full-time and sixty-two are part-time, forty of the two hundred and eighteen are tribal: Cherokee, Wyandotte, Creek, Seneca Cayuga, Shawnee, Osage Ottawa, Quapaw, Potawatomi, Navajo, Miami, Delaware, and three Peoria. Ms. Jewett stated that the casino has hired Mike Kelley, Director of Security and Surveillance. Mr. Kelley was a U.S. Navy Intelligence Specialist and has ten years' experience in casino security and surveillance management and investigation. Buffalo Run Casino and Hotel has implemented the Clear Bag Policy. Ms. Jewett gave updates on Player Events and Entertainment:

- Dokken November 9<sup>th</sup>
- Deal or No Deal November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Promotions for the month of November include four storm shelters and up to \$1,000 and Cash Cube. Ms. Jewett showed slides of the new billboards. Ms. Jewett concluded her presentation with miscellaneous updates:

- Truckers Lounge is closed due to the fiber line being run over.
- Feasibility Study
- IRS Policy on tips
- Golf Course transferred to Tribal Government on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- RV Park

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

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

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

- Met with Professor and Students of Welding Program at Northeast Tech, Afton Campus
- Jolynn Kaiser, Director of Early Childhood and Rin Barnes Director of Natural Resources were given a tour of Scissortail Park in OKC.
- Hosted District Attorney, Doug Pewitt.
- Attended PHA Board Meeting.
- Attended Lost Creek Restoration Celebration.
- Attended ITC Board Meeting

- Attended MAEDS Board Meeting
- Guest Speaker at Indigenous Food Sovereignty Summit.
- Attended NALC (Native American Leadership Council) Meeting.
- Attended 56th Annual Algonquin Banquet.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**New Members Recommended for Approval by the Enrollment Committee on 10/24/24. Tentatively to be Approved by the Business Committee on 11/05/24 or at the Next Regularly Scheduled or Special Meeting:** Motion was made by Nicholas Hargrove and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs. Motion passed.

**R-11-05-24-A “Approval for Changes to the Peoria Tribal Membership Roll”:** Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-11-05-24-A as presented. Motion Passed.

**R-11-05-24-B, “Appointment of Tribal Representative to Serve on Northeastern Tribal Health System Governing Board”:** Motion was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Scott Myers to approve Resolution R-11-05-24-B. Motion passed with Kara North abstaining.

**R-11-05-24-C, “Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Application for American Indian Head Start Program and Acknowledgement of Program Design and Development”:** Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Jenny Rampey to approve Resolution R-11-05-24-C. Motion passed.

**R-11-05-24-D, “Request for Transfer of Local Bank CD/CDARS to Buffalo Run Casino and Hotel”:** Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-11-05-24-D. Motion passed.

**R-11-05-24-E, “Resolution Adopting Tribal Administrator Vacancy Policy of the Peoria Tribe of Indians”:** Motion was made by Nicholas Hargrove and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve Resolution R-11-05-24-E with one amendment. Motion passed.

**Discussion/Approval to rescind Resolution R-05-04-21-I “Directing the Transfer of Management, Operations, and Assets of the Peoria Ridge Golf Course to the Buffalo Run Casino”:** Motion was made by Nicholas Hargrove and seconded by Scott Myers to approve rescind Resolution R-05-04-21-I. Motion Passed.

**R-11-05-24-F, “Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Merchant Sign-Up Sheet, Exhibit A Franchisee Sign-Up Sheet, Doordash Marketing Product Addendum, and the Doordash Merchant Terms of Service between Doordash, INC and Buffalo Run Casino & Resort”:** Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve Resolution R-11-05-24-F. Motion passed.

**Discussion/Approval of Early Childhood Lease:** Motion was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve Early Childhood Lease. Motion passed by a vote of 4 for and 2 opposed.

**Discussion/Approval of Appointment to the Peoria Housing Authority Board:** Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to appoint Tonya Mathews to the Peoria Housing Board. Motion Passed.

**Discussion/Approval of Appointment of Interim Tribal Administrator:** No Motion was made.

**Discussion/Approval of Donations:** Donation to Miami Basketball Booster Club in the amount of \$200. Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to approve donations. Motion Passed with one opposed.

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

**Discussion/Approval of Annual Christmas Bonus for PTIO Staff (was held in Executive Session):** Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Kara North to approve PTIO Staff Christmas Bonus 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.

#### **Citizen Larry Lawrence:**

Mr. Lawrence stated that if you purchased a HVAC for your house, they will tell you fifteen years is all it is going to last. If in the future, we do not need the space anymore, can we lease to someone else or sub-lease it? If we keep growing someone will need the space.

#### **Citizen Shelby Betsey:**

Ms. Betsey asked if there had been any discussion on the weather policy for daycare and schools closing at the same times. Ms. Betsey stated that she was aware that it was a topic that was going to be discussed closer to the weather changing and now that it is coming.

#### **Citizen Tonya Mathews:**

Ms. Mathews stated that she agrees with what Scott Myers was saying about leasing at NEO. Ms. Mathews stated that the Tribe should not need the space for ten years.

Citizen Korie Payton:

Ms. Payton stated that in the September Business Committee minutes there was Discussion/Approval of Employee Handbook revision. Ms. Payton asked if anyone would share what those revisions were. Ms. Payton stated that in the constitution the Chief is Executive Power, and the Business Committee is Legislative Power. Ms. Payton stated that in the Code of Ordinances Chapter 5 Crimes against the Executive Power section 4 state: Every person who knowingly resists, by the use of force or violence, any executive officer in the performance of his duty is guilty of a crime and in section 9: Administrative Officers included. Ms. Payton stated that back in March the General Council agreed by a show of hands to continue litigation against Holden & Qualls, this was Executive Supreme Power of the Peoria Council that made the decision. Ms. Payton asked several questions:

- Was that taken to legal?
- What was the advice to undermine the authority of Peoria Council?
- Should that have been brought to the General Council since the General Council is the Supreme Power?
- Why wasn't the Discussion/Approval of Employee Handbook revision not on the agenda last month?
- Why is the Business Committee adding items to the agenda on the day of?

Ms. Payton stated that in the Code of Ordinance Chapter 6 Crimes against Legislative Power section 2 states: Preventing Business Committee or personnel from performing official duties- Penalty, Any person who alone or in concert with others willfully either by force, physical interference, fraud, intimidation, or by means of any independently unlawful act, prevents or attempts to prevent any member, officer or employee of the Business Committee from performing any official act, function, power or duty shall be guilty of a crime. Ms. Payton stated that removing Chief from Administrator falls into that ordinance and following that the first course of business was to term and suspend employees. Ms. Payton asked if there was an investigation through HR or through employees who interacted with these employees on a daily basis. Ms. Payton asked the Business Committee if they were preventing the Chief from doing specific duties on the Business Committee. Ms. Payton stated that a policy was just proposed for him not to be involved. Ms. Payton asked if anyone applying for a position must be interviewed by the Business Committee.

Citizen Roberta Lindsly:

Ms. Lindsly stated that she believes the Business Committee has overstepped their powers and some of this should have been brought to the General Council before removing the Chief from Administrative duties. Ms. Lindsly stated that she was going to bring this before the BIA however was advised not to do so:

Citizen Charles (Buster) Hedges:

Mr. Hedges thanked the Business Committee for the opportunity to speak.

"I am a Tribal elder and remember a time when our tribe wasn't even recognized as a tribe by federal standards. But our people pulled together through the leadership of our Chief and accomplished what would most help and benefit our future generations. Now we have a Chief that has been doing much the same, yet he has been stripped of that ability. Through Chief Harper's leadership we have developed departments, infrastructure, programs, and services that

we've never had before. We have a language program. Our language, once believed to be lost or dead, adorns all of our buildings and is being taught in our very own daycare to our future generations and now we are embarking on a greenhouse and a farm, a huge production for the betterment of our people. They are working with our wonderful food security program that many of our citizens benefit from. Our childcare is working with them to create classroom gardens and teach our next generation about where their food comes from and how to grow it themselves. The vision for us to be a nation dependent only on ourselves for food is a direction we want to go. We've built buildings and expanded our footprint. We're renovating buildings and creating liaisons and allies in our community and in our homelands. There is so much more we have done and are doing, so why would interrupting that progress be in the best interest of our tribe? It is unclear as to the motives for removing our elected Chief from the duties we intended for him to do and reversing the decision of the General Council to continue the lawsuit. But it seems that the Business Committee has overstepped its bounds and are putting it in a position of authority above that of the General Council, which was never the intent. We as members of the General Council respectfully request that you reconsider your former actions and restore our Chief and our Tribe to the status it previously enjoyed. Thank you."

*Citizen Charla EchoHawk:*

Ms. EchoHawk stated that she would like to remind everybody that Monday is Veteran's Day, this is a federal holiday, and the Tribal Offices will be closed but we are honoring our veterans and not just Peoria veterans but every veteran in the community. Ms. EchoHawk stated that she wanted to thank the Shawnee, Quapaw, Miami, Wyandotte, and all the other Tribes that have stepped up to make this Inter-Tribal event. Ms. EchoHawk stated that they are feeding everyone at this event, and it will be at the OP Building this year. Ms. EchoHawk is inviting everyone to come out and eat with us, it will be in the evening to prevent the elderly from driving home in the dark. Ms. EchoHawk stated that she would like to take a moment to recognize Wes Farless, he was one of fifteen native language revitalization people that was recognized at the 56<sup>th</sup> Algonquin Banquet. Chief attended this banquet as well. Ms. EchoHawk stated that this was 3 years' worth of work successfully done under Wes. He has been an office of one and for him to achieve this and for us to have over one hundred twenty-nine citizens speaking our language is a major accomplishment. Ms. EchoHawk thanked Jolynn Kaiser for allowing this to be place at Woodland and for her cooperation. Ms. EchoHawk stated that three years has just flown by, and Wes is getting another stage in our language proclamation and revitalization is very important for our tribe.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to move into Executive Session at 7:19 p.m. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to come out of Executive Session at 8:10 pm. Motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Scott Myers. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

*Jenny Rampey*  
Authorized Signature

12/3/24  
Date Approved

