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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
December 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 to amend the agenda. Discussion/Approval to rescind October vote to end litigation. Scott Myers made a motion and was seconded by Kara North to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Rosanna Dobbs made a motion and was seconded by Scott Myers to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, held on November 5, 2024. Motion passed.

MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Financial Reports

Nicholas Hargrove made a motion and was seconded by Kara North to approve the Financial Reports for October 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 committee for having her.

Ms. Jewett began her report, which included October Highlights. Ms. Jewett provided a presentation that included slots, food and beverages, hotel, and casino financials. Ms. Jewett provided Project Updates:

- Tesla stations are installed.
- Charging stations have been vinyl wrapped with amenities inside the casino.
- Tesla is providing stats.

- Tesla has requested the casino to be a test-driving site.
 - Tesla will put three vehicles on property for customers to drive.
- RV Park road off 69A is now solid to drive on.
- Will continue to post updates on Peoria and Casino websites.
- Outside of the fence at Amphitheater, every 100 ft electric has been installed since the casino has the master electrician on property.
- Will have water and fiber 100 ft away.
- This will save the casino one hundred and twenty-five thousand and the cost of installation was around thirty-five thousand.

Ms. Jewett provided Hotel updates:

- The leak at the front entrance to the hotel was fixed.
- Adding new flooring and tinted windows to weight room.
- Removing the carpet from the elevator.
- Replacing 43” TVs with 55” Smart TVs.

Ms. Jewett stated that the casino provided one hundred and eighteen team members with turkey’s and donated thirty-two to HHS. The team members’ Christmas party will be held Thursday, December 19th at the Peoria Showplace from 11 am to 7 pm. The team member Christmas party will consist of food, games, gift raffle drawings and entertainment. Ms. Jewett stated that the casino will have a float in the Christmas parade. Ms. Jewett stated that the casino has a total of two hundred and eighteen employees, one hundred fifty-two are full-time and sixty-seven are part-time, thirty-five 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 Michele Carroll for the position of Hotel Director. Ms. Carroll grew up in the industry as a child, has accomplishments in all aspects of the hospitality industry and property management with over thirty plus years of experience. Ms. Jewett stated that the Thanksgiving Buffett served four hundred seventy-four and the Christmas Buffett will be held on December 25th at the Peoria Showplace from 12 pm to 6 pm. Ms. Jewett provided menu pricing updates. Food and beverage will be going coinless. DoorDash will roll out on Friday. Ms. Jewett provided operation updates:

- Table Games are moving.
- New FABI Cash Kiosks.
- XFN December 28th
- Randy Rogers Band January 18th
- Now selling gift cards
- Advertising Stats
 - TV Oct/Nov.
 - Sports and News continue to drive the most traffic to the website. In two months, our stations drove over four thousand visits to the website
 - Google Ads-Oct.
 - Impressions this month have increased by one hundred and twenty-five percent to show the ads total of seventy-one thousand eight hundred and sixty times.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

R-12-03-24-A “Establishing IGA (Indian Gaming Association) Tribal Membership for 2025”: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-12-03-24-A as presented. Motion Passed.

Reappointment to the Election Committee, (Kristen Gillman, Shelley Mitchell, Emmett “Bud” Ellis, Courtney McCartney, and Cassie McCoy): Motion was made by Nicholas Hargrove and seconded by Kara North to approve reappointment of Election Committee as presented. Motion passed.

Reappointment to the Tribal Gaming Commission for 2025, (Secretary, Emmett “Bud” Ellis): Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to reappoint Secretary Emmett “Bud” Ellis as presented. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval FY24 Tribal Government Audit: Ryan Haris, CPA with Rose Rock Accounting Firm introduces himself to the Committee and Citizens. It was noted that members of the Audit Committee: Kendra Robinson and Zachary Goforth were in attendance as well. Mr. Harris began his presentation by stating that all audits for FY24 for the Tribe were “clean”. Mr. Harris stated that there were no difficulties with management during the audit and that professional courtesy remained. No material weakness or non-compliance issues. The Tribe qualified as a low-risk audit with no findings. After providing an overview of the audits, Mr. Harris asked if there were any questions.

Discussion/Approval FY24 Buffalo Run Audit: Garrett Morelock, CPA with Rose Rock Accounting Firm introduced himself to the Committee and Citizens. Mr. Morelock completed the FY24 audit for Buffalo Run Casino. Mr. Morelock stated that there were no difficulties with management during the audit. There were two low-level findings with leases and reconciliation. Three recommendations were made. Rose Rock recommended the Casino implement procedures to document and support all reductions from the players’ pool and supporting documentation should agree to the actual totals on the general ledger. The second recommendation is that the casino establish income statement accounts to record transfers, and third recommendation is sufficient general ledger accounts were used so that numerous reclassification entries were not needed. Overall, this resulted in an unmodified opinion. After providing an overview of the audit, Mr. Morelock asked if there were any questions.

Discussion/Approval of Budget Modifications: Tabled until January.

Discussion/Approval of Tribal Government Inclement Weather Policy: Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Jenny Rampey to approve inclement weather policy as presented.

Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval of General Council Election Ballot Referendum: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to approve. Motion passed by a vote of 4 for and 2 opposed, Nicholas Hargrove and Jason Dollarhide.

Discussion/Approval of Appointment to Enrollment Committee: Motion was made by Jason Dollarhide and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to appoint Lindsey Wilson to the Enrollment Committee. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval of Donations: Donation to NEO Verteran Memorial Cemetery in the amount of \$1,000. 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 Nicholas Hargrove and seconded by Scott Myers to approve wage changes as recommended by H.R. in Executive Session. Motion passed.

Grievance Committee Presentation: Chad Harper, Chairman of the Grievance Committee introduced himself. Mr. Harper stated that a grievance was filed with the committee and documentation on that grievance was shared with the Business Committee. The names that were filed on the grievance were sent and confirmed by Enrollment.

Mr. Harper stated the first grievance item listed was concerns that the Chief was left out of some hiring processes. The Grievance Committee referred to the constitution and agreed that it was unconstitutional for any committee member to be left out.

Mr. Harper stated the second grievance item listed was concerns with the government structure and that it had been changed through the constitution. The Grievance Committee reviewed approved minutes from August, September, and October and the Grievance Committee found no changes in government structure to change that. Mr. Harper stated that the Grievance Committee stated that it was unconstitutional without proper guidance and therefore that would put the role of Chief back as Tribal Administrator.

Mr. Harper stated that the third grievance item listed concerns that the Business Committee elected themselves as part of the Economic Development Committee and given themselves a one hundred-and fifty-dollar stipend. After reviewing the constitution, it stated that the Business Committee appoints other committees and boards and that is true. The Business Committee has the ability to give stipends to those and that is accurate. Mr. Harper stated that the Grievance Committee will present their findings to General Council at an upcoming date.

Discussion/Approval to rescind the October vote on litigation: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Scott Myers to rescind the October vote on litigation. Motion passed 4 for and 2 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 Hank Downum:

Mr. Downum stated that he would like to know how much money the Golf Course has made or lost. Mr. Downum stated that the Golf Course has lost over a million dollars each year. Mr. Downum would like to know who is managing the Golf Course. Mr. Downum stated the casino was. Mr. Downum would like to know if the Tribe is aware of what is happening, and he has heard rumors. Mr. Downum stated that he does not play golf even though he hears a lot of rumors about what is going on. The Golf Course costs too much money.

Citizen Korie Payton:

Ms. Payton Thanked Rosanna, Scott, and Kara for bringing it back to the people and to the Grievance Committee for the work that they do. Ms. Payton would like to know why there is no consistency in the Business Committee minutes that are put out. Ms. Payton reads the Business Committee minutes to get information. Ms. Payton came to a Business Committee meeting and remembers whole discussion and it was not placed in the minutes and then the next month minutes the whole discussion is shown. Ms. Payton stated that in order to be more transparent and fit the needs of everyone that lives all across America it should be more consistent every month. Ms. Payton stated that it seems when a bigger decision is made there are no comments. Ms. Payton stated that as someone who attends the meeting every month it is hard to remember and recall those details. Ms. Payton stated that she was disappointed that there was no administrative report.

Citizen Larry Lawrence:

Mr. Lawrence stated that referring to the General Council on the lawsuit whether Tribal members can vote on that and make an informed decision. Mr. Lawrence stated that as far as he can tell the Tribe is just waiting on a motion to be approved on and basically all the attorney has done the entire year. Mr. Lawrence stated that it cannot be legal to run up a lawyer’s bill just to sit and wait. Mr. Lawrence would like to be presented with an estimate of what it will cost to continue and how long it will take. Mr. Lawrence looked up the case on the Oklahoma Supreme Court network and was able to get all the documentation that had been filed. Mr. Lawrence stated it is not going to cost much to sit and wait on a ruling.

Scott Myers, Third Councilman:

Mr. Myers requested Mike McBride to come to the Business Committee meeting in January or February preferably February to answer questions.

Citizen Jeane Burgess:

Ms. Burgess stated that she has a podcast called Bloodlines Tales of Indigenous Women and the second season just launched last week. Ms. Burgess stated that her producer is very surprised with the numbers and that thousands of people are listening. Ms. Burgess stated that the podcast speaks about Peoria, Osage, Cherokee and several other Tribes. The podcast is Twelve

Conversations with Twelve Native Women making a difference in the world. The podcast can be found on Apple, Spotify and any other podcast stations.

Nicholas Hargrove, First Councilman:

Mr. Hargrove would like the Economic Development Committee to be posted on the website with the other committees. Mr. Hargrove stated that in regards to the Business Committee minutes he would like the names of members that vote to be placed in the minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to move into Executive Session at 7:33 p.m. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Nicholas Hargrove to come out of Executive Session at 7:59 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 8:01 pm.


Authorized Signature


Date Approved

