

General Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, November 6

11:05 a.m. — Meeting was called to order by Cheryle Kennedy, Tribal Council Chairwoman. A quorum was met.

Present was Cheryle A. Kennedy, Val Grout, Bob Haller, Ed Larsen, Ed Pearsall, Jan D. Reibach, Valorie Sheker-Robertson, and June Sell-Sherer. Excused was Reyn Leno.

Total present — 148. Val Grout, Tribal Council member gave the invocation.

Valorie Sheker-Robertson moved, Bob Haller seconded to approve the minutes of October 06, 2002 as presented. Motion carried 7-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Questions heard at the General Council Meeting October 06, 2002.

■ Elders Housing: Can their rental amounts be reduced? Chairwoman Kennedy advised that the council referred the matter to the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for review.

■ Elders Pension: Can older Elders get paid more than younger Elders? Chairwoman Kennedy advised that the council is developing a survey for Tribal Elders to provide comments on a tiered benefit program. The council is also interested in whether Tribal funds distributed to Tribal Elders could jeopardize other benefits received by the Elders.

■ Social Services/Indian Child Welfare (ICW): Difficulties regarding appointments and regaining custody of children. Chairwoman Kennedy stated that the Tribe has an agreement with the State of Oregon pertaining to Child Welfare and that the Tribe looks to the best interest of the child when determining the family action plan, etc. Council has asked the program to set appointments where it best meets the needs of the family, ie. work hours.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairwoman Kennedy asked the General Membership to limit their comments on the Tribal budget presentation to five minutes in length. In addition, the Chair reminded the General Membership that members need to state their name and roll number for the record.

Due to the confidentiality of the material being presented, the council asked for an authorization from the membership as to whether non-Tribal spouses and guests could hear the presented CY2003 budget information. By a show of hands, the membership authorized attendance by non-Tribal spouses and guests to listen in on the budget presentation.

CALENDAR YEAR 2003 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Larry Kovach, Finance Officer for the Tribe, presented a breakdown of the CY2003 Budget, a document in process. Any budgetary questions are to be directed to Larry Kovach, Budget Supervisor, by either contacting him in writing or by phone at the Tribal offices. Comments can be submitted to Charles Haller, Tribal Council Relations Coordinator from Tribal members until De-

ember 2, 2002. The final budget will be approved by council before December 31, 2002.

Questions were fielded during the presentation from the audience.

OTHER BUSINESS

■ A Tribal member asked for a suspension of the rules to hear his request out of order on the agenda. By consensus of the Membership present, the Tribal member advised of his research on Tribal housing rental amounts, comparing other Tribes to Grand Ronde's rate. Acting Chairwoman June Sell-Sherer (as Chairwoman Kennedy had to leave for a family emergency), advised that the council has appointed a task force to review with the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to review the Tribe's current rental policies. Members of the task force include the General Manager, Legal department, Finance Officer, Housing Authority and council.

NEW BUSINESS cont'd.:

CALENDAR YEAR 2003 BUDGET PRESENTATION CONT'D.

Presentation resumed and questions were fielded during the presentation from the audience. Acting Chairman Ed Larsen (as June Sell-Sherer was excused from the meeting due to illness) offered the General Membership another meeting to continue discussion on the CY2003 Budget within seven to ten days. Time and location to be determined, watch for posting of the meeting.

■ Door Prizes \$250 (1 at \$100. and 3 at \$50)

■ Kathy Rae, Linda LaChance, and Betty Reed each won a \$50 door prize. Ms. Reed donated her door prize winnings to the Veterans Memorial.

■ Butch LaBonte won the \$100 door prize.

OTHER BUSINESS

■ A Tribal member stated his comments regarding the change in the Spirit Mountain Gaming, Inc. Board of Director appointments. Questions fielded from the audience.

■ A Tribal member raised concerns over services received from the Social Services department regarding an Indian Child Welfare case.

** *Acting Chair Ed Larsen entertained a motion to adjourn from Tribal Elder, Albert Peters. Motion failed.*

■ A Tribal member offered his thanks to the members of the Indian Child Welfare program for assisting his family.

■ A Tribal member sought clarification on distribution of Spirit Mountain Casino concert tickets. Discussion followed.

ADJOURN

3:15 p.m. Ed Pearsall moved, Valorie Sheker-Robertson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Gaming Commission Reports During December General Council Meeting

■ Money for Elders and General Membership top concerns.

By Ron Karten

The December General Council meeting was held on Sunday, December 8, at the Tribal Community Center in Grand Ronde. Here are the highlights:

Tribal Vice Chair Reyn Leno called the meeting to order; Tribal Council member Jan Reibach, Jr. gave the invocation.

Lynn Hillman, Chairman of the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission, described the Commission's accomplishments since last year. 1) successfully completed compact negotiations with the state and assumed more control of our gaming operation; 2) notified by the National Indian Gaming Commission of continuing compliance with all federal requirements; 3) In January, implemented a revised gaming ordinance and a complete revision of regulations, consolidating 26 chapters into six; 4) Issued first fine to a vendor in the amount of \$4,000 for failure to comply with regulations; 5) successfully negotiated with the Oregon State Police a clearly defined plan for their monitoring and oversight activities which in the long term will save the Tribe money; and 6) to ensure no significant negative issues have occurred at Spirit Mountain Casino.

Hillman, with 30 years of law enforcement experience, appointed to the Gaming Commission in 1995, when it started, and now serving as Commission chair, introduced the other commission members.

Tribal member and Vice-chair Leonette Galligher, appointed in 1995, brings a background in small business administration and involvement in Tribal Committees and activities; Tribal member and Secretary Mary Mode has served the commission for three years. She brings a background in legal services and extensive knowledge in human resources; Tribal member Gene Davidson was appointed to the commission in 1995. He brings to the commission a very valuable service 'common sense' and a dedication to ensuring fairness to all that apply for a gaming license; Tom McGowan, appointed to the commission this year, brings an extensive background in accounting and auditing.

Since 1995, the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission has reviewed 5,800 applications for licenses to work at Spirit Mountain Casino, and approved 5,000.

Since 1988, Hillman reported, more than 300 Tribes have entered into Tribal-State compacts to bring gaming to the public, and 240 Tribes currently offer some sort of gaming. In 2001, these Tribes generated \$12.7

billion, up from \$7.5 billion in 1997.

Despite a poor economy in the last year, and the addition of 100 new Tribal members, this year's payout to Tribal members from Casino funds on December 12 was announced.

Questions from the membership focused on payouts to Tribal Elders. Although the Council was still to hear more about the issue, the question came up about whether increased payments from the Tribe would result in decreased payments from the state.

Tribal member Simone Auger and others noted the Tribal Council's decision to end its relationship with Oregon Legal Services, and requested that the Tribe find another service for the membership. Tribal Council Chair Reyn Leno said that the council terminated OLS because a lot of members complained that it was not serving their needs, but noted that the search for a successor service was in process.

Tribal member Perri McDaniel asked for clarification on why the Children's Trust Funds were involved with the sale of the property in Keizer (the former Nanitch Sahallie property). Reyn Leno and Financial Officer Larry Kovach said that with interest rates very low today, the deal was structured so that the relatively high 8 percent interest payments would go to the Children's Trust Fund rather than the general fund.

Tribal member Nancy Coleman asked how payoffs are regulated at the casino, and others wanted to know what percentage was returned to customers. While state regulations and compact agreements require casinos in Oregon to return 75 percent at a minimum to customers, Casino interim CEO Bill Pierce said that different games have different requirements and that actual returns to customers are kept as a secret from the competition.

Door prize winners included \$50 winners: Tribal members Ruth Rickard, Gene Hudson and Gene LaBonte; and \$100 winner Kim Rogers, who donated the full amount back to the Veterans' Memorial Fund.

The Royalty Raffle provided poinsettias to Tribal members Pearl Lyon, Tom LaChance and Jessie Brann, a Christmas tree to Tribal Member Janet Phillips; and the 50/50 cash drawing split between the Royalty and the winner also went to Jessie Brann. Royalty began the raffle for a Pendleton blanket and a DVD player to fund future activities. It was to continue and be completed on December 12. ■