

Housing Authority Report and Tribe's Stadium For Portland Casino Discussions Headline Tribal Council Meeting

■ Tribal members seek assurances that Tribal assets will be safe.

Story and Photos by Ron Karten

The March General Council meeting was held on Sunday, March 2nd, at the Tribal Community Center in Grand Ronde. Here are the highlights:



Tim Holmes

Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy called the meeting to order. Tribal member Nancy Coleman offered the invocation.

Tribal member Tim Holmes, President of the Board of the Tribal Housing Authority, introduced the board members and gave a

summary of the Tribe's Housing program.

Board members are appointed by the Tribal Council and serve three-year terms, said Board member and Wells Fargo Bank Tribal Real Estate Specialist Valerie Harjo. The board members contribute their professional expertise and monitor and evaluate housing opportunities for Tribal members, she said.

Tribal member and Board member Monty Parazoo described the latest Tribal Housing project, Chxi Musam Illihi, a group of 36 controlled rent family rental units with one to five bedrooms.

Built with federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds, it is scheduled for occupancy by July 1, he said. The Housing Authority will continue to monitor the building process for this project and qualify applicants to the facility.

The Housing Authority also used HUD funds to build the new Housing program offices, which were designed with room for staff growth. Staff moved into the new building late in November.

For 2003, the Housing Authority plans to construct an adult foster care house to serve Tribal Elders in need of daily support. Planning will begin this year for development of home ownership opportunities on the 80-acre Risseeuw site north of Highway 22. Planning also will begin this year for a senior center within the Elder Housing development as well as a five-year "Indian Housing Plan" funded by HUD.

Housing staff also continues to administer Home Equity grants (335 in last eight years and 66 in 2002), Home Repair grants (117 and 39), Medical Adaptation grants (187 and 26) and Indian Health Service Sanitation grants (133 and 21). Sanitation grants are primarily for improving water and sewer services.



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~Cheryle Kennedy
Tribal Chairwoman

In 2002, the Housing Authority experimented by providing Home Repair grants outside of the local six-county area. Six grants outside the area were awarded in 2002.

Parazoo called the Home Equity grants "one of the biggest bangs for the buck," for the Tribe.

The Housing Authority's Board of Directors meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Housing office building from 5:30 to 9:30 PM. An agenda is posted at the Housing office building and members can request topics be put on the agenda for each meeting.

The Tribal Council then discussed with the Tribe's

proposal to back the building of a professional baseball stadium in exchange for agreement by the state and city allowing the Tribe to build a new casino in Portland with the membership.

Kennedy described the effort as a way of fulfilling "one of the goals for Restoration." That goal is self-sufficiency. "There are no plans whatsoever to close Spirit Mountain Casino," she said. Putting Tribal revenue programs at risk "is not part of the plan," she added.

Although Portland Mayor Vera Katz is "very open" to the plan, according to Kennedy, the actions of both the Governor and the federal Department of the Interior remain vital to the success of the project. As of this Tribal Council meeting, the Tribe had not been

in direct contact with either the Governor or Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton. "Our goal,"

said Kennedy, "is to speak with the Governor (soon)."

From the membership came questions focusing on the risk that the Tribal community is taking with this effort.

Congratulations to \$50 door prize winners — Tribal members Misty Carl, LeVeta Sell and Dakota Whitecloud and to \$100 winner — Tribal member Theresa Haller.

A Tribal Elder made positive comments on a *Statesman Journal* front-page article about the Tribe's Chinuk language immersion class that led to kudos for *Smoke Signals* reporter and photographer Peta Tinda, whose work inspired the piece.

Tribal Council Actions

Wednesday, January 15

5:02 p.m. — Meeting was called to order by Tribal Council Vice-Chairman Reyn Leno. A quorum was present.

Present was Bob Haller, Ed Larsen, Reyn Leno, Ed Pearsall, Jan D. Reibach and Valorie Sheker-Robertson.

Excused was Val Grout, Cheryle Kennedy and June Sell-Sherer.

Invocation was done by Jan D. Reibach, Tribal Council member.

PREVIOUS MINUTES — APPROVE & AMEND

■ Valorie Sheker-Robertson moved, Jan D. Reibach seconded to approve the December 31, 2002, Council meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

■ Ed Pearsall moved, Ed Larsen seconded to approve the January 6, 2003, Council meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

NEW BUSINESS: TRIBAL GOVERNMENT, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET COMMITTEE

■ **Tribal Council Ordinance Revisions — first reading.** Jan D. Reibach moved, Bob Haller seconded to adopt a motion approving the first reading of amendments to the Tribal Council Ordinance. These amendments would replace all existing Tribal Council committees with a single Legislative Action Committee, made up of all Tribal Council members. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

■ **ANA Social & Economic Development Strategies Grant Application.** Valorie Sheker-Robertson moved, Jan D. Reibach seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 002-03:**

(1) authorizing the Tribe's ANA Social & Economic Development Strategies grant application for a two year project for media center and website development, satellite offices development, and for cultural interpretive center planning; and

(2) that the council commit matching funds of \$54,590 for year one and \$61,603 for year two from cash match, in-kind match, and from a credit for applying a reduced Indirect rate. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

■ **Iskum I, LLC Promissory Note.** Bob Haller moved, Ed Pearsall seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 003-03** approving a loan to Iskum I, LLC for the purchase of certain Washington property at a foreclosure sale under the terms presented by the Finance Officer through use of the UBS/PaineWebber line of credit. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

■ **Letter of Credit Authorization.** Jan D. Reibach moved, Valorie Robertson seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 004-03** authorizing the Finance Officer to obtain a Letter of Credit to secure performance of reclamation obligations under an Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Permit for mining property used as a rock quarry which is held as collateral for loan made by the

Tribe. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

ENROLLMENT

■ **Infant Determination Approval.** Valorie Sheker-Robertson moved, Ed Pearsall seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 005-03** approving infant applicant, numbered 5284, for Grand Ronde Tribal membership, because based on the investigation and recommendation of the Enrollment Staff, the minor meets the enrollment requirements under the Constitution and the Enrollment Ordinance. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

■ **Minor Determination Approval.** Jan D. Reibach moved, Bob Haller seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 006-03** approving Tribal membership for minor, numbered 5285, because based on the investigation and recommendation of the Enrollment Staff, the minor meets the enrollment requirements under the Constitution and the Enrollment Ordinance. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

■ **Infant Determination Denial.** Ed Pearsall moved, Valorie Sheker-Robertson seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 007-03** denying Tribal membership to baby, John Doe (enrollment application received 12/05/02), because based on the investigation and recommendation of the Enrollment Staff, the baby does not meet the enrollment requirements under the Constitution and the Enrollment Ordinance. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

■ **Committee By-Laws.** Valorie Sheker-Robertson moved, Jan D. Reibach seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 008-03** approving the Committee Bylaws presented to the council for the following committees: Culture Committee, Elder's Committee, Fish & Wildlife Committee, Royalty Committee, and Timber Committee. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

HEALTH & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

■ **Indian Child Welfare Ordinance Amendments.** Valorie Sheker-Robertson moved, Ed Pearsall seconded to adopt **Resolution No. 009-03** approving amendments to the Indian Child Welfare Ordinance which clarify the Tribe's existing law, policies and procedures in handling Indian child welfare matters and to develop areas of the law which are not fully addressed in the current Ordinance. Among other things, the proposed revisions substantially change the organizational structure of the Ordinance, establish minimum standards for child welfare investigations, establish a Community Review Board, codify the Tribe's policy regarding Termination of Parental Rights, provide procedures and standards for private adoptions and ensure compliance with applicable federal law. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

5:12 p.m. — Ed Larsen moved, Jan D. Reibach seconded to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**