

Tribal Council approves first reading of TERO Ordinance amendments

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a first reading of proposed changes to the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance at its three-hour Wednesday, Aug. 9, meeting.

The three proposed amendments would affect seven executive positions within Tribal government and Spirit Mountain Casino, including the general manager position, which is currently vacant.

Specifically, the amendments would change the definition of executive-level employee from those who are direct reports to Tribal Council to also include those who are direct reports to the Tribal Gaming Commission.

The second amendment would remove executive-level employees from the standard minimum preference that is applied in the TERO Ordinance and modify it to a “tiebreaker preference,” meaning if there are equally qualified Tribal member and external candidates, the Tribal member would be hired. The third amendment would remove executive-level applicants from TERO director qualification assessments review.

Several Tribal members and employees spoke against the proposed changes during the Tuesday, Aug. 8, Legislative Action Committee meeting, including TERO Commission member Brian Krehbiel, former Tribal Council member Jack Giffen Jr., Tribal member Matt Haller, Tribal 477/Employment & Training Specialist Rhonda Leno and TERO Compliance Officer Duke Kimsey.

“After fighting for TERO for many, many years, and seeing how our Tribal members were swept under the rug, how will these amendments promote Tribal members into executive-level positions,” Giffen said. “I look here and see almost everyone in this room and the folks on Tribal Council who were given an opportunity by the Tribe to succeed. ... By taking TERO out of this, you’re eliminating an opportunity for a Tribal member to be in a good position. For me, this is going backward.”

Tribal Council member Kathleen George said that the proposed changes would allow council to more carefully screen applicants for the highest level positions within Tribal government.

“These are the very highest responsibility positions,” she said. “If things were to go wrong, these positions would have the highest potential levels of risk to the Tribe

and our assets if things went badly. In recruiting the next Tribal general manager, Tribal Council wants to see and potentially interview all applicants who meet the qualifications, but we were told we cannot do that under the current TERO Ordinance, and that these amendments would be necessary for Tribal Council to see all candidates who met qualifications.”

George added that council spoke with the TERO Commission, which didn’t think the amendments were needed, but that legal staff told them it was necessary.

During the Wednesday, Aug. 9, Tribal Council meeting, more than two hours were dedicated to hearing Tribal members speak in opposition to the proposed amendments. Most speakers expressed their dislike for weakening of Tribal preference in the hiring process.

As a first reading, Tribal members will have 30 days to comment on the ordinance before council makes a final decision.

Tribal Attorney Rob Greene said that those who spoke during the Tribal Council meeting would have their testimony automatically incorporated into the comments for Tribal Council to review following the 30-day period.

- In other action, Tribal Council:
- Set a per capita date of Friday, Sept. 8, and directed Finance Officer Chris Leno to make the payments;
 - Approved four credits cards for \$2,500 each for different members of the Emergency Services Department;
 - Approved applying for the 2023-25 Oregon Department of Justice Victims of Crime Act grant for \$225,000, which will provide services for both female and male survivors of domestic violence;
 - And enrolled three infants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements stated in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

During the announcements portion of the meeting, Tribal Council member Lisa Leno said that an event will be held Tuesday, Aug. 29, to welcome the Canoe Family home and to also celebrate the Tribe’s approved memorandum of agreement with the state of Oregon about expanding hunting and fishing rights for Tribal members.

To watch the entire meeting, visit the Tribal government’s website at www.grandronde.org and click on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

Election Office open through Sept. 7

The Tribe’s Election Board office opened on Monday, July 24, and will be open through Thursday, Sept. 7.

Office hours are 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, with lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m.

The office is located in the Tribal Community Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, and the phone number is 503-879-2271.

Blank signature verification forms have been placed in a hanging basket outside the Elections Board office door. Completed signature verification forms – with a notarized signature or legible copy of ID, including your signature (driver’s licenses, member ID card, passport, etc.) – need to be mailed to the Election Board for processing. The form will not be processed unless it has been notarized or includes a legible copy of ID and signature attached.

Ballots were mailed to voters with verified signatures on Wednesday, July 26. Tribal members can submit a verified signature card at any time up to and including Election Day on Saturday, Sept. 9.

The Grand Ronde post office is no longer open to accept ballots on Saturday, Sept. 9. For Tribal members’ convenience, there will be a ballot box in the Governance Center during the election season and also on Election Day there will be a box in the Community Center where ballots can be dropped off.

Ballots will be available, as they have been in the past, for Tribal members who want to vote in person. It is the voter’s responsibility to ensure their ballot is received by the Election Board on Election Day and allow for adequate time for the ballot to reach the Election Board by Sept. 9.

CTGR 2023 Annual Grand Ronde Fish Distribution

Natural Resources Department

Fish Lab

47010 SW HEBU ROAD

Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347

(503) 879-2424

When:
Thursday, August 17, 2023, 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.
Friday, August 18, 2023, 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.
Saturday, August 19, 2023, 9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

GRAND RONDE LIVING and ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS ONLY
Must show current photo I.D.

Fish will be handed out in a drive through system. Please follow the signage up the hill to the fish lab, receive your fish and then follow the exit loop road out.

*If picking up for others: A Signed release and **copy of Tribal ID or CIB is required!***

No Early or late Pickups and fish will not be mailed. Fish cannot be picked up in both Grand Ronde and Portland.

Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?

Do you have questions about diabetes?

Do you need help managing your diabetes?

If so...

Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002

To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment

2023 Fish Distribution Release Example

I, _____ Roll Number, _____

Give _____ Permission to pick up my fish.

Signature of Tribal Member: _____ Date: _____