

**REGULAR MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
August 9, 2007 – 4:00 P.M.
TRIBAL OFFICE BOARDROOM**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. CHAIRPERSON Laurie Boivin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with a quorum present. MEMBERS PRESENT: Regina Washinawatok, Kathy Kaquatosh, JD Shatswell, Ben Kaquatosh, Jeremy Weso (late) and Mary Wayka (late).

2. Moment of Silence. A moment of silence was observed.

3. Approval of Minutes dated July 18, 2007.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to approve the minutes dated July 18, 2007. Second was by JD Shatswell. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 2 absent (Weso and Wayka).

4. Health Insurance Proposal: Dan Maine

Dan Maine informed the committee on how the insurance rates are established for the year. The rating calculation was first announced at 10.4 percent in April, 2007 at the Director's meeting. The next monthly rating came in at 8.4 percent and currently it is at 7 percent. 7.2 percent looks like the final number but that will not be realized until September 10, 2007.

Because the rating is declining; it would be safe to assume that the rate increase will not climb any higher than 8.4 percent.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to recommend to the Legislature that the health rates for Fiscal Year 2008 be no more that 8.4 percent. Second was by Kathy Kaquatosh. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 opposed 1 abstention (Weso) and 1 absent.

An amendment will be needed to the health plan to take care advantage of the Medicare liking rates.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to amend the health care plan to take advantage of the Medicare liking rates for our contract health plan and to have the draft amendment come back to this committee for review. Second was by Regina Washinawatok. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 6 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 absent.

5. Workers Compensation Insurance Rate Suspension: Dan Maine.

Dan Maine gave a brief history on how the workman compensation rate collections have been handled in the past. Departmental programs would collect even after the Tribe reached their cut off point. The Tribe now has \$900,000.00 and historically the Tribe would only need \$300,000.00 for the past fiscal years. This suspension would be for the fiscal years.

The committee agreed to support this request and also that Mr. Maine develop a draft policy that would address this same event if it would so happen in the future.

Motion made by JD Shatswell to recommend to the Legislature to suspend the workman's compensation rate for Fiscal Year 2008 providing the fund balance remains at or above \$300,000.00. Second was made by Ben Kaquatosh. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 6 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 absent.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to have the Insurance Department write an Administration Policy regarding the Workman's Compensation fund as it relates to the annual rates that are affixed to the WC rate and that we have a cap put on the reserves to make sure that we enough reserves to take care of the claims that come up throughout the year and have this policy back to this committee within 60-90 days. Second was by JD Shatswell. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 6 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 absent.

The Annual Benefit Fair is going to be held at the Casino on August 23-24, 2007. Requested attendance insures the insurance department that employees are informed about the changes in health care for the year.

Mr. Maine was informed that his department needs legislative approval for mandatory attendance. He is requesting assistance from this committee to get employee participation.

Motion made by Ben Kaquatosh to recommend to the Legislature to endorse and support our employee's to participate at the Annual Benefit Fair being held at the Casino from 7am to 5pm on August 23-24, 2007. Second was by Jeremy Weso. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 6 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 absent.

6. Ordinance 83-06 Personnel Policies and Procedures: Review and Recommendations.

The committee reviewed the disciplinary/grievance process, 2 alternates to the Administrative Board, the job responsibilities of the employee advocate, psychological testing for the board members and developing a mediation checklist for the employee advocate.

We need to test the disciplinary/grievance process before an amendment is ready for concurrence with the Legislature. Ordinance 82-10 and 83-06 should be more of an employment preference. The interview checklist needs to add additional qualifiers.

The committee will review changes/updates for the next meeting.

7. Other Business.

The committee was informed that a recommendation came from the Forestry Committee to add the Historic Preservation Director and the Environmental Services Director to the Forestry Committee.

8. Adjournment.

Motion made by JD Shatswell/Ben Kaquatosh to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Peters, Recorder
Legislative Staff