



WASHOE TRIBE OFF-RESERVATION MEETING

Virtual Meeting via Webex

August 14, 2020
10:00 am

- I. Call to order – 10:04 am – 12 people present
- II. Announcements
 - New Enrollment Committee representatives:
 - Janessa Patiga
 - Jon Flint
 - Currently Accepting Letters of Interest to serve:
 - WHA BOC alternate (Deadline Extended)
 - **Letters due Thursday, September 10th at 5pm**
 - COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Program is accepting applications
 - **Deadline to submit application to EOC is September 30, 2020**
- III. Enrollment Update
 - Proposed “Membership Ordinance”
 - Tribal Council chose to table the proposed Membership Ordinance until the September Tribal Council meeting to get more feedback from membership;
 - To note, this is not a Constitutional change, this is an amendment to an Ordinance, which is essentially a procedural change in enrollment. This is needed in order for the Enrollment Committee to move forward on reviewing enrollment applications because our current Enrollment Ordinance is out of date (1977) and many of the processes outlined within it are no longer feasible or currently practiced by the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs. Changing blood quantum requirements for enrollment qualifications (ex: changing “1/4” to “descendency”) requires a Constitutional change, which is a different process.
 - The primary concerns that were discussed include:
 - The change to have the Enrollment Committee the determining body of enrollment, and Tribal Council being an appeal if an applicant is denied;
 - a. This is concern because Tribal Council has always been the body to determine enrollment, and Tribal members elect these members rather than an appointed committee;
 - b. However, there still needs to be an appeals process – would it come back to Tribal Council?

- The timeline for filing an appeal is too short at 30 days – 45-60 days was requested
- The use of Census Records for determining blood quantum is still a concern with strong opinions on both sides of whether or not to allow them as burden of proof;
 - a. The validity of Census Records is a concern;
 - b. By previous Tribal Councils allowing Census Records to be used for blood quantum increases, there has already been a precedence set at least 50 years ago, and if the current Tribal Council wanted to go against that, it would open up a situation where a lot of Tribal members will see their blood quantum lowered and many disenrolled;
- Members didn't know that their responses to the survey would result in the recommended changes to the Enrollment Ordinance;
 - General comment about blood quantum being too high, but this requires a Constitutional change not an Ordinance change;

IV. COVID-19 Updates

- Since our last Off Reservation meeting, there have been seven (7) positive cases within the Tribe. Of these, there were no hospitalizations, and it was reported that these individuals are moving into recovery;
- EOC is moving forward to develop non-congregate housing (RV) and accompanying policies to ensure that these are used for the purposes that they are intended for
- Proposed Hazard Pay Policy
 - Currently in a DRAFT form so it can be changed as Tribal Council/membership see fit;
 - Developed to actually establish the conditions of hazard pay to ensure they are within guidelines of available federal funding for this expense;
 - Reconciling the first round of hazard pay – we are still hoping that the U.S. Senate is going to pass funding that we can use to cover the first round of hazard pay;
 - Overall off-reservation members were not in favor of using the general fund to pay for hazard pay. They were, however, in agreement with the policy where staff are eligible under the guidelines of the CARES Act and the BIA funding that the Tribe received; they would like to see retail workers or other vulnerable employees to be considered as well, but want the Tribe to be fiscally responsible by not utilizing the general fund;
 - Note: the current DRAFT doesn't include allowing retro-pay due to the documentation that is required to qualify for hazard pay;
- General concern brought up regarding employee safety especially in the high-populated areas (California TANF sites) and would like to urge Tribal Council, the Tribal Chairman, and the EOC to be considerate of this, and to potentially enforce more office safety protocols to protect employees;

V. Open Forum/Questions

- Gardnerville/Minden curfew siren
 - Ask elders and community members to share their stories with this siren and compile them for when this issue is brought forward to Minden/Gardnerville/Douglas County;

VI. Adjournment 11:43 am

- **Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2020, at 10 am**