



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GAMBLING COMMISSION

"Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest"

March Special Gambling Commission Meeting Minutes

Gambling Commission Headquarters

Virtual Meeting

***March 22, 2021**

Commissioners Present:

Bud Sizemore, Chair (Via Teams)

Julia Patterson (Via Teams)

Alicia Levy (Via Teams)

Lauren King (Via Teams)

Staff Present:

Dave Trujillo, Director; and Julie Anderson, Executive Assistant.

Staff Present-Virtual:

Tina Griffin, Assistant Director; Brian Considine, Legal and Legislative Manager (LLM); Julie Lies, Tribal Liaison; Ashlie Laydon, Rules Coordinator; and Suzanne Becker, Assistant Attorney General.

Public Meeting Call to Order

Vice Chair Patterson called the virtual special commission meeting to order at 1:04 PM. Chair Sizemore recused himself from the process of interim director as Chair Sizemore has asked to be considered for the interim director and permanent director position.

Vice Chair Patterson asked Director Trujillo to call roll to ensure a quorum for the public meeting. All commissioners were present.

There were 107 people who attended the virtual meeting.

Tab 1

Appointment of Interim Director

Vice Chair (VC) Patterson presented the materials for this tab. VC Patterson explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider and appoint an interim director. Director Trujillo accepted another position and will be leaving the agency on March 31, 2021. Under the Gambling Act RCW 9.46.080, the commission employs the director, and the director acts as the administrator for the commission in carrying out its powers and duties. The commission will need time to search for a new permanent director to replace Director Trujillo. The commission will appoint an interim director to act as its administrator until a recruitment and appointment of a new permanent director is completed. At our last meeting Director Trujillo recommended Assistant Director Tina Griffin for this interim position. And at the same time Chair Sizemore

* Governor Inslee issued [Proclamation 20-28.4](#) et al that suspended certain Open Public Meeting requirements, including in-person public meetings requirements for this Commission Meeting.

indicated his interest in the interim position as well as the fact that he plans to recuse himself from this interim director appointment process today. VC Patterson asked Chair Sizemore to state for the record, his interest in the position and recusal from the decision. **Chair Sizemore** explained that he will continue to recuse himself for this entire process. He is willing, interested, and available to serve, not only in the interim role, if chosen, but also would be applying for the permanent role. Chair Sizemore did not participate in the vote for interim director.

VC Patterson introduced the Human Resources Director (HRD), Lisa Benavidez and asked her to provide information to Commissioners Levy, King and herself on factors to consider for an interim director.

HRD Benavidez addressed the commission and said, “Some of the things that we may want to consider for an interim appointment, they include that typically interim directors are appointed from within the agency and there are several factors and reasons why. Those factors include that someone internal will have familiarity with the issues facing the agency, including any administrative and day-to-day recurring issues. They will have familiarity with operations of the agency from a program and executive managing perspective. They will have an understanding of the organization of each division and have the ability to effectively manage those divisions. And they will have the ability to quickly step in and ensure no operations are interrupted. Hiring an interim director from within the agency is a way to ensure that there are minimal, if any, business interruptions while we search for a director. **VC Patterson** asked if anyone had any questions for HRD Benavidez. There were no questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Levy moved to appoint Tina Griffin as Interim Director until a permanent appointment for director can be made, and also move that the start date for that appointment be April 1, 2021. Commissioner King seconded the motion. The motion passed 3:0

Commissioner Levy moved to set the salary form Tina Griffin while she is serving as interim director at 15% over her current salary, so long as it falls within the current salary range for the director position. Commissioner King seconded the motion. The motion passed 3:0.

Interim Director Griffin's new salary is set at \$142,356 annually, and that is within the range set by the commission.

Director Trujillo called the role. The motions were adopted.

VC Patterson asked for public comment.

Jerry Allen of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe asked who would take over Assistant Director Griffin’s role while she steps into the interim director role. **Director Trujillo** thanked Mr. Allen for his question and stated that at this time Assistant Director (AD) Griffin has several managers that would be willing to step up to assist her. **AD Griffin** addressed the commission and thanked them for their confidence in her ability to take this position on in the interim and she looks forward to working with them.

Maureen Greely, with the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling thanked Director Trujillo for his years of service and guidance to those of us outside of the commission who work in

partnership, and to thank both Chair Sizemore and Tina Griffin for being willing to step up to such a large responsibility. She Appreciates that there was more than one candidate who was interested, and she looks forward to working with Tina in the interim.

Chair Sizemore also addressed the commission and congratulated AD Griffin. He said she would do an amazing job and she can count on his full support as the commissioners move forward. He stated that he knows AD Griffin is up to the task and has stepped up in the past when Director Trujillo was called up to preform his duties for the guard when the pandemic was at its peak.

VC Patterson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The special commission meeting adjourned at 1:24 PM.