

**TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES  
OF THE FLATHEAD INDIAN NATION, MONTANA**

Volume 18 Number 51  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: April 5, 2018  
Approved: April 12, 2018

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ronald Trahan, Chairman; Troy Felsman, Secretary; Anita Matt, Treasurer; Dennis Clairmont; Shelly Fyant; Charmel Gillin; Leonard TwoTeeth; and Carole Lankford.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Leonard Gray, Vice-Chairman (Columbia Basin Meeting – Portland, Oregon); and James Steele, Jr. (Ill).

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; Bill Kehoe, Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:06 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Len TwoTeeth.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for March 29, 2018 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Troy Felsman to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for March 29, 2018, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval. No conflicts of interest were identified. Additions were made to the agenda.

**MOTION** by Dennis Clairmont to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Preston Madplume** requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management, requested approval of a consultant contract with Linda Putney, CPA, through September 30, 2019 to assist with preparations of the annual audit and IDC proposals and provide training to the

staff.

**MOTION** by Troy Felsman to approve a consultant contract with Linda Putney, CPA, through September 30, 2019 to assist with preparations of the annual audit and IDC proposals and provide training to the staff. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room assisting a tribal member).

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

**Gabe Johnson**, Natural Resources Department, discussed the new contracting method known as Construction Manager/General Contractor Procurement, and asked if council would like to have Ken Atkins, Federal Highway Administration, brief the council on this issue on June 7. FWHA has been working with other tribes, counties and municipalities to implement the new contracting method. This procurement method for contracting hires a collaborative team including the contractor, designer and, in some cases, an independent estimator. The builder, designer and owner would work together upfront. Early collaboration minimizes risks, such as costly design and contract changes and everyone is working together as a collaborative team from the beginning. **Council** authorized Gabe to get Mr. Atkins scheduled on the agenda for a presentation.

**Gabe Johnson**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a project specific agreement with the Town of St. Ignatius to chip seal a portion of the Salish Homesites on the town's road right-of-way. **Shelly Fyant** would like a press release issued identifying the Tribes' contribution.

**MOTION** by Charmel Gillin to approve a project specific agreement with the Town of St. Ignatius to chip seal a portion of the Salish Homesites on the town's road right-of-way. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Len TwoTeeth** discussed a sink hole in Elmo that is located in front of Tribal Health and Koostahtah Hall, and he requested that the Roads Program mark the area or place cones there. **Gabe Johnson** will follow up.

**Amani Antoine** was introduced to council. She is running for Little Miss Montana. Amani is six years old and attends school in St. Ignatius. She takes Salish language classes and she does Indian dance. She will perform an Indian dance in the talent portion of the competition. If she wins Little Miss Montana she will then go to the national competition in Texas. She is selling tickets at \$10 each. **Council** referred her to the donation committee.

**Darla Matt** introduced herself to council. She was recently enrolled in the

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 2018

Tribes, and she would like to sing for the tribal council. Darla sings, plays the guitar and plays the harmonica. **Council** referred her to Jennifer to get scheduled on the agenda.

**Jeanne Christopher** and **Melanie Piedalue**, Early Childhood Services, requested approval to enter into a contract with Child Plus to provide on-site training at a cost of \$5,300. The database compiles reports and collects data as required by the federal funding agency.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to approve a contract with Child Plus to provide on-site training of the database at a cost of \$5,300. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Dennis Clairmont out of the room).

**Jeanne Christopher** and **Melanie Piedalue**, Early Childhood Services, requested approval to enter into a contract with Pyramid Educational Consultants for training on the Picture Exchange Communication System for staff working with children with developmental delays. The cost is \$8,700.

**MOTION** by Troy Felsman to approve a contract with Pyramid Educational Consultants at a cost of \$8,700 to provide training on the Picture Exchange Communication System for staff working with children with developmental delays. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Dennis Clairmont out of the room).

**Jeanne Christopher** and **Melanie Piedalue**, Early Childhood Services, requested approval to purchase capital equipment consisting of 2 preschool lofts to provide more physical therapy options in the classroom. The cost is \$8,500 each, plus shipping and handling. Part B funds are available to make this purchase.

**MOTION** by Charmel Gillin to approve the purchase of capital equipment consisting of 2 preschool lofts to provide more physical therapy options in the classroom at a cost of \$8,500 each, plus shipping and handling. Seconded by Troy Felsman. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Dennis Clairmont out of the room).

**Jeanne Christopher**, Early Childhood Services, handed out information on the Grandparents as Parents training that is being offered and the grandparent support group. Council was invited to attend.

Council **recessed** the regular meeting at 10:21 a.m. to conduct an S&K Business Services shareholder meeting.

Council **reconvened** into the regular meeting at 11:05 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

**Carolee Wenderoth, Mark Couture, Tara Irvine, CloAnn Westerman, Desiree Nault, George Ducharme, Frances Skare, and Willie Birthmark,** Tribal Lands Department, provided orientation on the Lands Department. **Shelly Fyant** thanked Frances Skare for giving a presentation on probates at the Arlee district meeting. **Len TwoTeeth** thanked the staff for providing services to Joe Sorrell when he lost his home. **Anita Matt** thanked the staff for their services provided to the Dixon Agency. The water was hooked up. **Carole Lankford** thanked Carolee Wenderoth for her hard work and for going the extra mile for the Boys & Girls Club. **Charmel Gillin** thanked the staff for their leadership and accomplishments. **Chairman Trahan** asked Carolee to meet with the Education Department about the Cobell scholarships.

\*\*\*\*\* **Lunch** \*\*\*\*\*

**Troy Felsman** left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

**Jordan Thompson,** Legal Department, discussed aquatic invasive species enforcement and proposed amendments to the Traffic Code that cite the Montana Code Annotated to include stops for violations of the aquatic invasive species check station law. The tribal police need authority to make traffic stops of tribal members that pass by the check stations without getting their watercraft inspected. This amendment would make the tribal law consistent with the State of Montana laws. The amendment would provide authority to cite tribal members on a misdemeanor charge; any felony charge would be referred to Lake County for prosecution.

**Len TwoTeeth** discussed the governor being here on May 3. He would like to request additional funding to set up a check station in Elmo. The cost is \$230,000 to develop a check station for one season. **Dennis Clairmont** reported that there was talk about having a check station at the junction in Plains, but he does not know the status of that.

**Carole Lankford** informed council that Kathy Torosian has a list of needs. She needs \$120 for her water and sewer bill, \$200 for her telephone (includes lifeline service), and money for groceries. Carole sent the information to DHRD but has not received a response.

**Len TwoTeeth** informed council that Preston Madplume requested a tribal flag to hang at the school he is attending.

**Carole Lankford** informed council that Charmel McClure is working on the Hamel house in preparation to sell it. She has some good ideas, and would like

to visit with council. Some tribal members do not know much about buying and selling homes and there could be a program to provide assistance. **Charmel Gillin** discussed appraisals, timber cruising, and trust land management and how to get it done more efficiently. She commented that S&K Business Services could help tribal members start an appraisal company.

**Martin Charlo** and **Arlene Bigby**, Kicking Horse Job Corps Center; and **Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management; informed council that they received the second part of the second cure notice. That will be brought in next week for council review. The document contained 17 deliverables. The slot plan was submitted. They are working on a medical focus with different branches. The Contracting Officer had sent a letter requesting information, and Vern requested that the staff document the required information and include in the weekly report.

**Martin Charlo** and **Arlene Bigby**, Kicking Horse Job Corps Center, requested approval of personnel changes. The position descriptions were reviewed by the Personnel Department to ensure that the staff qualifies for the positions. They requested authorization to transfer Patrice Plant from the Residential Counselor position to the Accounting/Payroll Technician position.

**MOTION** by Charmel Gillin to approve the transfer of Patrice Plant from the Residential Counselor position to the Accounting/Payroll Technician position. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**Martin Charlo** and **Arlene Bigby**, Kicking Horse Job Corps Center, requested approval to transfer Christina Griffin from the Residential Counselor position to the Senior Residential Counselor position.

**MOTION** by Shelly Fyant to approve the transfer of Christina Griffin from the Residential Counselor position to the Senior Residential Counselor position. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**Martin Charlo** and **Arlene Bigby**, Kicking Horse Job Corps Center, requested approval to transfer Eric Koetter from the HiSet Instructor position to the CTT Coordinator position.

**MOTION** by Shelly Fyant to approve the transfer of Eric Koetter from the HiSet Instructor position to the CTT Coordinator position. Seconded by Dennis Clairmont. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**Martin Charlo** and **Arlene Bigby**, Kicking Horse Job Corps Center, requested approval of an agreement with Salish Kootenai College to pay for the Dental Assistant and CDL; and the HiSet. **Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management, reported that these payments could not be paid by the Department of Labor

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 2018

because there was no contract in place, so the Tribes will pay for services rendered through contracting fees.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to approve the agreement with Salish Kootenai College for the Dental Assistant and CDL. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**MOTION** by Shelly Fyant to approve the agreement with Salish Kootenai College for the HiSet. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

**Martin Charlo** and **Arlene Bigby**, Kicking Horse Job Corps Center; and **Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management; discussed issues with the Security staff. Employees need the background checks completed before the date of hire. **Chairman Trahan** had discussed with Vern Clairmont about how to get the background checks done quicker. Having an on-call list may be helpful. **Charmel Gillin** would like to have the Policy Analyst find out how many departments use background checks, what is the legal authority used for the background checks, and have a comprehensive assessment done to determine how to get the background checks done in the most expedient way.

\*\*\*\*\* **Break** \*\*\*\*\*

**Len TwoTeeth** out of the room.

**Steve McDonald**, **Duane Plant**, **Kelly O'Bennick**, **Linden Plant**, and **James Lozeau**, Tribal Forestry, provided orientation on the Forestry program. **Charmel Gillin** would like a projection of increased revenues that might come from filling vacancies (cost-benefit analysis). **Steve McDonald** will produce a report.

**Charmel Gillin** asked for a consensus of council to direct the Policy Analyst to work on the background checks as she recommended. **Council** directed that the task be placed on the directives list for the Policy Analyst, to be completed within two weeks.

**Council** met in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Council **adjourned** at 4:12 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Friday, April 6, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Troy Felsman  
Tribal Secretary