

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

Volume 18 Number 59
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: May 1, 2018
Approved: May 8, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Trahan, Chairman; Leonard Gray, Vice-Chairman; Troy Felsman, Secretary; Anita Matt, Treasurer; Dennis Clairmont; James Steele, Jr.; Carole Lankford; Leonard TwoTeeth; Charmel Gillin; and Shelly Fyant.

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

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:07 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Troy Felsman.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for April 24, 2018 were presented for approval.

MOTION by James Steele, Jr. to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for April 24, 2018, with corrections. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, 9 for; 1 abstention (Shelly Fyant).

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

MOTION by Leonard Gray to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Wilbert Michel, Tribal Member, informed council that he was passing by the corrals in the Jette area and there has been a mattress laying there for at least a month. He had been told that Fish & Game patrol the area. Wilbert said the mattress is still laying there.

Carole Lankford informed council that she had planned on going to ITC as the official delegate but she is busy and wants to be relieved of those duties, so she suggested that council appoint Len TwoTeeth as the delegate. Carole was interested in serving as the alternate.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve by resolution the appointment of Len Twoteeth as the delegate and Carole Lankford as the alternate to the Inter-Tribal Timber Council. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 2 abstentions (Carole Lankford and Len TwoTeeth).

RESOLUTION 18-126

RESOLUTION INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES THAT:

WHEREAS, Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) was established in 1976 and is a non-profit nation-wide consortium of Indian tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and individuals dedicated to improving the management of natural resources of importance to Native American Communities; and

WHEREAS, the ITC works cooperatively with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Private industry and academia to explore issues and identify practical strategies and initiatives to promote social, economic and ecological values while protecting and utilizes forests, soil, water, and wildlife. Over 60 tribes and Alaska Native corporations currently belong to the Inter-Tribal Timber Council; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead reservation promote sound, economic management of Indian Forests;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribes appoint Len Two Teeth as delegate, and to appoint Carole Lankford, Leonard Gray and Steve McDonald as alternates.

Carole Lankford informed council that Jeri Powell puts on a community dinner for Good Ole Days in Mission and wants paper products donated. It was the **consensus** of council to make the donation of paper products.

Len TwoTeeth brought up the Elmo Pow Wow Grounds. There are a host of issues that need to be addressed. There are some community members that want to begin fundraising events and meet with the Tribal Maintenance Department on issues that they have been trying to get addressed for a couple of years. Len had asked John to go to a meeting, but found out that council needs to direct the Maintenance Department to take part in that meeting. There are a lot of repairs that need to get done. **Council** agreed to involve the Maintenance Department in this matter.

Corky Sias, Department of Human Resources Development, informed council

that DHRD is in the process of disposing of a 2010 Starcraft All Star bus that has exceeded its usefulness according to the FTA regulations. 8 vehicles will be replaced this year.

MOTION by Troy Felsman to have Property & Supply sell the 2010 Starcraft All Star bus that passed its usefulness miles-wise. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Julie Cajune, Tribal Education Department, informed council that she was contacted by the Flathead High School Athletic Department who wants her to coordinate a meeting to discuss the Flathead Braves and Bravettes mascot names. Before doing so, Julie wanted opinions from the tribal council and culture committees. The school wants to be educated and have a conversation about the sports mascots names since the school does not want to be offensive to the Tribes. Years ago, there was a study that was done that indicated that Indian themed mascots have a negative impact on the Indian students' identity and self-esteem. In 2001 the Tribes issued a letter regarding mascots. Julie gave an overview of the mascot issue with the Ronan School. **Shelly Fyant** was initially contacted by the Flathead High School Athletic Director who wanted people from this Tribe to address the students on the history of native people in the area.

Cindy Benson, Gordon Fyant and **Germaine White**, Mission Valley Power Utility Board, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by James Steele, Jr. to approve the action requested to exempt the Mission Valley Power General Manager position from the tribal pay scale and approve the negotiation of a five-year contract with Jean Matt. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, 7 for; 3 opposed (Len TwoTeeth, Anita Matt and Charmel Gillin).

Charmel Gillin, for the record, *“My reason for opposing this action is because I believe more time is needed to deliberate, as well as I support the work to revise our Ordinance 69-C classification system, rather than moving toward exempting more positions.”*

Cindy Benson clarified that the previous general manager was hired on a long-term contract and was exempted from the tribal pay scale. The tribal council had reversed the process and did not approve the Utility Board's recommendations. The Utility Board is now striving to bring parity to this. **Renee Joachim**, Personnel Department, joined the discussion and answered questions. **Chairman Trahan** wants issues such as contract negotiations brought to the chairman's meeting prior to getting scheduled on the council agenda.

***** **Break** *****

Martin Charlo, Kicking Horse Job Corps Center, discussed a letter that was brought in last week regarding the narrative of non-allowable interest accruing leases in the amount of \$53,249.93. The Department of Labor wants to be reimbursed. There is a meeting with the Regional Office at 2:00 p.m. today.

MOTION by Troy Felsman to approve the letter to Victoria Collins. Seconded by Dennis Clairmont. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Vern Clairmont, Financial Management, presented a request from the Legal Department to have a credit card assigned for the purpose of non-travel related costs, such as purchasing books, pay for the staff's CLE registration fees, and pay for the On the Cloud account. Those needs can be met through Property & Supply. Another option is to have the staff use their own personal credit cards to make the purchases and request reimbursement. **Council** supported the suggestion that the staff make the purchases with their personal credit cards and seek reimbursement. **No action taken.** Council requested further information from the Legal Department.

Vern Clairmont and **Ruth Swaney**, Financial Management, presented the second quarter financial report for January through March 2018.

Renee Camel and **Chuck Reese**, Information Technologies; and **Janet Camel**, Economic Development; gave an update on broadband and telecommunications. The FAA may provide additional funding for rural areas. Three proposals have been received to improve services. The discussion continued in **executive session**. **Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management; and **Kermit Clary**, Property & Supply; were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Troy Felsman to approve the feasibility study for Native Networks, not to exceed \$70,000, for the feasibility work to be completed. Seconded by Leonard Gray. Carried, unanimous (9 present – Anita Matt out of the room).

Rhonda Swaney and **Brian Upton**, Legal Department, gave an update on self-governance issues and requested approval of the draft testimony regarding the Bison Range.

MOTION by James Steele, Jr. to approve the letter and testimony. Seconded by Troy Felsman. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Rhonda Swaney and **Mary Price**, Legal Department, gave an update on the Upper Clark Fork River Basin Superfund site and potential purchase of some property. The State and MFWP would work on public access. There would be an easement to protect the site in perpetuity. Mary requested approval to vote yes on the issue on May 23, and to send a letter of support to the Governor on the acquisition and project going forward.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the letter of support and the action in the Clark Fork. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Rhonda Swaney and **Ryan Rusche**, Legal Department, gave an update on the approach we had from someone in Kalispell. The Glacier Airport Board is remodeling and reached out to the Tribes to incorporate some tribal history. It was the **consensus** of council to move forward.

Rhonda Swaney and **John Harrison**, Legal Department, gave an update on Bison Range issues and the IBMP meeting last week.

Rhonda Swaney, **Daniel Decker** and **Jordon Thompson**, Legal Department; and **Dan Lozar**, Natural Resources Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session**. **Ryan Rusche**, **John Harrison**, **Shane Morigeau**, **Mary Price**, and **Brian Upton**, Legal Department; **Arlene Templer**, Department of Human Resources Development; **Teresa Wall-McDonald** and **Joe Durglo**, Tribal Health Department; and **Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management; were present for discussion.

Rhonda Swaney and **Ryan Rusche**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session**. **Daniel Decker** and **John Harrison**, Legal Department, were present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

***** **Lunch** *****

Virgil Dupuis, Salish Kootenai College; and **Dr. Carmen Shanks** and **Dr. Selina Amid**, Montana State University; gave a report on the research project that began in 2012 through a partnership between MSU and SKC on how to improve diets and health outcomes. The Community Advisory Board discussed diet choices at the meeting yesterday and how many participants meet the food consumption guidelines. The Commodity program offers fresh fruits and vegetables for its clients, along with food and nutrition education. There were 19 people that participated in the intervention, and 75% of the participants were Native American. On a score of 0-100 on the Healthy Eating Index, people scored 48.82 before the intervention and 56.92 after the intervention. Fruit

and vegetable consumption increased after the intervention.

Ron Trahan and **Leonard Gray** left the meeting to participate in a conference call.

Half of the people in the intervention gained weight and the other half lost weight. A lack of nutrition and cooking knowledge was the main barrier for people and affects their food choices and eating habits. It is important to eat fresh fruits and vegetables instead of canned products because antioxidants are a key component to improving health. Virgil would like to do a food inventory. The research results will be shared with the culture committees. Jeanne Christopher reported that Early Childhood Services did a needs assessment, and ECS would like to collaborate with Salish Kootenai College.

Pablo “Chib” Espinoza and **Stacey Courville**, Natural Resources Department, gave an update on wolf management. There are currently 3 to 6 wolf packs on the reservation. 1 wolf was harvested and 1 wolf was collared.

Pablo “Chib” Espinoza and **Stacey Courville**, Natural Resources Department, informed council that the department sold 2 vehicles and purchased 2 new trucks. Chib requested that the department be allowed to keep that \$18,000 from the sale of the 2 old trucks to purchase accessories that are police worthy for those 2 new trucks that were purchased. **No action taken.** Council directed the department to get on Thursday’s agenda and would like to have Vern Clairmont review the request prior to making a decision.

Pablo “Chib” Espinoza and **Stacey Courville**, Natural Resources Department, presented the Fish & Game quarterly report.

Jeanne Christopher, Melanie Piedalue, Jody Jones, Liz Camel, Doris Gainen, and **Korrie Shourds**, Early Childhood Services, provided orientation on ECS. Jody reported that 209 children were served through the disabilities act program and it was determined that 45 of the Head Start students had special needs; Early Head Start served 101 children, and 8 had special needs. ECS will offer a five to six week summer program this year. Liz presented the annual report to the public. Korrie provided an overview of the nutrition program, which is federally funded through the USDA. The nutrition reimbursement averages \$17,000 to \$19,000 per month, depending on the attendance levels. The program added buffalo to its menu. Simple recipes are posted in the classrooms. Doris reported on student enrollment. There were 97 babies enrolled in the infant program. There are 93 children on the wait list for Early Childhood Services. There were not enough three year olds to have a classroom in Pablo this year. 33 percent of the students in head start and early head start are placed in foster care or grandparent care. Melanie reviewed the staffing numbers and positions that need to be filled. ECS has

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124 employees (63 tribal members, 14 descendants, 9 members of other tribes, and 38 nontribal members). 4 different background checks are done on employees, and after those checks come back clean, then the employee is hired and does fingerprints and background check through Personnel. The staff wants to have panic buttons in the classroom, so Jeanne met with Mission Valley Security. The parent policy council holds monthly meetings and invited council to a meet and greet luncheon on May 7, 2018, at 11:30 a.m., at Ninepipes.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, unanimous (8 present – Ron Chairman and Leonard Gray out of the room participating in a conference call).

Council **adjourned** at 3:38 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Troy Felsman
Tribal Secretary