

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

Volume 18 Number 73  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: June 19, 2018  
Approved: June 26, 2018

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:25 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Chairman Trahan.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for June 7, 2018 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Shelly Fyant to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2018, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 7 for; 2 abstentions (Len TwoTeeth and James Steele, Jr.).

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

**MOTION** by Charmel Gillin to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Dennis Clairmont. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Lloyd Irvine** and **Mike Kenmille**, Standing Arrow Pow Wow Committee, gave an update on the pow wow committee and asked what types of reports are required. The committee has held three community meetings in Elmo. The committee is comprised of community volunteers. Mike was selected as the new chairman and Lloyd is the secretary-treasurer until someone else is interested in serving in that capacity. **Council** appreciated Lloyd and Mike stepping up to serve on the committee and commented that communication and transparency are important. **Chairman Trahan** will have a memorandum of understanding developed and the committee can meet with Vern Clairmont about what kinds of reports are needed. There is a meeting this Friday at noon at the senior citizen building. Mike would like Erica Shelby to be at that meeting; he has been unable

to contact her. The pow wow grounds are in need of some maintenance. They requested that a council member provide the welcoming remarks at the pow wow.

**Rich Janssen**, Natural Resources Department, presented a request from Notre Dame University and Salish Kootenai College for a collection permit for academic and educational research. **Shelly Fyant** had questions and requested additional information. Rich will request David Flagel to meet with council to provide the information requested.

**MOTION** by James Steele, Jr. to grant Notre Dame University and Salish Kootenai College a collection permit for academic and educational research. **MOTION WITHDRAWN**. Council requested additional information. The issue was rescheduled for this Thursday.

**Jason Adams** and **Carrie Irvine**, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, requested approval of a three-year employment contract with Bret Birk to fill the Project Engineer position. All terms of the contract are the same as the previous contract.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve a three-year employment contract with Bret Birk to fill the Project Engineer position. Seconded by James Steele, Jr. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Charmel Gillin).

**Jason Adams** and **Carrie Irvine**, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, followed up on a previous request from Bud Gillin to grant a \$1,500 incentive award to Bret Birk. Jason read in the May 22, 2018 council minutes that Personnel brought in the request and council took no action because they wanted the department head present for discussion. Housing has not been notified about when the issue would be rescheduled on the agenda. Jason requested approval of the incentive award. SKHA has sufficient funding in the budget to pay for it. An incentive award request was also submitted for Rocki Davis in the amount of \$750, but Housing has not received any response from the Personnel Department yet. **Len TwoTeeth** commented that the Tribes are in a position where they cannot give the tribal employees a pay increase, but yet the high salaried and nontribal member employees have been getting pay increases. Council continues to be asked for pay increases and incentive awards but they have not had a discussion on the tribal employees who have not received an increase for a long time. Council has been denying any incentive awards. **Council** will discuss this in further detail when Personnel is present. **No action taken**. Council requested that the Personnel Department provide council a copy of the policy and to notice the necessary departments to be present for discussion.

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

**Carolee Wenderoth** and **Holly Hitchcock**, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from the Salish Kootenai Housing Authority for a 0.28-acre perpetual easement to allow for the installation of a new well, water line and related utilities on undeveloped tribal land T1089-D.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to grant Salish Kootenai Housing Authority a 0.28-acre perpetual easement to allow for the installation of a new well, water line and related utilities on undeveloped tribal land T1089-D. Seconded by Dennis Clairmont. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Charmel Gillin).

**Carolee Wenderoth** and **Holly Hitchcock**, Tribal Lands Department, requested authorization to move CSP reimbursement funds of \$277,000 to the General Fund. In 2016, there were CSP reimbursement funds earmarked for the Grizzly Bear Subdivision in Pablo, but the project was stopped due to the costs of development. Those funds remain in that account. Since October 1, 2017, there have been 21 trust parcels offered to the Tribes. Lands would like the money allocated to the Lands Department to purchase land that has been offered. There are five parcels that Carolee wants council to consider. Carolee will email council a copy of the list of the 21 parcels that have been offered this fiscal year.

**MOTION** by Dennis Clairmont to return the CSP reimbursement funds to the General Fund and earmark it to purchase undivided interest tracts identified by the Lands Department. Seconded by James Steele, Jr. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

**Carolee Wenderoth** and **Holly Hitchcock**, Tribal Lands Department, informed council that the bidder submitted a revised bid on Lease 2025, due to the council allowing Art Caye to remove six structures from that site. The revised bid is still the high bid and Carolee requested that the lease be awarded.

**MOTION** by Shelly Fyant to award Lease 2025 to the high bidder. Seconded by Dennis Clairmont. Carried, 8 for; 1 abstention (Charmel Gillin).

**Anita Matt** requested that Herb Webb make a presentation on what the Conservation Stewardship Program contracts are and explain what the responsibilities are at the next land committee meeting. **Carolee Wenderoth** will follow up and get it scheduled.

**Carolee Wenderoth** and **Holly Hitchcock**, Tribal Lands Department, informed council that the Tribes received a cash offer for the former Mission Mart building with the following contingencies: (1) that the EPA standards need to be met and (2) remove the clause that the realtor gets compensation from the seller. **Dennis Clairmont** wants to know the time frame for the offer and review the agreement. Lands will need to provide a copy of the environmental report. **Council** was interested in pursuing the offer.

**Daniel Decker, Ryan Rusche** and **Jordan Thompson**, Legal Department; **Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management; and **Jason Adams**, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority; discussed the Ronan/Urban Highway 93 negotiations. Council would like to pursue the new market tax credit options. Discussion will continue next Monday.

**Len TwoTeeth** informed council that the Vi Fisher family will be having their annual giveaway and feast and are requesting paper products for the feast. **Chairman Trahan** will follow up.

**Rhonda Swaney** and **Daniel Decker**, Legal Department, presented for review draft testimony by Len TwoTeeth on the proposed Department of Interior reorganization. Dan is also developing some questions for Len to ask at the Rocky Mountain Leaders meeting.

It was the **consensus** of council to approve the testimony.

**Rhonda Swaney, Daniel Decker, John Harrison,** and **Ryan Rusche**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal matters.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Rhonda Swaney** and **Mary Price**, Legal Department, gave an update on the Milltown State Park opening celebration agenda. The agenda will be published in the Char-Koosta News. On May 8 Trout Unlimited discussed a project at Rattlesnake Creek. It will restore a dam and bull trout passage and habitat. Mary requested that the Tribes support this project.

**Rhonda Swaney** and **Stu Levit**, Legal Department, requested approval of a letter for the CSRO NEPA process that resulted from the Bi-Op litigation.

**Rhonda Swaney** and **Stu Levit**, Legal Department, requested approval of a letter of support for Mountain Caribou.

It was the **consensus** of council to approve the letter of support.

**Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, announced that Dan Decker will be on extended leave for July and August.

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

**Len TwoTeeth** left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

**Dennis Clairmont** left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

**Yvonne Grenier, Paula Wofford and Ron Matt**, Jocko Cemetery Board, gave a report on the Jocko cemetery. There have been non-Indians and non-Catholics buried there. The board wants to post a sign saying only tribal members can be buried at that cemetery. The board wants to charge a fee for nonmembers who want to be buried by their spouse. Yvonne requested the following equipment and supplies, including gas and weed eater cord, for use in maintaining the Jocko Cemetery: (1) one LA 3445 18 HP 4x4 front loader tractor with QA bracket (Kubota) - \$13,700.00; (2) one 54423RX 54" mid mount finish mower (Kubota) - \$1,900.00; (3) two FSA 90 R weed eater (Ace) - \$339.99 each; (4) three 5-gallon gas cans (Ace) - \$19.99 each; (5) one walk behind weed eater (Ace) - \$349.88; (6) two rakes (Ace) - \$17.99 each; and (7) two shovels (Ace) - \$9.99 each. **Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management, informed council that he met with John Neiss and found out that they have equipment and supplies stored at the Arlee Community Center. John recommended that the cemetery board use that equipment, and then John will provide the necessary supplies such as gas. **No action taken on request.** The board will contact John Neiss and follow up on using the Maintenance equipment and supplies. **Carolee Wenderoth**, Tribal Lands Department, reported that the Legal Department is reviewing the sign. The sign has Tribal Lands as the contact, and Carolee requested that the information be corrected to the appropriate person.

**Council** met in **executive session**. **Vern Clairmont**, Financial Management, was present for discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Shelly Fyant** announced the Climate Change Action Advisory Committee meeting scheduled from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. tomorrow at the Tribal Forestry conference room. The CCAAC is still waiting to get scheduled on the council agenda to provide orientation.

**John Neiss**, Facilities Maintenance, informed council that he will be checking out the Elmo pow wow grounds tomorrow and he just met with Ron Matt about the Jocko Cemetery.

**MOTION** by Anita Matt to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by James Steele, Jr. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Council **adjourned** at 2:44 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, June 21, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Troy Felsman  
Tribal Secretary