

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

Volume 17 Number 20
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: January 5, 2017
Approved: January 12, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vernon Finley, Chairman; Leonard TwoTeeth, Vice-Chairman; Troy Felsman, Secretary; Anita Matt, Treasurer; Patty Stevens; Leonard Gray; Shelly Fyant; Ronald Trahan; Dennis Clairmont; and Carole Lankford.

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

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:03 a.m. Quorum established. **Chairman Finley** and **Shelly Fyant** will join the meeting later this morning.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Carole Lankford.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for December 20, 2016 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Troy Felsman to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2016, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Dennis Clairmont).

Dennis Clairmont told the joke of the day.

The **agenda** was presented for approval. No conflicts of interest were identified.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Patty Stevens. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Len TwoTeeth discussed Mission Valley Power. There are times that the customers on a prepaid meter do not have adequate money to get through the weekend or have access to online banking.

Patty Stevens received a phone call from an individual from Washington regarding an enrollment issue. The individual was told to do a DNA test to get enrolled. She was also told that there is a woman who has her DNA stored here. If there is no DNA on file, the person needs to know how to proceed since

her father is deceased. **Troy Felsman** attended an enrollment training and found out that other tribes accept avuncular testing (testing siblings of deceased alleged fathers, aunts and uncles). The Enrollment Office had discussed avuncular testing with council but the council wanted further information.

John Neiss, Facilities Maintenance; and **Jane Clairmont**, Administrative Services; requested approval of a contract. The low bid was \$15,345 to remodel the Ronan Fitness Center. The bid is within budget.

MOTION by Patty Stevens to approve the low bid of \$15,345 to remodel the Ronan Fitness Center. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

John Neiss, Facilities Maintenance; and **Jane Clairmont**, Administrative Services; requested authorization to purchase capital equipment consisting of two additional lifts at a cost of \$11,000 each. The additional two lifts are needed so there will be a total of three lifts (one in Arlee, Elmo and St. Ignatius) to help the department be more efficient. The department purchases the equipment through Property & Supply.

MOTION by Anita Matt to authorize the purchase of capital equipment consisting of two additional lifts at a cost of \$11,000 each. Seconded by Dennis Clairmont. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

John Neiss, Facilities Maintenance; and **Jane Clairmont**, Administrative Services; discussed the preventive maintenance on the 125 HVAC units that are done on a quarterly basis. Apollo is the current contractor, and the contract expires in February. Apollo was the only bidder last year. Apollo wants a two-year contract extension for an amount of \$159,950. Jane recommended a one-year extension at a cost of \$79,975 to allow time to re-evaluate and bid it out. Jane wants the Maintenance staff trained to do this work in the future. **No action taken.** Council requested additional information and requested a detailed issue paper in the future.

Len TwoTeeth reported that the lights in the council chambers blink off and on and asked Facilities Maintenance to check those lights. **John Neiss** will follow up.

Carole Lankford discussed Maintenance employees having to drive back and forth to the office and wants to know why that decision was made. The employees are provided vehicles as part of their job, but they are required to drive the vehicle to the office to check in to work in the morning and then return to the office at the end of the day to check out. It is not productive. Those employees don't make a lot of money. One employee has poor eyesight so

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it is difficult to drive, and one almost got killed due to bad weather. Carole recommended that the employees check in at a location that is closer to their worksites if the employees are required to check in and out.

Kelly Whitworth, Department of Human Resources Development, requested approval to modify Dana Grant's contract by adding additional compensation up to \$10,000 and expand the scope of work to include Parent Assist Fund Program evaluation services. Dana has been the evaluator on this grant for the past 4 years and this is the last year of the grant.

MOTION by Troy Felsman to modify Dana Grant's contract by adding additional compensation up to \$10,000 and expand the scope of work to include Parent Assist Fund Program evaluation services. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

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

Joe Durglo and **Cory McDonald**, Tribal Health Department; and **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department; gave an update on the contract with Providence to assist with implementation of EPIC in the Tribal Health clinics. Since this is not a standard contract and the Tribes would be waiving their sovereign immunity, Legal wanted council aware that if they approve the contract they are giving their informed consent that if there is a dispute the matter will be resolved in the venue of Providence's choice in a court of competent jurisdiction, which most likely would be in state court.

MOTION by Leonard Gray to approve the contract with Providence to implement EPIC in the Tribal Health clinics. Seconded by Troy Felsman. Carried, unanimous (9 present).

Brian Upton, Legal Department; **Les Evarts** and **Rusty Sydnor**, Natural Resources Department; requested approval to begin negotiations with Bonneville Power Administration regarding stewardship funding. The staff would like to secure funding to maintain the habitat acquired with BPA funds to mitigate for fisheries impacts from Hungry Horse Dam. It would provide stability and predictability toward maintaining the habitat on BPA mitigation parcels.

It was the **consensus** of council to begin negotiations with Bonneville Power Administration regarding stewardship funding.

Lynn Ducharme, Natural Resources Department, met with council in **executive session** to discuss a land issue.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Mary Price and **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, requested authorization to coordinate with Montana Tech to develop a proposal and budget for Clark Fork Watershed Education Program (CFWEP) participation and pilot project in the River Honoring and Science Teepees. Mary would explore funding options for the pilot project. If approved, then Mary would return to council at a later date to present the proposal and budget. **Len TwoTeeth** would like an update on the Mill Town site provided to both elder committees.

It was the **consensus** of council to authorize Mary Price to coordinate with Montana Tech to develop a proposal and budget for Clark Fork Watershed Education Program participation and pilot project in the River Honoring and Science Teepees.

Rhonda Swaney, **John Harrison** and **Ryan Rusche**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to provide a legislative update and discuss legal matters.

Chairman Finley joined the meeting.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

Sunny Real Bird, **Mark Johnston** and **Kevin Kenelty**, Ronan School District, presented the 2015-2016 Indian Education Report for the Ronan School District. There were a total of 362 CSKT enrolled students in the school last year. **Patty Stevens** commented on the school being in session during the Jump Dances. Kevin explained that cultural absences do not hinder a student's attendance. **Vernon Finley** commented that an excused absence is one thing, but it was more about acknowledging and placing a value on someone's culture. Mr. Kenelty will discuss these comments with the Calendaring Committee. **Troy Felsman** wants all the school reports to include the statistical data on parental involvement. The school has a graduation coach to help students who have difficulty graduating. **Shelly Fyant** discussed the importance of understanding tribal students and she informed them that the National Native Trauma Center provides trauma informed education. **Bill Swaney**, Tribal Education Department, pointed out that this topic was discussed at PIR Day.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to accept the 2015-2016 Ronan School District Indian Education Report. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

MOTION by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Patty Stevens. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

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Council **adjourned** at 12:34 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Friday, January 6, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., for the quarterly council meeting.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Troy Felsman
Tribal Secretary