

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

Volume 17 Number 31  
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: February 28, 2017  
Approved: March 14, 2017

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Anita Matt, Treasurer (Personal Time Off); and Leonard Gray (Columbia River Treaty Modernization Meeting – Portland, Oregon).

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

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:08 a.m. Quorum established.

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

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for February 16, 2017 were presented for approval.

**MOTION** by Ron Trahan to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2017, with corrections. Seconded by Patty Stevens. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

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

**MOTION** by Patty Stevens to approve the agenda, with additions. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

**Ethan Friedlander** moved to a homesite and needs assistance for additional costs. **Kelly Whitworth**, Department of Human Resources Development, explained that the Dire Need policy allows \$300 assistance per year per individual. The program only does payback agreements with individuals on payroll withholding. **Chairman Finley** asked Ethan to come back this afternoon; that will allow time for the chairman to find out from Vern Clairmont if there are any other assistance options. **Carolee Wenderoth**, Tribal Lands Department, can review Ethan's file and would be happy to assess what the additional costs are and determine whether the department can provide any

assistance.

**Bill Swaney**, Tribal Education Department, requested approval to apply for tribal capacity building funding through Bonneville Power Administration.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to approve by resolution the grant application to Bonneville Power Administration for tribal capacity building funding. Seconded by Troy Felsman. Carried, 7 for; 0 opposed; 1 not voting.

**RESOLUTION 17-082**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Bonneville Power Administration has published a request for proposals for funding under the Tribal Capacity Building Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are located within the Bonneville Power Administration service area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Education Department, in collaboration with the University of Montana has prepared an application for funding under the above program to strengthen tribal capacity in the program areas of science, technology, engineering, math, and natural and cultural resource management;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that the Bonneville Power Administration be requested to make available a grant, pursuant to the terms of the request for proposal, to the Tribal Education Department; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the Tribal Council or his delegated representative is authorized to execute the transactional documents necessary to administer the grant on behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

**Helen Camel**, Tribal Member, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Ann Sherwood**, Tribal Defenders Office, requested approval of a resolution to

apply for funding through the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Second Chance Act, Flathead Reservation Reentry Program.

**MOTION** by Patty Stevens to approve by resolution submission of an application for a grant through the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Second Chance Act, Flathead Reservation Reentry Program. Seconded by Troy Felsman. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

**RESOLUTION 17-083**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION FOR A GRANT THROUGH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE, SECOND CHANCE ACT, FLATHEAD RESERVATION REENTRY PROGRAM**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation wish to seek funding to expand and improve comprehensive and collaborative strategies that address the challenges posed by reentry and recidivism reduction. The Flathead Reservation Reentry Program would be implemented and expanded by the Tribal Defenders Office in collaboration with the Tribal Department of Human Resources Development DHRD, Tribal Behavioral Health and the Tribal Police Department to increase public safety through integrated care services for adult offenders with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders who are returning to the reservation from tribal jail, county, state, or federal correctional institutions.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Tribal Defenders Office will make the grant application, Competition ID: BJA-2017-12362, seeking funding in the amount of \$650,000.00 to support a 36 month program.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes that the Tribal Defenders Office shall make the grant application through the Office of Contracts and Grants to be submitted electronically.

**Gabe Johnson** and **Casey Ryan**, Natural Resources Department, requested approval to submit a grant application to the Department of Commerce Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program.

**MOTION** by Troy Felsman to approve by resolution submission of

a grant application to the Department of Commerce Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program. Seconded by Patty Stevens. Carried, 8 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

**RESOLUTION 17-084**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND PROGRAM FOR PLANNING PROJECTS GRANT FUNDING TO PROVIDE FEASIBILITY AND PLANNING SUPPORT FOR MULTI-USE PATH PROJECTS ("Projects") TO FILL A CRITICAL GAP IN THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ON AND NEAR THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES' FLATHEAD RESERVATION IN MONTANA, AS ALIGNED WITH EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes is the duly recognized governing body of the Flathead Reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are committed to the sound planning and management of Flathead Reservation resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have directed the Natural Resources Department to preserve, protect, and manage the Flathead Reservation's natural resources as the Tribes strive for self-sufficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, the September 2014 Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Sustainable Economic Development Study: A Profile of the Flathead Reservation Economy and Tribal Member Job and Education Needs indicated that transportation to work and school was the primary barrier to education and employment for Tribal members; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2017-2121 CSKT Transportation Improvement Program planning document has identified pedestrian/multi-use path projects as an opportunity to increase transportation safety on the Flathead Reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, multi-use path projects are eligible projects that assist in economic development for Montana under the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program; and

**WHEREAS**, because of our status as Self-Governance Tribes, all identified Tribal matching funds identified in the grant application meet the State matching requirements guidelines.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation approves the FY 2017 Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program grant application for feasibility and planning to support the construction of multi-use path projects on the Flathead Reservation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are requesting a FY 2017 grant in the amount of up to \$25,000 from the Montana Department of Commerce to provide feasibility and planning support for the design and construction of multi-use path projects on the Flathead Indian Reservation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes agrees to provide the \$25,000 in matching contributions in the form of cash from the Tribal Transportation Program over the project period; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these Projects will be placed organizationally under and managed by the Natural Resources Department, and that the Tribal Council Chairman and designated representative are hereby authorized to negotiate and execute the grant contract and any modification thereof.

**Les Evarts**, Natural Resources Department, gave an update on the Avista Management Committee vote. Avista has proposed an amendment to the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement and requested signatures from the parties. The recommendation was to abstain from the vote. **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, commented that if you don't register your opposition it is a void vote; you're not taking a position on it. It's a policy solution to a problem. She does not agree we can rely on the no vote to bring it back and put new life into it. Rhonda does not have enough information to make a recommendation on the matter.

**Tom McDonald, Stephanie Gillin, Pablo "Chib" Espinoza**, Natural Resources Department; and **John Harrison**, Legal Department; gave an update on the bison hunt. The discussion continued in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Shelly Fyant** presented a request from Mandy Haynes Belcourt for paper products for Roberta's memorial service. It was the **consensus** of council to donate the needed paper products.

**John Carter**, Legal Department, requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a legal matter.

**Patty Stevens** out of the room.

**Ryan Rusche, Rhonda Swaney** and **Stu Levit**, Legal Department; and **Tom McDonald**, Natural Resources Department; requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss legal issues.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Ryan Rusche** and **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, requested approval of a letter of recommendation for Alan Mickelson to be selected to a position within the Department of Interior.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to approve the letter of recommendation for Alan Mickelson to be selected to a position within the Department of Interior. Seconded by Ron Trahan. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Patty Stevens out of the room).

**Ryan Rusche** and **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, requested approval of a letter to Senator Tester thanking him for his efforts regarding the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act. **No action taken**. Council will review the letter and make edits. Ryan will return to council to seek approval of the letter once the edits are made.

**Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, met with council in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

**Patty Stevens** returned to the meeting.

**Mary Williams** requested to meet with council in **executive session**.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Kelly Whitworth**, Department of Human Resources Development, requested authorization to hire Kim Azure to fill the Young Child Wellness Partner position at a higher rate of pay than the redlined classified rate of pay for the position. **Shelley Grenier**, Personnel Department, explained that the request does not fall under the exemption requirements, so the recommendation was to request approval to pay a rate of pay above the classification rate. Due to the number of years of experience that Kim has a degree was not required. **No action taken**. Council directed that the vacancy be readvertised with the

salary to be negotiable.

**Kelly Whitworth**, Department of Human Resources Development; and **Shelley Grenier**, Personnel Department; requested approval of a revised organizational chart. **Len TwoTeeth** pointed out that the tribal council has not taken action to move forward with the Mission Mart building at this point. **No action taken.** Council directed that the tribal council be provided copies of the organizational chart and that this matter be rescheduled for Thursday.

**Council** met in **executive session** to discuss a departmental matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

**Janet Camel**, Economic Development, requested approval to extend the contract with Virginia Tribe to finish the planning work with the Tribal Council.

**MOTION** by Patty Stevens to extend the contract with Virginia Tribe to finish the planning work with the Tribal Council. Seconded by Shelly Fyant. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Len TwoTeeth out of the room).

**Janet Camel**, Economic Development, requested approval of a contract modification with Land Solutions, LLC to increase the amount by \$8,000 to update the feasibility study for the Bath House.

**MOTION** by Troy Felsman to approve the contract modification with Land Solutions, LLC to increase the amount by \$8,000 to update the feasibility study for the Bath House. Seconded by Ron Trahan. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Len TwoTeeth).

**Janet Camel**, Economic Development, requested approval of a resolution to apply for a grant with the Big Sky Trust Fund for a feasibility study of tribal property located west of Polson. The grant requires a cash match of \$39,250. **No action taken.** Request deemed denied.

**Levi Hewankorn** and **Lydia Hewankorn**, One Heart, discussed their business plan for the Black Bear Ranch. It is currently being advertised on an RFP. March 24, 2017 is the deadline to submit proposals. The land committee will review the proposals and then those proposals will be presented to the tribal council. One Heart would like to use the Black Bear Ranch as a safe and sober living facility. The group submitted a grant application and would like it part of the drug court. They have submitted some letters of support for their proposal. **Chairman Finley** recommended canceling the RFP and awarding the Black Bear Ranch to One Heart.

**MOTION** by Len TwoTeeth to pull the RFP and move forward with

the proposal from One Heart. Seconded by Troy Felsman. Carried, 7 for; 1 abstention (Patty Stevens).

***Patty Stevens**, for the record, "I abstained because we have not received the proposal and I can't vote on something I haven't had an opportunity to read. Based on your summary today, I do support the idea. The vote has been taken and it has passed, and I will support the decision as we move forward in the process."*

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

**Kevin Howlett, Jennifer Finley, Dr. Perry, Anna Whiting-Sorrell, and Brenda Bodnar**, Tribal Health Department, informed council that there have been 5 suicides in our community since November. This issue affects every person and is a reservation-wide problem. Everything we do needs a cultural approach. Jennifer read a list of efforts the THD will take to help the community in times of need. THD requested tribal council support and action to make it a Tribal-wide initiative.

**Patty Stevens** gave an update on the Salish Conference. There are 5 tribal elders that are going to the conference. **Shelly Fyant** wanted to know about the funding request for the Two Eagle River School Language Teachers. **Chairman Finley** directed Daniel Stiffarm, Kootenai Culture Committee, to pay the travel for Wayne McCoy and Margaret Elliot.

**MOTION** by Carole Lankford to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dennis Clairmont. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Council **adjourned** at 5:10 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.

**CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

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Troy Felsman  
Tribal Secretary