

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

Volume 17 Number 40
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: April 7, 2017
Approved: April 18, 2017

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Leonard Gray; and Patty Stevens.

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

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:11 a.m. Quorum established. **Len TwoTeeth** will join the meeting later this morning.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Pat Pierre.

Ardon McDonald sang a song.

Dennis Clairmont told the joke of the day.

The floor was opened for comments from the elders.

Stephen Smallsalmon met with elders that traveled here yesterday. They discussed problems their reservations face, the language, mussels, and Milltown. Stephen is worried about the state of our country.

Kevin Howlett announced his retirement as Director of the Tribal Health Department. June 30th is his last day of work.

Pat Pierre discussed concerns he has about the state of our country. Times were hard after the depression and people had to learn to be providers. He encouraged council to continue doing what they are doing. Language will be the salvation of our people. Pat discussed a healthcare issue.

Chairman Finley thanked Kevin Howlett for his years of service.

Chuck Tellier was disappointed that there are only 25 people in attendance at

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today's quarterly meeting. Council should be tasked with coming up with a remedy to get the membership more engaged. Chuck used to be known as the mayor of Indian Town in St. Ignatius and people would turn to him to solve problems in the community.

Ardon McDonald sang an honor song.

The floor was opened for reports from the tribal council.

Carole Lankford has been working on the Ronan Community Center project for three years. It did not have council support so did not go to a vote, due to the economy, the federal government, tight budgets, and the state of one of the tribal corporations. Carole is hosting a community barbecue and open house this weekend for the Ronan Community Center project.

Dennis Clairmont thanked Pat for the prayer, words from the elders, Kevin for his years of service, and Ardon for the songs. The legislature has been in session since January and he has gone over there a few times. He thanked the membership for the opportunity to represent the Tribes.

Shelly Fyant thanked Ardon for the songs today, Kevin for his years of service and the sacrifices he has made in his job. She hopes to have a high school to focus on the Salish language. Shelly agreed with Chuck's sentiment about the membership not attending the quarterly meetings. She felt compelled to go to Standing Rock. The Dakota Access Pipeline affected the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux. The pipeline was scheduled to go under the Missouri River. The CSKT divested over \$40 million from Wells Fargo since that financial institution supports the Dakota Access Pipeline. She discussed the importance of protecting our water from invasive species. Shelly discussed House Bill 622 which requires inspection of all vessels before launch. Shelly discussed the importance of food sovereignty.

Troy Felsman discussed the importance of the language. He expressed his gratitude to Pat and Stephen. The Tribe has faced a lot of challenges with the dam. There has been a profound change in the energy market due to fracking, which caused the energy market to plummet. S&K Technologies was awarded the Pros V contract, which is a military contract that will provide up to \$4.3 billion in potential business. Troy gave an overview of the Halliburton litigation that the corporation is engaged in. Troy discussed Public Law 280. The CSKT is looking at unprecedented proposed budget cuts by the Trump administration.

Len TwoTeeth joined the meeting.

Len TwoTeeth commented that election year is fast approaching. He has

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learned a lot from his colleagues and is proud to serve the membership. He welcomed everyone to the meeting today.

Chairman Finley always listened to the coyote stories that were told by the elders. He liked how today's meeting began with a song from a young man and words from the elders. There is such a contrast with what is going on in the country.

Anita Matt thanked the elders for speaking, Ardon for the songs, and Kevin for his years of service. Council has attended various meetings this past quarter and held district meetings. March was full of sadness due to the epidemic of suicides. Council met with the Lake County Commissioners. The commissioners continue to complain about the loss of tax revenue due to the Tribes purchasing Kerr Dam. Council also had meetings with range and stockman, SKHA, and held shareholder meetings. There are some internships coming up.

Ron Trahan thanked Kevin for the work he has done. The young people serving on the tribal council are learning a lot. Council makes decisions for the membership. He thanked Pat and Stephen for their words today and Ardon for the songs.

Ardon McDonald sang a song.

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

Council did a presentation on sexual assault. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The participants are standing in silence for one hour to bring awareness to sexual assault.

Bryon Miller, Chad Eaton and **Debbie Louie McGee**, S&K Gaming, gave a report on gaming. SKG had \$15.1 million in revenue and \$109,000 in net income for 2016. Gray Wolf Peak. The new GWP Casino was opened for business on November 1, 2016. There are 100 employees at GWP. The minor construction issues are getting finished, and the property will be fully developed by June 11. The grand opening is scheduled for June 22. Big Arm Marina. The parking lot was expanded and a patio and deck were built off the restaurant. Live entertainment will be offered. RV spots, cabins, a fire pit, and an event center will be built. The ditch in the middle of the property was filled in which will help with the development of the property go seamlessly. Future expansion will occur in phases. A master plan is being developed, and once the plan is developed it will be available to the membership. Fuel service will be available this summer. The elders luncheon will be hosted on April 19. There will be two sessions offered: one at 11:00 a.m. and one at 1:00 p.m. KwaTaqNuk Resort. The Resort is doing well. Hotel revenue is up compared to

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last year; it made \$440,000 compared to \$330,000 last year. The resort did not suffer any gaming revenue loss due to the opening of the Gray Wolf Casino. S&K Gaming updated the five-year strategic plan. The plan was approved by council last fall. It provides guidance to the company and focuses on goals to achieve. SKG got approval to amend the operating agreement. The marketing strategy will be refined. Food and Beverage is up from last year. Debbie wants to host a stick game tournament at the Resort during Memorial weekend. There is a comedy show at the Resort on April 21. Gray Wolf Peak will be giving away a gun safe.

Steve Arca, Nkwusm, gave a presentation on the language. The goal is to create additional language teachers. More teachers and money are needed.

Gena Montoya, Sexual Assault Group, gave a presentation on sexual assault. Survivors shared their stories.

The **drum group** sang a song in honor of the survivors of sexual assault.

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

The floor was opened for comments from the membership.

Selena Kenmille, Economic Development, gave an overview of the sustainable workforce enhancement program and classes that will be offered.

Rob Quist announced his candidacy for the US House of Representatives and provided information on his background and work experience. There is a community feed tomorrow at the Big Knife Building. **Pat Pierre** said a prayer for Rob.

Joe McDonald has lived in Ronan since 1968 and watched the community grow. He asked council to reconsider the construction of a community center in Ronan.

Stephen Smallsalmon is proud of his group and Steve Arca for speaking Indian.

Rob Quist invited everyone to Tim Roullier's program at University Theater in Missoula on June 17.

Shawn Swaney commented on the republican advertisements.

Pat Pierre offered the closing prayer.

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MOTION by Ron Trahan to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, unanimous (7 present – Shelly Fyant out of the room).

Council **adjourned** at 1:58 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Troy Felsman
Tribal Secretary