

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

Volume 20 Number 39
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: February 20, 2020
Approved: February 27, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman; Anita Matt, Vice-Chairwoman; Ellie Bundy McLeod, Secretary; Martin Charlo, Treasurer; Carole Lankford; James “Bing” Matt; Fred Matt; Mike Dolson; Charmel Gillin; and Len TwoTeeth.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; Jami Pluff, Policy Analyst; James Steele, Sr., Sergeant at Arms; and Abby Dupuis, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to **order** at 9:00 a.m. Quorum established.

The meeting was opened with a **prayer** by Fred Matt.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for February 13, 2020 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Charmel Gillin. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Anita Matt. **Leonard Michel** asked the council if they were refusing to put him and his daughter on the agenda because they refused to fill out the form. He declined to fill out the required paperwork because under the constitution the membership has a right to come to council. He understands why they feel they need a tribal member to fill out what they want to speak about, but it is important when the membership comes to speak that the council hear it firsthand by the tribal member so they will not get any preconceived notions about what the person will talk about. The council needs an open mind to the membership. Coming here to the council is the last resort for tribal members and any policy is null and void when the membership comes to speak to the council. **Fred Matt** understood what Leonard was saying, but respect is a two way street. Mr. Michel does not have to put his issue in detail; the request can

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say he has a sensitive topic to address, and the council would accommodate that. Everyone is asked to do that with respect to the process the council has. The council will not have any preconceived notions about how to react if the paperwork is filled out. Mr. Michel referred back to the constitution. The membership has a right to talk to council on any given matter. He respects the council. Council talks about an open door policy, so it's time we sit down and have an open door. They need to remember the membership is struggling and has a hard time coming in here, and if they have to fill out paperwork people won't come in here and speak. Then they wonder why the membership is falling apart. Leonard said that he respects the council, but he also respects the constitution and that's why he keeps bringing it up. **Charmel Gillin** suggested discussing this in the strategic planning process. She did not believe it should be prohibitive in any way. We engage the membership and bring concerns forward that end up with actions being taken without forms being filled out. It is a good tool for us to manage, but it should not be prohibitive. We have council support staff that can fill out those papers. The chairwoman has an open door policy and she is not sure people going in there are filling out papers. **Chairwoman Fyant** explained that the process was implemented to track issues. In regards to Leonard's daughter's issue, the council has met with this department twice over this issue. The discussion continued in **executive session**.

Leonard Michel and **Jazra Michel** requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

Donna Richard and **Iris Caye** requested to meet with council in **executive session** to discuss a personal matter.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

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

Jordan Thompson, Legal Department; and **Kimberly Dudik**, Attorney General Candidate; met with council to introduce Ms. Dudik. She has been in the legislature for the past 8 years and has been a good friend to the Tribes and partner to tribal communities and has supported numerous Native American bills. Ms. Dudick gave an overview of her background and experience. She is an advocate for the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons issue and funding. Ms. Dudick requested the Tribes' endorsement. She supports naming highways after women and Native Americans, and she wrote the bill for the Louis Charlo Memorial Highway.

Cheryl Finley and **Waylen Denny**, Bureau of Indian Affairs, introduced Mr. Denny, who has been appointed as the Acting Superintendent for the next 120 days. He looks forward to developing and fostering long relationships with the

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CSKT. **Chairwoman Fyant** would like him to follow up on two G-Tracts (one located north of TERS and one in Ronan). **Len TwoTeeth** asked him to keep watch on the Big Arm road use litigation.

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, requested a two-year contract renewal with Shara Hoskinson as the Homesite Technician. She has worked in this position for four years.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to renew the two-year contract with Shara Hoskinson to fill the Homesite Lease Technician position. Seconded by Fred Matt. Carried, 9 for; 1 opposed (Charmel Gillin).

Charmel Gillin, for the record, "I would like to follow the policy for advertising to give tribal members an opportunity for positions where qualifications are amenable to that."

Dan DePoe, Francis Cahoon and Art Caye discussed small logging. It has been five years since there has been small logging through the permit process since everything has to be bid out, and they want to get back to work. March 5 at 1:00 p.m. was set aside to discuss further.

Martin Charlo reminded council of the open house at the Tribal Defenders Office today.

Chairwoman Fyant informed council that the three projects developed through the First Nations Development Grant community contributors final presentations are scheduled for February 24 in Elmo and February 27 at the Long House. The presentations begin at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be provided. **Renee Dubay** gave an overview of the grant and projects. The three projects are: Youth Warrior Society, Cooking Roles in the Kootenai Community; and the Traditional Salish Plant Knowledge.

Council met in **executive session** to discuss a personnel matter. **Renee Joachim, Melanie Piedalue, Maggie Bentley, and Cory Clairmont**, Personnel Department, joined the discussion.

Council reconvened into **regular session**.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to approve a 30-day extension and direct the department to pursue a directed reassignment. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, 9 for; 1 opposed (Carole Lankford).

Carole Lankford informed council that the Lake County Drug Court has been experiencing some personnel difficulties. The Coordinator, Probation Officer and Prosecutor have resigned. There is a personality conflict. The Drug Court has

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three graduations today at 4:00 p.m. She would like us to have our own family court. **Len TwoTeeth** wants the tribal council to show the graduates some sort of appreciation and acknowledgment. Carole will invite the graduates to a council meeting.

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

Chairwoman Fyant left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

Bing Matt left the meeting for the remainder of the day.

Carole Lankford out of the room for the following issue.

Clayton Matt, Tribal Services/Tribal Health Department, returned to council to follow up on his previous request to renew a contract with Gwen Spencer, Sapphire Strategies, to provide public relations and communication services through December 2020 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000.00. Clayton made the requested edits to the contract and had the contract reviewed by Contracts & Grants.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the contract with Gwen Spencer, Sapphire Strategies, to provide public relations and communication services through December 2020 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000.00. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, unanimous (7 present - Carole Lankford out of the room).

Carole Lankford returned to the meeting.

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

Velda Shelby, Janet Camel and Jennifer Finley, Economic Development Office, discussed homelessness. The housing inventory is not great, the housing market is too high for tribal members to purchase, and their income is low. Janet discussed the ANA grant for \$30,000 that could be used for curriculum and equipment. Janet talked about tiny homes being an option. They could renovate the Kicking Horse Job Corps Center carpentry building and EDO could work with EDA to see if they would fund the renovation costs. We could begin building tiny homes. One of the buildings could be used for a counseling center. Local tribal businesses could be utilized for materials and services for building those homes. Homeless people could be part of this program. A carryover request by the chairwoman would be required for the ANA grant. Janet will work on the justification. **Charmel Gillin** had been told that there are some infrastructure problems at the center. Janet advised that

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she could write that into the grant. **Jennifer Finley** reported that indigenous students are disproportionately pushed out of the schools. She has a report by the ACLU. This is economically and homelessness related. They are left without adequate resources to support themselves and their families and provide a stable home. There are people with unresolved trauma and mental health struggles. All of these are tied together. **Jami Pluff** reported that purpose area two of the CTAS grant is a collaboratively effort of what Jennifer Finley just spoke about as well as the CP Diversion Committee/5 year Pilot Project that was created by the resolution that Council has already approved. Underlying issues of addiction, mental health, youth and domestic violence are there. The goal is to have a wraparound service model to address those underlying issues.

Jody Perez, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, sent out some forms. She found a list of clients that DHRD provided to Jason when they did supportive housing. She heard there was a master list of about 200 people that they thought would benefit for tenant-based assistance. There was a list of people that are classified as insecure housing, which is different than homelessness. SKHA is doing outreach to see what the problem is. She is having difficulty with collecting data from tribal members. Jody found out that Lake County had received 55 requests for assistance for the year, and 24 households were assisted. The report does not indicate whether the people/family are tribal or nontribal members. She does not believe the 2020 Census will give us an accurate picture of homelessness on the reservation. She suggested doing our own census. Jody recommended hiring a professional to assist with the homelessness issue, such as Dana Grant to spearhead this project. SKHA just began tracking data in January. There were 22 evictions from SKHA and 10 of those were drug related. In 2019, SKHA received 308 applications. 103 of those applications were not processed due to being incomplete or ineligible. So 103 families were not even able to get on the waiting list. 29 of the 103 were not in compliance with drug and criminal activity. There are 205 people on the waiting list to get approved for housing services. 44 units are offline because they are in the contracting period right now. There are a limited number of contractors. **Katie McClure**, Salish Kootenai Housing Authority, reported that the greatest need is two bedroom homes in Pablo, and it could take up to three years for a home to become available. Ronan has a long waiting list for two bedroom units. Dixon and Elmo do not have a long waiting list. **Martin Charlo** wanted to speed this up instead of wasting time collecting statistics. The Tribal Defenders Office should be involved in this process since they have a lot of the data and can provide services.

April Charlo is working on a presentation on the efforts going on the reservation. They are working on adopting the Kentucky Recovery Model. The model program she researched does not have any clinicians or counselors. It is a peer-to-peer

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system. The section 8 voucher can be transferred to housing. The clients plan the menu, do the shopping and prepare the food. The clients do the maintenance work, so there is no cost for maintenance staff. April will set up a time for the Fletcher Group to visit with the tribal council. Hopa Mountain has partnered with the Fletcher Group. **Charmel Gillin** would like the departments to coordinate efforts to provide immediate shelter. **Jami Pluff** offered to set up a meeting with the necessary departments. **Martin Charlo** wants to have this discussion at next week's department head meeting. Anita Matt requested that Jami set up a meeting with all of the departments in the CP Diversion committee plus the departments and organizations that were discussed today. **Jody Perez** reported that 35 units will be built with the community development block grant and 6 homes will be built next year from the competitive grant.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to authorize the Economic Development Office to proceed with getting an extension for the carryover request for the ANA grant. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (8 present).

Carole Lankford left the meeting for the remainder of the day to participate in the Lake County Drug Court.

Brenda Richey, Kristy Frost and **David Myers**, MSU Extension Office, showed a map of the extension offices (Flathead Reservation, Lake County, Sanders County, and Missoula County). The MSU Extension Office is grant funded and houses the Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education, 4-H National Mentoring Program, and the 4-H Children, Youth & Families at Risk. Kristy was hired in the 4-H Mentoring Program in September and David began work in January and is the site director for the CYFAR Grant. Brenda presented a request for a change of duty for tribal employees to participate in Gardening 101, which consists of 6 classes. The employees that signed up for classes are: Suzanne Palmer, John Whitworth, Erma Haynes, Nancy Schall, Dana Hewankorn, Gina Bigbeaver, Christopher Tenas, Jolene Gauthier, Royelle Bundy, Elizabeth Talbert, Daralynn Juneau, Danielle Lefthand, and Celeste Hewankorn.

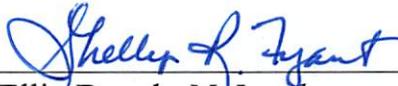
MOTION by Fred Matt to grant the list of employees a change of duty, with supervisor approval, to attend the Gardening 101 classes. Seconded by Len TwoTeeth. Carried, unanimous (7 present).

Brenda Richey invited council to attend a luncheon with the MSU Extension Office. **Council** asked that the luncheon be scheduled.

MOTION by Len TwoTeeth to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 3:00 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/ *for* 
Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Secretary