

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

Volume 20 Number 46
Council Chambers, Pablo, MT

Held: March 17, 2020
Approved: March 31, 2020

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Trahan, Council Office Manager; 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 Carole Lankford.

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for March 3, 2020 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for March 3, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for March 5, 2020 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **Tribal Council Meeting Minutes** for March 15, 2020 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve the Tribal Council Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2020, with corrections. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

The **agenda** was presented for approval.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the agenda, with changes. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Chairwoman Fyant presented for consideration a Declaration of State of Emergency. There is FEMA funding available and there is a conference call at noon today. Lake County and CSKT agreed to make a joint declaration of state of emergency. Shelly called the Missoula County Commissioners and they will sign their declaration today.

MOTION by Ellie Bundy McLeod to approve by resolution the Declaration of State of Emergency. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, 10 for; 0 opposed; 0 not voting.

RESOLUTION 20-086

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY WITHIN THE EXTERIOR BOUNDARIES OF THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES LOCATED IN NORTHWEST MONTANA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CSKT THAT:

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council, as primary governing body of the Flathead Nation, is entrusted with the responsibility to operate the Tribes' governmental business and protect and preserve Tribal property, wildlife and natural resources, and to protect the health, security and general welfare of the Tribes; and

WHEREAS, protection and preservation of property, wildlife, natural resources, health, security, and general welfare of the Tribes is among the highest priorities of the Tribes; and

WHEREAS, CSKT responding to an imminent threat to the citizens of the Flathead Reservation due to the global outbreak of COVID-19, the coronavirus, hereby declares a state of emergency on the Flathead Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the CSKT wish to establish this State of Emergency by the implementation of the attached order;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CSKT Tribal Council implements the partial activation of the CSKT Emergency Operations Center in accordance with the attached order.

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY March 17, 2020

Tribal Council Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2020

PABLO, MT. On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, The Confederated Salish and Kootenai (CSKT) Tribal Council went on record to officially declare a State of Emergency exists within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation due to the global outbreak of COVID-19, (coronavirus), pursuant to Resolution 20-086. As of this date, Missoula County and Lake County have made official declarations of a state of emergency. CSKT, following the Tribal Emergency Operations Plan, now considers the potential threat to be escalated from a Standby/Alert to a Partial Activation of the CSKT Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

CSKT COORDINATING AGENCY: DES Coordinator, Dale Nelson
EOC INCIDENT COMMAND: Community Health Nurse/Public Health
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Tammy Matt, R.N.

CSKT also activated a government-wide partial-shutdown, effective March 16 through March 27, 2020, in which essential services are continuing with emphasis on protecting individuals who are most at-risk due to age, respiratory, or compromised immune systems. Travel restrictions remain in place for all tribal programs, affiliates and corporations.

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from the Lessee of Lease 5761 for a five-year extension on his lease as an improvement lease.

MOTION by Anita Matt to go along with the recommendation of the Lands Department for a five-year extension on Lease 5761. Seconded by Carole Lankford. Carried, 9 for; 1 opposed (Len TwoTeeth).

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request from the lessee for a two-year extension on Lease 2026 as an improvement lease with the \$15,000 rental due to the improvements that have been done. All requirements were met and exceeded.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to approve a two-year extension on Lease 2026 as an improvement lease with the \$15,000 rental due to the improvements that have been done. Seconded by Mike Dolson. Carried, 8 for; 2 opposed (Len TwoTeeth and Anita Matt).

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, presented a request for a Lessee to add a tribal member to Leases 2264, 2284, 5821, 2025, and 2507.

MOTION by Carole Lankford to go with number one and add the tribal members to Leases 2264, 2284, 5821, 2025, and 2507. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, requested authorization for acquisition of tribal equipment with non-compact funds for a portable weed wash station and dual axle trailer. The estimated cost of the portable weed wash station is \$35,000 and the dual axle trailer is \$13,000.

MOTION by Charmel Gillin to authorize the acquisition of tribal equipment with non-compact funds for a portable weed wash station and dual axle trailer. Seconded by Bing Matt. Carried, 9 for; 1 opposed (Anita Matt).

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, followed up on a discussion from the Land Committee regarding an easement to access some fee property in the Blue Bay area. Thomas Mikulich wants to construct a home and needs legal access prior to construction. Lands staff recommended approving a temporary road permit use for 12 months for \$600.00 and show interest in granting a longer-term lease to Thomas so he can proceed with a survey and yellow book.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve the request for a temporary road use permit. Seconded by Martin Charlo. Carried, 8 for; 1 opposed (Charmel Gillin); 1 abstention (Bing Matt).

***Carole Lankford**, for the record, "I appreciate them coming in and asking for permission rather than taking us to court."*

MaryRose Morigeau, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a contract with Newfields for the Flathead Post and Pole Yard.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to approve the contract with Newfields for the Flathead Post & Pole Yard project. Seconded by Anita Matt. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

MaryRose Morigeau, Natural Resources Department, requested approval of a contract with Newfields for the community wide assessment.

MOTION by Anita Matt to approve a contract with Newfields to complete the community wide assessment. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

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

Rob McDonald, Communications; **Chuck Reese** and **Chuck Sanger**, Information Technologies; **Jami Pluff**, Policy Analyst; followed up on discussion of livestreaming the April quarterly council meeting and provided a demonstration. A copy of a draft policy was provided. Chuck went through the pros and cons of livestreaming council meetings. **Council** will provide any comments on the draft policy.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to livestream the quarterly council meeting on April 3, 2020 and have the group come back in two weeks to discuss policies and make the decision to go further past the quarterly or not. Seconded by Ellie Bundy McLeod. Carried, unanimous (10 present).

Charmel Gillin asked if this presentation is something she can do for her Polson district meeting. **Chuck Reese** advised it is not set up yet. Charmel stated that she would figure out another method to have a virtual district meeting. The group asked council if they would take action to allow audio recording in the council meetings and whether they want to use cskt.org or YouTube. **Council** commented that they would trust the expertise of IT for that decision.

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

Mariel Triggs, MuralNet; **Velda Shelby**, Economic Development; and **Jim O'Neill**; met with council to participate in a webinar to explore broadband spectrum proposed network buildout plans for CSKT.

Charmel Gillin shared the agenda for the Polson district meeting scheduled for tomorrow. She will be streaming the meeting on Facebook Live.

Charmel Gillin discussed a Big Arm issue. Charmel was notified that an individual reported someone is up at the RV development location working and drilling a well and that person wanted to know what was going on with that trespass issue. **Rhonda Swaney**, Legal Department, joined the discussion by speakerphone. Rhonda reported on the Federal Court hearing last week heard motions for summary judgement and the judge took the matter under advisement. Lake County filed another motion for discovery. She knows of no changes to the revocable permit. **Mark Couture**, Tribal Lands Department, knows of no changes to the revocable permit. He will check the expiration date of the permit.

Mark Couture, Tribal Lands Department, followed up on Lease 2026, which has 3,741 acres. The rental rate right now would stay at \$750 but would go up to the 28,000 and some change to cover the rental rate to cover that two-year extension.

Bing Matt stated that he has received a lot of text messages regarding the closures and employees not knowing whether they are supposed to be working or be off work. Department heads have not let the employees know, and guidance is needed. A lot of the employees are upset because they do not know if they are supposed to be working or not and the employees feel that they shouldn't be working due to the Coronavirus risks. Direction is needed for those employees. **Chairwoman Fyant** has been printing out the plans of action and

she does not have Clayton Matt's plan yet. **Fred Matt** asked if we had a task force. We should have centralized information available to everyone. All national disasters have a system in place and has a communications director. Shelly clarified that there is a Coronavirus Committee and Tammy Matt is heading that up. It is up to the department heads to determine which employees are required to report to work during the shutdown. **Martin Charlo** suggested that the council stay out of the weeds since this is a department head level issue. We need to empower the department heads to do their work and get the information out. This is a personnel issue and a lack of communication amongst the staff. **Charmel Gillin** wants to give the department time to develop their plan. Most of the Tribal Health employees provide essential services so they will all need to be at work.

Carole Lankford left the meeting.

Charmel Gillin commented there are many ways to communicate. She has an outline of what the department plans are. Until the incident commander and community health preparedness leader report that we have confirmed cases here, then we would move into the next phase of a national disaster situation.

MOTION by Martin Charlo to adjourn the meeting.

Council **adjourned** at 1:16 p.m., and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

/sgnd/

Ellie Bundy McLeod
Tribal Secretary